



Softball Postseason Meeting - Spring 2008

July 28, 2008

Meeting Location: Stop & Shop Meeting Room

Attendees: John Parker, Mike Carson

Discussion Items

Evaluation and Team Selection

- Evaluation process – format, rating system, stations, breakdown of ages vs. leagues, time allotted for evals, coverage
Process seemed to work well again this year. Need to continue having the same person score players during each session. Ensures consistency of ratings. Where volunteers are involved in the drill (pitching, throwing grounders, throwing pop flies, playing catch) efforts should be made to have the same people doing that as well.
- Process for selecting teams
Need to ensure teams are not only balanced based on skill, but also by age/grade.

Also will continue to examine placement of players in each league in order to provide quality play. Moving girls up to soon could diminish the quality of play at a lower level.

Registration

- Dates, fees, etc
No comments

Fields and scheduling

- Availability – practices and games
- Maintenance
- Sportsmanager
- Game schedule
- Playoffs
- Sheds/Dugouts

Games for some teams were compressed in to one part of the season. We should try to spread games out throughout the season so that teams don't go too long between games.. For instructional, it may also be helpful to have games on specific days.

Umpires (Milford games only)

- Coverage
- Quality
- Rules questions – how did local rules work out this year

Souhegan Valley will have an expanded Rules and Guidelines document for next season. It will be more detailed than the one page local rules sheet from the past, and will also include frequently asked questions to help with interpretation of rules.

Equipment & Uniforms

- Quality – correct sizes provided for teams
- Timing of order – my fault this year
- Uniform types, quality (sponsors and numbers wearing?), sizes

Mike acknowledges his mistake of getting uniform order in late this year, which caused inconsistent delivery of them and problems with color choices.

Sleeveless and short uniforms received generally positive reviews this year. Feeling was that we should adjust one or two of the larger sizes down to smaller ones for instructional. To get a more accurate fit for each player would require a much earlier cutoff to registration and team selection – feeling was that we should not do that.

Clinics

- Pre-season clinics
- In – season pitching clinics

Positive turnout for clinics. This year we had almost 25% of the registered girls enrolled in our pre-season clinic with Dick Albert.

It would be great if we could structure in season pitching practices for players across the league. This would be helpful because it is difficult in the rec season to commit time to pitching practice, and more importantly many volunteer coaches do not understand the softball pitching mechanics.

We also need to have coaches clinics prior to the season. This will help provide some basic instructional information to coaches getting started.

Discussed the viability of having a pre-set practice plan – especially at the instructional level. We should have certain drills that each team is doing to develop the expected skills at each level. Consider adding drills next to each skill on the skill sheet.

Volunteers

- Volunteer tracking
- Parents helping out

Coaches continue to be the primary volunteers. Plan for next season to have a tracking template provided to each team to be completed during the season. Team parent or coach would be responsible for completing and providing an update to central point of contact.

Fundraising

- Home Run Derby
- Pictures

Other items – open discussion

Fall Softball Update:

- Chris Thompson is working with other towns to gauge interest in Fall Softball
- More relaxed in nature – one practice during the week and one game on Saturdays
- Bob Hayden planning to do one last season for 16U; we have several coaches interested in Majors (possibly 2 teams). We still need coaches for Minors teams. Last year we had 2 teams
- Tentatively considering a season start date of 9/1
- Chris Thompson has submitted field reservations for Keyes and sent message to parents about registration dates.