BWSSA Minutes – Manger's Meeting

March 24, 2022

Present: Sue Heilman, Danielle Borseth, Brenda McNamara, Samantha Lachenmeier, Jessica Dirk

Absent: Beth Deeter, Joey McLeod

Tentative rosters and Sponsors fees were collected as managers entered.

Sue Heilman called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

Minutes from the February 24th manager's meeting were read and approved.

Financial report: current balance $22739.36

Old Business: There was no old business for discussion.

New Business:

Raise in player's fees –Sue Heilman informed the manager's that player fees would increase from $50 to $60 per player. Citing the reason for the increase being that we were recently informed that umpire's fees were raised by both Mandan and Bismarck men's associations to $50 per game. We originally thought umpire's fees would increase from $28 per game to $30 per game and with the raise in the sponsor fee, player's fees would not need to be increased. However, with umpire's fees going to $50 per game, it was felt that the association could not absorb that much of an increase. Sue presented the profit and loss statement from 2021 which will be included in the manager's packets which shows the association operated at a about a $2600.00 loss. The raise in umpire's fees will cost the association approximately $15000.00 so we found it necessary to raise players fees as well as the sponsor fee for this year.

Danielle addressed the impact of carrying multiple dual rostered players on your roster. A team can have only 3 players from a roster one class above their present classification to remain at that class. It is also important to make sure your player's inform you of any other teams they are playing on as it can affect how your team is classified as well. For instance if your team's classification is rec 4 and one of your players signs up on a rec 2 roster; your team's classification automatically changes to rec 3.

Bylaw wording changes – It was brought to our attention that the bylaw regarding residency should be changed due to changes at the state level allowing players from anywhere in the country as long as they are on a sanctioned USA of ND state roster. Also wording regarding ASA would need to be changed to USA softball. Bylaw Article 3, Section 4 – B – presently reads: She is not currently under suspension by the BWSSA, NDASA, or USASA. Change to: She is not currently under suspension by BWSSA, USA softball of ND or USA softball. And Article 3, Section 4 – C. presently reads: She is a resident of the city of Bismarck or lives outside of the city limits (non-resident). We are recommending that this be changed to-She can live anywhere in the United State, however she must be included on the team's state sanctioned USA of ND softball roster. Sue asked for a motion to change the wording of the bylaws. Susie Kobilansky made a motion to accept the wording as proposed. Holly Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bylaws will be updated for the current season.

Teams in our association that were reclassified by state due to placement at a state tournament were:

Apple Rush moved from rec 2 to rec 1 – team has disbanded

Fanta Farms from rec 3 to rec 2

Hallie's from rec 4 to rec 3 – congratulations for winning the state tournament.

Discussion on possibly combining with Mandan women's teams – At this time, Mandan only has 3 teams registered which makes a league of their own not very likely. We would like to give Mandan's women's association a chance to hopefully recover and gain more teams. Teams that played last year said they didn't really have any complaints other than it was out of the way to go to Mandan to play, but were not necessarily opposed to working out an agreement for this year. There was a very good discussion from the floor regarding dwindling teams for not only Mandan's association but our own association. Sue brought up that we need to somehow reach out to younger players that may not be playing in the fastpitch program as they may not be aware that they could play in our women's association since there is not a youth slowpitch program for girls. One manager suggested we reach out to fastpitch coaches. It was suggested we put a note on our website stating that player's minimum age for our association is 13. It was also discussed that high school coaches do not allow high school fastpitch players to play slowpitch until their season is over. It was suggested that we might start our leagues 2 weeks later and extend the season 2 weeks longer. Sue said that could be a possibility, however we would need to check with Parks and Rec as there are other user groups like soccer and football that use the diamonds when our program ends.

Next manager's meeting date of April 7th was announced. This meeting will include a rules clinic presented by Mike Wolf and we will collect the official City roster and player fees.

Darla Zerr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hallie Dronen. All in favor – meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Heilman, Secretary