



Virginia

Babe Ruth Baseball & Softball



FALL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Sunday, November 03, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. EST

Place: Second Floor, Publix at The Shoppes at Crossridge
10250 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

12:30 p.m.: Light lunch

1:02 p.m.: Call to order – Brandon Currence

Attendance:

Brandon Currence, State Commissioner
Dave Cogar, Asst State Commissioner, Baseball Operations
Paul Coates, Asst State Commissioner, Softball Operations
Glenn Spangler, Asst State Commissioner, Training & Compliance
Paul Link, State Commissioner Emeritus
Brian Eamigh, District 1 Commissioner
Justin Sandford, District 3 Commissioner
D.J. Stewart, Asst District 4 Commissioner
Dennis Cobb, Asst District 4 Commissioner
Matt Clark, District 5 Commissioner
Pat O'Brien, District 6 Commissioner
Sheri Zimmerman, District 7 Commissioner
Steve Cohn, District 8 Commissioner
Caleb Dunlea, District 10 Commissioner (via Zoom)
Derek Molitor, President, Varina Youth Sports
Bruce Frye, Softball Umpire Consultant
Bob Guagliardo, Baseball Umpire Consultant

Call to Order:

Brandon Currence, State Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Invocation:

Brandon Currence offered the invocation



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Reading of Minutes:

Moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the 2024 State Spring Meeting be waived. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

In Phil Larcomb's absence, Dave Cogar reviewed EOY financials that will be submitted to Headquarters. Finished 2024 league year with Total Reserves of \$70,143.17 (\$3,017.87 in checking and \$67,125.30 in investment account) with \$0 in liabilities carried over to 2025. It was moved and seconded that we allocate \$1,000 towards the Don Rose Scholarship program. That motion was approved.
Motion was made and seconded to carry over the 2024 budget for 2025. That motion was approved.

Old Business

Brandon Currence reported that the 13YO World Series hosted by Glen Allen went extremely well and was excellently run by the host. No major issues to address.
Dave Cogar reported that the 10YO SE Regional tournament hosted by Pioneer went smoothly. No major weather issues and behavior of all was outstanding.
Brandon stated that one of his goals for the meeting was a review of the efforts in 2024 to make the State tournament trail more robust. For 2024 we expanded the 10YO, 12/70 and 14YO tournaments to pool play which resulted in those tournaments subsequently including 16, 15 and 7 teams.

District Commissioner Reports:

District 1- Brian Eamigh reported that there are issues with league management in Denbigh. He is monitoring that situation.

District 2- No report as Tommy Clary could not attend.

District 3- Justin Sandford reported that there are boundary issues between Varina, Lakeside and Sandston that need to be addressed to minimize player cross-over. He also asked that a standardized plate conference script be developed for tournament directors.

District 4- D.J. Stewart reported as Ken Bosserman could not attend. District is experiencing good growth with minimal issues. There is some concern regarding little league attempting to make inroads into area.



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District 5- Matt Clark said no major issues. He is attempting to get East Orange to charter Babe Ruth and Rappahannock expressed interest in moving into the district from D9 as they play many games with D5 leagues.

District 6- Pat O'Brien said that the numbers are steady with no issues.

District 7- Sheri Zimmerman reported that everything is stable. 12/70 State tournament was run in partnership between Herndon and Arlington and went well.

District 8- Steve Cohn reported that there were no issues.

District 9- No report as John Kemper could not attend

District 10- Caleb Dunlea stated that there were no boundary issues and everything went well.

District 11- No report as Doug Bates could not attend.

New Business

Brandon Currence reminded District Commissioners that they have authority to negotiate and set league boundaries. Also advised that any requests to change districts would need to be referred to him for review and action.

There was extended discussion on the expanded tournament trail. Feedback overall was that this was well received with some minor issues arising due to late determination to expand the tournaments and getting commitments from leagues for teams. There were some learning curve issues with timeliness of communications and gaining familiarity with TourneyMachine app for posting pools & brackets and scores, but overall went well. The peripheral events held by Christiansburg for the 10YO State tournament were very well received. Some issues with heat & rain in some sites. One concern regarding the larger tournaments for pool play is that it may not allow all leagues an opportunity to host, creating an unfair advantage for larger leagues to host most of the tournaments. Recommendations were that this would be better suited for a single site with multiple fields (at least 3), earlier recruitment and larger pool of umpires to help mitigate heat and over booking and more clear guidelines for how we propose to fill out the pools.



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Regarding the Rookies tournaments, there was no support or motion to add time limits for the State tournaments and it was determined that umpires will feed the pitching machine. It was acknowledged that this likely will require additional training so that the umpires are familiar with the machines being used to eliminate delays and performance issues. District tournaments can use either umpires or coaches to load the machine at the District Commissioner's option. SportsEngine continues to be a problem regarding rostering. There was an issue where the Lynnhaven teams played in tournaments with minimal to no documentation, providing only an email from Headquarters. These issues will be raised at the Regional meeting. Umpire fees were mentioned but this topic is being discussed at the Regional meeting so will be picked up in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was passed 3:33 p.m.