

Wilmot Softball Association

MINUTES - Executive Meeting, August 20, 2023

6:30 PM, 5 Captain McCallum Drive New Hamburg, ON

Call to Order / Attendance / Opening Comments – 6:43 PM

Exec Members Present: Ryan, Kevin H, Jamie, Tim, Susan, Mike C, John, Kevin R, Lance

Secretary Report - Kevin R

No Minutes to Review

Finance – Mike V / Amy B – 6:43 PM

- Known outstanding expenses::
 - o Umpire pay – August and clinic rebate
 - o Township is paid up other than recent tournaments
 - o Mike C: Suspect Optimist will present some funds from the BBQs at U15 and U20

Chair Reports – As Necessary / Present – Action Items from last meeting listed here (6:45 PM)

Blastball, TBall, CP – PJ – Not present

Scheduling – Ryan R (6:45)

- Susan – Scheduling was very smooth this year
- Ryan – Working with Christy ahead of time to book practices made things a lot easier
- Mike C – Some comments about U9 teams not having enough practices
- Ryan – Diamond availability is a struggle, especially on early diamond times, but Saturday would be a possibility

Registration – Susan H / Amy B

- No Update

Equipment – Jamie H

- No big immediate need, maybe a couple bow nets could be replaced
- Equipment Drop-Off – Jamie will email coaches group

Uniforms – Tim B

- Uniform RFP Status
- Dunnys, Smash It (Received), Sportco, Stitch (Responded with intent), SportZone (Responded with intent)
- Mike C: Suggests Home Run in Mississauga
- Tim B has created a writeup for Job Description for Uniform Coordinator
- Tim B is planning to create a FULL INVENTORY for remaining clothing

Player Development – John V

- Can-Pitch Bid - \$125 per player plus our cost
- John working to provide bid details
- Proposed at WO – Would be winter, similar time to former pitching clinic

- John: Canpitch has two timeslots, John suggests we would have a third timeslot with Don Scott (Or alterative) for older age group
- Lance – Make sure we talk about proper pitching technique as it relates to the rules; pause, coming set etc...

Umpires – Lance N

- Release schedules – Go back to releasing entire umpire schedule at beginning of year
 - Lost two carded umpires due to an incomplete schedule being released, they made commitment elsewhere that had released whole schedule
- Tournaments – MORE ADVANCED NOTICE IS REQUIRED
 - Mike C: Lets set dates in the fall
 - Ryan: Latest Issue was Perth and Huron Perth year end tournaments
 - Mike C: Suggests we push for leagues to have year end hosts set at coach's meetings
 - Kevin H – Need to make clear to coaches that WSA must approve year end tournament hosting
- Mike C: Suggests we should renew KW Umpire Association
- Lance – PJ paid cash to outside umpires for tournament which was a good idea
 - Lance: Suggests we go to flat fee for tournament umpires (For outside leagues)
 - Mike C: Suggests we push at league meetings for standardized fees for tournament umpiring
- Ryan – Suggests we should look at rates
 - Lance – Says our reg season umpire rates are comparable to others, but we need to look at gas allowances – **AGM Discussion – TO BE PUT ON AGM AGENDA, what this should look like**
- Carded Umpires – We don't have enough
 - One mother upset that there was only one umpire for a U17 game
- PJ: Feedback at U11 tournament was very positive from umpiring
- Kevin H: What is requirement to sign up to ump?
 - Clinics are in spring
 - Do we want a communication now?
 - Ryan / Mike – This could tie into volunteer bond
 - Susan – What are requirements?
 - 17 Years old, take the spring course
- Lance: Umpire Equipment Returns
 - Jamie to send list of umpires who borrowed equipment, so it can get returned
 - JUNIOR UMPIRES ONLY
- Lance: Scheduling take into account other tournaments (U13 and up) as these kids are the junior umpires

Communications / Social media – Kevin H

- Email sent today for coaches to send stories, pictures etc... to post some social media posts
- Postings are up for coaches, rep tryouts etc...
- Uniform chair post needs to go up ASAP

Boys LL – Chad C
- No Update

Girls LL – Heather R
- No Update

AGM Topic – Do these positions need to be actual Executive members, do these need to be separate functions?

Sub-Committee Updates – Members of each subcommittee are listed, action items from last meeting listed here (7:15 PM)

Tournaments – PJ, John V, Jamie H, Tim B

Sponsorship – Ryan R, Mike C

Girls Program – Tim B, Susan H, Heather R

Past Achievement Recognition – John V, Kevin H, Ryan R, Kevin R

New Business: (7:58 PM)

- Set AGM Date
 - o Last AGM was October 5th
 - o Fees, policies, changes to rules or executive structure
 - o Set for October 18th 2023
 - **Kevin R will add to global calendar, and start Agenda**
 - Ryan – Booking a room at township – Erb Room
 - Kevin H – Will send a communication once room is confirmed
 - Multiple communications are required
 - Amy is working on updated policies
 - Post online, ask for feedback
 -
- 2023 Awards
 - o Create a subcommittee
 - o Mike C: Proposes Fall Fair
 - o Ryan: Do we need the public presentation?
 - Mike C: The presenters appreciate the public presentation
 - o Ryan – Let's put together subcommittee:
 - Kevin R, Ryan, Mike C, Tim B – Meet Thursday 8:30 at Mike's House
 - Kevin R to put together spreadsheet ASAP with nominees
- 2023 Coaching / Association Feedback
 - o Coaching feedback

- Mike C: Mostly positive feedback so far, nothing too concerning
- PJ – Can coaches have copies of their feedback – Yes if the coaches ask
- 2023 Season LL Player Evaluations
 - Action Items: Kevin H: Will email coaches to discuss
- 2024 Rep Coaches / Tryouts
 - U9 minor / major – Nothing
 - U11 – Adam Bleay Head Coach
 - U11 Major – Blank
 - Concern about a couple players at this level
 - U13 Minor – Adam
 - U13 Major – Kevin H
 - U15 Tier 1 – Mark M
 - U15 tier 2 – Kevin R (Not public knowledge)
 - U17 Tier 1 – Ian Collins
 - U17 Tier 2 – TBD, Discussion may involve Twin Centre
 - U20 - Nothing
 - Some parents would like to revive Mustangs team, U20 to start, U23 eventually
 - Kevin H: Will this be under WSA / Thunder umbrella?
 - Possibly, but not sure yet
 - Dwight will likely be involved, and has some coaches that have approached him
 - Ryan R – Would like to re-evaluate how we sign up U20 and above
 - Tavi has all kids sign up, they carry everyone (16 or more players)
 - Players can opt out of competitive play, and will only play league level
 - Susan: Girls U11 / U13 – Want to formulate a more competitive Team, but may not have enough interest
 - Working with Kitchener, Waterloo, Ayr, and Paris re: Mini Rep Girls League
 - ie: Non PWSA rep team, plays in H-P, and rest would play in LL, some concern about OSSTA rules for “Select” teams – Mike C says to call Al betts @ Ossta
 - Summary – Trying to find a place to put a competitive team, that isn’t PWSA
 - Susan – Two U13 coaches have emerged that want to be more competitive, Susan will ask them to apply as rep coaches so there can be a discussion.
- Team placement in various leagues
 - Mike C: Spoke with U11 Perth Convenor
 - Wasn’t well received with other centers in Perth
 - Didn’t help our U11 team at OASA
 - Wants to deal with this at the League level
 - Proposes centers that hold tryouts will need to play up an age group in Perth if they are a Major age team and North Waterloo has no league for them
 - Kevin R; Should this be an AGM Agenda Item – No, this isn’t a same for all teams

- Executive Positions for 2024
 - o Continued at next meeting
 - o Ryan – Scheduler should either be a paid role, or divided amongst multiple people
 - o Mike C: Suggests we research what the going rate would be for a scheduler
 - o Susan / Kevin R: How can we pay a person to help us? - Will look into this
 - o Kevin R: Coach Liason is a KEY position that we sorely missed this season

- Volunteer coordinator and possible volunteer bond in 2024
 - o PJ would take on this role

- 50th Anniversary of NW Fastball – Tournament
 - o Ties into planning our tournaments
 - o Mike C Has put this together if we were to host this, 10 teams – Late June, 5 game guarantee – Friday Am to Sunday night. Two diamonds per age group. Baden, Petersburg, New Dundee, New Hamburg
 - o Ryan – Is this a WSA initiative, or a North Waterloo Initiative?
 - Mike C: Up for discussion
 - o Mike C: Thinks this is something we need to discuss with surrounding centers, truly brand this as a NW tournament
 - o PJ – Is suggesting Wilmot could hold the diamonds, but other associations could use our facilities to host
 - o Next Steps – Mike C reaching out on behalf NW to determine interest

-

- Budget & 2024 Fees
 - o Next Meeting

Other Items:

- AGM Updates:
 - o **LOOK AT EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER POLICY, AND HOW WE WORD IT – Add exception to the exceptional rule**
 - o **FALL OASA TOURNAMENTS – FIRST MEETING AFTER AGM**
 - o **Update bylaws to state we can vote via email – KEVIN**
 - o **Update maximum terms for positions – Need to be updated for AGM**
 - o Update list of directors at end of year, and provide directors reports to those listed – AFTER AGM – Look at letter of corporation and send communication of whether they want to be listed – And then an official document needs to be completed and filed Need to update with current directors

- Ryan R: Grant Opportunity, we can't issue receipts so we don't necessarily qualify. Ryan is looking to partner with the township – Sept 17th deadline. youth in recreation grant – Maximum \$10k, funding must be used Dec 1 2023 and Nov 30 2024
 - o PJ to investigate – Ryan suggests Scorekeeper huts, Mike C suggests fencing, Ryan suggests batting cage repairs etc...

Next Meeting: Sunday Sept 17th, 2023 – 6:30 PM, 60 Kropf Drive

Adjournment (10:11 PM):

Motion to Adjourn – Susan

Motion 2nd Jamie

Motion Passes, meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM

Future Agenda Items

Registration data with positions

Note to add “Announcements” to list of items that sponsors get

QR Code on Signs – REDOING REGISTRATION SIGNS

- Larger discussion, where to put signs, what sizes, work with TC and where they should have signs