



INSTILLING IN OUR COMMUNITY YOUTH THE IDEA OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

October 2009 Commissioner's Meeting

A Commissioner's meeting of the Fort Smith Church Baseball League was held on Monday, October 12, 2009 at Christ the King Church. An attendee roster is attached)

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Don Eveld. Brent Lewis led opening prayer.

March meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Mickle presented the finance report. This reports showed a operating loss for the 2009 season. This was mainly attributed to lower concession sales due to cool weather, the pre-season being cancelled, and several days early in the season being rained out and made up on one Saturday.

Presidents' Report

Don Eveld asked if anyone knows the location of the large Hank Feldman trophy. Someone is interested in having it restored and updated. If anyone knows where this is please let FSCL know. Kyle Peters won this award in 2009.

Old Business

New Business

A new bulletin board will be placed near the Ballman concession

Team declaration Night will be March 8, 2010

Coaches meetings will be March 11, 15, and 16th 2010.

Eddie Norman asked about college and high school teams using the lower batting cages. Some concerns were raised about players that age using those cages, especially those teams with access to other facilities. Decision was made to develop a "RULES of USE" sign and policy.

Wes Young talked about the Hum Baby tournament for 2010. He said discussions are underway to determine what the high school teams (Northside and Southside) are responsible for, and what the revenue split will be. Some concerns were raised about concession operations at last year's tournament. Eddie Norman proposed a revenue split of around 1/3 for each group (NHS, SHS, and FSCL) after expenses. The Hum Baby was given approval subject to working out the money split and other responsibilities. This tournament would be help over Memorial Day weekend.

New Officers were nominated:

President - Don Evelt
1st VP – Eddie Norman
2nd VP – Donald Schwartz
Treasurer – Pat Mickle
Secretary – Brent Lewis

These were the only nominations made.

The Pony fields will have work done on them, by Bransen Harris, once Fall Ball is through at the end of October.

OFFICIAL ROSTERS AND WAIVERS WILL FACE TOUGH VERIFICATION in the 2010 season. Much discussion was made about the past “rubber stamping” of rosters and waivers. Several rule changes were offered concerning this (please see all the proposed rule changes for these).

Proposed rule changes to be voted on at the Nov 9th, 2009 meeting:

Donald Schwartz proposed the following:

Article X

G. PEE-WEE & JR. PEE-WEE LEAGUE (TBALL)

Existing Rule:

20. Either wood or aluminum bats may be used. Maximum length 32” and maximum barrel diameter of 2-1/4”.

Proposed new rule:

20. Either wood or aluminum bats may be used. Maximum length 32” and maximum barrel diameter of 2-1/4”.

A batter shall be called out for using or stepping into the batters box with an illegal bat.

Notes: This is simply to put in the rules the penalty we have been enforcing for using an illegal bat. We seem to have this issue come up 2 or 3 times each year.

Existing Rule:

21. No more than two coaches are allowed on the field while their defense is in the field, and they must be within five (5) yards of the dugout. While on offense, two coaches are allowed on the field, one coaching first base and one coaching third base. Coaches are not allowed to position any player’s in the batters box. The umpire will assist the player if necessary.

Proposed new rule:

21. No more than two coaches are allowed on the field while their defense is in the field, and they must be within **arms length five (5) yards** of the dugout. While on offense, two coaches are allowed on the field, one coaching first base and one coaching third base. Coaches are not allowed to position any player’s in the batters box. The umpire will assist the player if necessary.

Notes: This is a new addition to the rule that hopefully will control the number of coaches on the field and how far from the dugout they are allowed to be. 5 yards is too much space when you consider the size of the TBall and pitching machine fields. I think arms length will be easy to enforce and make it clear to everyone to stay away from the foul lines and the coaches box when they are on defense.

Existing Rule:

23. The official ball will be the 8½" "RIF5" (Reduced Injury Factor) baseball.

Proposed new rule:

23. ~~The official ball will be the 8½" "RIF5" (Reduced Injury Factor) baseball.~~

Notes: This is simply to remove the rule stating that we will use RIF5 baseballs. We haven't used them in years and don't plan to next year either.

Existing Rule:

26. No defensive player except the pitcher and catcher shall be closer than 45 feet to home plate, until the ball is put

Proposed new rule:

26. No defensive player except the pitcher and catcher shall be closer than ~~50~~ **45** feet to home plate, until the ball is put

Notes: Robert Burriss changed this rule last year to 50 feet and we enforced it that way all year. It was much better than the 45 feet and this proposal simply changes the existing rules to match what the TBall league president enforced in 2009.

H. SUPER PEE WEE & BAMBINO LEAGUE RULES**Existing Rule:**

20. Coaches are restricted to a distance of arms length from their dugout while their team is on the field. When their team is at bat there may be three (3) coaches on the field (one at first base, one at third base, and one at the pitching machine)

Proposed new rule:

20. Coaches are restricted to a distance of ~~arms length five (5) yards from~~ **from** their dugout while their team is on the field. When their team is at bat there may be three (3) coaches on the field (one at first base, one at third base, and one at the pitching machine)

Existing Rule:

22. Either wood or aluminum bats may be used. Maximum length 32" and maximum barrel diameter of 2-¼".

Proposed new rule:

22. Either wood or aluminum bats may be used. Maximum length 32" and maximum barrel diameter of 2-¼".
A batter shall be called out for using or stepping into the batters box with an illegal bat.

I. PONY LEAGUE RULES**Existing Rule:**

14. Coaches are restricted to a distance of five (5) yards from their dugout while their team is in the field. When their team is at bat there may be two (2) coaches on the field (one at first base and one at third base).

Proposed new rule:

14. Coaches are restricted to a distance of ~~arms length five (5) yards~~ from their dugout while their team is in the field. When their team is at bat there may be two (2) coaches on the field (one at first base and one at third base).

Existing Rule:

16. Either wood or aluminum bats may be used. Maximum length 32” and maximum barrel diameter of 2-1/4”.

Proposed new rule:

16. Either wood or aluminum bats may be used. Maximum length 32” and maximum barrel diameter of 2-1/4”.

A batter shall be called out for using or stepping into the batters box with an illegal bat.

J. MIDGET LEAGUE RULES

Existing Rule:

7. Coaches are restricted to a distance of five (5) yards from their dugout while their team is in the field. When their team is at bat there may be two (2) coaches on the field (one at first and one at third base).

Proposed new rule:

7. Coaches are restricted to a distance of **arms length five (5) yards** from their dugout while their team is in the field. When their team is at bat there may be two (2) coaches on the field (one at first and one at third base).

Existing Rule:

12. The bat shall be no larger than 2 3/4” in barrel diameter and 32” in length.

Proposed new rule:

12. The bat shall be no larger than 2 3/4” in barrel diameter and 32” in length. **A batter shall be called out for using or stepping into the batters box with an illegal bat.**

All of the above proposals received multiple 2nds.

Brent Lewis proposed the following:

Article X

B. Rosters

2. Additions to the team’s roster will be permitted when a request is submitted in writing by the commissioner or team manager to the roster committee at least 48 hours in advance of the official starting time of the game in which the player is to play

Change to

2. **Additions to the team’s roster will become eligible 48 hours AFTER all required paperwork, including waivers, AND roster fee payment is made to FSCL. Also, no additions will be made after June 1.**

2nd by Pat Mickle

Add 4. Rosters AND waivers are due by April 1.

2nd by Jason Brasher

C General playing rules

“11 All innings started will be completed

Change to

“11 All innings started in which the outcome of the game is still in doubt will be completed. Any inning started in which the outcome of the game is no longer in doubt MAY be stopped at any point by the league officials, or agreement of both coaches.

2nd by Mark Nelson

Article X

“G Pee-wee rules

“4 The catcher must stay behind the plate and wear a protective helmet. Shin guards and chest protector are optional.

Change to

“4 The catcher must stay behind the plate and wear a protective helmet. Shin guards and chest protector are optional. USE OF A CATCHER IS REQUIRED

“H - Super pee-wee and Bambino rules

“14 On an overthrow to 1st base (only), all runners may advance one base only, at their own risk. Note: an overthrow is not to be confused with a catching error.

Change:

REMOVE

2nd by Mark Nelson

Doug Farries proposed the following:

Article X, Sec k.6 (prep) and Article X, Sec L.2

FROM: “A one hour and fifty minute (1:50) time limit will apply. In the event of a tie game, Babe Ruth international rules shall apply “.

TO: “A one hour and fifty minute (1:50) time limit will apply. If at the end of the last inning played the score is tied and the time limit has run out, the game shall be recorded as a tie. If at the end of seven innings, the score is tied and the time limit has not been reached, the game will continue under international tie-breaking rules until one team is ahead at the end of the inning or the time limit is reached. The international tie-breaking procedure places the last batter to complete his at-bat from the previous inning at 2nd base to start each half-inning. The game proceeds normally in all other aspects. The standard 1:50 game time still applies, no additional game time is added for breaking tie games.

Tie games will be recorded as one-half a win and one-half a loss in the standings. Tie games will be considered as final and WILL NOT BE REPLAYED even if determining a single winner could influence the final standings “.

2nd By Eddie Norman

Article VI Sec A

From: “A team will be allowed to compose no more than 50% of its roster with players outside of Fort Smith.”

To: “ A team will be allowed to compose no more than 50% of its roster with players who do not meet one of the following 3 criteria: 1) live in the city limits of Fort Smith; 2) regularly attend a member church of FSCBL; or 3) regularly attends a church in Fort Smith.

2nd by Bobby Aldridge

Article X, Sec K.3

Delete “The season will run from approximately the second week of May until the end of June to allow an adequate number of games and to allow participation in Babe Ruth Congress sponsored post-season tournaments.”

Eddie Norman proposed the following:

Article X

“A – General rules and policies

26. **There will be a \$50.00 fee for any team forfeiting a Friday night regular season game or a Saturday makeup game. Teams will not be allowed to play subsequent games until the fee is paid to their league president.**

2nd Wes Young

Article X

“B – Rosters

“4. Each team’s official roster must be submitted to FSCL at team declaration night. All player waivers must be submitted by March 20th to the appropriate league president. No player submitting a waiver will be eligible to play in any game for seven (7) days after the waiver is submitted.

2nd Bobby Aldridge

“5. Teams will be allowed to add only one (1) player to their previous year official roster who was on an AA/minor, AAA/American, or Major/National Division travel/select team roster the previous year. New team rosters will be reviewed by FSCL before approval to the league will be allowed.

2nd Doug Schwartz

Commissioners, please notify your coaches about the proposed rule changes. These WILL BE voted on at the November meeting to be held at 5:30pm Monday Nov 9th at Christ the King.

It was also discussed that now is the time to be lining up coaches for next season, and educating them on the rules, roster procedures, etc. This is especially important if they have not coached in FSCL before.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

ATTENDEE ROSTER

Eddie Norman – St Paul
Donald Schwartz – CTK
Brent Lewis – ESBC
Pat Mickle – CP
Doug Faries – Butterfield
Doug Schwartz – CTK
Jason Brasher – ESBC
Mark Nelson – CBC
Philip Doss – I.C.
Bill Hollenbeck – SB
Darrell Stovall – St Paul
Wes Young –
Mike Clark – FBFS
Bobby Aldridge –