

**DEPARTMENT BASEBALL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
September 14, 2007**

MEMBERS: Don Hudon, Chairman, Jeremy Bell, Peter Hayes, Nelson Cronkright, Walter Christensen

GUESTS: There were 6 guests present

Minutes:

It was moved and supported that the minutes of the February 16, 2007, meeting of the Department Baseball Committee be approved. Motion carried.

Business:

Rules of procedure: Don will distribute the new ones and the committee no longer has to go to the Internal Affairs committee for any changes with the exception of changes to the committee's rules of procedure.

State Rules:

#9: "At the fall state convention, the Department Baseball Chairman shall make a recommendation to the State Baseball committee as to an Umpire in Chief.

- A. Zone Chairman shall make recommendations for possible candidates representing their Zone. The final selection shall be the Department Baseball Chairman.
- B. At the conclusion of the state tournament, the State Committee will review and evaluate each of the umpires.
- C. The Department Baseball Chairman shall compile these evaluations and disseminate to the committee members.

Committee reviewed rule. Peter agrees with the rule. Wally was good with the rule. Nels agrees but sees the value in rotating who is Umpire in Chief. Don discussed that each year there area a chance for new umpires. Pete states the umpires for our state tournament were good or better than Regional/Nationals. Don mentioned that national had asked him to recommend for a name for someone to work as a regional director. He gave National Nels Cronkrights name. This says a lot for the Michigan program. Don motioned for any changes for rule #9, voted no changes. Don asked Jeremy to find a qualified umpire to represent Zone 1 by mid October.

Pete motioned, Wally seconded that Terry Meyers should be the Umpire and Chief for 2008. Discussion ensued. Committee pays room and lunch but no mileage. Motion carried.

#26: "The State Tournament shall be comprised of a host team and 5 zone champions. If a zone has no representative (registered team), the zone which

has the most registered teams shall be allowed to send their runner-up team. That team shall fill the slot in the state tournament of the non-representative zone.

This year there was a problem with 2 zones having the same number teams. They looked at a playoff between the two, but between the cost of travel and rain it was hard to do. Discussion ensued. Jeremy passed on a suggestion. Pete said to look at the win/lose record. Nels said he had flipped a coin in the past. Wally said he doesn't see it being a problem again in the future.

Nels discussed how there are a bunch of teams in the Detroit area that belong to a Triple A organization and that we could recruit these teams for the first zone. He also said that each Triple A team pays \$750 to register with the league. Therefore they would have the money to play Legion instead. Nels will pass contact information to Jeremy.

Rule 26 possible changes have been tabled until spring 2008.

Don discussed the \$200 damage deposit for the state tournament for each team as voted on in February 2007. It was motioned by Pete and seconded by Nels that this will be added to the rule book as Rule #27. Motion carried.

"Each team in the State Tournament must submit a \$200 damage deposit to be returned to them minus any charges after their rooms are inspected at the time of checkout."

Nels reported that the Fairview Inn in Midland found no damages and welcome the groups back at any time.

Don brought up a discussion about adding a team entry fee of \$75 to each team at registration. Other states do charge with most states charging over \$100, but some are as low as \$50. That is how most states fund their baseball program. Jeremy agrees with the thought. Pete was against a registration fee but due to lack of budget increase it seems like the most logical choice. Not sure if \$75 is too much though. Wally like the thought, but would like to see it be \$50. Nels was also not big on charging, but with the costs of everything increasing we need to do something. Guest George Hawkins would like us to look at getting a budget increase first. Guest Don Meskill would like us to look at corporate sponsors for the state program. But there would be a huge question of who would head that up. Wally brought up that middle league football charges \$225 per player plus equipment to play and little league baseball charges \$100 per player and only gives you a t-shirt. Travel teams he knows pays over \$500. He says that post pay the insurance usually and the team pays the \$10 per new player and \$50 is not unreasonable.

Wally motions and Pete seconds that each team is to be charged a \$50 registration fee. No discussion. Motion carried. New rule #28 should read: "Each team is to submit \$50 registration fee at time of registration."

Discussion ensued about switching to a 8 team bracket for State Tournament. Jeremy passed. Pete said an eight team bracket sounded good until he realized the expenses for a 8 team tournament and the longer timeframe would cost at least an extra \$2,000. Wally agrees with Pete. Sounds good, but we have had a hard enough time getting 6 team spots filled. It's hard to get all the games played (adding one to two games). No change recommended. Nels understands the reason but cost too much and too long of a time. Finances are already strained.

Guest George Hawkings discussed the National rule regarding problems with the home school base. Recommend you have to have post approval over home school. Discussion ensued. Looking into recommending an edit to the national rule. George and Pete will write an edit and submit to Don by Mid-October and a letter from the committee recommending it.

Roxanne will also write a letter that recommends removing the social security number on any and all forms.

Brackets: There was a problem with brackets at the State Tournament. Nels would like to see all matters resolved at the meeting after the banquet to eliminate all the special meeting during the tournament. Better to be resolved before the tournament starts.

Pete would like to review different brackets in the spring and adopt a state brocket.

Wally recommended discussing rule #4. Discussion ensued.

Guest George Hawkings commented on recruiting teams.

Discussed the deadline and reviewed all paperwork that needs to be turned in by deadline on Thursday June 26, 2008.

Don brings up the Legion insurance. If you purchase insurance but do not register with headquarters Don will have the insurance discontinued.

Birth certificates – Roxanne will write a letter to submit to national about why the rules state you have to have the birth certificates if you only need the official card.

Don recommends that we move the State tournament up a week, to the end of July, due to losing players for football practices. Nels recommends we table the issue until spring in order to get the coaches opinions on the matter.

State Contract: Nels wanted to look at giving the kids cash instead of providing meals at the state tournament. It would increase the profit at the concessions and help everyone out. Pete would rather give \$10 to the host instead of \$8 per head

and have the sponsor provide the food. Nels and Pete talk about giving the host \$10 with the choice of giving cash or providing the food. Nels motioned, Pete seconded. Motion carried.

Don would like to raise the housing mile radius to 40 miles. Motion carried. The contract needed to change umpires from four to six to reflect the real amount of umpires used.

Lugnuts – Discussed the Lugnuts outing, not s good of a turnout.

Nels will speak with the Loons and Wally will speak with the Tigers on having the state champs there.

Wally discussed junior teams. Nels ran into opposition with another league over them. No support for junior teams. Our old junior league head retired. Wally motion to pay new junior leagues insurance to form new teams. No support.

Wally regarded an old letter from MI adjutant to PA adjutant about how they got so many ball teams. There numbers increased because they added junior teams.

Final discussion around the room. Guest Ed stated it was a great regional. Willy Coomer stated the committee has done a good job. Don Meskill stated everything ran smooth and is happy with everything. Terry stated information was interesting. George Hawkings will be back onboard with us this spring. Jeremy says his area is an uphill battle. Pete complemented Nels on the state tournament and to Don on a good regional. Pete also added the committee is doing good and moving forward. Wally says all is good. Nels would like to thank everyone. Don also thanks everyone. George Hawkings added its worth all the work.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee, the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 AM.

Submitted by:


Don Hudson, Chairman