

SaddleBrooke Senior Softball Board of Directors Meeting May 2, 2024 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM. Present were Paul Auster, George Corrick, Barry Emmons, Bill Webster, and Rick Ervin. Absent were Phil Cavicchia and Chuck Kill. Also present was Don Gentner.

-Review April '24 Treasurer's Report –We are running \$435 ahead of budget for the year. We received \$100 from the dance club for use of the field last month, 2 sponsors paid for 2024, and a \$270 donation for spare uniforms this month. We spent money on new Equipment Room lights and fertilizer. Accepted as is with no questions.

-April Meeting Minutes – The minutes were accepted as is.

-Sponsorship Update – Paul Auster had two existing sponsors pay. We have one who has not yet paid for 2024 despite Paul's follow-up. Paul also signed up two new sponsors. We have one opening left. The banner maintenance team replaced 5 boards in April and hung one of the new sponsor's banners.

-Team Rebalancing - Bill W. asked to discuss what could be done about forced team rebalancing. The Sidewinder teams were forced to rebalance even though Bill asked the commissioner not to. No decision was made other than Paul to discuss the situation with Bob Chiarello the head commissioner.

-Website Data – Paul asked the board's opinion of the data scrape files send by Rich Levaro. It was intended to be a tool for the CTS by combining all data from a season into one group by player (for those who play multiple games and leagues each week). The general consensus was it was somewhat interesting but not something we'd necessarily pursue.

-HOA Tournament - The tourney is scheduled for June 8. Four teams and 3 games. They'll need umpires and scorers and will again distribute gift cards for those helping out. They plan to provide food, have a gelato truck, and a bouncy house for the families. They'll have some one-hour practices in the afternoons after our games/practice times. Paul will coordinate opening the field for the practices

-Scoring Line Clarification - The Commit line stays where it is. The scoring line will end at a red brush in the same position it has been. We will add a diagonal line from the corner of the Commit line and the foul line to the red brush to help direct runners to the right and avoid crossing the dead zone area. The clarification is that anyone crossing to the left of the red brush and the home plate/batting mat is out. There were some scenarios discussed. i.e. crossing the diagonal line (not out if they cross the scoring line correctly) and stepping on the scoring line and then stepping into the dead zone (not out). All agreed that the decision is based on first footfall.

-Pitching Screen Placement – Don reviewed the suggested change to place the pitching screen 15 feet in the front pitching mound and centered on the mound/home plate. Pitchers would be required to pitch OVER the screen. It was proposed as a change for safety since we'd been having a rash of hit pitchers and the umpires have been inconsistent in enforcing the existing "behind the screen" rule. The change also has the benefit of eliminating low pitches and, thus eliminates two judgmental rules for the home plate umpire to monitor.

The Rules Committee proposed testing the change only in the Competitive league as a trial for the Spring season. After discussion of the proposal and the weeks of practice sessions it was decided that the proposal would be rejected (the vote for 1 in favor and 4 the reject). The Board decided the change should cover all leagues. This was voted on and approved unanimously. Paul will discuss with Dennis to ensure all umpires are aware. Don was to draft the member notice and get to George to deliver.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15
Submitted by Barry Emmons