

MINUTES
BASEBALL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
February 23, 2020
10:30 A.M. Department Library

1. Call to Order 10:30 A.M.

Dept Baseball Chairman Marv Shamhart opened the meeting of the Department Baseball Committee at 10:30 A.M.

2. Salute to the Colors

The Colors were saluted.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Frase led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Opening Prayer

Commissioner Sturzinger led those present in the opening prayer

5. Baseball code of conduct

Commissioner Hill led those present in reciting the Baseball code of conduct

6. Roll Call: Christie White, Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

Members present:

Marv Shamhart, Dept Baseball Chairman
Richard Beeker, Region 1 Commissioner
Charles Morris, Region 2 Commissioner
Ted Sturzinger, Region 3 Commissioner
Phil Lightfoot, Region 5&6 Commissioner
Howard Frase, Region 7 Commissioner
Jack Hill, Region 8 Commissioner
Bryce Agner, District 1 Chairman
Mike Nye, District 5 Chairman
Steve Thorp, District 6 Chairman
Brett Mavis, District 7 Chairman
BJ Long, District 10 Chairman
William Harrier, District 11 Chairman
Michael Higgins, District 12 Chairman

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

7. Reading of Previous Minutes

Jack Hill, Region 8 Commissioner moved, seconded by Ted Sturzinger, Region 3 Commissioner to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

8. Commissioner and Chairman Background checks

Department of Ohio and the Baseball commission has decided that all Commissioners and District Chairman will have to submit forms for a background check every year. Coaches and Managers already get background checks when they sign up their teams.

9. Sexual Abuse Awareness Program

Steve Could, National Baseball Director sent information stating the forms each person needs to fill out online is not in place yet. The National Adjutant has decided that parts need changed, and we will get a memo when it becomes available. Each Commissioner and Chairman are required to complete it online. Coaches and Managers cannot get their teams approved unless that online form is filled out as well. Discussion was had between the committee about the number of forms all the teams need to fill out in order to play. National keeps requiring more and more forms, and we need to find a way to streamline the forms.

10. Baseball Patch

Arm or Chest. The uniform will have an "American Legion Baseball Patch" on every player that steps on the playing field. National is requesting each state to enforce the baseball patch rule. There was a team in the Junior Tournament that was not allowed to play because they did not have baseball patches on their uniforms. All patches need to be ordered from National Emblem Sales. Patches need to be worn on the uniforms every single game they play, not just the State Tournament. Commissioner Hill said that the District Chairmen need to go to all of their teams and notify them about the rules. Posts also need to give permission to each team to use their post name, post number, and be the sponsor that team. Teams cannot just form, and not have permission from the home post. Managers need to be encouraged to go online and print out copies of the Form 2.

11. Open Discussion

- a. D-11 Chairman Harrier asked if all baseballs they play with need to be American Legion Baseballs because a team of his plays with college balls. The rules state that the baseball needs to have the American Legion logo printed on them. There are 4 different brands that National sells, and The Diamond D1 baseball is the required baseball for the state tournament. D-12 Chairman Higgins stated that the State of Ohio high school association has required all high school baseball teams to use the same brand of baseballs. They also require the Nocsea seal on them (for safety). Dept BB Chairman Shamhart suggested the regions buy in bulk from National (10 dozen) and split the cost of baseball's between the regions. Buying in bulk is free shipping from National. Discussion was also had to have

each Region and District to purchase shirts and hats for their chairmen the assist with the District Tournaments.

- b. Junior teams- Commissioner Lightfoot stated that 23 Junior teams played last year. They created a 23-team single elimination tournament. If it is going to be a state tournament, run it like we run the senior tournament. The idea is that the state can be divided into 2 sections for Regional Games (north and south). Commissioner Morris mentioned that the biggest expense during games and tournaments are the umpires. Ideal situation would be Single elimination regional tournaments, and 4 teams in the double elimination state tournament. Commissioner Lightfoot will get with the District Chairmen and determine what type of Junior Tournament to have since he coordinates the Junior Tournament with Al. Dept.Chairman Shamhart informed the committee that National was talking about starting American Legion Little League Teams, and female Softball teams.

12. State Tournament Drawing

Game 1- 10:00AM

Region 6- Away

Region 4- Home

Game 2- 1:00PM

Region 8- Away

Region 3- Home

Game 3- 4:00PM

Region 1- Away

Region 7- Home

Game 4- 7:00PM

Region 2- Away

Region 5 -Home

13. Meeting recessed at 11:45PM for lunch. Meeting will continue at 1:00PM with the Coaches and Managers.
14. Meeting with Coaches and Managers was called to order by Dept BB Chairman Shamhart at 1:00PM.
15. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by Commissioner Lightfoot.
16. Dept.Chairman Shamhart introduced the commission and district chairmen to all the Coaches and Managers present.
17. Dept.Chairman Shamhart went over the discussion and decision from the Commissioner and Chairmen meeting. He started with the sexual abuse awareness program. It is required for everyone to take that test/course online. National also requires the "American Legion Baseball Patch" HAS TO BE on every players uniform. If there is not a patch on the uniform, the player or team will be ejected from the game or forfeit. Baseballs ordered from National Headquarters have to be used because it has the Legion Baseball emblem on them.
18. New Rules-
 - a. Player Recruitment- Combined total enrollment of high school cannot exceed 6,000 of 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. Borders are open, except to West Virginia.

- b. Building the online roster- A manager will be able to edit information on players up until the point when the manager clicks on "submit roster" after which point the online team roster is locked and no further changes will be allowed. In case of season ending injury, a player may be replaced on National Form #1 PRIOR to the end of regular season play with Department approval with proper medical doctors note and documents.
 - c. Rules for Tournaments. Senior and Junior. Pitching- If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in one game of multiple games on the same day, he may return to pitch in game two, up to 105 pitches total for the day. If a pitcher were to throw more than 45 pitches in game one, he would be ineligible to pitch in game two (see American Legion National Baseball Rule 1.R.3).
 - d. Dates- Deadline for teams to register is June 1st. Teams must be registered, and insurance paid by June 1st. Online team roster must be completed, and no players may be added after June 25th. Team packets must be in the possession of District Chairmen by June 25th. Refunds need to be requested by June 30th. Senior Region Champions must be determined by July 24th. Certification of Region Champions and winner packets must be sent to Department via email by July 24th. Official end of the American Legion Baseball season is September 1st.
 - e. Junior State Tournament Dates are changed to July 15th, 16th, and 17th. The date was changed because last year there were 23 teams that had to play in 4 days in a single elimination tournament. District 7, 8, 11 will play in their own district to determine what team will go to the State Regional Tournament. Single elimination. District 3, 1, 5, 10, 6 will be determined where their teams will play for the State Regional Tournament. Regional Tournaments have to be done by July 8th.
19. Open Discussion-
A question was asked if we can change the Senior Tournament Dates for next year so the Dept.Champion has more than 3 days to travel and they can use their pitchers with the current pitching rules. They can pick from any pitcher they have at the beginning of the Regional Tournament. (Chad- Napoleon)
20. Meeting Adjourned at 2:00PM.