

DRAFT

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAPITOL HILL LITTLE LEAGUE (CHLL)

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held by video on May 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. CHLL President Katie Holloran presided over the opening of the meeting. Becky Skinner served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Bill Buck
Jake Cumsy-Whitlock
Katie Holloran
Jamie Lang
Carrie Levine
Seth Kaufman
Nona McCoy
Doug Rawald
Kiki Saveriano
Becky Skinner
Jack Smedile
Dave Roberts
David Toney
Lona Valmoro

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 2023 board meeting and two telephone meetings conducted on 4/12/2023 and 4/24/2023 to approve volunteers. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Tournament Teams

Bill Buck indicated that coaches have been identified and are working to complete their Diamond Leader training. The 12U baseball tournament team selected Luke Foskett and Brian Thomas to be coaches. The board noted that tournament team coaches do not have to be parents of players. For example, Kiki Saveriano coached the 12U softball team last summer and did not have a player in CHLL.

A motion was made to approve Luke Foskett and Brian Thomas as 12U baseball tournament team coaches. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Brian Kirrane is continuing to check on softball player availability for the 12U tournament team. The board will need to vote by phone later in May to approve coaches for the 11U and 10U baseball tournament teams and the 12U softball tournament team.

Jamie Lang will place the tournament team uniform order on May 16. He will send a spreadsheet to each tournament team manager for player information that will need to be returned by May 15.

Volunteers

One volunteer was presented for board approval. A motion was made to approve the volunteer. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Commissioners Committee

The board discussed an addition to the Juniors/Seniors baseball rules related to playing time. A motion was made to approve the following rule.

- A player may not sit out from the field for more than one inning in a row. In addition, no player may sit out a second inning until all players who were present at the start of the game have sat out at least one inning.
 - If a player arrives after the start of the game, the player must be inserted into the defensive lineup by the next full inning following his/her arrival and completion of warm-ups.
 - A starting pitcher who has not exceeded his/her age-appropriate pitch limit may remain in the game until reaching such limit, even if that means one or more defensive players must then sit out from the field for a second time prior to the starting pitcher sitting out for an inning. In such a situation, once the starting pitcher is relieved, s/he must immediately sit out for the next three consecutive outs.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

In addition, each season the board determines which divisions will have all-star teams and how many players from each team in each division will be selected as all-stars. A motion was made to approve the following all-star player selection strategy, which is similar to the strategy used last spring.

AA: With 14 teams, each team will select 2 all-stars for a total of 28 all-stars. Managers and coaches will break any ties on all-star voting among their players.

AAA: With 10 teams, each team will select 2 all-stars for a total of 20 all-stars. Managers and coaches will break any ties on all-star voting among their players. Managers and coaches will then select four additional all-stars from the players who were not selected. They may vote for players from any team including their own team. There will be a total of 24 all-stars.

Majors: With 8 teams, each team will select 3 all-stars for a total of 24 all-stars. Managers and coaches will break any ties on all-star voting among their players.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

All-star ballots will be distributed to players in May. Teams will submit their all-star selections to the division commissioner. The commissioner will compile the info and provide it to Katie. For AAA, there will be an extra step of having managers and coaches vote for the additional all-stars. The AAA commissioner will facilitate this process after the player votes are in. The AAA commissioner will send the player voted and coach voted players to Katie in one list.

With respect to all-star coaches, the board has left with the commissioners in the past. The board agreed to leave the all-star coaching decision with the commissioners.

Below is the schedule for the all-star voting process.

Wednesday, May 17: Provide all-star ballot template to commissioners (They can distribute to teams earlier than 5/19, but ballots should be out no later than 5/19.)

Friday, May 19: Commissioners distribute all-star ballots to team managers

Friday, May 26: All-star selections due to commissioners

Wednesday, May 31: Deadline for commissioners to submit all-star lists to CHLL President

Saturday, June 3: Announce all-star teams (This gives families two weeks' notice about being at the all-star games.)

Leaguewide Communications

Katie Holloran will send a reminder about the code of conduct policy and a reminder about players not wearing jewelry.

Treasurer

Seth Kaufman indicated that there were not many transactions in April. The league is still waiting to be billed by Bradley Baseball Association for recent clinics. The league also has not been billed by Nats Academy for space use. There also are a few overdue sponsors. Seth sent a check for \$5,595 to cover the \$5 per player assessment due to Little League. CHLL is the biggest league in DC.

TD Ameritrade has cashed an initial check, so Seth will now send the balance of the \$100,000. The CD at National Capital Bank with about \$50,000 with renew later this month.

Seth submitted two grant proposals for DPR grants. One grant would support tournament team travel. The other grant would support the purchase of additional equipment. The league should be notified in the next couple weeks about whether the grants will be provided.

Dave Roberts created a contractor's account for the league at Jenks. This provides the league with better pricing on needed materials.

Sponsorships

David Toney indicated that the league is still waiting for sponsor payments from 9 or 10 sponsors. He also discussed Sponsor Appreciation Week, which will be held from May 20 through May 26. Managers should invite sponsors to games, and families should be encouraged to patronize our sponsors.

Katie Holloran noted that the unofficial word was that the league's Nats player visit would be on Saturday, May 20.

Coach/Player Clinics

No additional clinics are planned. Doug Rawald noted that coaches do not appear to be interested in or have time to participate in coach clinics. He plans to reach out to the Single A baseball coaches to see if they would like to do a clinic.

Player Agents

Player pool requests have diminished now that school spring breaks have ended. The Player Agents suggested that the league give some thought about how to handle more effectively the demand for pool players during school spring breaks. It was noted that a pool player for a AAA game was asked to leave the game for conduct reasons. Dave Roberts will share some additional information about the situation with the Player Agents.

Carrie Levine has sent an email to tournament team managers about paperwork and needing to complete it as soon as possible after May 15.

Fields

DPR and RFK summer permit requests have been submitted. Lona Valmore indicated that the league should hear back about them by mid-May. She also noted that the league should get some credit for RFK field closures the previous Friday night, as the fields were closed due to weather.

Equipment

Jack Smedile has found some leftie catcher's gloves for softball. He also noted that the lock on the equipment box at Fort Lincoln is not functioning.

Field Maintenance

Dave Roberts is pricing pitching mounds. He is figuring out what is needed where. He also noted that the league has taken over the porta-potty contract at Tyler as SOTH is no longer using the field.

Batting Cages

Dave Roberts provided a live report from the batting cages. He is identifying minor changes that could be made that would result in big improvements.

Registration

Katie Holloran is working with Jake Cumsy-Whitlock on a plan for fall registration. Katie talked about why voting on team numbers in advance of registration has made it easier to determine field and uniform needs and administer the registration process. The board discussed whether to open registration in June but noted that closing registration early might not work because families might not be paying attention to fall sports until their children return to school. It also was noted that the league can address registration anomalies as needed.

The board agreed that it will need to decide how to handle fall play-ups at the June board meeting. Becky Skinner will talk with the commissioners about how they think this should be

handled. The board also agreed that the fall season schedule will need to be approved at the June board meeting. Becky will work on a fall schedule with Katie and Lona.

The board discussed whether we could provide families with more information at registration about practice days and game days by division. This could be helpful in reducing scheduling conflicts during drafts. It was mentioned that while there are some patterns in how fields are used from season-to-season, the league does not want to get pigeonholed into using fields a certain way.

The board discussed whether the number of conflict nights that players can submit during the registration process should be reduced. It was also noted that there needs to be a way to update conflict nights just prior to drafts and roster formation. This has been handled in different ways over time. Most recently the Majors baseball commissioner used a spreadsheet to check on player conflicts. Becky will check in with the commissioner about this and talk with the other commissioners about doing the same. Becky will also check in with the commissioners on the number of conflict nights that should be listed during the registration process.

The board also discussed eliminating the special request question on the registration form. This is often used by families to request that their players play with their friends or be placed with a specific coach. Becky will check with the commissioners regarding their thoughts on dropping special requests from the registration process.

Umpires

Doug Rawald reported that most games requiring umpires have been covered by volunteers or paid umpires. About one-third of the umpiring budget has been spent. There have been 15 different youth volunteers at AAA baseball games so far this season. It was suggested that the league might want to provide black polo shirts for umpires if this can be accommodated in the budget. Katie Holloran will talk with Jamie Lang about pricing.

Pitch, Hit, and Run

Doug Rawald noted that the event will be held on June 11 at RFK. There are 49 participants registered including one softball player. If the league has 175 participants, winners will automatically advance to Nats Park.

Additional Items

Seth Kaufman indicated that he would start working on the league's budget for the next fiscal year. Doug Rawald suggested that the board start thinking about possible new board members.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be conducted in person or by video on June 5, 2023, unless the board needs to convene earlier. The meeting will be conducted in-person.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. EDT.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Holloran, President

Rebecca Skinner, Secretary