



# BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

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



## Babe Ruth Leagues of Virginia, Inc.

### MINUTES

March 15, 2009

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 II Commissioner  
 Todd Stebbing, District III Comm.  
 Glenn Spangler, District IV Asst. BB Comm.  
 Roy Brewer, District V Commissioner  
 Chris Crane, District VIII Baseball Commissioner  
 Don Rose, Jr., Umpire Consultant, Baseball  
 Cliff Stewart, Varina Baseball/Softball  
 Mike Crostic, Varina Baseball/Softball  
 John Kemper, Fauquier Baseball  
 Ray Walker, Greater Manassas Baseball  
 Russell Doggett, Chamberlayne-Laburnum  
 Cindy Holsapple, Lakeside  
 Bob Ellis, Sandston

John DeYoung, Asst State Comm, Baseball Opns  
 Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Brandon Currence, District I Comm.  
 Gayle Clary, District II Asst. Comm.  
 Ken Bosserman, Dist. IV Baseball Comm.  
 Curtis Moore, District I Asst. Comm.  
 Bruce Frye, Umpire Consultant, Softball  
 Phil Larcomb, District IX Commissioner  
 George Burke, Umpire Consultant, Ripken  
 Dave Johnson, Varina Baseball/Softball  
 Steve Carter, Tri-Rivers  
 Kenny Loveless, Greater Manassas  
 Franklin Dunn, Glen Lea  
 Jim Tomasello, Lakeside  
 Chris McCook, Lakeside  
 Jackie Hardman, Sandston

Don Rose, State Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:27 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 3/15/09, \$12,865.96 in the checking account (compared with \$3131.64 on 3/1/07), of which \$5,000.00 is a bridge loan for cash flow purposes, and \$6017 is committed to the purchase of special baseballs and softballs for the Virginia State Tournaments; 1717.97 shares of Lord Abbett Balanced Fund valued at \$11,939.88 compared to 1627.31 shares valued at \$17,444.80 as of 3/1/08; and 96.13 shares of Hartford Capital Appreciation Fund valued at \$1,748.64

compared to 94.70 shares valued at \$3,508.64 as of 3/1/08. Using the reserves as collateral, \$3,000.00 was borrowed at the end of the 2007-8 fiscal year to cover the operating deficit of \$3,582.78. Total net assets as of 3/15/09: \$18,554.48, compared with \$24,085.08 last year. Five dues checks have been deposited to this date, the same as last year.

## **Old Business**

**General Discussion.** Don Rose reported no unfinished old business.

## **New Business**

**The 2009 Budget.** It's too early in the fiscal year to make any meaningful projections, other than that expenses for umpire clinics are exceeding the budgeted amounts, because the activity level is higher than that projected. Given the benefits expected from the fledgling Virginia Umpires Association, this excess has been approved.

**Report on Regional Workshop, March 7, 2009.** John Armentrout, John DeYoung, Don Gowen, Donny Rose, Jr., and Don Rose, Sr. represented Virginia at the meeting, held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The major issue is 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 should be possible soon to upload player registration data and produce rosters; headquarters will require that rosters be submitted on-line, but there remain a few bugs with respect to making sure that the State Commissioners and District Commissioners get the copies they need. The ID card process is nearly ready. Waiver requests must be filed on-line through the District Commissioners and State Commissioners; the only difference is that the convenient general waiver Virginia has had for several years has been revoked, so individual requests must be made. It has been agreed that two Consent for Treatment forms will be required for the Tournament books; one will stay with the book which is placed in a secure location during the Tournament; the other will be retained by the Manager in case it is needed, since the first copy will be locked away somewhere.

A few comments by the folks at the meeting indicated that glitches occur when leagues go on line. They can be worked through but it sometimes takes a little time. Anyone going online to process rosters and finds that there are processes that could be improved should send John Armentrout ([jdarmentrout@vababeruth.com](mailto:jdarmentrout@vababeruth.com)) the details. He will forward to Babe Ruth headquarters for information or action as needed.

**Coach Certification.** Babe Ruth League, Inc., 2009 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. Managers and coaches who do not provide the proper certification before their team's first scheduled tournament game must be removed from the tournament team roster for the remainder of the tournament trail. 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.

**State Baseball Tournaments.** John DeYoung reviewed the status of the 2009 State Tournaments. The 13s, which had not been placed prior to the meeting, is now placed, at the Wilson Memorial High School field in Fishersville. The latest status for all tournaments is posted on the State Web site and will be updated as changes occur. The major unresolved issues involve the 16s and the 16-18s. For both of these, the District Tournaments have been waived; each chartered 16-18 league in the State is entitled to enter one team into the State Tournament. For neither of these is it clear how many teams will participate. A deadline for entry was set as May 15; John DeYoung will follow up. When he knows how many teams will be involved, he will establish the brackets. For the 16-18 tournament, the choice between pool play and double elimination will depend on the number of teams participating.

A major issue for the 16s tournament is who will qualify as a 16-year-old. The 2009 Babe Ruth baseball rule book defines who is eligible for the 16-18 Division but is unclear on the 16s. The Board agreed that all players born in 1992, plus those born between January 1 and April 30, 1993 will qualify, meaning that there will be 16 months of 16-year-olds and 12 months each of 17s and 18s.

The Board also decided that, since the 16s no longer have a Babe Ruth tournament trail beyond the State level, a 16-year-old player on a 16-18 tournament team that loses at the State level will be eligible to play in the 16s State Invitational Tournament, should the two tournaments not be scheduled concurrently.

**State Softball Tournaments.** Don Gowen reported that the 6U and 12U tournaments will be hosted by Upper Loudoun, the 8U by Leesburg, and the 10U by Herndon. Varina will host the 14U, 16U, and 18U tournaments.

**Assignment of State Representatives to State Tournaments.**

Baseball

T-Ball	Manassas	Mary Clarke
7s	Manassas	Ray Walker
8s	Stafford	Chris Crane
9s	Fauquier	Gerry Henson
10s	Herndon	Paul Link
11s/60	Varina	Brandon Currence
11s/70	Rockville	Roy Brewer
12s/60	Lakeside	Todd Stebbing
12s/70	Greater Loudoun	David Jay

13s	Fishersville	Ken Bosserman/Glenn Spangler
14s	Colonial Heights	Tommy Clary
13-15s	Falls Church/Annandale	Steve Lebo
16s	Arlington	Bruce Valoris
16-18s	Lane	Roy Brewer

Softball

6U	Upper Loudoun	Don Rose, Sr.
8U	Leesburg	Don Rose, Sr.
10U	Herndon	Don Rose, Sr.
12U	Upper Loudoun	Don Rose, Sr.
14U	Varina	Don Gowen
16U	Varina	Don Gowen
18U	Varina	Don Gowen

**2008 Southeast Regional Tournaments in Virginia**

Baseball: The Regional 10s Tournament will be held at Arlington. The 12-60s will be at Staunton. The 16-18s will be in Purcellville.

Softball: The Regional 8U, 10U, and 12U Regional Tournaments will be held at Varina.

**Umpire Training.** Bruce Frye reported that there have been three umpire training sessions so far this year – one in Southwest Virginia (Big Stone Gap), one in Southern Virginia (Mechanicsville), and one in Northern Virginia (Loudoun County). The sessions were well-attended, and the umps present enthusiastic. Donny Rose, Jr., reported that other States in the Southeast Region were beginning to follow Virginia’s lead.

**Trophies, Plaques, and Patches.** Ken Bosserman reported that the prices this year will be a bit higher than this year. There will be 21 tournaments, compared to 18 last year, so the total cost will rise. This is also the year to buy State Champion patches –historically, they have been bought for three years at a time to get a volume discount. The Treasurer expressed a bit of concern over the uncertainty of the overall budget outlook because this is the first year of our new budgeting approach. It was agreed that only one year of patches are to be bought.

**Alliance Tournaments.** There will be two invitational baseball tournaments and three invitational softball tournaments for players not selected for tournament trail teams. Hosts have not yet been named. They will probably be played after the tournament trail tournaments to spread out the demands on the host leagues and on parents with more than one kids playing.

**Line-Up Cards.** Don Rose urged all tournament host leagues to use the official line-up cards.

**Softball Pitching Machines.** Don Gowen reported that slingshot pitching machines are to be used in the softball 7s and 8s tournaments.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Prepared by Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer