

**Twin Centre Minor Baseball - Wilmot Softball Association**  
**MEETING NOTES - Executive Meeting, November 5, 2023**  
**6:30 PM, Activities Room, WRC**

**Attendance:** Ryan Roth, PJ Poirier, Kevin Reich, Mike Van De Wynkle, Susan Hall, Jamie Hergott, John Vleeming, Todd Lichti, Dan Lebel, Lance Nichol, Sarah Nichols, Kevin Hall

**Regrets:** Mike Carey

**Secretary Report - Daniel / Kevin R. (6:48)**

- Motion to approve minutes as read, Jamie, 2<sup>nd</sup> PJ
- All present vote to approve, motion carries.

**Finance – Mike V / Amy B (6:50 PM)**

Current Financial Position - \$40,000

Motion: To award Cohen Christner a \$500 donation to help cover expenses as he represents Team Canada at the U18 Men's Pan-American and World Championships. M/Ryan, S/Jamie, Carried

Cohen and his father passed on that they were very thankful for the donation.

**Chair Reports – As Necessary / Present – Action Items from last meeting listed here (6:52 PM)**

Uniforms – Shannon

- Uniform RFP – Review and award to vendor
- Narrowed down to Stitch Graphix (NH), Smash-It Sports in Stratford

**Motion: To retain Stitch Graphix as the vendor for Twin Centre and Wilmot uniforms for the 2024 season. Motion by Ryan Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan, Vote: 4 yay, 3 nay. PJ Abstains due to perceived conflict. Motion passes.**

Blastball, TBall, CP – PJ

- No Update

Scheduling – Ryan/Kevin R/Amy

- Discussion - Remove set nights from website
- Ryan: Suggests we make the website more vague
- PJ: Suggests for U11 and up to remove the note about home nights
- Susan; From registration aspect, keep U11 nights on the website – She gets lots of questions about what nights before parents will register
- Ryan: Could add a disclaimer – Nights subject to change based on number of teams and diamond availability
- U9 and U11 on the same night – Could we move these around?
- **Action Item: Kevin R to update the scheduling website – Susan to help**

Registration – Susan H / Amy B (7:11 PM)

- Volunteer Fee
  - Registration RAMP Volunteer module doesn't allow for deferred payment
  - RAMP does allow deferred payment (Partial, minimum 0.01 as part of registration, then balance at end of season)
  - PJ – Could we build volunteer packages that are not date / hour specific
    - Susan: Yes, but we can't track whether or not they actually do it
  - Registration fee – Can't be by family, only by player
  - Mike V: Suggests we just add the \$100 to the registration fee, defer the \$100 until later
    - We can do this, but again this will be by player, not by family
  - Ryan: Can we ask Ramp to have a deferred payment with no upfront fee?
    - **Action Item: Susan will ask RAMP, and if they can charge just once for the family**
  - Susan: What about Blastball, TBall?
    - PJ: Don't charge Blastball or TBall
    - Kevin Hall: Suggests U9 and up. Everyone agrees.
  - Susan: How many hours before bond is \$0? PJ; 5 hours.
  - Mike V: We should not somewhere that funds collected will go directly to WSA to support the program

Motion by PJ: WSA (Wilmot ONLY, TC will not be charged this season) will include a volunteer bond of \$100 per family in the 2024 registration package, for 5 hours of volunteer time. Kevin R 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, Motion Carries.

- Rep registration to open Nov. 15 – PJ will get communication together about volunteer bond before then
- LL registration for TC and WSA to open January 1
- Registration Closes March 15 - TBD

Equipment – Jamie H / Todd (7:27 PM)

- Jamie notes that we need catchers gear, and has started the process to get quotes
- Suggests equipment spend is around \$5000
- Couple of bownets
- **Action Item: Jamie to provide Mike V some costs for next meeting's budget discussion**

Player Development – John V / Todd (7:30 PM)

- Recommendation to charge \$150 per participant for the Can-Pitch program

Umpires – Lance N (7:31 PM)

- Overwhelming at times with the number of umpires
- League Tournaments – Lance is essentially not available during the season for tournaments on weekends – Suggests we need a league or tournament convenor who can be the main umpire contact for these weekends
  - Kevin H suggests this should be a possible volunteer position

- Lance: Also suggests we pay cash for tournaments to prevent issues with ump's not showing up, rain delays, etc...
- Lance: Also need to get tournament dates set EARLY to ensure we have umpires, as well as ensure our rates are competitive – Suggests we don't split base/plate ump pay

Communications / social media – Kevin H , Sarah

- No Update

**Working Group Updates – Creation of subcommittees, action items from last meeting listed here (7:38 PM)**

Awards – Ryan, Kevin R, Kevin H, Mike C

Determine format of 2024 awards – Banquet

Update Umpire Plaque – Kevin R, plaque still in Baden

Tournaments – PJ, John V, Jamie H, Mike C, Ryan R (Do we break this into two groups? - Provincial/Rep, North Waterloo, ORSA?)

- U13 Provincial or Qualifier
- Dates for OASA 2024 - should be posted “soon”
- ORSA
- North Waterloo Invitational - Mike C.

Sponsorship – Ryan R, Mike C

- Sign Removal – Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM – Kevin H (LEAD), John V,
- Trailer Storage - Kevin R (LEAD), Ryan R, Kevin H (2-5/16” Ball)

Fundraising (No Fundraising Chair)) (PJ, Susan (LEAD), John V)

- Thunder Ball
- Michelle is not available that day, but can help plan

Girls Program – Susan H (Lead), Sarah N, Amy, Shannon

- **Motion to cover the \$39.55 gym rental cost for a girl's drop-in pitching time (Mike Hallman, Paul Arsenault) Monday nights in Baden, Susan 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor. Motion Carries.**

Boys LL – Amy/PJ, Todd (7:51 PM)

- Should this include LL Tournaments?
- Open Discussion on Nith River League expansions for LL competition?

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

- Update – Photos on our website by Ryan R.

Ryan R: Notes that we could pull in outside volunteers on these committees, and encourages this

Time for Working Groups to set meeting dates/short break.

#### **New Business:**

- Update list of directors
  - **Action: Mike C to look after**
- Update contacts on Website and WhatsApp group
  - **Action: KEVIN R to update website**
  - **Action: Kevin Hall to update Whatsapp**
  - **Action : PJ Backend Exchange**
- Policy and Procedures Update – Amy B
  - Motion: Accept the new [WSA Accessibility Policy](#)
  - Postponed until Amy can be present to discuss
- NRP Policy Update – Mike C
  - Consider NRPs at the younger ages and put a contingent in for NRPs to play if there are not enough players to form an all-Wilmot team
  - Tweak NRP Policy
  - **Action Item: John V to reach out to Mike C to discuss**
- Creation of Chair of Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion – Amy
  - Motion - WSA/TCMB create a position titled [Chair of Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
  - Postpone to next meeting so Amy can be present for discussion
- U20 Update – Ryan (8:07 PM)
  - Creation of U23 team for 2025 and beyond
  - Recommendation - Investigate Rebranding as “New Hamburg Mustangs” / Team Sponsorship
  - Kevin R: Does this fall under WSA? Ryan says we would encourage it this year as a U20 team, but up for discussion as a U23 team going forward
  - Kevin H: Points out that if this team falls under WSA, then it needs to follow WSA policies (Sponsorship, fundraising, etc...) especially given the corporate sponsorship being discussed.
    - PJ: We likely need to create some new policies surrounding this team if we have this under WSA umbrella
  - Kevin H; Why would we as WSA encourage / promote something not called Wilmot Thunder, need to understand the risk with this
  - PJ; Creates a parallel with Huskies / Firebirds
  - Susan; The issue is New Hamburg vs Wilmot

- Ryan says this could be discussed
  - John V, Jamie etc... think this is a great idea – promote high level ball to younger players.
  - John V – Suggests hosting these games would create excitement in the community
  - PJ; suggests we should be cautious changing U20 name to Mustangs as this will be a one and done season
  - Mike V: Has concerns with running a different team with different rules financially
  - Kevin H: Agrees we should support them, but wonders what the benefit is to have them under WSA
    - Ryan – Simplifies insurance, diamonds, etc...
    - Ryan – Suggests this is a good way to retain U20 players to continue playing once this team goes to U23 next year
  - Ryan; Says for tonight we need to decide if we are in general support, and then we can address the details as the discussion moves forward
  - Group agrees there is enough interest here to move forward with this discussion
- Coaching certification - Amy/Todd/PJ (8:33 PM)
  - Motion - WSA/TCMB place a bid to host Competition - Introduction Clinics Weekend 1 and 2
  - Discussion - WSA/TCMB place a bid to host Learn to Coach, or Community Softball Coach Or hold our own Introductory to softball coaching in Wilmot/TC
  - Amy reached out, no interest to open an additional clinic at this time, but she is still working on it, and is exploring the coaching pathway
- ORSA AGM - November 26, 1 pm, Innerkip Lions Centre (8:36 PM)
  - Can anyone attend – PJ?, Kevin R? John V?
  - Put into the WhatsApp chat if you can attend
- OASA AGM - February.
  - Motions due Dec. 1
  - Suggestion for the revision to Section 4.4 PLAYER RESIDENCY.
  - Under b) Minor Division i) General 2)
  - Current Wording:
  - No Player may be registered on another teams certificate, unless properly released from the players former team. A player requires a release from the affiliated home center and the next closest affiliated center to the home center. In the case that the home center is not an affiliated center, it will be the two closest affiliated centres to the players residence in order to be able to register with any other center in the province. If the new center is the next closest, then only one release shall be required. If there is only one center closer than the distance between the players residence and the players proposed new center, then the player only needs 1 release.
  - Proposed wording:

- No Player may be registered on another teams certificate, unless properly released from the players former team. A player requires a release from the affiliated home center and the next closest affiliated center to the home center. In the case that the home center is not an affiliated center, it will be the two closest affiliated centers to the players residence in order to be able to register with any other center **not more than 3 affiliated centres away.** If the new center is the next closest, then only one release shall be required. If there is only one center closer than the distance between the players residence and the players proposed new center, then the player only needs 1 release.
  - Group agrees to put this motion forward to OASA
  - **Action Item: John V to submit this to OASA**
- Keys, Web Access - Determining who should have them
  - Action: Ryan and Kevin R (Send email out to group), Kevin H, Susan, PJ
    - Baden Storage - John V, Jamie, Kevin H, Mike V (Cash Boxes)
    - New Hamburg Storage
    - Mail
    - Display Case
    - Gates
    - Wellesley and St. Clements storage
    - Website
    - Umpire Website

#### **Other Items (8:44 PM)**

- PJ: Hosting Meeting re: Nith River LL for other centers to join
  - Kevin H: Suggests we probably need Mike C involved in this discussion as tiered NW could be involved
  - Kevin H: What is the outer boundary on this? Concern is keeping the driving time under a half hour
  - Propose we have this as an agenda item for next meeting
  - **Action Item: PJ to discuss with Mike C ahead of next meeting, and have some proposals in place for next meeting**

John V: Communication with TC families

Ryan: This is definitely something that needs to be discussed going forward.

Todd: This will require separate communication going forward

#### **Next Meeting:**

**Dec. 3 @ 6:30 pm**

-2023-2024 budget WSA and TCMB

- Outstanding items from Nov 5 2023 meeting

-Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

-Diversity Equity and Inclusion Policy

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn; Kevin R (8:58 pm), Jamie 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries

- Sharepoint Tutorial for those who want an update

**Future Meeting Dates:**

January 7

- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Management Policy

February 4

- Volunteer Screening Policy

March 3

April 7 – Spring Clinic Date

May 5

June 2

July 7

Aug 11

Sept 8

Oct 6

2024 AGM Oct 16

**Future Agenda Items**

Update bylaws to state we can vote via email

Update maximum terms for positions – Need to be updated for AGM

Update list of directors at end of year, and provide directors reports to those listed

Registration data with positions

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

QR Code on Signs