

MINUTES
BASEBALL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
October 22, 2023
10:00 A.M. Department Library

1. Call to Order 10:00 A.M.
Department Chairman Emmons opened the meeting of the Department Baseball Committee at 10:00 A.M.
2. Salute to the Colors
The Colors were saluted.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioners led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Baseball Code of Conduct
Commissioner Bryce Agner recited the Baseball Code of Conduct with those present.
5. Roll Call: Christie White, Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

Members present:

Chris Emmons, Department Baseball Chairman- PRESENT
Bryce Agner, Region 1 Commissioner- PRESENT
Ted Sturzinger, Region 3 Commissioner- PRESENT
Jeff Vrabel Sr, Region 4 Commissioner- PRESENT
Bret Mavis, Region 5 Commissioner- PRESENT
Phil Lightfoot, Region 6 Commissioner- EXCUSED
BJ Long, Region 7 Commissioner- PRESENT
Jack Hill, Region 8 Commissioner- NOT PRESENT
Bill Lonsbury, District 2 Chairman- PRESENT
Sam Miller, District 3 Chairman- PRESENT
Jerry Wilson, District 4 Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Mike Nye, District 5 Chairman- PRESENT
Mel Cantrell, District 6 Chairman- PRESENT
Bret Mavis, District 7 Chairman- PRESENT
Doug Wainwright, District 11 Chairman- PRESENT
Michael Higgins, District 12 Chairman- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator
Tyler Sisson, Beavers Field
Marv Shamhart, Past Baseball Chairman

6. Reading of Previous Minutes
Michael Higgins, District 12 Chairman moved, seconded by Ted Sturzinger, Region 3 Commissioner to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. Approval of Committee Rules

Mike Higgins, District 12 Chairman, moved, seconded by Mel Cantrell, District 6 Chairman to approve the Baseball Committee Rules.

MOTION PASSED

8. Ohio Baseball 2024 Rulebook- The Ohio Rulebook and Nationals Rulebook need to align. Department Chairman Emmons plans on going through the Rulebook and cleaning it up. National suggests each State adopts Nationals rules.

Mike Higgins, 12th District Chairman, motions, seconded by Mel Cantrell, 6th District Chirman to create a subcommittee to clean up the Ohio Rulebook.

MOTION PASSED

Jeff Vrabel, Mike Higgins, Bill Lonsbury, Bryce Agner, Mel Cantrell, Chris Emmons and Christie White will be the Subcommittee.

The Spring Baseball Meeting will be Sunday February 4th, 2024 at Department Headquarters. 10:30AM for Commissioners and Chairmen and 1:00PM for Coaches and Managers.

9. Junior and Senior Tournament Dates

a. Junior- July 18th- 20th, 2024 will be the Junior Baseball Tournament at Beavers Field. Junior Winners will need to be determined by Sunday July 14th, 2024.

b. Senior- Friday July 26th - July 29th, 2024. July 30th is the “what if” game. Instead of a Banquet, we will have all the teams check in at the field earlier in the day, all day we will have a “family fun day” at the field (food trucks, bounce house, etc), and then have a 7:30PM game under the lights. 10AM coaches meet with packets at Beavers Field, and each team will then be given 30 minutes to run drills. All Region tournament winners will need to be turned in to the Department by July 21st. We will have a new bracket. We will not have to use Nationals Bracket. Discussion was had about inviting little league teams so they can watch the Legion players run drills. Beavers field will create a food package for the members of each team, and each team will receive a food voucher.

Jeff Vrabel, Region 4 Commissioner moved, seconded by Mel Cantrell, 6th District Chairman to approve the Junior and Senior Tournament dates.

MOTION PASSED

Christie White, Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator will send an official invitation to the SAL Commander and Auxiliary President to attend the opening game.

10. Team Fees

- a. Junior- \$500.00
- b. Senior- \$600.00

Bryce Agner, Region 1 Commissioner motions, seconded by Jeff Vrabel Sr, Region 4 Commissioner to keep the team fees the same.

MOTION PASSED

11. National Regional Tournament Dates- Regional Tournaments will be August 7th-11th, 2024. The National World Series will be World Series August 15th-20th, 2024.
12. Background Checks & Abuse Awareness Training- Covered under National Updates
13. National Updates- Department Chairman Emmons discussed dual rosters. National will be getting rid of the Dual Roster rules. There is no limit. The National Americanism Commission approved it during fall meetings, the rule is Rule 6.E.1 Dual Roster. The older baseball logo is still the baseball logo. The new logo from National is just the trademark. If you don't have the original patch/logo, you can't play. November 14th is Nationals New Chairman training. There is also a new Resolution from National that will require 18-year-olds to have background checks and Sexual Abuse and Molestation training. That includes players. USA Baseball and Protect Youth Sports will be the 2 approved companies that will handle the background checks and S.A.M. training. Those will all be handled by the Department. Insurance date is February 15th. Registration opens January 1st, but you can't pay insurance and team fees until February 15th. 2025 is the Centennial for American Legion Baseball.
14. 2023 State Tournament Review- Coaches need to get told firmly that they need to find Christie White, Department Coordinator, at the tournament in order to get their meal money. The "Department Tent" will be moving to the grass. There will be new check-in rules and ideas. Baseball challenge coins were requested. Creating a 100th Anniversary coin for next year was requested also. Teams on a tournament t-shirt. A wooden bat with State Championship logo burnt on it.
15. New Business
 - a. Lead Off Banquet- Department Chairman Emmons wants to get away from the Banquet. Commissioners should have vetted each team before they arrived, as well as made sure they had copies of their drivers' licenses. A Checklist will be created so teams will know what they need at check-in, as well as contact info of the coaches and managers. Department Check-in procedures will be added to the Ohio Rulebook. Discussion was also had about starting to play on the weekend and not on a Monday.
 - b. Bracket- The Baseball Subcommittee will create a new bracket.
 - c. Appointing Asst Department Chairman- Department Chairman Emmons asked to appoint Marv Shamhart as his Assistant Baseball Chairman.

Bill Lonsbury, District 2 Chairman motions, seconded by Doug Wainwright, District 11th Chairman to accept Chairman Emmons appointment of Marv Shamhart as the Assistant Baseball Chairman.

MOTION PASSED

16. Old Business- None
17. Salute the Colors
18. Adjourned- The Baseball Committee adjourned at 11:34 AM