



BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

Home of Babe Ruth Baseball,
Softball, and Cal Ripken Leagues



Babe Ruth Leagues of Virginia, Inc.

MINUTES

March 14, 2010

Dorey Park Recreation Building

7200 Dorey Park Drive

Varina, Virginia

In Attendance

Don Rose, Sr., State Commissioner
 John Armentrout, Asst State Comm, Compliance
 Don Gowen, Asst State Comm, Softball Opns
 Tommy Clary, District 2 Commissioner
 Todd Stebbing, District 3 BB Comm.
 Glenn Spangler, District 4 SB Comm.
 Roy Brewer, District 5 Commissioner
 Paul Link, District 7 Commissioner
 Chris Crane, District 8 BB Commissioner
 Don Rose, Jr., Umpire in Chief
 John Kemper, Fauquier Baseball
 Michelle Davis, Fauquier Baseball
 Chris McCook, Lakeside
 Danny Wallenfelsz, Umpire
 Charles Cole, Umpire
 Dave Johnson, Varina

John DeYoung, Asst State Comm, Baseball Opns
 Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer
 Brandon Currence, District 1 Comm.
 Gayle Clary, District 2 Asst. Comm.
 Ken Bosserman, Dist. 4 BB Comm.
 Curtis Moore, District 3 SB Comm.
 Bruce Frye, Umpire Consultant, SB South
 Dennis Cobb, District 4 Asst BB Comm.
 Phil Larcomb, District 9 Commissioner
 George Burke, Umpire Consultant, BB North
 Kenny Loveless, District 8 SB Comm.
 Cliff Stewart, Varina
 Paul Espinosa, Umpire Consultant, SB North
 Nancy Currence, District 1 Asst. Comm.
 Daniel Diebel, Varina

Don Rose, State Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm

Tommy Clary offered the invocation, dedicating the day's business to the benefits of Virginia's baseball-and-softball-playing kids.

By unanimous vote, the reading of the minutes was waived.

Dave Gushee reported that the State treasury contained, as of 3/14/10, \$6,833.05 in the checking account, 1410.467 shares of Lord Abbett Balanced Fund valued at \$13,737.95, 96.13 shares of Hartford Capital Appreciation Fund valued at \$2,893.57, 445.524 shares of Oppenheimer International Diversified Fund valued at \$4,579.99, and 110.76 shares of Lord Abbett Growth and Income Strategy Fund valued at \$1,540.46. The Lord Abbett Growth and Income Strategy Fund is money being held in escrow for Spotsylvania Babe

Ruth Softball League, which has suspended operations due to a lack of fields to play on and has asked Babe Ruth Leagues of Virginia to hold its funds until the league can resume operations. Total assets as of 3/14/10 = \$29,585.04. Last year at this time, total assets were \$15, 947.23 in reserves and \$12, 345.26 in the checking account (of which \$5,000 was an interest-free bridge loan), for a total of \$28,292.49.

For the 2008-9 fiscal year, the first under a revised financial policy adopted in September 2008, the operating budget had an excess of revenue over expense of \$1,664.82, compared to a loss of \$3,582.78 for the 2007-8 fiscal year. BRLVa also benefited from cash contributions of \$6,877; the contributed funds have been transferred to reserves and invested.

Six 2010 dues checks have been deposited to this date, compared to five at this time last year.

Old Business

Number of Umpires at State Tournaments. Tommy Clary rose to express concern over the policy requiring three umpires for State Tournament games. He said that using two umpires had not been a source of argument over bad calls, except for one call, in a dozen years of hosting tournaments. The basic problem, he says, is the added cost to the tournament hosts, reflected in the higher parents gate fees and the reduced opportunity for other revenues during the tournament, leading to an increasing reluctance, at least in his District, to host tournaments. The current policy was continued at last September's meeting, by vote. Donny Rose, Jr., pointed out that one of the major advantages of the third umpire is the much greater ability to detect and call balks, but there are other advantages as well, including better positioning to make calls on close plays.

After considerable discussion, Clary MOVED to amend the current policy of three umpires for tournaments at the 11-70 and 12-70 Ripken levels and all higher levels to leave the choice of number of umpires to the host league, except for the championship games, where three umpires would be required. The motion was seconded by John Armentrout.

The VOTE was one for, 15 against.

New Business

The 2010 Budget. It's too early to draw firm conclusions on the year's probables vs. budget. It looks like the number of leagues will be down a bit. Expenses to date are on course.

Report on Southeast Region Commissioners Spring Meeting and Tournament Workshop, March 5&6, 2010, Myrtle Beach, SC. John Armentrout, John DeYoung, Don Gowen, Donny Rose, Jr., and Don Rose, Sr. represented Virginia at the Friday meeting; in addition, Curtis Moore and Cliff Stewart attended the tournament workshop

on Saturday. The major issue was, as it was the year before, the ongoing computerization of Babe Ruth record-keeping and the associated information transfer to and from leagues via the Internet. The process is working quite well insofar as the chartering process is concerned. It is now possible to upload player registration data and produce rosters. The ID card process is now ready. The new cards are printed on a new security paper product that sandwiches a micro-thin piece of plastic between the two sheets.

Coach Certification. As was the case last year, Babe Ruth League, Inc., 2010 Baseball and Softball rule books, Rule 11.04, Paragraph h, require all tournament managers and coaches to be certified by a nationally recognized certification program. It is the responsibility of the local league to oversee the Babe Ruth League Coaching Education Program requirement. For Babe Ruth-sanctioned tournaments, it is the responsibility of each State's District Commissioners to ensure that the tournament team credentials books contain the proper certification for the rostered managers and coaches. Per Rob Connor, the manager or coach who does not have a certificate cannot be on the field or coach the team until such time as he/she can produce the certificate or a paid receipt. The manager or coach cannot be stricken from the roster. Don Rose, in commenting on this, indicated that he believes that certification is in the interests of the managers and coaches, so he expects all managers and coaches to be certified by tournament time. (Rule 0.04, Paragraph 5 requires all managers and coaches to be certified for the regular season.)

Brandon Currence asked if there was a provision in the Babe Ruth certification policy to decertify a coach. The answer is that there is not. Leagues are authorized to select their coaches; there is no requirement that an individual coach who is certified be appointed as a coach or manager. Individual league bylaws can address this issue.

Umpire Training. Donny Rose reported that umpire training courses are being held throughout the Spring. An informative booklet has been prepared under the guidance of "old geezer ump" George Burke. The booklet text is on-line at the State Web site. Other States are now beginning to address the issue of umpire training and supporting booklets. Once again, Virginia is leading the way.

State Baseball and Softball Tournaments. The schedules, host leagues, and tournament sites are listed on the State Web site.

Assignment of State Representatives to State Tournaments.

Baseball

Rookies	Fauquier	Kenny Loveless
9s	Herndon	Paul Link
10s	Glen Allen	Todd Stebbing
11s/60	Stuarts Draft	Ken Bosserman
11s/70	Winchester	Phil Larcomb
12s/60	Rockville	Roy Brewer
12s/70	Southwest Virginia	Gerry Henson
13s	Lunenburg	Tommy Clary

14s	Stafford	Chris Crane
13-15s	Greater Loudoun	David Jay
16-18s	Emporia-Greenville	Tommy Clary

Softball

6U	Varina	John Armentrout/Curtis Moore
8U	Varina	John Armentrout/Curtis Moore
10U	Varina	John Armentrout/Curtis Moore
12U	Big Stone Gap	Don Gowen
14U	Varina	John Armentrout/Curtis Moore
16U	Varina	John Armentrout/Curtis Moore
18U	Varina	John Armentrout/Curtis Moore

2010 Southeast Regional Tournaments in Virginia

Baseball: The Regional T-Ball Tournament will be held at Manassas. The 9-year-olds will be in Varina.

Trophies, Plaques, and Patches. Ken Bosserman reported that the prices this year will be the same as last year. There will be 17 tournaments, compared to 18 last year.

Virginia Babe Ruth Umpires Association. As of March 14, there are 146 umpires in the data base. Of these, 83 have been recertified, about evenly distributed between north and south. Two are from out of State (that is, not from Virginia or West Virginia). UIC Donny Rose, Jr., asks the District Commissioners to query their leagues about where their umpires come from, get a contact person, and pass that person’s name on to Donny or to John Armentrout.

Redistricting for 2011. Don Rose has appointed a committee of John Armentrout, John DeYoung, and Don Gowen to review the distribution of leagues among districts and to recommend possible changes at the September meeting, to take effect in 2011. Some districts have many leagues; some have few. Competition to get to the State Tournaments thus varies widely from district to district.

New Policies.

Virginia has been granted waivers for fewer than four teams in a division and fewer than 12 players on a team. Waiver requests must be filed on-line through the District Commissioners to the State Commissioner, who has the case-by-case approval authority.

Virginia has also been granted a waiver to allow a 14-year-old swing player, comparable to the existing 15-year-old swing player. This move responds to the reality that many high schools now have 14s on their varsity rosters; they can now play with their high school peers.

Players who wish to play, where their home league or jurisdiction has not chartered the

appropriate age group, shall be allowed to register with the closest league offering the age group in question, as determined by the State Commissioner or his designee. League boundaries will be changed for the age group, and the players will become a permanent part of the receiving league (playing within the league's boundaries). However, the player has the option to return to his/her home league in future years if that league offers the appropriate age group.

For 8U Rookie Softball and 7-8 Year-Olds Rookie Baseball, the Louisville Slugger UPM-45 spring-loaded pitching machine shall be used in all District and State tournaments. Softball rule 11.07-8U in its entirety does not apply in the Southeast Region, its States, or Districts. Playing rules for the softball and baseball Rookie level of play are determined by the State Commissioners and are available on the Virginia Web site.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Prepared by Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer