



INSTILLING IN OUR COMMUNITY YOUTH THE IDEA OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

---

## **November 2009 Commissioner's Meeting**

A Commissioner's meeting of the Fort Smith Church Baseball League was held on Monday, Nov 9, 2009 at Christ the King Church. An attendee roster is attached)

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

October meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pat Mickle presented the finance report. Fall Ball made their final payment. Opening balance for the general fund was \$7,546.50 and ending was \$8,466.68. Cap Improv fund earned \$9.55 in interest.

### **Presidents' Report**

Don Eveld reported that we are still looking for the location of the large Hank Feldman trophy.

### **Old Business**

*New Officers were nominated:*

*President - Don Eveld*

*1<sup>st</sup> VP – Eddie Norman*

*2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Donald Schwartz*

*Treasurer – Pat Mickle*

*Secretary – Brent Lewis*

*These were the only nominations made.*

## **THE NEW OFFICERS WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Proposed rule changes to be voted on at the Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

**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.*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

**Existing Rule:**

23. The official ball will be the 8 1/2" "RIF5" (Reduced Injury Factor) baseball.

**Proposed new rule:**

23. **~~The official ball will be the 8 1/2" "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.*

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

**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 Burris 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.*

## **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

### **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)

## **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

#### **Existing Rule:**

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

#### **Proposed new rule:**

22. 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.**

## **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

### **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.**

## PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

---

### 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).

## PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

---

#### Existing Rule:

12. The bat shall be no larger than 2 ¾" in barrel diameter and 32" in length.

#### Proposed new rule:

12. The bat shall be no larger than 2 ¾" 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.*

## PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

---

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.**

## FAILED 5-12

2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Mickle

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

2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Brasher

## **PASSED 9-5**

### **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.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Nelson

## **FAILED 2-15**

### **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**

## **PASSED 18-1**

#### **“H - Super pee-wee and Bambino rules**

“14 On an overthrow to 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Nelson

## **FAILED 1-18**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 “.**

2<sup>nd</sup> By Eddie Norman

**PASSED 19-0**

#### **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.**

2<sup>nd</sup> by Bobby Aldridge

**PASSED 12-4**

#### **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.”

**PASSED 20-0**

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.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wes Young

**THIS PASSED 15-3 AMENDED TO REMOVE FRIDAY FROM THE NEW RULE**

#### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Bobby Aldridge

**PASSED 17-0**

**“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.**

**PASSED 13-1**

### **New Business**

Many requests have been made to use the new batting cages over the winter. It was decided to roll up the nets until Feb or March. This was to be done on Saturday Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wes Young reported that USSSA want FSCL back as a league affiliate for 2010. Eddie Norman recommended only hosting 2 USSSA tournaments and the Humbaby for 2010 under USSSA.

Rain Out Saturdays were decided for the 2010 FSCL season. These will be:

May 15<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and either June 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> ( depending on placement of a tournament ).

Batting cage rules were discussed and a set of those would be decided on before the December 2009 meeting. These will be posted on the cages.

There was discussion of the possibility of allowing travel teams to play EXHIBITION games in the Midget league to help fill empty time slots. Also discussed was the possibility of a bring your own team league in the 12 and 13 yr old age groups. None of this can be finalized until FSCL schedules are made out after declaration night.

The purchase of a Gator tractor was discussed. This would replace the riding mowers that are currently used to transport materials ( they are not used for mowing ). These mowers require several hundred dollars per year to keep them running.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

## ATTENDEE ROSTER

Greg Schmitt - St Boniface
Mike Clark - First Baptist FS
Jason Vrazel - IC
Doug Faries - Butterfield
Mark Haywood- Butterfield
Donald Schwartz- CTK
Eddie Norman
Paark Wolfe - Grand
Wes Sadler - First Baptist GW
Chris Stark - Grand
Bobby Aldridge
Philip Doss - IC
Pat Mickle
Bill Hollenbeck – St Boniface
Rodney Woods - IC
Jerry Chastain - CBC
Brent Lewis - ESBC
Mark Nelson - CBC
Doug Schwartz - CTK
Tom Calderera - IC
Wes Young