

## Arrowhead Fastpitch League 8/10/16 meeting agenda.

In attendance: Bridget Vesel-Johnson, Bert Ewer, George Castonguay (Barnum), Scott Janigo, Todd Marnich, John Stevens, Justin O'Leary, Sherry Mottonen, Pat Shelton, Jason Lagergren (Umpire), Kelly Goeb, Dennis Peterson, Denny Nelson

Open Forum: All Coaches discussed the following topics in an open forum setting...

1. Dates for 2017 Arrowhead board meetings: Sept. 18th 6:00, Oct. 26th, Nov. 30th, No Dec. date, Jan. 18th, Feb. 15th, Mar 15th,

2. U10/U12 discussions:

- Stealing rule was thought to have slowed down the game in majority of opinion. Some thought force outs were increased because of it.
- Great discussion on the format of U10. Teams that went to the cities to play in tournaments were thrust into NAPA rules...(no abbreviations to the game). Discussion: we are doing a disservice to our softball future in the Northland by using a pitching machine and not stealing at the U10 level. Two tier league discussed for: all pitching vs pitching machine separations. Suggested we do pitching machine at U8 level. Other discussions: to run league like baseball where gradual separation from machine through the season (point..baseball season is longer...May-July). Need to discuss further. Timeline, grooming pitchers, distance issues, etc.
- Competitive level was very high with coaches and fans this year. Young Umpires being verbally challenged and at times abused. Discussion on how to have consequences. Need communication from coaches in order to address situations. Not many situations were reported until board meeting
- No metal cleats at U12 level!

3. Umpires –

- calling unlimited inning? Discussion on how to deal with unlimited inning becoming ruthless...couple options discussed 1) unlimited inning mercy rule- 10 rule limit??? or 2) what ever team is leading (only if up by a significant lead) becomes the home team in the unlimited inning. If team comes back and ties it up or takes the lead...the "new" home team gets at bats. If team does not tie it up..game over
- Hurt player rule: at U10 level if a player is unable to continue due to injury in continuous batting, they should just skip over that player and no "out" is awarded to defense.
- Free Umpire Clinic for U10/U12 Community umpires: Discussion to offer clinics to ensure knowledge of rules. Offer Two different dates in order to maximize participation.
- Beginner Umpires at U14/U16/U18 levels: Due to high cost of equipment and sanctioning for young umpires, it needs to be known that Arrowhead will provide equipment for 1st year umpires so they can experience the 1st year and make a decision on future umpiring without losing out of a lot of money.

- Uniforms: It was discussed that umpires at Community level wear a designated shirt/uniform while umpiring.
- Prompt start times at U10/U12 levels: game times did not starting on time due to laxidazical demeanor of some umpires.

4. Make up game expectations- having courtesy to be flexible to postpone a game if a team does not have enough players and make up games but need to make up games in timely fashion and be make more of an effort to make up rain days, U14/16/18 leagues have a designated night for make up games,

- Coach asking to be reimbursed for rained out games **Not discussed.**
- To avoid not making up games.....one point for every game played. Another point for every win. Half point for a tie. So game played is zero. Loss is one point. Tie is 1.5. Win is two points. That way teams are encouraged to make up games. **This point system was not discussed.**

5. Computerized umpire scheduling-Arbitor (program can be used to pay officials as well). Umpires block out schedules and program will schedule umpires according to closest location, blocks that are left open can be filled by sending out an email through the Arbitor system. More checking to see if SportNgin offers this...

6. Play offs -

- Frustrations with: U12 and U14 teams playing on same nights as teams share players. There was no communication with board when there was a conflict until after the schedule came out.
- high seed or roll out the ball to determine home team: **High seed should be home team.**
- time limits still in effect for 5:30 games?? Umpires need to be aware that the time limits are still in effect for all games. Including 7:00 game??? Time limit for the 2nd game was discussed to ensure timely ending for the night. More discussion needed. **Suggested rule change.**
- Adult umpires for championship 12U playoff games...**Not discussed**
- lights to stay on during playoffs...proactive to prevent. **Not discussed**

7. Revisit two tier scheduling for u10/u12 and 14U: **After a long discussion regarding future format of U10 moving toward straight pitching, breaking U10 into a two tier schedule was suggested for 1) pitching only 2) Pitching machine/pitching . More discussion to come.**

8. Discuss future of Arrowhead - select teams vs. community draft teams **Not discussed**

9. Rules

- Courtesy runners in 10s or 12s with continuous batting?? **Needs further discussion**
- Hit by pitch in 10s...should they get first base? **Need to make this rule more clear in the U10 Rules. Hit by pitch is not awarded 1st base.**
- Runners lane....don't seem to understand what it is. **Didn't discuss**
- Home team for double headers? Need to indicate we split the games?**Didn't discuss**
- Minimum number of players to avoid forfeit. **8**

10. Not enough Rule books or score books available to all communities for all their teams. Arrowhead needs to manage better instead of free for all...