

Hardball Board Meeting  
High Plains Community Center Cafeteria  
December 4, 2023

Attendees:

Joe Smeraglino	Melvin Saunders	Ryan Mann	Krista Rogalski
Adam Dinihanian	Brian Remigio	BJ Palumbo	Dino Guerra
Alex Biro	Joshua Lemon	Jennifer Schempp	Mike Marchetti
Bryan Terlizzi	Jay Jaffer	John Wyskiel	Paul Ballas
Luciano Verdura	Anthony Ayala	Joe Michel	Jeff Silverman

Start of meeting: 7:02 PM

*Meeting led by VP of Baseball, Joe Smeraglino*

Purpose of the meeting:

- Give everyone the opportunity to hear what is being planned and how anyone can help
- Create a board for the baseball side of OLL in case anything needs to be addressed or to vote for a postseason manager.
  - Executive board meetings are closed door meetings and this is more of a town hall forum
  - Need to attend 50% or more meetings to be eligible to vote
- Gives the opportunity for open discussion to address any questions or concerns for the upcoming season
- The plan for meetings, going forward is to meet a week before OLL executive board meetings so anything discussed can be brought to the attention of the executive board, if needed.
  - Meeting on a certain day of the week may not happen because of work schedule.

Joe Smeraglino stated that, based on their Executive Board positions, Adam, Bryan, Alex and himself are only current members of the hardball board.

Are there any in attendance that wants to be voted in as a new hardball member?

- Everyone in attendance would like to be voted in as a new hardball member.

*Motion to approve the new members by Krista Rogalski*

*Seconded by John Wyskiel*

*All in favor*

Timeline of season

- Proposal is similar as last year following Spring Break
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> is the week of Spring Break
- Starting games proposed to start on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - May try to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> game in a week for Majors and Easterns to end regular season earlier, as they have playoffs
  - 2 games a week for 6 weeks for T-ball, Coach Pitch and Rookie division, try to not go past school season
- Opening day target date is April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Teams will be put together in March

## Volunteers

- Wants to have as many volunteers as possible this year to ensure a successful season

## Opening day:

- If anyone would like to be part of the committee, let Joe know
  - Joe Michel, Krista Rogalski, Adam Dinihanian, Alex Biro, Jenn Schempp and Jay Jaffer have volunteered so far to be part of the committee. Will add people that are interested at next meeting.
- Game stations with Amity High School before ceremony went well the last 2 years and will look to do again.
- OLL Merchandise will be sold and snack stand open. Games start the week of opening day and games played on opening day
- Request to have opening day ceremony start 30-60 minutes after the softball ceremony
- Wants to brainstorm other activities or announcements of teams to make it feel more interactive
- Will look to have T-ball on a separate day based on the amount of players usually involved

## Registration will open on January 1<sup>st</sup>

- Registration will close on February 24<sup>th</sup>
- Hardball, \$180 early bird, \$200 after deadline
- Carl Tonucci received yard signs to promote sign ups for baseball/softball
- Want to encourage managers and coaches to get involved
  - Joe wants to potentially have a managers/coaches zoom session for interested volunteers to answer questions that first time coaches may have
  - Q&A session may be good for first time coaches, social media and on website to promote coaches needed
  - Discount for first time coaches for t-ball/coach pitch discussed to help fill coaching. This will be brought up at e-board meeting
  - Videos on drills to use for younger players/short 30 second videos – Bryan Terlizzi will help coordinate

## Field improvement suggestions

- Fencing
- OT-1 lips on field were removed last year
- T-ball growing the grass to make it look like a baseball field
- Additional batting cage near Roach
- New netting donated by Grind
- Scoreboard on Roche
- Dugouts
- Mound and home plate on Roach
- Bullpen on Roche 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline

By next meeting, would want a timeline of manager interview and evaluations so we can communicate to the league properly.

Will continue to use GameChanger for the upcoming season and wants to provide better training, possible at the coach's meeting.

- Communicate with coaches on how to use GameChanger. Official scorekeepers used during spring for Easterns/Majors.

Other thoughts and suggestions brought up

- BJ Palumbo will handle questions when it comes to ability of players looking to be moved up to another level
- T-ball, Coach Pitch and Rookies, special requests are honored to certain extent. Easterns/Majors will be draft format
- Managers are picked first, then teams
- January preseason workouts at Grind facility starting in January. Will be Sunday evenings possibly 5-8 PM.
- Possible action plan for behavior issues
- Possible commissioners at each level to help with coach pitch pitching issues
- Possible high school kids to help with coaching for community service hours but they may be busy with their schedule
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Chips fundraiser.

Meeting end time: 8:15 PM

*Motion to adjourn: Krista Rogalski and John Wyskiel*

*Seconded by BJ Palumbo*

*All in favor*