

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, DISTRICT 18

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING – March 19, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Milan Mrakich, DA, Diane Bowen, ADA. Ray Aragon & John Seligman, Alhambra American, Christina Rodriguez, South El Monte, Eric Horn, Northeast Los Angeles, Alberto Ocon, South Pasadena, Jared Barney, Temple City American, Rick Bowen, Temple City National.

ABSENT: East Alhambra, El Monte National, El Monte Eastern, Los Angeles.

The meeting was called to order and held at the Temple City Community Center.

INTRODUCTIONS: Roll call was taken, and new President Jared Barney from Temple City American was introduced. Milan reminded presidents if they were unable to come to the District meeting they should send a board member to represent the league. Milan announced the next meeting scheduled for April 3rd would be cancelled, as he knows how busy everyone is at this time. The next meeting will be April 17th. Milan also informed presidents he has created an officers email group that he will periodically be sending generic information to regarding LL matters. If any officers are changed, please let Milan know.

REQUIRED SUBMITTALS: Milan handed out the updated Required Submittals list. Milan again discussed Residency Waivers and IId and IVh waivers. All waivers need to be submitted so that they can be processed timely. Milan approves IId waivers, but IVh waivers need to go to headquarters for processing. Residency waivers can be used for players out of league boundaries or players in areas with no LL programs. Milan always recommends full eligibility, but some are coming back as “red shirts” for this season with full all-star eligibility next season. Waivers are due now and Milan reminded presidents the database is shut down on June 1st and no late waivers can be processed. Many times leagues do not realize they need a waiver, or a player is out of boundaries until they are on an all-star team, and then it is too late to apply for the waiver.

The ASAP plan is presently due. Leagues receive a 15% discount on insurance if they have an approved ASAP plan, and District will receive an incentive if all leagues’ plans are submitted before March 22, 2024 (moved from April 1st). Leagues are required to have approved ASAP plans in order to apply to host tournaments. Background checks were discussed, the formula is 3-4 checks should be done on each team chartered. Presently a few leagues do not have enough background checks done.

COMBINED PLAY & INTERLEAGUE FORMS: Milan discussed and handed out samples of the forms and explained how they need to be filled out on the LL database, accepted by each involved league, and approved by the D.A. and then LL headquarters. Leagues need to make sure if they have combined with another league to field a team they need to fill out the forms on the database. Also, if they plan to play interleague games OUTSIDE of district a forms needs to be completed. The forms are then approved by the involved leagues, both districts, and LL headquarters. Interleague play within the district does not require any paperwork.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/TOURNAMENTS: Milan went over the district and tournament date information. He hopes to work around the 4th of July during tournaments. He asked Presidents if they preferred to keep the same format in tournament play, i.e. double elimination, and the consensus was to keep double elimination, no modified schedules.

Tournament teams can be announced and start practice May 15th. District would like to begin certification at that time. Books should be brought to Mike and Diane by the Player Agent or President, Presidents are advised to not send over coaches with their books.

TOURNAMENT HOSTS: Milan said the tournament schedules will be based on how many teams are entered. Multiple teams can be entered for TOC, and 2 teams can be entered in brackets for All-stars. Tournament hosts and tournament teams will decide how fast the TOCs can be played as single elimination, so there is a break between TOC and All-Stars. Leagues are advised to poll their parents in the way that some leagues do, sending out a letter giving tournament dates to parents so that they don't plan vacations during the all-star season. We have encountered in the past where teams win district but then when advancing to section half their team goes out of town and they are out in two games because of this factor. Our section with Districts 19, 20 and 23 is a very hard section. If teams advance out of section they are very competitive with state tournaments advancing to Regional tournaments. Letters should also tell parents what documents will be needed to certify the player.

2025 SEASON REGULATION II CHANGE: Milan again briefly mentioned the ramifications of Regulation II, taking effect in 2025, in which all NEW first-time players age 7 and under may register in any LL program without respect to eligibility of residence or school, and they are able to stay at the league for their entire career.

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: Diane reported on the Junior District-wide Interlock. Mike has already sent out a schedule through March and is working on the April schedule. It is hoped leagues have advised Mike if they are taking off any time during spring break/Easter. So far things seem to be going fine. SEM confirmed they are providing the umpires at their Junior field and will bill leagues for the umpire fees when visiting team are the HOME team at the SEM field.

SENIOR BASEBALL: Leagues advised District that they plan to field Senior baseball teams: South Pasadena, Northeast Los Angeles, South El Monte, Temple City National, and El Monte Eastern. Milan and Diane encouraged leagues to pursue this and suggested if enough leagues do form teams the District would create a game schedule between the teams and then managers from all the teams hold tryouts and/or form one District 18 team from all the teams. This would be a powerhouse team, and would advance to Section. The team can have 16 players. The former requirement that senior teams play 8 preseason games has been dropped. More discussion was had about this possibility. At the April 17th meeting Mike will poll the leagues and we will need firm commitments so that Mike can create a schedule and we can enter the team into section tournaments. CIF players cannot participate until after May 15th. Tournaments for section tournaments begin June 25th.

As stated prior, the meeting schedule for April 3rd is cancelled, the next meeting will be WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th.

Written by Diane Bowen, District Secretary