

## WHYBA Meeting Minutes 1/18/2023

**Board Attendees:** TJ Stevens, RJ Sherman, Misse Toth, Marcus Ranalli, Scott Bodenschatz, John Toth, John Lamberti, Ryan Lance, Shaun Laden, Jamie Carzima, Mike Amorosi, Matt Olson

**Public Attendees:** Michael Ruccio, Stefana Niemo, Chris Cannavo, Gren Van Auka, Justin Annuario, Chris Coates, Steve Kopp, Pat Rock, Chris Whitcomb, Mark Anico, Dan Coppersmith, James Esposito

**Officially Called To Order:** Meeting started at 7:34pm

### Main Topics Discussed:

#### Public Comment:

- **Score Boards working?** Mansfield works, Meadow Breeze needs electric done
- **Juniors Team getting together to start practicing early**—Players will be rostered, but not insured; will not be sanctioned yet by use
- **Fixing Fields?** Will be working to fix Mansfield and possibly Steinhardt **Interest in Franklin field to be fixed**—WHYBA will concentrate on fixing above stated fields first, however, if Franklin coaches would like to get volunteers to fix the field, not too much would be needed to do so; Franklin field is insured
- **Concern for Late Sign Ups**—Unfortunately, no way to fix this as there will always be those to sign up late; WHYBA tried to curb this as offering opening to early sign up in Dec., discount as an incentive to sign up early, posting to social media, emailing to all previous players, sending flyers to public schools and day care centers in the area, as well as adding at late sign up fee for those that register after the registration closing to cover the cost of late uniform order.
- **Thank You from Juniors Coaches**—for allowing them to create a fall ball team, kids had a blast; WHYBA board let coaches know that they will support any want to create a travel/fall league if there is a coach that can pull together players
- **Age for Juniors?** 13-14 yrs old; can sign up for Seniors if older; we can put it as USABL if we don't have enough
- **If player moves and wants to still play for WHYBA**—Player must contact new league first and ask them to release player to WHYBA. If they do we can take them back. If they do not, our hands are tied and we cannot take them.
- **Mansfield Majors Field if fixed, will practices be rotating?**
- **Uncle Buck's Ice Cream Truck**—would like to sponsor; asked if they could come for Opening Day; would offer the league 15% of profits; board will discuss. Could also be used during our Slug Fest Event?

#### TJ Steven President's Report:

- Intro to coaches—talked about mandatory coaches meeting for minor/majors in Feb after player evals; will have a coaches packet for the meeting with documents (Coaches Code of Conduct) that will need to be signed; packet will also include new 2023 rules from Little League—we run District 20 so we follow their rules; Little League Rulebook App is available on both apple and android and is now free; Tournaments—anyone that would like to put a team together, has full support from the board to make that happen
- Player evaluations will be at Warren Hills Middle School—Minors will be Feb 18th (asking majors coaches to evaluate and then stay for coaches clinic afterward); Majors will be Feb 25th (asking minors coaches to evaluate and then stay for coaches clinic afterward); coaches clinic is yet to have a set location; Player Draft will be February 26th
- Charter has been paid for—insurance

#### RJ Sherman Vice President's Report:

- Spring Clinic will be Saturdays in March @ Memorial School; 7/8, 9/10, 11/12 year old; it will be capped; have to check on cost; asked coaches to come help or watch what is being taught
- If coaches have ANY questions, feel free to reach out to RJ

**Misse Toth Secretary's Report:**

- Send sponsorship forms out to coaches from meeting; post sponsorship form to WHYBA FB page and share to town groups
- Work on Spring Clinic flyer ; Player Eval Flyer

**Marcus Ranalli Treasurer's Report:**

- Registration numbers are up
- Asked coaches suggestions on paying umpires—coaches commented that umpires liked cash payments last yr vs vouchers

**Scott Bodenschatz Equipment Manager's Report:**

- Ordered and received 6 new sets of catcher's gear (\$1,000); minors and majors had all new gear last yr; will order balls next wk (\$700-800) and bags
- Chevy donated first aid kits, will go through old ones and restock as needed; will order ice packs (\$120)
- Would like to set up a donation day—players can drop off no longer needed equipment for players in need; add to spring clinic flyer/player eval flyer?)
- Hand out coaches equipment at Coaches Clinics
- Public Comment that Minors/Majors coaches could use batting t's; Scott will add them to their equipment bags

**John Toth Field Manager's Report:**

- Main focus is Mansfield—dig up two fields, leave tball field (spoke to coaches at meeting about needing volunteers—getting their teams to come out during field clean up days to make this happen)
- Mansfield (and possibly Steinhardt need a new shed); reach out to Home Depot or Lowes to donate one or Warren Hills engineering to build one; volunteers to paint dug outs

**John Lamberti Safety Coordinator's Report: *Not Present***

- To speak with RJ about coaches needing CPR training and taking the Rutgers' Class (youth sports councils, 3 hrs online)

**Joey Matarazzo Umpire Coordinator's Report: *Not Present*****Ryan Lance IT Report:**

- Registration #'s are good; will send out an email as a reminder to sign up

**Shaun Laden Coaches Coordinator's Report:**

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**Jamie Carzima Uniform Coordinator's Report:**

- Spirit Wear finalizing plan, will put link out in Feb and close in March to get orders in by opening day in April—hopes to be able to pass our spirit wear and uniforms at the same time
- Ordering everything through All Sports this yr; tball through minors black hats, coaches/juniors/seniors black or dark blue, not white; coaches to wear the coaches shirt, blue, button down top, try for non-stiff collar; adjustable hats for all kids
- Public Comment about Majors Hats—some coaches bought team hats for their players, some did not—comment was about presenting an equal front; Jamie to look into cost for purchasing team hats for Majors teams

**Mike Amorosi Player Agent's Report:**

- Asked coaches helping at Player evals to arrive 15 minutes early (8:45am)

**Matt Olson Fundraising and Sponsorship's Report:**

- We need sponsors; asked coaches at the meeting to contact him if any would like to sponsor; Misse to get sponsorship forms out to the coaches via email and will post/share on social media.

### **Additional Comments:**

- **Fields—**
  - Mansfield has a contract with ACF to mow the fields; we would have to drag, rake, and line; Mansfield's fields were run by Mansfield Baseball not the school
  - There is a use free for the MB township field; not for Mansfield
- **Umpires—**
  - Public comments from coaches regarding issues with umpires when playing away games; coaches want to know how to hold umpires accountable when not acting professional; board members discussed and will have a discussion at the District 20 meeting in February to try and curb incidents described moving forward; can request not to have a specific umpire
  - Umpire shortage—pros are trying to put things in place to help get little league umpires
- **Comment to Coaches—**
  - We need to push for catcher's and pitchers; have players play ALL positions to make sure players know how to play every position
- **Scott B. Comment—**
  - As a league do we send out information to players about teams or wait for coaches to do so; some coaches waited to long to send out information to their players; Discussed by board—Ryan will send out all this information to players (which team they are on) as well as coaches; Coaches must send out information during the week of February 27th-March 3rd (earlier the better); March 4th will be last day to change any players so Jamie can submit uniform orders in time. Ryan will also send out this information Monday/Tuesday adding that last day to change teams will be March 4th. Mike Amorosi, please get draft information to Ryan ASAP
  - Can we create a Google Form for Field Clean Up, so all fields need to be cleaned up are attended to?

### **Calendar of Events:**

January 22-29th—Submit Memorial Gym form

February 15th—Set Coaches

Feb 18th—Minor Evals, Majors coaches meeting to follow

Feb 25th—Major Evals, Minors coaches meeting to follow

Feb 26th—Draft

February 27th—March 3rd—Coaches reach out to players this week

Feb 28th—Registration Closes; teams and sponsors done by then

March 4th—No team changes after this date

March Weekends—Spring Warm Up Clinic

March 18/19th—Field Clean Up?

March 25/26th—Field Clean Up?

April—Set dates for tentative spring/summer league AND fall league (USABL District 20)

April 22nd—Opening Day

June 2/3—Tentative Slug Fest Date