

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 03/01/16 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 03/01/16.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Judy Vivona, Jen Hanley, Mike Fenske, Nick Montagnese, Karen Montagnese, Brett Szczesny, Mike Deenihan, Jenn Salvatore, Pete Karukas, Rosaria Bria, Joe Fauci, John Tromba, Jason Benner, Bob Katchko and Jeff Goodman

League Members: Sheldon Mui, Jeff Bernfeld

Regrets received: None

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice President – Nick Vivona called the meeting to order at 7:11pm. – Approval of minutes of 2/18/16 (Joe Fauci - motion / Pete Karukas - 2nd)

2. Safety Report

Nick Vivona stated there have been no safety issues in the winter clinics.

Discussion of Tryouts and Drafts - Committee = Brett Szczesny, John Tromba, Pete Karukas and Karen Montagnese:

- Major will be Sunday morning
 - o There will be 4 stations (hitting / fielding / pitching-catching position / sprinting)
 - o The Managers will be in the room to assess
 - o At the conclusion of the tryouts/evaluations – John Tromba and Brett Szczesny will solicit feedback from the managers and will compile rankings. Other experienced members of the Board (not selected as Managers or rostered first coaches) offered their assistance.
 - o The committee decided for the draft, at the end of every round they will make the next 5 kids available. Start each round with 15 players – at the end of the round there will be 10 – at that point they will open up the next 5 players so that every round going forward will start with 15 players.
 - o John Tromba and Brett Szczesny will set the draft freezes and monitor that 12 year olds and returning Majors players are picked before the 11th round.
 - o There will be a sibling rule that siblings will go together – no matter where they are in the draft.
 - If sibling A is 3rd round and sibling B is in the lower end draft rounds ('below the line') – then sibling B will have the option to be picked or go back to AAA.
 - If sibling A and sibling B are both in the upper round, then the original sibling rule applies.

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- If siblings end up in the same round, then one sibling will bump up instead of down (due to the freeze).
 - Majors Manager Jeff Bernfeld made a statement that he disagrees. He feels the disadvantage of moving one player up is worse than the advantage of moving one down. Nick Vivona agreed with Jeff Bernfeld that a sibling should be moved down a round if there's a conflict with a freeze.
 - Nick Montagnese makes suggestion that Managers, Brett Szczesny and John Tromba make the decision prior to the draft.
 - Jeff Goodman make the motion regarding the sibling rule
 - Pete Karukas 2nd motion
 - All in favor – Board approved.
- Pete Karukas – AAA Commissioner – process for AAA Tryouts:
 - It will be the 'snake style' draft format
 - Six teams are set
 - Sibling rule will apply
 - Once teams are determined, all names will be put in a hat, each manager will pick randomly. If a Manager / Coach's child ends up on a different team, they will then re-evaluate and adjust.
- Jeff Goodman makes a motion to vote on the AAA draft process as presented by Pete Karukas.
 - John Tromba 2nd motion
 - All in favor – Board approved.
- Reminder discussion – players need to bring their own helmet, glove and bats. Also, a reminder to all who are working each station to be timely so we can stick to the rotation schedule.
- John Tromba quickly reviews staffing at tryouts – asks the board members sign up for various time slots thorough the day.
- Nick Vivona opened the discussion of 5 vs 6 teams in the Majors.
- Brett Szczesny announced to the Board – Majors Manager Nick Montagnese resigned as a manager for conflict of commitments. Brett Szczesny named Nick Vivona as replacement Manager. Brett Szczesny also noted if 6 teams are created, then the recommendation for 6th Majors Manager would be Bob Katchko.

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- Open discussion:
- Ric Anderson – Stated if the number count of registered players for Majors is high enough, we may need to have a 6th team and that he approves of Brett’s recommendation stating that manager would be Bob Katchko. He reiterated that Nick Vivona will be replacing Nick Montagnese as a Manager.
- Brett Szczesny made a motion stating if we have enough registered players that would require a 6th team – to appoint Bob Katchko as the 6th Manager.
 - o Pete Karukas 1st / Ric Anderson 2nd motion
 - All in favor – Board approved recommendation of Bob Katchko as Majors Manager if a 6th team is warranted.
 - o Brett Szczesny states on line registration closes at midnight on 3/2. He suggests that by Thursday morning, they will determine how many players are registered. If it’s not more than 70-72 players there will NOT be a 6th team.
- Jeff Bernfeld would like to give the Manager the option of 4 coaches in the dugout.
 - o There are more pros then cons. We will have to check with the District to see if we can obtain a waiver.
- Jenn Salvatore asked to have a list of coaching candidates for AAA and Major’s – stating people have been discussing coaches etc and the board has not seen a list of candidates.
- Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:
 - o \$29,990.85 in the checking account / CD has same as last week.
- Jeff Goodmant – Scheduling:
 - o Confirmed a ‘draft’ schedule was completed for Majors (under the assumption of 5 teams)
 - o Addressed issues of more game time, states he will do his best but reminds everyone there are limited fields with lights and availability.

Meeting adjourned 9:11 pm