



Bloomington Fastpitch Association Board of Directors Minutes  
7:30pm Sunday, August, 7th, 2016  
Bloomington Center for the Arts- Dakota Room

- I. Call to order  
Karen Johnson called to order the monthly board meeting of the Bloomington Fastpitch Association (BFA) at 7:36pm on Sunday, August 7th, 2016
- II. Attendance
  - a. Board members present: Karen Johnson, Cathy Currier, Sarah Johnson, Tammy Tessier Kealy, Daren Anderson, Erich Manwarren, Greg Westendorf, Jessica Musta, Jenn Herron and David Rau
  - b. Other Attendees: Jim Hanson (Clutch Hitters), Tod Deming (Clutch Hitters), Rich Hanson (Clutch Hitters) and John Jensen (Clutch Hitters)
- III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (July 2016)  
A motion to approve July 2016 Minutes was made by Karen Johnson, 2nd by David Rau  
MOTION APPROVED
- IV. Discuss if Fall Player Evaluations Needed for Fall Team Selection (Greg)
  - Will consider options and new board can make a decision prior to the parent meeting.
  - Karen noted that if changes are made the parent player handbook needs to be revised and the change should be communicated in the Spring 2017 parent meeting.
- V. Clutch 2016/2017 Teams (Jim Hanson)
  - a. Clutch requests to approve two 12U players to play up Clutch 14U
    - One is not a "Bloomington" player so BFA cannot give approval. League has denied allowing any 12U to play on a club team even if that team is what the league referred to as a "cap" team (a club team sitting on top of an association). It was also further clarified that while the league would not allow a community association to approve a 12U to play up on a partner/cap club team, the league does allow community associations the ability to determine their own internal policies on playing up to another team within the community association. Example: BFA can approve a 12U BFA player to play up on a 14U BFA team but cannot approve a 12U BFA player to play up on a 14U Clutch Team.
    - The league also clarified the date used for determining age level is 12/31, not 1/1 so if a player turns 13 on 1/1 they are still a 12U. The BFA parent player handbook needs to be updated to reflect 12/31 as the date determining age level so that it matches the league clarification.
  - b. Clutch reported their plan to reduce to 1 team at 14U, increase to 4 teams at 16U and remain steady at 1 Fall 18U and 2 Summer 18U Teams. Clutch also reported concern that there would be insufficient club level Bloomington players to meet the Bloomington Player ratios in the Clutch BFA agreement for the number of teams planned and requested a one year waiver to reduce the number of required Bloomington Players on the teams at 14U and 16U as follows:

- 14U – Clutch will have 1 - 14U team Fall 2016/Summer 2017 season. Request to reduce required Bloomington Player count from 5 to 4 per team for total minimum requirement of 4 Bloomington Players.
- 16U - Clutch has sufficient interest for 4 teams if a variance on Bloomington Player counts is provided. Request to reduce required Bloomington Player Count from 4 to 3 per team for total minimum requirement of 12 Bloomington Players.
- 18U – Clutch will have 1 Fall 18U team and 2 Summer 18U Teams. The required Bloomington Player count will remain unchanged at 3 per team or 6 in total for the 2 summer teams.
- Clutch responded to questions from the Board. Key points: Clutch and BFA agreed it would not benefit a Bloomington Player that is not ready for club level competition to be placed on a team to meet a quota. Clutch identified the benefit to BFA/Bloomington players of reducing 16U ratio to allow 4 teams at the 16U level to be addition of more high skill players with Bloomington players spread over 4 teams meant overall higher skilled teams that would challenge Bloomington Players and make all players better.
- A motion was made by Erich Manwarren to allow a one year variance to the 2016-2017 Clutch Hitters season to allow Clutch Hitters to have a minimum of 22 (4 at 14U, 12 at 16U and 6 at 18U) Bloomington Players, instead of the current minimum of 27 (5 at 14U, 16 at 16U and 6 at 18U) playing for Clutch Hitters on a total of 7 teams for fall and 8 teams for summer the variance will expire in July 2017. Clutch Hitters must make a new request to the Board a month prior to 2017 tryouts if another variance is needed.

Second to the motion by Daren Anderson. MOTION APPROVED

- Cathy Currier requested that every team have at least 1 Bloomington Player to make sure there were no issues or perceived issues with park & rec field use rules. Clutch agreed to this request.
- Jim Hanson advised that he would be coaching one of the 16U Clutch teams and if there were JHS players on that team he would be available Fall season to assist BFA with 12UA team coaching.

#### VI. Website restructuring (Jenn)

##### a. Information and Options

- Jenn investigated Freelance options to help update BFA website quickly, but after researching and looking over our site and our wants, (at this point) she feels she can handle the necessary tweaks needed over time. Jenn will continue to get our site ready for the mobile app.
- Per Greg's request, she will add to the heath page the policy we will follow regarding the heat index & when BFA cancels practices (include the source we use for the heat index data when making the determination).
- Can our volunteer fee be part of the online registration process instead of collecting checks? Karen believes it is a possibility. Should check into this prior to next registration.

#### VII. 10U NAFA 2017

##### a. Host City Team Count

- NAFA felt that Bloomington having five teams automatically participating was taking too many spots from teams that earned berths. (Note that 3 of our teams earned berths and 2 did not this year).
- 2016 10U NAFA had 87 total teams and they still had to turn away teams. The number of teams required using both Dred and Kelly on Friday and Saturday. NAFA would like to increase the total number of teams next year. BFA may be limited on the number of teams we can send w/out berths.

##### b. Post Tournament Feedback

- The city and neighborhoods appreciated we had a parking plan and the organization of our event – police, shuttle, parking attendants and signage
- City and school appreciated that there was no “noise” from any of the neighbors about our event, which is a success in their book.

- Neighbors and police liked our bright yellow STAFF t-shirts, easy to spot and provided good visuals
- Johnson Circle neighbors appreciated the phone call a week prior to the event and that there was a police officer at the end of their street.
- For next year, need either more Olson directional signage along 102<sup>nd</sup> Street – this year it was a bit confusing- people turning on Johnson then having to loop all the way around because lots were full.
- School loved how clean everything was after the parade.
- City did not appreciate all the little pin bags at Dred.
- Kelly field for next year – just need 2 field workers and 1 site director plus a medic. This year we had two incidents of people (a player and a parent) foul ball hits that warranted on site medic.
- Staffing overall could be less IF the games stay at 60 mins with 90 minutes scheduled for games. This gives enough time for a crew to turn more than 1 field without delaying start of next game.
- Positive comments were received by Board members about how things were going; even the umpires were impressed with how we treated them.

#### VIII. September Board Meeting Date

- a. Scheduled 9/4 date is labor day weekend – it has been changed to 9/11/16

#### IX. General Director Reports

- a. President: Open
- b. Past President: Karen Johnson
- c. Vice President: Cathy Currier
  - Coaches will be receiving the feedback from the survey
  - New coaches for fall will only have to do background checks
- d. Treasurer: Sarah Johnson
  - All-Stars – Cathy, to gather a list of all of the players from the coaches and provide to Sarah so she can track and collect the \$65 fee.
    - We may have a player with a concussion so we will need a refund. JJ will inform the league this week.
  - Any invoices outstanding from any of the BFA hosted tournaments need to be submitted so the accounting can be completed
  - Budget side – start thinking of your needs and budget for next year, start sending your requests to Sarah. Karen asked board members to be prepared to provide their budget needs for 2017 to Sarah for discussion in the September meeting so that Sarah didn't have to scrambling and ask for information to finalize budget and meet approval deadlines.
- e. Secretary: Tammy Tessier Kealy
  - Needs to get a list of the all the players new to BFA this fall (Lisa or Jenn) and get them insured
- f. Commissioner: Daren Anderson
  - Need to replace 1 or 2 composite bats for 10U – one was lost at a tournament and no idea where the other one is
  - Catcher mitts – we need larger ones at 10U and ones that are less stiff
  - All fields are ready for fall practices
  - Status on the shed? Karen said there was a miscommunication between John Stutzman who left the city and Scott Breuer who took over, so she has scheduled a meeting with Scott on 8/12 to go over all of BFA changes to the lease agreement. Karen reported that we need to submit plans for the site drainage, and asked David for his help.
- g. Facilities Coordinator: Erich Manwarren
  - Are we hosting 8U Fall State tournament? The fields are reserved, Greg will follow up at the meeting
- h. 8U Director: Bob Lindberg
- i. Player and Coach Development: Greg Westendorf
  - Will be setting up pitching and hitting clinics for the fall

- Should we cover the turf rental fee for Tammy Galvin's pitching clinics? Should that be part of our budget?
  - Game Changers has agreed to house our hardware(tournament trophies), we just need to get a display case
- j. Tournament Director: Jessica Musta
  - k. Communications Director: Jenn Herron
  - l. Member Services: Lisa Bruins
  - m. Marketing: Tammy Galvin
  - n. Fund Raising: David Rau
    - Meeting with Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau to get our \$1500 grant – will put that money towards the shuttle and police officer expense of NAFA
    - Will be receiving 400 tickets for the Twins September 23<sup>rd</sup> game
    - Fall ball sponsor - Felicia Conner, who is also going to be our 12U sponsor for next year
    - Sponsor "Thank you" ad in the Sun Current looked great, next year let's try and run it with some team pictures

X. Adjournment

Karen Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 9:57pm, 2nd by Jenn Herron.

The next board meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm** at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.