

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 12/16/14.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Felix Belgrove, Gavin Daly, Conor Farrell, Mike Fenske, Jeff Goodman, Nick Montagnese, James Restivo, Jenn Salvatore, Michele Somody, Brett Szczesny, Brad Van Auken, Nick Vivona

Regrets received: Bob Katchko, John Tromba, Judy Vivona, Roger Watson

Meeting Commencement

President Jeff Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

1. President's Report (Jeff Goodman).....5 Minutes

Jeff Goodman informed the BOD that SALL is officially chartered for 2015.

Jeff mentioned that two non SALL parents have approached him about managing a team this spring.

2. Winter Clinic Update (Gavin Daly and Conor Farell).....15 Minutes

Gavin Daly provided the BOD with an update on the Winter Clinic registrations. To date, the following have signed up:

- 7 (7-8 year olds)
- 13 (9-10 year olds)
- 3 (11-12 year olds)

Gavin mentioned that the Web site age adjustments have not been done yet but should be updated in a week. Jeff requested that Gavin send out a reminder email about the Winter Clinic on 12/26/14. Jeff suggested that a one-to-one email blast be sent to all those who attended last year's clinics and that prior coaches/managers reach out to their teams to encourage them to sign up for the clinics.

Felix Belgrove said that he received approval for the flyer to be copied and sent to each school, both public and private.

Conor Farell hopes to have Angel Spoda (former Bluefish player and current minor's league coach for the Marlins), come to the second Winter Clinic to talk with the kids.

3. Protective Equipment40 Minutes

Jeff initiated a discussion on mandating cups/athletic supports, heart guards, and face masks. The group discussed the difference between a cup and an athletic supporter. The discussion continued with debating whether SALL should mandate certain equipment and that if we do mandate equipment that SALL would need to purchase said equipment so that each manager has the equipment in case a player does not have the equipment or forgets to bring to practice/game. Gavin commented that years ago the BOD tried to mandate heart guards a few years ago and during AA games the game would need to be stopped so players could put on heart guards and that it interrupted the follow of the games.

Jeff suggested that sample heart guards be brought to the Winter Clinics to show the players and their parents what they are and the safety benefits of wearing one while pitching or playing the infield. It was

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discussed but not voted on as to whether SALL should purchase heart guards for Majors, AAA, and AA teams (20 teams x 15 = \$300).

Gavin suggested that all bats be inspected and approved by our Safety Officer, Ric Anderson, and that a sticker be put on all inspected and approved bats. Gavin reiterated the safety concern for players pitching in AA that they must pitch from 30 feet (no closer than the end of the “bump”) and that if a player cannot pitch from 30 feet that they cannot pitch. Gavin will talk about this during the parent’s seminar.

The discussion turned to mandating face masks. Jeff noted that Stamford National mandates helmets with face masks for AAA and first year Majors players and that in all lower levels it is mandated. Jenn Salvatore mentioned that we do have helmets with cages. It was suggested that we have 10 helmets with cages at each field.

The BOD discussed that mandating equipment would mean that SALL would need to purchase equipment and enforce the mandate. Brett mentioned that a mandate = lawsuit if a player gets hurt and isn’t wearing the mandated equipment. The BOD agreed that we will not mandate any equipment and stick to what is mandated by Little League. Nick Montagnese suggested that an email be sent prior to the start of the season of what equipment is mandated (cup) and what equipment is recommended for players. Conor said that before a game starts the Umpire should ask the managers if the team is properly equipped. Gavin asked that we get the most recent Little League mandates and recommendations.

4. President’s Meeting 10 minutes

Ric Anderson attended the latest President’s Meeting and provided a brief overview:

- 10 people attended.
- Joe Loglisci did a presentation on strength/fitness, plyometrics, etc. He is owner of Diamond Edge Fitness located on Hope Street and provides classes for players 8 years old through high school.
- ASAP form for safety is not ready yet.
- New this year – All volunteer forms must have social security number as it is a national law.
- District Tournaments
 - Season ends June 20/21
 - Tournament of Champions June 23/24/26 pool play
 - District Tournament June 27/28
 - Playoffs July 10
 - District tournament ends July 17

Jeff noted that SALL must have a team represented in the Tournament of Champions in 2015.

- Travel Teams
 - Starts April 24, games played both Friday and Sunday nights
 - Perry will charter all teams
 - Fee increased to \$400 per team (dues were \$250, majority of dues go to paying the umpires. District 2 charges \$1500)
 - District 1 has 15 teams.

The next President’s Meeting is 1/15/15.

5. Bylaws15 minutes

The BOD discussed changes to the Bylaws. There was discussion of the AAA Rules being added to the Bylaws. Nick Vivona questioned the time limit of 1 hour 45 minutes during AAA games if there is another AAA or Majors game scheduled after. He said when scheduling it should be fair for all teams.

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A motion was made by Nick Vivona to approve the Bylaws and Brad Van Auken seconded the motion.
Motion passed.

7. Other Business (Board Members).....remaining time

Ric Anderson noted that AA rules/issues need to be added to the docket.

The Lighting meeting will be on Dec 17, 6:30 at the Government Center.

Ric thanked all BOD for their time and commitment.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Somody
Co-AA Commissioner and Team Parent Coordinator