

BWSSA Board Minutes

January 21, 2024

Present: Brenda McNamara, Danielle Borseth, Joey McLeod, Sue Heilman, Samantha Lachenmeier

Absent: Jessica Dirk, Jackie Fleck

Resignations: Jackie Fleck and Jessica Dirk have both indicated that they will be submitting letters of resignation.

State Meeting information: State Meeting was held in Jamestown on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Danielle attended the meeting to represent our association. The state will again supply scorebooks for leagues. These books are paid for with advertisements. They are unable to add additional pages to the scorebooks, but we can get additional books if necessary for our teams. USA Patriots will run a kid's camp for a week in Bismarck in 2025. There will be a women's E National in Bismarck on August 24-25. Chris Hutton will be the state tournament official for the tournament. The state will not use Tourney Machine for state tournaments this year, they will be switching to Register Play. Register Play is supposed to be more user friendly. Umpire fees for state tournaments will be raised to \$40 per game which will increase state tournament fees. Player rule changes for 2024- Courtesy runner will be allowed for the pitcher every time they come up to bat. The visiting team must declare who their pitcher will be at the top of the inning, after that the pitcher of record at the time of the third out is the pitcher for that inning. Sanction fees remain at \$65 for this year and insurance coverage will remain the same. State rosters will be due by May 24<sup>th</sup> to the state office. Final roster revisions are due at the state office by June 19<sup>th</sup>. League registrations are due to the state office by June 14<sup>th</sup>. State classification meeting will be held July 12<sup>th</sup>. Softballs orders by the state are going from \$37.50 to \$38.00 per dozen for this year. Dual rostered players can choose which team they want to play with in state tournaments, if the tournaments are played on the same weekend. Bats will no longer be taped, bats must have a USA stamp and older bats with ASA stamp will be legal as long as they are not dented or tampered with. Umpires will be required to check bats prior to the game. The state office will be looking at writing guidelines for rainouts for state tournaments as there were several tournaments with rain last year. Guideline added to the Green book – if a team splits and creates other teams, 6 or more players coming from one team will stay at the original team's classification, league rep. would have discretion to change their classification depending on team roster or manager's appeal. Darren Krueger suggested a tournament series for women's tournaments like the men's association runs, but the request was turned down. Due to the number of teams that have been participating, it was decided that there would only be one tournament for the Rec 4 division (it will no longer be split east and west). State will no longer deny a tournament request for the same weekend as another tournament even if there is less than 100 miles separating the tournaments. State tournament fees for Rec 1 will be \$245 with 2 umpires for all games, Rec 2 and below will be \$230 as only semi and championship games have 2 umpires. Women's state tournaments this year will be as follows:

Rec 1	Bismarck	Aug 17-18
Rec 2	Minot	Aug 10-11
Rec 3 West	Bismarck	Aug 17-18

Rec 3 East	W Fargo	Aug 17-18
Rec 4	Minot	Aug 10-11
Masters	Jamestown	July 27-28

The state office also had a complaint about one of our teams after the United Tribes tournament bullying a young female umpire. Danielle indicated that those teams use tournament only rosters and the tournament was after our season had ended and we were unaware of the team’s actions.

With the pending resignations of 2 board members and increasing difficulty of getting new board members, Danielle proposed restructuring the board from 7 members to 5; with positions as follows:

President – runs meetings, handles all social media (website and facebook)

Vice-President – steps in for President as necessary, tournament manager

Secretary – takes minutes, handles scheduling and statistics

Treasurer – handles all money and financial reports – checks mailbox

League rep – handles team classification, rosters and communication about team to state office

Also proposed that each board member be paid an equal salary, due to additional duties. Presently, only secretary, treasurer, media, and tournament mgr received salaries, the \$20 per meeting payment would still apply to members in attendance. This also would require a change in our by-laws. Sue and Danielle would be up for re-election this spring, but would be willing to stay on – due to pending resignations and to help with restructuring. Danielle also suggested that we post our meeting dates, time and place on the website and encourage people interested in a board position to attend and see how things are run; also we need more people to attend state meetings and represent our association. Also recommended that we select a regular meeting date for our board meetings like 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday on the month, for example

Danielle also said she feels we need to have a discussion regarding the fees we pay to Parks and Rec. as we pay more per player than any other association in the state.

We also need to discuss at the manager’s meeting how many weeks we will play this year. We played 10 weeks last year with one week off during the week of the Fourth, there were several comments from teams- some liked the schedule, some felt it was too short and would like to play at least 12 weeks. So we need to determine if our schedule for this year will be 10, 12 or 14 weeks.

Proposed manager meeting dates and places:

February 20	5 for board-6 managers	Amvets	Organizational/information
March 14	5 for board 6 managers	Amvets	collect tentative roster
April 11	5 for board 6 managers	Amvets	collect fees / city roster
May 2	1 for board 4 managers	All Seasons	pick up meeting

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted- Sue Heilman, Secretary

