

Minutes from our Board/Parent Meeting

The West Plains Little League Board held a parent meeting to get feedback from parents as to what we could do to make our league better.

The board received many compliments from the people that were there as well as getting some people to sign up to be on the board.

Here are some of the suggestions that came from parents, coaches, as well as board members. The suggestions are broken down by division, and also by suggestions for the whole league. These items will be discussed at board meetings throughout the winter.

A –

1. Rule changes in the middle of the season. (Board informed those present about the situations that we had with A ball. Next year will be different because Little League will not allow us to do anything but play T-ball. Players that are 6 and have played a year of t-ball can opt up to the AA coach pitch level)
2. Uniforms were too small. (Board was aware of this. We tried to fix this problem as much as possible. Kimmel did not inform us as to how small small was. Bigger uniforms will be ordered next year.)
3. Rain out policy. (There were times when one team would show and another would not. We need to have a policy in place to make sure we are following it.)

AA –

1. Define the 6-pitch per at bat rule better. (Wording will be added to the rule to make sure that if there is a foul on the sixth pitch the hitter will get more pitches. Also, at our coaches meeting before the season we will inform the coaches that the intent of the rule is to make sure some kids are not getting 10-15 pitches. The board will also inform all coaches that they must throw from a knee to improve their accuracy and to help the kids see and hit the ball better.)
2. Define 46 feet better (Once again the rule was intended to keep coaches from just soft tossing the ball into the batter. 46 can be adjusted for different batters, but should be adhered to as much as possible. Rule will also be covered with coaches in a pre season meeting.
3. When does a play end. (The play should end when the pitcher get the ball back and is headed for the mound)
4. Uniform sizes bigger. (Once again, we relied on Kimmel, and they were way smaller than we were informed they would be. Adjustments will be made.)
5. Some kids did not get uniforms. (There were several kids that did not get uniforms or hats. They should of, and the board does not know why they did not. There were 15 hats per team and no team had more than 15 players, and some for shirts. Some shirts were too small, and we tried to fix that as much as we could.)

AAA –

1. Kids had baseball too many nights a week after playing two games and having two practices (The board did not schedule games on Saturday so that we could have soccer on

those days. This meant that there had to be all weeknight games and then practices were on weeknights as well. We will look into scheduling Saturday games earlier in the season, but just do them in the afternoon as to not interrupt soccer games in the morning.

2. Rotating just the same person for 3 innings at a time does not help the player develop skills. (The board is going to encourage all coaches to find a couple of games where a player that would typically be just a 3 inning player will play more than just 3 innings. Even so, most players that were just 3 inning players were first year kids and just being around the game will make them better. Put them in the same situation next year, and they should play the whole game and have someone else be the 3 inning player.)
3. The AAA level was billed as being a recreational level, and it should be considered a semi-competitive level. (The board will look into changing the wording on the registration form)
4. It was brought up to have the teams on the AAA level drafted instead having randomly assigned. (The board will consider the suggestion and will hold discussion on it this winter)
5. Make sure there is no variations of the no stealing rule that are not defined.

Majors –

1. Have the rules for all-star selections completely spelled out so that everyone knows how all-stars will be selected. (The board will work on compiling the rules and putting them on the web site)
2. Make coaches follow the pitching rules (The rules for the use of pitchers are completely defined in the Little League rulebook. All coaches must follow these rules. If they do not, the opposing team protests the game and the League's protest committee will look to see if there is a violation. If so, the game will be forfeited to the protesting team because the other team used an ineligible player.)
3. How to protest a game. (Notify the umpire and the opposing team that you are protesting the game. Then notify the league president ASAP that the game was played under protest. The league will then form a protesting committee and hear from both sides. The committee will make a decision on the protest after hearing both sides)

Whole league items –

1. Have an all-star from that all players read and sign so we do not have questions when decisions on the team are made and when we even have all-stars.
2. Start the seasons earlier so that things are not so hurried.
3. Coaches need to communicate to players better. A lot of the parent/player problems could be avoided if coaches were more open with the players as to how they could get more playing time etc.
4. Have a board member that is the coordinator for each division. This way if there are questions at each division, the board member would be the contact person to get the problem taken care of.
5. Better coaches meeting at the beginning of the season. (The board has learned a lot this first year and will be better prepared to have a better pre-season meeting for the coaches.)
6. Give each team a list of team members and phone numbers that way all parents can stay in touch.

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7. Coaches need to follow all rules. (The board was not aware of coaches not following rules. If there are coaches that do not follow the rules that the board sets up, they face removal, or just not being invited back next year. Opposing coaches that know a coach that is blatantly ignoring rules should report that coach.)
8. Put uniform size question on all registration forms.
9. Get more rule books so that all coaches get one.
10. There is interest in getting a softball division of Little League up and going. Board members are going to be need to help organize this division if it happens.
11. Creation of a 13-14 year old division. The board is going to look into creating a 13-14 league for our players as they move up. Stay tuned for more details.
12. Fall baseball. There will be a fall baseball league this year. Details will be coming shortly.