

Bloomington Fastpitch Association

Meeting Minutes – March 3rd, 2014

I. Call to Order

Karen Johnson called to order the regular meeting of the Bloomington Fastpitch Association Board of Directors at 7:04PM on Monday March 3rd, 2014 at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN.

II. Attendance

The following persons were present:

Board Members: Karen Johnson, Cathy Currier, Sarah Johnson, Melissa Walter, Craig Johnson, , Mark Pearson, Grant Effertz, Carol Effertz, Gary Hanson, Stacy Acketz. Tony Acketz.

Non-board Member: Amy Christiansen, Tod Deming, Greg Westendorf, Bill Pearson

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion made by Cathy Currier and Gary Hanson 2nd that we approve the minutes from February 3rd, 2014. MOTION PASSED.

IV. Old Business

- Registration
 - Based on registration numbers we expect to have four teams at 8U's (6 on the waiting list), three teams at 10U's & 12U's, two teams at 14U's and one 16U team.
 - We are waiting for approval from Richfield and Burnsville for closed division players that are requesting to play BFA instead of their home association.
 - We are expecting a request for a Bloomington 12U to play with another community.
 - Requests to Play up: Registration numbers will not allow BFA to approve these request. This includes 8U players that were asked to play up Fall 2012. Families are understandably upset.
 - One wait listed player at 10U. Tony said he would take a 13th player on his 10U team so no one would need to be cut. Mark made a motion to approve an exception to the handbook to allow a 13th player on 10U team to avoid cuts for the 2014 summer season. Melissa 2nd MOTION PASSED. Tony will make sure parents on his team are aware.
- Clinic Attendance
 - Great turn out! Looks like a lot of growth for the program. Last night (2/2) we had 56 at the first session (8's & 10's) and 26 at the second session (12's and up)
 - We will need to look at getting a larger space for next year, looking at possibly the armory.
 - Maybe use two locations, split groups differently.
 - Parents getting involved, Stacy doing great job talking to all of the new parents.
- Coaching Handbook
 - Amy Christenson was a big help in the completion of this handbook.
 - The handbook is big piece of how we will be consistent in how coaches teach skills and practices across age levels and between coaches.
 - Standards with drills also added some notes from coaches' clinics.
 - Consistency, keep the coaches enthusiastic.
 - Will also have CD's available at coached meeting on March 25th.
- Parent Handbook
 - The copy posted on the web was approved at the January board meeting. Revisions from February meeting not reflected in the copy on web.
 - Final revised copy distributed via email prior to Board meeting to reflect changes discussed and approved in the following areas.
 - Removed numerical ranking of BFA objectives and identified winning as a separate objective
 - Parent and Player expectations
 - Skills Mastery by age level updated to be consistent with Coaches Handbook
 - Cathy made a motion to approve revisions Craig 2nd, MOTION PASSED

V. New Business

- Suburban League Directors Meeting

- League Rule Closed 12U Division amended – League direction that 12U playing up to 14U can be approved for a player within your home association but it was stated that the League would not support a roster 12's play up outside their home association, even with a waiver. League stated their goal is to keep maintain the integrity of Community Ball at 12's.
- Suburban League is offering the "ACE" certification through ASA, The cost is \$25.00 and includes background check and ASA certification good for 3 years. ACE certification is now required for at least one coach on each team. Discussed having all BFA coaches ACE certified since it includes background checks and the cost is the same as BFA pays just for background checks.
- Dave Quale offered to speak at Association Coaches meetings to provide rules overview and reemphasize appropriate game etiquette. Discussed inviting Dave to speak at Coaches meeting versus Parents Meeting. Board agreed to invite Dave to speak at the Parents Meeting.
- Scheduling league games will take place at the Hopkins VFW on April 14th 6pm for 10U, 8pm for 12U and April 21st 6pm for 14U's, 8pm for 16U's.
- Strike Three Announcement
 - Tony reported that he received email that Strike 3 is cutting back and no longer able to support BFA clinics. This could change in the future and if it does BFA would like to continue its clinic partnership with Strike 3.
 - We will need to look to see if any other coaches out there, as Amy Huett, Windmill Factory, is at her max.
 - Kim Westendorf may be available to help; she can also work out of Game Changers.
 - Check on Fastsports to see if any others avail to teach in Bloomington.
- Field scheduling with city
 - Extra space for 8U's increase time at Penn North and South
 - Can we get free fields for 8U's; we would not need equipment at all locations.
 - Working on gym space March 15th- end of May.
 - Will get a list of all of fields in Bloomington to see what we can do with 8U's.
- Coaches Applications
 - We are good at 8's, 10's and 16's. Still working on 12's and 14's.
- Tryout Readiness
 - Saturday March 7th at 8am at Kennedy activity center.
 - All of the evaluators are set.
 - Drills just like clinics; they will have a few chances before being evaluated.
 - Would be nice to have a sign explaining why we do not want parents watching the try outs.
- Coaches Meeting
 - March 25th
 - We still have to get the location figured out.
- 8U league
 - Will defer agenda item to April meeting.
- BASH
 - Will defer agenda item to the April meeting.

VI. Directors Reports

- President's Report: Karen Johnson
- Vice President's Report: Cathy Currier
 - We will need 4 8U bags
- Treasurer's Report: Sarah Johnson
 - Since there will be no cuts confirmed it was okay to cash checks she was holding.
 - Will get a list of Coaches for reimbursement.
- Secretary's Report: Melissa Walter
- Commissioner's Report: Craig Johnson
 - Plans for new garage from Todd Holzinger
 - Cost for materials will be approx. \$8,000.00, Stacy and Gary will work on fundraising for materials.
 - Would like to get it done this summer.
- Facilities Coordinator: Mark Pearson
- Communications Director: Grant Effertz
- Member Services & Membership Report: Carol Effertz
 - Three individuals still need to be sized; Cathy will make sure they get sized at try-outs.
- Marketing Director Report: Gary Hanson
 - Possible BFA night at a Twins game
- Fundraising Director: Stacy Acketz

- Applied for grants from the Minnesota Twins, Hennepin County and others.
- Yogurt Sunday is going great. Will meet to see about summer dates.
- Will touch base with Bob Christenson regarding the Convention grant.
- Player Development: Tony Acketz
- Tournament Director: Mike Kopischke

VII. Open Comments

- Let's Play Softball Expo Saturday and Sunday March 7th and 8th at the Rivercenter in St. Paul.

VIII. Adjournment

Karen adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday April 7th at 7:00 p.m. Bloomington Center for the Arts, Dakota Room.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Walter

Minutes approved by: Karen Johnson