

Wilmot Softball Association

MINUTES - Executive Meeting, January 15, 2023

Call to Order / Attendance / Opening Comments (6:37 PM)

Executive : PJ Poirier, Tim Bartram, John Vleeming, Chad Currah, Mike Van De Wynckel, Kevin Hall, Jamie Hergott, Lance Nichol, Kevin Reich, Ryan Roth, Mike Carey

Guests: Amy Balatoni and Todd Lichty – Twin Centre

Welcome to Amy and Todd from Twin Centre. Our intention with them attending tonight is begin working more closely together and determine if further collaboration would be possible and beneficial.

Secretary Report - Kevin R (6:38 PM)

- Minutes for November 2022 Executive meeting to be reviewed
 - o **Motion by Kevin R to accept minutes as read for November Meeting**
 - o **2nd by Ryan R.**
 - o **All in favor, motion carries, minutes approved as read**
- Insurance Update - \$550 for rep player insurance with OASA – Still require roster lists from Registration – Deadline is 1/15/2023

Finance – Mike V (6:40 PM)

- Current Financial Position \$86,280.53
 - o Indicative of registrations incoming, about \$32k higher than last year (trending like last report)
 - o Still have not received registration fees from last year's Adult League fees
 - Kevin H to follow up with Jenn Patterson
 - o Mike C – Did we pay St Johns Ambulance after Nationals tournament?
 - Mike V: No, John V will send requested amount and particulars to Mike V to pay

Chair Reports – As Necessary / Present

- Scheduling – Ryan R (6:42 PM)
 - o Discussion of how to move forward with this role
 - Ryan R: Following up from previous meetings notes, do we split up role for in-season vs offseason responsibilities?
 - Sean East (Ryan's asst coach) would be willing to be involved
 - Kevin R: Is it complicated if this is fragmented amongst multiple people?
 - o Amy and Mike C have both stepped in in the past to help, and it is very doable by multiple people
 - Chad and Kevin R willing to work on this for LL Boys
 - How to break up In-Season Scheduler Role?
 - Local League nights are pretty much set, cut and paste from previous seasons
 - REP is more difficult as different leagues etc... will have different requirements
 - o Rainouts, Exhibition games, practices etc....

- Kevin H asks if we can divide up at a team level
 - Yes, But Mike C points out that Township wants contacts limited to TWO so not every convenor or team scheduler can have direct contact with Township
 - Ryan R: Need to return unused diamond time about 48 hours minimum – This could be a task for someone
 - Kevin H – Coaches need to be notified 1 week notice for township diamonds, and this should be communicated to coaches early in the year
 - Ryan R: Managing requests SHOULD be managed through a single person – Especially when township communication is involved
 - Mike C: Does the Township have a calendar we can view? They used to... Ryan Believes they do
 - **Action Item: Ryan R to reach out to Township about online calendar / scheduler – To help simplify this process**
 - Chad C: Bigger Picture – Have we considered paying this as a part time position for student or somebody else?
 - Ryan R: Has been discussed in the past and it is a possibility
 - Lance suggests students who need volunteer hours could fill this role
 - Kevin H – We have approved a volunteer bond, which if implemented would help pay for these people
 - John V – Suggests there might be a government grant that pays this
 - PJ Has a contact, similar to volunteers at Summer Camps. Apply in Dec for following year
 - **Action Item – PJ and John V to discuss grant application for paying volunteer roles offline**
 - Tim B: How many times is there a fire to sort out?
 - Ryan – Typically only when a mistake has been made, Double booked diamonds, forget to update Umpire schedule. 4-5 times per season
 - Chad – Tonight we should decide that convenors become responsible to their leagues, Rep handled by team managers
 - **Action Item: Ryan R to reach out to Sean East to determine interest**
 - **Anybody who has someone interested in volunteering reach out to Ryan**
 - Mike C – There is software available that can help facilitate this, we may want to consider purchasing as an organization
- Umpires – Lance N (7:11 PM)
- As in previous years, Softball Ontario is looking for hosts for umpire clinics – Do we want to host?
 - Some changes to clinics this year:
 - No more Junior clinics.

- Junior umpires will take a level 1 clinic at a reduced rate.
 - First year level 1 and junior aged umpires take level 1 clinic at reduced price.
 - Repeat level 1 umpires pay full price
 - Ryan – What about classification of umps for paying them?
 - Lance – Umps will still be carded junior and level 1 separately
 - Ryan – Suggests we host a level 1 clinic for sure.
 - Lance – They are also asking if we can host a level 2 clinic?
 - Ryan – Do we have numbers to justify a level 2 clinic? Lance suggests we have some level 1 umps ready to take level 2 course, so we should be able to meet a minimum.
 - **Motion: Ryan motions to host level 1 and level 2 umpire clinic, and will assist Lance with venue selection and organization**
 - **Motion 2nd by Chad C**
 - **All in favor, motion carries.**
 - Note: WSA Practice of paying umpires after doing minimum number of games will continue as per vote at 2022 meeting.
 - Amy: Twin Centre is willing to help organize and host this clinic as well.
 - Lance: Looking to collaborate with Twin Centre on Umpires;
 - Struggling with WSA umpires who are working in Twin Centre and unavailable for WSA games.
 - Can we have umpires for both TC and WSA in a single RAMP system to allow for better sharing?
 - Amy: Yes absolutely! TC does have a parent that helps with umpire scheduling, and can assist with getting this setup
 - Lance: Can we ensure all LL convenors, coaches, and team managers are aware to reach out to both Lance and scheduler to cancel umps and diamonds – Both need to be cancelled.
 - **Action Item: Chad and Kevin R will ensure LL coaches are aware of this**
 - Mike C: Suggests a single email to facilitate cancellations:
 - **Action item: Setup cancel@wilmotthunder.com - PJ to complete**
 - Lance: Can we ensure that all coaching contacts are provided to Lance to ensure he can contact coaches in the event of an umpire shortage?
 - **Action Item; WSA to provide this info to Lance in order to facilitate communication**
 - Lance: Can we reduce the number of umpires for lower-level (U9) games?
 - Question is raised out of shortage of umps at times
 - Kevin H: Suggests we don't want to do this because we want to give experience to younger umps if they are available
 - Chad & Ryan both suggest to have two spots, but don't pay extra if only one umpire is available / shows up
 - Ryan suggests this needs to be taken offline to discuss later, once umpire numbers are available
 - Lance: Needs tournament dates ASAP to ensure our umps are available
 - **Action Item – WSA to provide tournament hosting info to Lance ASAP**
- Registration – Susan H (7:35 PM)
- Rep Player Registration

- Girls and LL Walk-in Pitching Clinics – Suggests these could be ran with WSA coaches, no instructor – More info to follow in new business re: Girls pitching
- Kevin H: Suggests a walk-in catching session, even if no catching instructor is available – could be ran with WSA / TC coaches
- Communications / social media – Kevin H (8:15 PM)
 - 2023 Kickoff registration communication to the group, and social media
 - Planning to post regularly over the next month or so – Several times per week

Action Items from November 2022 Meeting (8:17 PM)

- Sponsorship: Mike C to follow up with various sponsors for missing payments – No update
- Secure Doors at Baden Equipment Shed:
 - PJ to get a quote for a steel door to present to the Township
 - Quote for exterior door only – 32" x 80"
 - John V to reach Sandy at Township to determine Township Involvement
 - Waiting on price from TWP - \$3k to \$5k
- Donation for Wilmot Wolverines Tournament - Tim B to provide basket with merch and free girls registrations – Completed
 - TIM B asked reciprocation for Thunder Ball Table
- Thunder Ball - Kevin R to design tickets and provide to Michelle - Completed

Sub-Committee Updates – Members of each subcommittee are listed (8:25 PM)

- Tournaments – PJ, John V, Jamie H, Tim B (8:25 PM)
 - Need to confirm tournaments we are hosting (complete applications and get approval)
 - Talk to Optimist club about handling concessions
 - Complete a required volunteer list for each event
 - Can we have optimist also do concessions for LL tournaments?
 - U11 West qualifier, U20 elims on same weekend – New Hamburg, possibly Baden, depending on number of teams
 - U13 Provincials, U15 Provincials as backup if U13 falls through
 - Waiting to confirm dates, before communicating further
 - **Action Item: Committee to fill out special events form (John V), Ryan R to block dates with township (Dates on OASA website)**
 - **Action Item – PJ, Chad, Kevin, Amy & Todd – Meet to discuss LL tournament dates**
- Sponsorship – Ryan R, Mike C (8:32 PM)
 - Notes and updated Spreadsheet provided by Mike C
 - Some sponsorship calls have been made; progress noted in spreadsheet
 - Looking for help to knock on local businesses doors
 - **Action Item: KEVIN R to put spreadsheet in Teams, and share link to Executive group**
- Girls Program – Tim B, Susan H, Heather R (8:38 PM)

- Met Dec 23rd. Discussed several ideas, and main purpose of committee
- Reviewed suggestions from previous years committee
- Action Item: Running girls only free clinics (Not called a clinic, girls fastball fun time), games, colouring etc...
 - Full Morning drop in, no specific commitment
 - Next steps is booking times based on availability, and budget
 - Plan is to offer drop-in FREE to all girls
 - Tonight, asking for volunteers (Players and exec members), and spending budget
 - Expected expense: \$600
 - **Tim B: Motion to spend up to \$600 from steelers fund money for girls drop in clinics.**
 - **Note from Mike V: \$4000 is current steelers fund budget**
 - **Motion 2nd - Kevin R**
 - **All in favor, motion carries**
- Further Promotion:
 - Post office mailers was investigated – Found to be too expensive
 - Committee has asked schools about mailers, but waiting on answer
 - Heather R has some knowledge of social media and offered to help with posts to promote
- Committee next meeting set next week
- Kevin H – Anything on free registration promotion?
 - Tim B: Nothing yet, discussion was that it was complicated to offer that. Won't happen for this year, but possibly for next year
- Past Achievement Recognition – John V, Kevin H, Ryan R, Kevin R (8:47 PM)
 - Met last week
 - Discussed that committee needs to ensure we capture achievements from WSA, as well as feeder associations (Baden, New Dundee, New Hamburg)
 - Working to post past winners on our website to start
 - Communication with Township about possible recognition location
 - Will continue meeting and pushing forward
 - **Action Item – Anybody with contacts from previous executives / associations please reach out to group.**

New Business: (8:50PM)

- Coach for U20 Boys Rep – Ryan R
 - Ryan R: Can we open both U20 Rec and U20 Rep for registration – 12 and waiting list
 - Ryan: Advertising for Coaches – Can we identify ASAP on socials that we need U20 Rep coaches
 - **Action Item: Registration to be opened, and advertisement for coaches to be posted on Social Media**
- Potential NRP players for U15 Rep – Ryan R (8:55 PM)
 - Need advice and direction

- Have 10 players on team from fall tryouts
 - St George has two players with 2018 birthdays left from last year, where the rest of their team has moved up to U17
 - 1st player is planning to play U17 in St George, but has expressed interest in playing with WSA U15 for tournaments – Can they register with WSA, and do they pay full fees?
 - Mike C: This affects team budget only, so we can just have them pay team directly for tournaments they enter
 - Kevin H: What about Rowans law and other sign offs? - Suggests we can setup a \$0 package or use a promotional code to ensure they can register with WSA as a player. Kevin also suggests that this would be the correct process.
 - Kevin H – Also comments that this shouldn't be an issue as long as this is legal (NRP policy / rules, roster registration, etc...)
 - 2nd Player – Pitcher, Indication is player would play full season U15 WSA, but in the meantime we have received a release request from this player to go elsewhere. We have made the offer for them to join the team. - Next steps to be determined once they decide where they want to play

- Girls Drop-In Pitching Sessions – Ryan R (9:00 PM)
 - Dan Fronchak (U17 Girls Coach) Has reached out re: Gym time for drop in pitching sessions
 - Monday nights @ Forest Glen, 7:30 PM
 - Dan is willing to take on girls from all age groups
 - Ryan R: Proposing a motion to cover costs for clinics, and can we promote it?
 - Kevin H: What instruction is being held?
 - Ryan R: No instruction, just open gym time
 - Action Item: Ryan to get more details from Dan F, and will regroup
 - **Motion by Ryan R - WSA Will cover the cost for proposed girls drop-in pitching sessions up to \$100.**
 - **Motion 2nd by John V**
 - **All approve, motion passes**

- Twin Centre Wildcats (9:25 PM)
 - Amy: Thank you for welcoming Twin Centre tonight. Todd and Amy are the entire executive for TC. Both are coaching, and kids are getting older. Twin Centre is wondering how to preserve baseball in Wellesley and area going forward.
 - Kevin H: Suggests that collaborating on Tournaments and Umpires is a great start. Wonders if there are any barriers to further collaboration.
 - Amy: Can we share the load for tournaments ie: Convenors and organizers?

- Ryan R: Suggests our LL convenors communicate with Amy and Todd as full partners in hosting tournaments. This would be an extension of what has happened in past seasons.
 - Amy: Another concern is there are not enough players for multiple teams at different age groups
 - Can we share some players for U13, U15, U17 competitive teams – cut players from our rep teams
 - Ryan R: Proposes TC communicates registration numbers for each age groups, and then WSA can promote competitive teams to players cut from our fall rep tryouts
 - Kevin H: When does TC Registration close? - Todd L: March 1st
 - Kevin H: Lets communicate in early March when our respective registration dates close to determine next steps.
 - Mike C: Proposes TC members continue to join WSA meetings, to continue growing this relationship
- Promotion of Softball and Registration within the community (9:49 PM)
 - Mike C: Do we have Posters to get out in local stores to advertise registration?
 - Kevin H: Do we have registration banners up?
 - Mike C: Not yet, but need to get these up ASAP – Where are they?
 - **Action Item: Kevin H and Jamie to find banners**
 - John V and Kevin H to send messaging to Ryan R for township messaging on signs
 - John V – Do we need another banner?
 - Mike C: Yes, we should get several more to hang in New Dundee, Petersburg, and St. Agatha
 - **Action Item – Kevin R to find artwork and get cost for 3 x Registration Banners**
 - **Action items - Kevin R to find artwork for past registration posters, and get printed to distribute**
 - **Action Item – Jamie to find stand up banner and fence banners**
- Pitching Machine Purchase – Budget / Proposal is for two (2) machines (10:05 PM)
 - Discussion of which proposed machine would be most suitable
 - Decision made to purchase a single Hack Attack Softball Pitching Machine and decide on second machine after some use.
 - **Motion by Tim B: To purchase one (1) Hack Attack Machine under previously approved budget.**
 - **Motion 2nd by Ryan R**
 - **All in favor, motion carries, purchase approved**
- North Waterloo and South Perth (10:15 PM)

- More info to follow – Meeting scheduled next Sunday

- 2024 Executive/Fall Elections (10:16 PM)
 - Mike C – Proposes that WSA doesn't wait until September to discuss vacant positions
 - No need to finalize tonight, but if anyone is planning to leave WSA executive then please bring to next meeting
 - Kevin H: President role has a ripple effect with other roles. Proposing a sidebar meeting with those who's roles would be affected directly
 - Ryan – Need to determine seriousness of those who may be willing to take on a leadership role
 - Kevin H to coordinate a gathering and send notice to executive members for further discussion

Other Items:

- Building at batting cage in New Dundee – Support from New Dundee Optimists

Next Meeting – Feb 5th 2023, 6:30 PM, Wilmot Rec Complex

Adjournment (10:21 PM)

Motion to Adjourn by Kevin R, 10:21 PM

Motion 2nd by Ryan R

All approve, meeting adjourned