



# BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

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



## Babe Ruth Leagues of Virginia, Inc.

### MINUTES

March 20, 2011

Warrenton-Fauquier Visitors Center

33 N. Calhoun Street

Warrenton, Virginia

#### In Attendance

Don Rose, Sr., State Commissioner  
 Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Don Gowen, Asst State Comm, Softball Opns  
 Tommy Clary, District 2 Commissioner  
 Natasha Ellinger, District 4 Asst SB Comm.  
 Glenn Spangler, District 4 SB Comm.  
 Roy Brewer, District 5 Commissioner  
 Paul Link, District 13 Commissioner  
 Chris Crane, District 8 BB Commissioner  
 Don Rose, Jr., Umpire in Chief  
 John Kemper, Fauquier Baseball  
 Lisa Kemper, Fauquier Baseball  
 Nancy Currence, New Kent Baseball  
 Shannon Coffey, Springfield Baseball

John DeYoung, Asst State Comm, Baseball Opns  
 Rick Bill, District 8 SB Commissioner  
 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 Asst. SB Comm.  
 Michelle Davis, District 9 Tournament Dir.  
 Dave Cogar, Greater Manassas Baseball

Don Rose, State Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:31 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 3/1/11, \$13,978.34 in the checking account, 1464.226 shares of Lord Abbett Balanced Fund valued at \$16,135.77, 96.1322 shares of Hartford Capital Appreciation Fund valued at \$3,422.30, 454.161 shares of Oppenheimer International Diversified Fund valued at \$5,604.35, 112.71 shares of Lord Abbett Growth and Income Strategy Fund valued at \$1,831.54, 503.82 shares of Oppenheimer Rising Dividend Fund valued at \$8,202.19, 53.109 shares of Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund valued at \$1,817.39, and 150.974 shares of Goldman Sachs Growth and Income Strategy Fund valued at \$1,642.60. 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. The Goldman Sachs Growth and Income Strategy Fund is being held in escrow for Warren County Babe Ruth League, which has suspended operations due to a lack of sufficient volunteers to run the league. Total assets as of 3/1/11 = \$52,634.49, of which \$3,474.14 is in escrow. Last year at this time, total assets were \$22,752.00 in reserves (of which \$1,540.48 were being held in escrow for Spotsylvania Babe Ruth Softball) and \$6,613.63 in the checking account, for a total of \$29,365.63 (\$27,825.15 net of escrow). Much of the gain over the year reflects the performance of the stock market over the year.

For the 2009-10 fiscal year, the second under a revised financial policy adopted in September 2008, the operating budget had an excess of revenue over expense of \$3,461.11, compared to last year's \$1,664.82, and compared to a loss of \$3,582.78 for the 2007-8 fiscal year. BRLVa also benefited from cash contributions of \$7,283.50; the contributed funds have been transferred to reserves and invested.

Twenty two 2011 dues checks have been deposited to this date, compared to six at this time last year. This improvement has resulted in part from a new practice of transmitting dues invoices to league treasurers as well as to league presidents.

### **Old Business**

**General Discussion.** There were no outstanding issues left over from previous meetings.

### **New Business**

**The 2010 Budget.** As noted above, the new practice of including league treasurers in the dues invoice mailing seems to have accelerated receipt of dues payments. In addition, tournament host fees have been collected from most of the State tournament hosts. This, plus the accelerated dues payments, explains why the checking account balance is so much higher than in previous years at this time. No unexpected expenses have been incurred so far this fiscal year.

**Report on Southeast Region Commissioners Spring Meeting and Tournament Workshop, March 4-5, 2011, Myrtle Beach, SC.** John Armentrout, John DeYoung, Don Gowen, Donny Rose, Jr., and Don Rose, Sr. represented Virginia at the meeting. Tommy Clary (District 2 Commissioner), Robert Dreistadt (Stafford), James oIsho Freeman (South Hill), and Cliff Stewart and Greg Rowe of Varina, also attended. Two issues consumed much of the discussion time ó the digitized data center performance and recent policy statements on authorized/unauthorized bats. Many concerns were expressed about problems associated with the data system. There will be more on this later in the minutes. With respect to bats, there seems to be some confusion as to what actually is legal vs. illegal, on the one hand, and how umpires are supposed to police the

policy during games, on the other. John Armentrout will post details of the evolving policy on the State Web site.

Rob Connor asked each State to report on sources of funds such as State dues and tournament hosting fees. Some inferred that Babe Ruth headquarters might be entertaining a change in procedures whereby State dues would be collected along with national charter fees and insurance payments. There was a resounding no to that thought. Folks at our State meeting echoed that sentiment!

**Fall Ball Policy.** As Fall Ball becomes more popular, more issues arise. One of the more important is the necessity of leagues operating Fall Ball programs to provide rosters and schedules to national, in order to assure insurance coverage. As part of this, if there are more fall ball teams than there were chartered for the Spring season in a league, the league must charter the additional teams. Not fulfilling this requirement provides an opportunity for the insurance carrier to deny payment of a claim.

**Coach Certification.** As was the case last year, Babe Ruth League, Inc., 2010 Baseball and Softball rule books, Rule 11.04, Paragraph h, requires 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.)

**Umpire Training.** Donny Rose, Jr., reported that umpire training courses are being held throughout the Spring. An informative booklet has been prepared under the guidance of old geezer umpö 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. George Burke described some improvements in presentation technology which have been instituted. The major ones are acquisition of a projector and creation of some DVDs illustrating many of the situations and how the umpires should respond.

**State Baseball and Softball Tournaments.** The schedules, host leagues, and tournament sites are listed on the State Web site. This year, only two State tournaments (Rookies and 9s) will be held the first week, starting Thursday, July 7; all the rest will be held the second week, starting July 14. The State will request a generic waiver to allow District tournaments to begin before July 1 where appropriate, to avoid having to play during the Fourth of July holiday period. The suggestion was made that where the Regional Tournaments (specifically for the 16-18s) will be held in easy travel distance

from the site of the State Tournaments, the latter could be held just one week prior, which would allow longer regular seasons and later District tournaments.

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

Baseball

|         |              |                    |
|---------|--------------|--------------------|
| Rookies | Manassas     | Chris Crane        |
| 9s      | Fluvanna     | Roy Brewer         |
| 10s     | Rockbridge   | Glenn Spangler     |
| 11s/60  | Glen Allen   | Todd Stebbing      |
| 11s/70  | Glen Allen   | Todd Stebbing      |
| 12s/60  | Staunton     | Ken Bosserman      |
| 12s/70  | Summit Point | Phil Larcomb       |
| 13s     | Williamsburg | Brandon Currence   |
| 14s     | Winchester   | TBD                |
| 13-15s  | Vienna       | Paul Link          |
| 16-18s  | Augusta      | Bosserman/Spangler |

Softball

|     |                 |                         |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 6U  | Manassas        | Kenny Loveless/Don Rose |
| 8U  | Manassas        | Kenny Loveless/Don Rose |
| 10U | Leesburg        | John Kemper             |
| 12U | Western Loudoun | Don Rose                |
| 14U | Stafford        | Rick Bill               |
| 16U | Varina          | TBD                     |
| 18U | Varina          | TBD                     |

**2011 Southeast Regional Tournaments in Virginia**

Baseball: The Regional 13s Tournament will be held at Stafford. The 16-18s will be in South Hill.

Softball: The Regional 8U, 14U, 16U, and 18U Tournaments will be held at Varina.

**2011 World Series in Virginia**

The 10s World Series will be held in Winchester. The 14s will be held in Glen Allen

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

**Virginia Babe Ruth Umpires Association.** As of March 14, there are 241 umpires in the data base. Of these, 110 have been recertified, about evenly distributed between north and south. Donny Rose encouraged all of those not yet recertified to do so asap.

Glenn Spangler MOVED, with Dave Cogar seconding, that VBRUA fees for this year

remain the same as last year. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Other 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.

No player, manager, or coach can appear on more than one tournament team roster in any one year. No team can play in more than one Babe Ruth League Tournament trail in any one year. This rule is a clarification of some confusion associated with 60-foot and 70-foot tournaments at the same age level in the Ripken Division.

**Line-Up Cards.** Don Rose stated that he expects all State Tournament hosts to order Babe Ruth Line-Up Cards from headquarters and have them available for use at their tournaments. He also pointed out that it would be a good idea for District tournaments to do likewise and while we're at it, why not use them in league play? He has 600 cards for distribution in case the tournament hosts have not received theirs at tournament time.

**Babe Ruth Data Center.** Phil Larcomb described a serious problem with the operation of the Data Center. It has not been possible to update the Charter numbers. It is possible to add team rosters in numbers larger than the numbers chartered. Many others agreed with Phil and added horror stories of their own. The State officers agreed to take up the issue with headquarters immediately. *Note: This was done. A temporary process was established, based on a league's individually contacting the Southeast Regional Service Representative Grace Paglione, who will take the steps necessary to insure teams*

*additional to those originally chartered. The data differences will be reconciled once the system has been upgraded to deal with the problem; the upgrade is expected to be completed by May 1. In the meantime, additional teams can be rostered, even though the charter numbers are not yet updated in the data system.*

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Prepared by Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer