DRAFT

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on January 4, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time by video. CHLL President Katie Holloran presided over the opening of the meeting. Becky Skinner served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Bill Buck
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock
Jason Goldsmith
Lance Hayden
Katie Holloran
Carrie Levine
Seth Kaufman
Lisa Miller
Kiki Saveriano
Becky Skinner
Kevin Starace
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 December. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Communication
Katie Holloran asked board members to let her know if there are any specific conversations or issues that they would like to be involved with.

AAA Rules
Doug Rawald, AAA commissioner, discussed one draft change and two rule changes that he would like the board to consider. With respect to the draft change, he asked that the board reconsider allowing three coaches to team up prior to the draft. This is permitted by our official draft rules, and it would help Doug make sure that the anticipated 16 AAA teams have the 48 coaches needed to ensure that each team has a good coaching crew. The board discussed the issue with Doug. It was suggested that he try to mix up the ages of the players represented by the coaches on an individual team. Doug agreed to try to do this.

With respect to rule changes, Doug asked the board to consider dropping the infield fly rule for AAA. He also asked the board to change the rules related to stealing home. In Phase I, there would be no stealing home on an errant throw from the pitcher. In Phase II, players could steal home on an errant throw by the catcher to any player. The board discussed these issues with Doug.

A motion was made to allow three AAA coaches to team up prior to the draft. The motion was approved by voice vote. The board indicated that it may reconsider this decision prior to the spring 2023 draft.

The board tabled further consideration of the AAA rule changes requested by Doug until the February board meeting.

Other Possible Rule Changes
Becky Skinner provided a summary of the meetings that she and Katie Holloran had with each of the commissioners and the substantive rule changes that were requested. The board discussed the requested changes but tabled further consideration of the changes until the February board meeting.

Schedule
Katie Holloran noted that a draft calendar for the spring season was being created, which includes a schedule for the draft. Lisa Miller discussed the workout schedule for Majors and AAA. CHLL will be working with Bradley Baseball (BBA) to conduct the workouts. No parents will be permitted inside the BBA facility. Masks will be required inside the facility per BBA. The Player Agents will start to offer the earliest workout dates to players who have already registered. Board members will need to help with the workouts. Katie, Jason Goldsmith, Lisa, and Carrie Levine are monitoring the registration numbers to determine whether registration needs to switch to a waitlist for any division.

The board also discussed 11-year old players registering for AAA. It was agreed that the Player Agents would reach out to any family of an 11-year old player that registered for AAA to confirm that it was not a mistake and to let them know that if a player scores high enough to be considered for the Majors draft, s/he will be considered as this would be an indication that the player has the ability to potentially play at the Majors level.

Registration
As of the meeting, 190 players had registered, including 4 11-year old players for AAA, 3 10-year old players for Majors, and 4 8-year old players for AAA. At this point, no caps have been reached for any division. AAA has a 16-team cap based on 12 players per team. Majors is currently set for a 6-team cap based on 12 players per team, but this cap will be increased if needed.

Fields Update
Katie Holloran reported that some progress had been made with respect to DCPS fields. It appears that DGS is willing to waive the custodial fees associated with the school fields. The schools have agreed to the change. There is no flexibility on the security fee. Apparently, the security fee was something CHLL should have been paying all along. If the agreement is formalized, CHLL would pay the same rate for all DCPS fields.

Katie is going to email Seth Shapiro at DPR every two weeks about needed field improvements at the Randall turf (Zimmerman) field. She also is working with Justin Sprinzen, former board member, on a possible backup plan if DPR does not complete the work.

The board discussed the condition of the batting cages. It was suggested that the league reach out to Events DC to ask for numerous improvements—repairs to the netting, new L-frames, more protection between the lanes, and more gravel. It also was suggested that CHLL talk with Events DC about establishing a public reservation system for the cages.

Lona Valmoro discussed permits. CHLL has received its historic permits for Fort Lincoln, Randall turf and grass, Amidon, and Jackie Robinson. CHLL does not have Randall turf consistently on Fridays. Lona put in for additional time at Amidon and time at Benning-Stoddard. All field requests have been submitted for the RFK fields. However, Events DC has put a hold on five of the nine spring season weekends. From DGS, Lona requested time at Payne, Eastern, Ludlow, and Tyler. She also will request time at Walker Jones. Eliot Hine and JO Wilson were not listed in the system. She is checking to see if they are going to be available.

Lona noted that the RFK fields have put in place a new policy for users to qualify for the best community rate. Only groups with at least 10% scholarship recipients or that are free to all can qualify for the best rate. Lona is going to talk with the RFK fields about what that means for an organization like CHLL where a full scholarship is available to any player that requests one with no questions asked.

Communications
Lance Hayden has added Team UP information to the website. He is still working on the new website.

Competition Committee
Bill Buck indicated that an expression of interest email about coaching a summer tournament team was sent out to coaches. He anticipates that the board will be able to consider possible tournament team managers at the March board meeting. He also has been talking with David Toney about clinics for players. He would like to put together a group to develop a more formal skills development program. Bill and Katie Holloran met with last summer's tournament team coaches to talk about what went well and what needed improvements. The district has not yet released dates for the summer tournaments.

Equipment
Seth Kaufman has placed an order with BSN, primarily for catcher's equipment. He is working with AD STARR to order bats, balls, and other items. He expects that new equipment will start arriving this month. The shed for Amidon has arrived. There is a volunteer willing to assemble it. The board discussed the need for porta-potties. Katie Holloran indicated that DGS encourages them to groups using the fields on weekends. Katie will touch base with Chuck Barnett, former CHLL board member, to discuss how the league has handled port-potties in the past.

Safety
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock has started working on background checks. He will start working on first aid kits soon.

Sponsorships
David Toney noted that Barbara Burr, a sponsor, has donated some equipment. It is unclear whether the league will be able to use the equipment. If not, the league will get the equipment to another nonprofit that can use it.

To date, CHLL has received money from about 20% of the sponsors from last year. One or two former sponsors have indicated that they are not going to sponsor this year. The board discussed whether sponsor logs could be grouped on the CHLL website based on the services they provide. Lance Hayden will add links to the sponsors' websites. The board also discussed making sure that the children of sponsors are playing on the team sponsored by their parent's company.

Uniforms
Lisa Miller, Katie Holloran, and Kiki Saveriano will be meeting later this month to discuss uniforms. The next Team UP meeting is scheduled for January 23.

Winter Clinics
The board discussed a proposal to offer free pre-season player clinics for baseball and softball. The plan would be to hold them from the end of February through March. There would be two types of clinics offered. One-time two-hour sessions would be made available to players by division (AA and higher) to reinforce basic skills and advance skill development. These clinics would be led by BBA. A second set of clinics would provide five 90-minute advanced sessions for players who are interested in and ready for a more challenging level of play, including playing on a tournament team. The clinics would be offered to 12U, 11U, and 10U baseball players and softball players. These clinics would be led by CHLL coaches. The board discussed whether there was parity in this arrangement and how an equitable system could be created for making slots available while ensuring interested players are placed at the right level.

A motion was made to hold two sets of clinics that are open to all players with an equitable system for making slots available while accounting for the skill level of the interested player. The motion passed by voice vote.

Bill Buck, Kevin Starace, and David Toney will take the lead on the clinic sessions. Kiki Saveriano will help with the softball clinics.

Treasurer's Report
Seth Kaufman provided the treasurer's report. The league has about $25,000 in registrations so far and has awarded about $8,000 in scholarships. CHLL is not spending much currently but will be increasing spending this month as it pays for fields and equipment. Seth asked if the provision of free clinics could be considered by the RFK fields

when determining the league’s field rate. Katie Holloran bought $10 gift cards from Solid State, a league sponsor, for each of the volunteers who were singled out for positive feedback on the leaguewide survey.

Next Meeting
The next board meeting will be on Monday, February 7 at 6:30 pm, unless the board needs to convene earlier. The meeting will be conducted in-person or by video.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. EDT.

Approved:	Respectfully submitted,
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Katie Holloran, President	Rebecca Skinner, Secretary