

Minutes – Feb 21, 2013  
Augusta Softball General Meeting  
Meadowview School

Present – Hugh Hanna, Karen Greatrix, Steve Ferguson, Penny Bell, Amy Finucan, Terry Thibault, Richard Hana, Vicky Kipke, Greg Beach, Tom Burchill, Sue Morrison

Regrets – John Severson, Mike Limburg, Roxanne Riddell. Lisa Lockett  
Others that acknowledged Agenda via email. Shelley Whitteker, Darlene Foley

Hugh called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

#### Election of Executive

- Chair – Hugh Hanna, acclaimed
- Scheduler – Steve Ferguson, acclaimed
- Rules and Discipline – Karen Greatrix, acclaimed
- Secretary/Treasurer – remains open and to be filled at next meeting

Hugh thanked Penny for her time and commitment to the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the past two seasons.

As Penny had to leave the meeting early, money issues were discussed first.

#### **Tournament deposit fee –**

The existing fee of \$50 was discussed. Penny emphasized that the tournament fee structure needs to be better communicated to both the hosts and to the coaches as there was a lot of confusion concerning what needed to be paid at the tournament.

#### **Team Fees –**

After discussion of what team fees cover and the costs incurred last season, it was decided that team fees will be increased to \$15 per team in all divisions from squirt and above. This represents an increase of \$5. Motion – 1<sup>st</sup>, Steve Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Richard Hanna, motion carried.

**Statement of account** – Penny will provide a document with the income/expenses from 2012

#### **Length of Season –**

After discussion, the season length will remain the same, with the goal of having the squirt tournament during the last weekend of July (27,28). The number of games will drop from 18 to 16 in all divisions. If a division has more than 9 teams in a division, this may be adjusted based on a vote before the beginning of the season. The fewer games will save on costs and will hopefully increase the number of teams that complete all scheduled games during the season.

#### **Tournaments vs Playoffs –**

A number of recs present at the meeting had concerns with having playoffs in all the same divisions as last season. Peewee boys/girls and Midget girls were three of the divisions identified. Others had concerns with the playoff format in some divisions as teams had to wait for up to two weeks to play in the next round (byes). It was decided that the format will be decided at the next meeting as coaches should be included. When the format is decided, weekends will be identified for divisions holding tournaments. The intent is to avoid conflicts with too many divisions hosting tournaments on the same weekend, depleting the available umpire pool. It was also suggested that Augusta should hold a general meeting during the season to finalize year end tournaments, playoffs and to deal with any issues that may need to be addressed.

#### **Player Affiliation –**

A shortage of players that were still eligible as affiliates, as the end of season approached was discussed.

Although players had additional games available to play up, they were restricted to only play for one team as an affiliate. The consensus was to allow players to affiliate with multiple teams. It was agreed that we do not want any affiliates to permanently move up to a higher division during the season. If they start the season at one level, they must finish the season in the same level. After their division has ended, they are free to play up in a higher division without penalty. At no point should any coach place a player at risk of playing over 4 affiliated games during the season.

Motion – affiliates must be reported within 24 hours to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) by the team that has used an affiliate. If the player is not reported, the player will be suspended for the next scheduled game. 1<sup>st</sup> – Steve Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Richard Hanna – carried.

Motion – affiliates can affiliate with multiple teams, but are still restricted to the 4 games. If a player plays a 5<sup>th</sup> game as an affiliate, they will be suspended for 1 game at the division they are registered. They are not to play additional games at the higher division until their team is finished for the season. 1<sup>st</sup> – Hugh Hanna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Burchill - carried

### **Umpire Clinic –**

Everyone agreed for the need to host both a level 1 and a Jr. Development clinic in the area. Mike Limburg offered to host a clinic in Johnston and Hugh Hana offered to host a level 1 clinic in Lyn. Dates will need to be decided upon, allowing promotion of the clinics at ball registration and via local posters and publications. Steve circulated an example of a Poster that recs could print and then post in local facilities. (hockey rinks, schools and to circulate to other officiating organizations.) Information will be circulated as soon as dates are known. If dates are not know shortly, more general posters will be made available with dates to follow.

### **Rule Changes –**

Greg presented some rule changes that will affect local softball.

**Bats** – Newer bats are being stamped with ASA 2013. These bats are **not** legal for fast pitch. They are designed for slopitch and are not safe for use in fastpitch.

**Balls** – there is a newer ball that is being discussed and some publications are referring to it. It has a core rating of .52 and would require a compression much lower than the 375 to be safe for fast pitch. It was decided that Augusta would stay with the current ball requirement as posted in the current rules. .47 with a compression of 375

**Footwear** – all managers/coaches must have shoes with closed in toes.

**Resin and Gorilla Gold** – both are legal. Resin must remain on ground behind pitchers plate and gorilla gold must remain in pitches pocket.

**Delay of Game** – Players are no longer allowed to step out of batters box on a normal pitch. Ie. If the pitch is a called strike or ball, is not swung at and the catcher is not involved in a play (stealing, lead off, etc) the batter must keep one foot in the batters box and step fully back into the box after taking the coaches signal. Leaving the batters box will result in an additional strike call. Umpires have been told by Softball Canada to warn players first and then to start making the strike call.

**Safety Base** - A batter runner can touch the white (not the safe) portion of first base to avoid a collision if the first base person is standing completely on the safe (foul) portion of first base to catch a ball. The idea is safety. This rule has always been in place and was discussed in the case book that umpires use, but it was never in the rule book. It has now been written into the rule book.

**Registration** – registration needs to be open to all. This is not a select or rep league and all registrations are to be open to the community and all registrants are expected to be placed on a team. If teams are selected by try outs, they need to play ball in a league that is suited for rep ball. If

registration numbers are not sufficient in a recreation, an effort needs to be made to place all players in a nearby recreation. Please send your registration dates and location to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) for publication on the Augusta Softball website. Posters/registration forms can also be sent for posting if desired.

**Required qualifications required to umpire at different levels –**

Umpires must be Registered / Carded with Softball Ontario.

For Mites, Mosquito, and Squirt Levels -----JD umpires

For Peewee, Bantam and Midget Levels----- 1 carded umpire with the effort to have 2

----- Umpires must be of an age higher than the game they are umpiring.

Level II umpires can umpire any level. ( as per general rules on website)

**Next Meeting – April 4, 2013, 7 pm, North Augusta firehall.**