

Minutes – Feb 25, 2014
Augusta Softball General Meeting
North Augusta Community Hall

Present -(15 people) Steve Ferguson, Brent Smith, Scott Neild, Joe Chabot, Derick Whitteker, Kent Young, Amy Finucan, Vicky Kipke, Darlene Foley, Greg Beach, Justin Greatrix, Karen Greatrix, Richard Hanna, Dan Dunbar, Tom Burchill

Regrets- (4 people) Mike Limburg, Roxanne Riddell, Lisa Lockett, John Severson

Karen called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Election of Executive

- For the past few years the executive has shrunk from 5 elected members to 3, with the Augusta Township Recreation Chair serving as a support resource. Hugh stepped down as Chair at the end of the 2013 season and Steve has expressed that he no longer wishes to serve on the executive in 2014. At this time Karen has indicated that she would continue to serve on the executive for the 2014 season. To ensure the continuation of Augusta Softball, member associations must come to the kickoff meeting willing to take on a leadership role in running the league. Steve has agreed to assist the scheduler/statistician volunteer in learning the steps required to maintain the website, create the schedule and record the scores

After discussions on the need for some people to step up and have new blood on the executive. Some people stepped forward and it was decided to have Co-Chairs.

Election of Executive

Co-Chairs – Joe Chabot and Brent Smith

Scheduling /Statistician – Derick Whitteker

Umpire Rep – Karen Greatrix

Rules & Discipline – Karen Greatrix

Secretary/Treasurer- Scott Neild

(1) Review of Member Associations responsibilities-

Reminder that a rep from each association are responsible for attending the league meetings and follow the these rules:

A. The Township Recreation area must:

- Appoint a Softball Representative
- Hold public registration
- Not solicit players from other areas
- Ensure all players receive equal playing time
- Be responsible for the conduct of all players and Coaches within their organization
- Ensure that all Coaches and Umpires in their recreation be aware of the rules of Augusta, Ontario, and Canadian Minor Softball

• **B. Softball Representatives of each area must:**

- Attend Augusta Minor Softball meetings. In the case of a representative being unable to attend a scheduled meeting it is his/her responsibility to ensure someone attends on his/her behalf. Attendance at Augusta Minor Softball meetings is mandatory
- Have team lists completed, submitted to league via email to scores@augustasoftball.com and a copy kept by coach for reference purposes if required.
- Submit proof of Insurance to scores@augustasoftball.com before start of season. Teams that do not submit proof of insurance will not be allowed to play scheduled games and all games will be forfeited until Insurance coverage is proven.

(2) Registration Dates

Please send your registration dates and location to scores@augustasoftball.com for publication on the Augusta Softball website. Posters/registration forms can also be sent for posting if desired. Please have your registration dates starting in March and April and come prepared with your expected teams in each division at the next league meeting at the end of April. If registration numbers are not sufficient in a recreation, an effort needs to be made to place all players in a nearby recreation.

(3) 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 Pee wee, Bantam and Midget Levels ---- 1 carded umpire with the effort to have 2
----Umpires must be an age higher that the game they are umpiring.
Level II umpires can umpire any level. (as per general rules on website)

(4) Ump Clinic and Payments

JD clinic cost is around \$50 to \$60 per person , we need an association to host a clinic.
JD umps are to be paid \$20 per game. (Up from \$15)
Level 1 = written report/exam is \$101.00 and Clinic cost is \$65 per person
Mike Limburg has offered to host a Level 1 Clinic in Johnstown.

(5) Umpires Report and Rule changes

Greg Beach presented some information on this year's possible rule changes.
Softball Ontario is going to ISF Rules , ISF rules change during the season and possibly weekly.

Bats – ISF bats will not be allowed. We will stick to our rules on bats from the previous years. It was decided that Augusta would stay with the current bat requirements, bats stamped with ASA 2000 and 2004. Newer bats as discussed last year 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 - It was decided that Augusta would stay with the current ball requirement as posted in the current rules. .47 with a compression of 375

(6) Mosquito / Mite Rule Changes

A caught foul ball is NOT an out removed from the Mite level – so that it IS an out. All agreed to this. Once the ball is in the hand of an infielder, the runners are not to advance “extra” bases, (beyond the single base they “need” to advance)- whether it be an infield play or a throw in from an outfielder to an infielder.

(7) Inform the Coaches

All the associations are asked to prepare their coaches for the season and make sure they have copies of the rules on hand during the games and the scoresheets should be filled out with first and last name.

We need to update the rules on Pitching in the squirt and mite divisions on the website.

(8) Coaches Meeting

It was decided to have a Coaches meeting in May again like last year to review all the schedules and possible rule changes and for Greg Beach to go over rules. We need to set a date for coaches meeting at the April meeting.

(9) Greenbush/ Kitley Sign up's

Elizabeth Kitley township recreation committee is trying to resume ball in the Greenbush and Kitley areas. They will be having an open registration to see if they can make some teams in those areas.

(10) Pee wee Girls Division

There is concern for this division as there was only 3 teams last year and the North Augusta team will be moving up to the bantam division. Lyn and Mallorytown expect teams in Pee wee girls. But we need more interest from associations for girls coming up through Mite and Squirt. Maybe we need to review the age group for Pee wee girls. Discussion on maybe we look at "Make Play Possible program" to get players involved that can't afford to play.

(11) Midget Boys Team from Kars

A team from Kars (near North Gower) would like to join the Augusta League Midget Boys division, they are a good team and played Johnstown last year in exhibition games. The team is made of 1997 born, so a young team. They are fine with playing a double header on their home nights so teams don't have to travel twice in the year. It was decided to allow them in the league this year and allow the other teams to work on times or doubleheaders.

(12) Possible Time Changes for Bantam and Midget

The coaches in these divisions can discuss during the year if they want to start a game earlier than 8:15pm that is required by the Augusta league rules. It will be a game by game basis between the 2 coaches to agree on maybe an earlier time if there is no earlier game going on and the away team is traveling away.

(13) Umpire Page to be updated

Update the Umpire page and encourage them to put their emails on the Augusta page. Easier to send out a mass email than trying to call 10 to 15 umpires trying to find a replacement umpire last minute. Also possible list of JD umpires emails would help everyone find umpires and give some extra work for umpires looking to do more games. Greg brought up the point that JD umpires emails cannot be published unless the parents consent to that. Need to discuss this again at the next meeting to find a solution to help the associations out.

(14) Bantam /Midget division a 7 run per inning limit

Discussion was had on possibly putting in a 7 run per inning limit to help out some of the weaker teams and not create a huge lopsided score and possible altercations that come from blow outs. Some teams were having trouble getting out of innings. This is discouraging kids to come back and play the following year. Next meeting will discuss a run cap per inning at Bantam /Midget level with unlimited at the 7th inning. Need to discuss if it is applied for both girls and boys.

(Next meeting we need team submissions, home nights, tournament dates/ hosts, overage player discuss, Please be ready)

Next Meeting – April 22 2014, 7pm at North Augusta Hall(pending confirmation)

