

USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA

SPRING MEETING 2018

General Meeting

President Jack Lukes called the meeting to order at 9:06.

State Commissioner Dick Gulmon gave summary of 2017 season.

2018 Hall of Fame inductees were Chuck and Marge Oberg, Curt Krahler, Dennis Bense, Tom Harty and Greg Kaeding.

Winter Meeting will be January 18 & 19, 2019.

2018 National meeting will be in Oklahoma City October 27-Nov 1.

Classification Meeting will be July 6 in Jamestown.

Mandan and Fargo awarded James Ferrell Award.

2018 fee structure – team \$75, COED \$20, fall league \$20, fall state and 5x5x5 state fee \$20, church league \$20 and one-time tournament roster \$25.

2018 National Tournament – Mandan MSP Master, 35,45; WSP 35, Fargo MSP class D.

Insurance – Each registered team will have a 2MM liability Insurance, 5MM Aggregate Teams can provide field owners with certificate.

All adult and J O Invitational tournaments must be sanctioned by tournament coordinator Roger Weigel.

Roster deadline is 6/11/18, after 6/11/18 there will be a \$25 late fee. League registration deadline 6/4/18. Call Secretary/Treasurer Greg Kaeding after 6/4/18.

USA Softball National Tournaments – Northern Region 2018

GFP 8U, 10U A, 12U B, 10U C, 12U C, 14U C – Yankton, SD 7/23-28

GFP 12U A, 10U B – Wausau, WI 7/25-29

GFP 14U A – Rochester, MN 8/2-5

GFP 16U B – Rochester, MN 8/2-5

MSP Northern D Championship – Fargo, ND 8/31-9/2

MSP Masters 35,45, & WSP 35, Mandan, ND 8/24-26

USA Softball Northern Territory Championship 2018

GFP 14U B – Decatur, IL 7/23-29

GFP 16U A – Bloomington, IN 8/2-5

GFP 18U A – Novi, MI 7/26-29

USA GFP 14U A, Bowling Green, KY 7/22-29

MSP D Northern – Fargo, ND 8/31-9/2

MSP E Rec Northern -Liberty, MO 8/24-26

COED Class C & D – Rolla, MO 8/25-26

USA MSP B Championship – Prairie Island, MN 8/24-26

USA MSP C Championship – Prairie Island, MN 8/31-9/3

Reports

Playing rule changes – Mike Wolf

USA Code change – Dick Gulmon

Player Classification - Mike Peterson

Director of operation – R C Courtright

Wounded Warrior Program – Jack Jones and Chris Hutton

McQuade Updates – Jack Jones and Mike Wolf

State pick-up player form, bats, guidebook – Greg Kaeding

GFP report – Brian Neuhardt

Umpire update – Mike Wolf

USA Softball – Dick Gulmon

Afternoon Meeting

Meeting called to order at 12:45.

WSP reports by Dani Schwartz.

MSP reports by Roger Weigel.

Umpire report by Mike Wolf.

National tournament report by Jack Jones on Mandan Master National.

GFP report by Brian Neuhardt.

Jack Lukes elected state president.

Greg Kaeding gave group job description for secretary/treasurer.

Best door prizes ever were donated by Dick Gulmon, Mike Peterson, Greg Kaeding, Kelly Wrangham, Bismarck Women's Softball, Fargo USA Softball, USA Softball of ND B.O.D.

MEN'S SLOW PITCH

Reported by Roger Weigel

These are the recommendations from MSP group to the Executive Committee

- Classification meeting July 6th.
- Roster deadline June 11th to state office.
- Roster change deadline June 19th.
- Tournament series – Method to deal with mid-season bumps. Prior years case by case. Going forward have established rules where points stay in classification where earned.

Motion and passed to adopt rules for Oct 6th Fall State tournament in Fargo.

- Two divisions, tier 1 3 or less B players
Hit own softballs, 4 HR limit with 1-up
State tournament entry fee of \$175
- Tier 2 Rec teams, 2 HR limit with 1-up, softball provided, Rec & below.

Motion & passed to adopt rules for Oct 7th 5x5x5 state tournament in Fargo, Tier 1 & Tier 2 – 5-8 players. Similar rules to fall state.

Motion & passed to revise state tournament pick-up player form to allow tournament director ability to sign form in addition to league rep & state official.

2018 Masters National tournament in Mandan.

Men's Slowpitch officers: President – Rhino Fleck, VP – Craig Good, Secretary – Roger Weigel.

WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

Reported by Dani Schwartz

These are the recommendations from WSP group to the Executive Committee

Election of officers.

President – Sue Heilman
Vice President – Daylee Wilkenson
Secretary – Dani Schwartz

Amy gathered updated contact information for women's league reps to make sure all information on website is correct.

There was discussion on moving the masters tournament due to the timing of the national tournament but decided to keep it the way it is for the current year and adjust next year if need be.

Discussed the level of responsibility of turning in a correct roster and holding players and managers responsible. There will not be any phone calls made at the classification meeting for follow-up.

Discussion of new members to the task force and classification committees.

2018 UMPIRE MEETING—State Meeting

Submitted By—Michael Wolf—State Umpire-In-Chief

Due to bad weather, all of the District Umpire-in-Chiefs from around the state along with State UIC Michael Wolf met via conference call in March for their annual meeting.

Mandan will be hosting the Men's 35 & Over, 45 & Over, and Women's 35 & Over Masters National Tournament in 2018 and we are hoping for a good turnout of teams! We will start by assigning between 12-15 umpires from around the state, region, and country for this tournament.

Fargo will be hosting the Men's D National Tournament in 2018 and we are also hoping for a good turnout of teams! We will start by assigning up to 24 umpires from around the state, region, and country.

We have worked out several umpire exchanges with other states around the country that will afford the opportunity to send our umpires out of state in return for umpires from another state to work in our nationals. The umpire exchange program we've developed is paying dividends to our umpire program.

We are in the process of assigning umpires to the following tournaments: Men's D in Fargo, Men's and Women's Masters in Mandan, Girls FP in Rochester, MN, Girls FP in Wisconsin, Men's A in Mississippi, Men's A/Supers in Mississippi, Girls FP JO Cup in, Girls Class 16 & 14 Gold USA FP in Plano, Texas. Look for a complete list of assigned umpires in the summer edition of the Softball News"

Umpire registration fees for the 2018 season will remain at \$55.00. In addition to classroom rules clinics, our DUIC's have been conducting field clinics as part of the umpire training process. Field clinics have become a very valuable tool in the umpire training process and are currently being held in several cities throughout the state. These clinics have proved to be very successful in the past and are a great learning tool for umpires. The clinics also a great tool for players and managers to see the demonstration on the ten foot pitching arc.

We continue to remind umpires about the change in the jewelry rule that was recently adopted. We've gone from a zero jewelry policy to adopting the national ASA rule which says that jewelry will be removed if deemed dangerous by the umpire. So, the small religious medal chains would now be legal. However, earrings with posts, nose rings, lip rings and rubber wrist bands should still be removed or taped down. Break away choker necklaces would be OK. But remember. Even though the jewelry rule has been relaxed somewhat, if an umpire deems something dangerous, players still have to tape it or take it off.

If you need to contact a deputy umpire in chief in your area of the state, or to contact the state UIC, be sure and check out the NDASA website at www.usasoftballnd.org and click on the umpire tab to find contact information for all DUIC's and the state UIC.

We will continue to do background checks on all umpires in the state. The fee's to conduct the background checks are paid for by the umpires in their state registration fees. The background check program has been successful and it lends a lot of credibility to our umpire program.

Through their registration fees, umpires are automatically covered under the insurance program offered by ASA. The benefits for umpires are many in the event an unfortunate situation occurs.

Umpires are instructed at clinics not to work any non-sanctioned ASA events. It is equally important for all leagues in ND to only use ASA registered umpires to work their league games and tournaments. ASA provides liability insurance for leagues in the event a situation occurs where a lawsuit is brought against the league for a variety of unfortunate circumstances that could occur. However, if you are not using ASA registered umpires and an incident occurs in which a lawsuit is brought, **your league will not be protected by the ASA insurance plan.** Can your league afford that? The answer is no! It is not worth taking the chance by not using sanctioned ASA umpires in your league games and tournaments. If you have any questions concerning this, would like more information, or to get umpires registered, please contact the state UIC, Mike Wolf at 701-400-2100, or via email at: wolfden8993@yahoo.com

Three North Dakota Umpires qualified for “Elite” Umpire Status. Elite status is the highest level and umpire can achieve in USA Softball. This raises the number of Elite umpires in North Dakota to 21. Achieving their Elite Status in 2016 were: Wade Blumhagen—Bismarck, Chris Coleman—Fargo, and Ben Birkemeyer—Bismarck. Tom Hamkens from Bismarck achieved entry to the Umpire Indicator Fraternity for having worked at least three national tournaments.

We are excited to announce that Bismarck has been awarded to host a USA Softball National Umpire School in 2019! Less than eight of these schools are hosted around the country each spring. This will be a great training opportunity for umpires throughout North Dakota as well as umpires from Minnesota and South Dakota who can also attend. Umpires will be trained by some of the best regional UIC’s from around the country as well as state UIC’s in the region. The school has been scheduled for April 26-28, 2019. Much more information to come on this exciting opportunity for umpires!

USA Softball of North Dakota
Executive Committee Meeting

MSC – Approved 2017 Financials. Motion Wayne Beyer, second Mike Wolf.

MSC – Approved 2018 state pick-up player forms. Motion Scott Collins, second Scott Brahos.

MSC – Approved at McQuade Master 35 allowed to play in regular division. Motion Scott Collins, second Scott Brahos.

MSC – Approved Charity Home run request for Rugby Geo Center. Motion Wayne Beyer, second Jack Lukes.

MSC – Pay USA Softball continuity fee per national agreement. Motion Greg Kaeding, second Jack Lukes.

MSC – Adopt rules for fall state tournament in Fargo. Motion Scott Collins, second Mike Wolf.

MSC – Adopt rules for 5x5x5 state tournament in Fargo. Motion Chris Hutton, second Mike Wolf. Rules and guidelines enclosed.

MSC – Allow state tournament director to sign state tournament pick-up player form during state tournament. Motion Scott Brahos, second Mike Wolf.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Kaeding
Secretary

2018 Fall State Tournament

October 6th—Fargo, ND

2 divisions. 12 team maximum in each division.

Tier 1—D and above, no more than 3 B players. 4 HR Limit with the 1-up HR rule. Teams supply and hit their own softballs. Available for purchase at site. One type/brand of ball specified.

Tier 2---E/Rec 1 and below, no D or above players. 2 HR Limit with the 1-up HR rule. Tournament provides softballs.

Pool Play with 3 game guarantee leading to semi finals and championship.

Regular run rules apply. 7 inning games.

\$175 Entry fee which includes \$20 team sanction fee.

2018 Inaugural 5 on 5 on 5 State Tournament

October 7th---Fargo, ND

2 Divisions. 16 team maximum in each division. 3(6) game guarantee. Top 3 teams move to Championship game. Every game worth 2 points. 8 players maximum per roster. Can bat from 5-8 players. If a player bats, he must play at least 1 of the 2 rotations on defense. 5 players on defense per 1/3 of inning. Batting team moves to field the 4 outfield spots plus pitcher position.(4th OF may play Middle position on defense), then move to play defense in the infield and catcher positions. Games are 5 innings. If runner is on base when his turn at bat is up, the last out moves to occupied base furthest from plate and pushes other runners who are on base.(example, runners on 2nd and 3rd and the runner on 3rd is up. The last out goes to 2nd base and the runner on 2nd moves to 3rd.)

No run rules, 5 inning games.

Tier 1—D and above, no more than 3 B players. 4 HR per game allowed. Teams supply and hit their own softballs. One type of ball specified and available for purchase on site.

Tier 2---Rec 1 and below. 2 HR per game allowed. Tournament supplies softballs.

\$175 Entry fee which includes \$20 team sanction fee.

