

Coach's meeting

February 15, 2019

Present – Nichole Wheeler, Dave Dube, Shawn McNamara, Dawn Grebinar, Mario Meza, Jason Jollimore, Curtis Ruby, Chuck Sargent, Kylie Bray, Kim Draleaus, Courtney Bell-Scaglione, Rebecca Block, Peter Dandini, Jim Underdown, Scott Wheeler, Tara Witzgall, Tess Davis

1. CORI – all coach's & parents must be CORI cleared, no one can be on the field with the players without being CORI cleared by Lassie League. Everyone has to complete a CORI through Lassie even if they did a CORI through somewhere else.

2. Rules – Dawn Grebinar, chair of the rules committee went through the rules and any proposed changes this year. Changes :

- Major teams can borrow other major players after they have exhausted the minor "call up list".
- Teams must have 5 of their own players to play the game
- Major players must play in the outfield. *This was discussed though and if a team has only 5 of their own layers then 1 of the borrowed players may have to play in the infield. So this rule was going to be edited.*
- A call up player cannot pitch in place of any of your drafted pitchers
- Minor games should have a 1 hr 40 min time limit for all games
- Minors – no unlimited run rule for last inning. *Coaches did not like not having the ability to catch up if they were behind. It was discussed and agreed that prior to the 1 hr 40 min limit if both coaches and umpire agree to an unlimited inning then they would be able to have the last inning of the game unlimited.*
- Intermediate – all games would be 1 hr 40 min time limit. They will finish the inning at the time limit and will have no unlimited run rule in this division.
- Intermediate – Teams ahead by 6 runs will not be allowed to steal
 - Runners can steal every base except for home
 - Runners may steal on the release of the ball
 - Runners can only advance one base on an overthrow. *This was discussed further and it should be that players can only steal one base at a time*
- Sliding – Base runners are strongly encouraged to slide on a play at all bases other than 1st to avoid contact. If they do not slide then it is at the discretion of the umpire to deem the play dangerous and the runner out. Catchers must not block the plate. If they do, the umpire will call interference and the runner will be safe. The umpire will then issue a warning to them. If the catcher blocks the plate a second time, the umpire has the right to call the play malicious/dangerous and a change of catcher may be required.
- Intermediate, minor and major divisions will have play offs during the week right after the regular season. No weekend playoffs. This will be single elimination. *This was discussed by coaches and major coaches really wanted to have the championship game to be a 2/3so this will be changed only for the major division.*
 - Intermediate – will be random draw /or placement of the teams
 - Minors and majors – will be based on their placement during the season
 - Time limit will not be in effect for the championship game only
- Rain outs – need to have a set standard for rescheduling games so they are not left to the end of the season. It was agreed that if a Sunday game is cancelled then it will be played on the following Saturday. If the whole Sunday is canceled then the schedule will simply move to the following Saturday. If it is just one game time then

the coaches can determine which time they will play based on their practice schedule but it will be played on the following Saturday. If a game is cancelled during the week, then it will be made up on Friday of that week.

3. Try outs / pitcher & catcher evaluation

- Try outs are Saturday February 23rd and March 3rd
- All coaches will get rating sheets for the try outs and minor coaches will volunteer to run the major drills and the major coaches will run the minor drills to allow coaches in that division to rate players.
- Lauren Hatfield, Lee Beaulac and Tess Davis will be rating pitchers and catchers for both divisions. The players will then be listed as an A, B or C depending on how many pitchers and catchers register in each division with the goal to evenly disperse them. The number of pitchers and catchers per team will be solely dependent upon how many try out for each division.

4. Draft

- Discussed several options for the minor and major divisions. Nichole discussed all players going through try outs with coaches rating them and then all teams drafting from scratch. Nichole also discussed teams keeping any returning players if they want to return to the same team and then drafting only those new players and players moving into new divisions and there also could be people other than coaches rating the players and then the coaches would get a spreadsheet at draft with ratings and numbers to draft. We also discussed the random draw that the article that was sent to all coaches discussed.

Coaches discussed these options and want to be able to rate the players themselves. Both minors and majors discussed the options and voted unanimously to keep the current teams the same and allow the new teams to draft from the pool of players first to build their teams until they reach the numbers of the other teams who will then get picks as well to complete their teams.

5. Concession volunteers – discussed different ideas to try to get parent volunteers in concession. It was agreed that coaches will get a parent signup sheet and will be responsible to assign a parent for each of their home games. If the parent does not want to volunteer on their day then they will have the option to pay \$20 to hire a teenager to work in the concession stand instead. Coaches agreed that games will be delayed until a parent is in the concession stand.

6. Wachusett league – Nichole spoke to a representative from the Wachusett league to find out more information about their league and how Lassie may be able to play with them to increase the amount of games our smaller divisions play. This league consists of Sterling / Princeton, Holden, Clinton, Boylston, Rutland, West Boylston cities / towns. They all run their own leagues but then join to play against each other. Their ages are different from ours as they organize their players more like travel ball using 8U, 10U, 12U and 16U. Their league only goes up to 16. Then they all pay into the Wachusett League for umpires and fees. Their season starts on April 22nd.

There was mixed opinions about traveling. Lassie has always been in town and several comments were that parents may not want to travel. Shawn felt that it was too late to spring this on parents now to travel but suggested maybe we could get them to come to Lassie to play games. It was suggested to put out a poll to families about their thoughts about traveling in the future. Some problems that we would have is that our age brackets are different so we would have to see how that could be adjusted if we move forward in the future.

Nichole reported that she had volunteered to attend their next board meeting to speak to them more and find out if they would be willing to come to our complex this year for our smaller divisions.

7. Calendar raffles - coaches need to remind players about getting their raffles into the concession stand.

8. BOD meetings – Coaches are expected to attend the 1x/month BOD meetings during the season to be aware of what is going on in the league. Also during these meetings they can help with ideas and suggestions for the league. This meeting is the first Wednesday of each month.

9. other

- The Dick's shopping day is in March. The coupon was sent out to all users and is posted on the website and FB page. There will be copies of the coupon at try outs as well. It was requested that they all share the coupon as Lassie has a specific bar code that is registered to us and the amount of money we bring onto the store depends on how much Lassie will get in a donation the following year. Anyone can use this coupon and it does not have to be a softball purchase.
- Opening day is Saturday April 27th with a rain date of the 28th. We will be doing pictures on this day as well.