

BWSSA Manager's Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024

Bismarck Eagles Club

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

Team Managers were given a registration information sheet and ballots for voting on arrival

Sam called the meeting to order at 6 PM

Financial report was given present balance of \$28,135.00 with a pending payment to parks and rec scheduled in April of \$13500.00 leaves a starting balance of \$14,635.00 for the 2024 season. Brenda will provide a complete financial statement that will be included in the manager's packets at the pickup meeting in May.

Danielle addressed the rule changes from the state meeting in January. The two main rule changes that will affect women's softball are bats will no longer be required to be taped, umpires will check bats prior to games for the USA or ASA symbols and to make sure the bat is not altered in anyway; the other change is that a courtesy runner will be allowed for the pitcher every time she comes to bat. The visiting team must identify the pitcher at the top of the first inning; after that the pitcher of record at the third out will be the pitcher eligible for a courtesy runner. This is in addition to the courtesy runner allowed per inning.

Danielle also went over state tournament dates and sites; also noted that the state tournament fees will go up due to the increase in pay for umpires to \$40 per game at state tournaments.

Danielle gave out information regarding the National women's tournament to be played in Bismarck on August 24 and 25. She emphasized that the date was moved from Labor Day weekend and scaled down to a two day tournament hopefully to make a better draw for teams. All of our teams should be eligible to play in this tournament.

Joey mentioned that we will have an invitational tournament on June 1 and had flyers available for anyone interested.

Sam addressed the fact that 2 of our current board members have resigned and we will hold an election at the March manager's meeting. Sue and Danielle are both up for re-election as well; both are willing to take on another term, but we will need at least one other board member; which led to the discussion of the bylaw revision proposal to reduce the board from 7 to 6 members in the event of a tie vote, the president would be the deciding vote. This recommendation from the board comes from difficulty in replacing and retaining board members.

The present bylaws read:

Article II section 1

The governing body of the association will be a seven (7) member advisory board consisting of seven(7) elected members with eighth member being the elected tournament manager, if necessary.

Article II section 8

The advisory board will consist of the following positions:

1. Chairperson
2. Vice Chairperson
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Tournament Manager
6. Tournament Sales
7. Member at Large

Note: League Representative from Parks and Recreation and the league commissioners may or may not be a member of the advisory board and in either capacity will not have a board vote.

Proposed bylaw changes read:

Article II Section 1

The governing body of the association will be a six (6) member advisory board consisting of six (6) elected members. (Revised February 2024)

Article II section 8

The advisory board will consist of the following positions:

1. President
 - a. The president will conduct all meetings, monitor all social media platforms (website/domains, email, facebook) and monitor BWSSA PO mailbox
2. Vice President
 - a. The Vice President will conduct meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President will also be deemed the tournament manager for all BWSSA hosted tournaments.
3. Secretary
 - a. The Secretary will transcribe all board and manager meeting notes. They will oversee all scheduling for the association (leagues, meetings, etc.) and the monitoring of the PO mailbox.
4. Treasurer
 - a. The Treasurer will oversee all BWSSA financial responsibilities and monitoring the PO mailbox.
5. League Representative
 - a. The League Representative will be responsible for all roster collection, roster revisions, classifications, database, be a direct contact to the state, and attend state and classification meetings as needed.
6. Member at Large

Managers were asked to vote to approve or disapprove the bylaw change proposal using the ballots provided. The vote passed with a 29 votes in favor / 0 votes against. Proposal passed – bylaws will be revised.

Sam asked that is there was anyone interested in being on the board or if they knew anyone interested in being on the board to please reach out to us before the election in March.

Sam brought up for discussion the length and cost for our league season this year. Costs we need to cover with our sponsor fees are umpires, softballs, sanction fees, parks and rec fees. The floor was open to discussion – our proposed options for the season are:

10 weeks starting June 3 ending Aug.12 = \$1500

12 weeks starting May 20 ending Aug 19 = \$1600 –\$100 covers 2 weeks of ump fees

14 weeks starting May 6 ending Aug 19 = \$1700 – \$200 covers 4 weeks of ump fees

Eric Johnson brought up the 12 week season avoids the early May weeks when weather is usually uncooperative and college players are not able to play. He also stated most of his players preferred to play a longer than 10 week season. With no other discussion, managers were asked to vote for their choice on a provided ballot. There were 4 votes for a 10 week season- 25 votes for a 12 week season – 0 votes for 14 week season. The 2024 season will be 12 weeks per vote.

Sam gave the next meeting date as March 14th at the Eagles and we will collect tentative rosters.

Sam opened the floor for other questions or discussion; there was no additional discussion.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Heilman, Secretary