**Rosemount Girls Traveling Fastpitch Softball Minutes**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date: 06/04/2023**

**Time:** **6:00** PM

**Location:** Rosemount Community Center, Rm 212

**Present:** Doug Kasper, Chad Kalstabakken, Shanna Guerink, Debbie Stovall, Heidi McDonald, Tricia Paulson, Shelby Nutting-Veliz, Janie Lambert, Jill Steenberg, Nicole Bradley, Shelby Pogatchnik, Mindy McBride, Amy Hall, Cory Samuelson, Danielle Waage

**Not Present:**  N/a

**Guests:** Dodi Matti, Mark Reierson - RAAA liaison

**Meeting Called to Order**: **6:03** PM

**Secretary's Report: (Janie Lambert)** GTFS Board approved meeting minutes from 5/7/2023 via email on 8/4/2023. Posted on website

**Treasurer’s Report: (Shanna Guerink)** $43,805.99 balance ending budget balance 5/31/2023

**Meeting Topics**

* **Shout Outs/Welcome Guests**
  + We still have an open board position for fields and umpires - please keep promoting
  + Dodi and Mark here representing RAAA
* **Next Board Meeting: July 9** (currently scheduled meeting date, however that is the Sunday of state tournament)
  + Discussion around changing date or doing virtually? TBD
* **Upcoming Timeline review (Doug)**
  + Doug provided link to Public Google Calendar for upcoming important dates. Link to be shared with families for awareness of important dates (state tournaments in spring/fall, parent meeting, etc).
    - <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/3?cid=dHJhdmVsaW5nLXNvZnRiYWxsQHJvc2Vtb3VudC1hYWEub3Jn>
  + Internal Board Softball Calendar of to-dos from last year
    - Doug provided link to individual board members to utilize for reminders for next year or reminders when passing on a board position to a new member
  + Upcoming events: Shamrock Showdown tournament, State qualifier tournaments, state tournaments, fall ball registration (beginning of July)

**Larger Topics for Discussion & Focus**

* **Tournament (Debbie)**
  + Teams: 1 team dropped out from 12U B/C bracket
    - Reached out to 1 team that had inquired with an offer of discounted registration fee - waiting to hear back
    - No teams on current waiting list for this level
    - Will advertise via MN softball/social media and potentially offer for free
  + Awards:
    - Medals for 1st place/2nd place in bracket
      * 3rd place medals for top bracket
      * Individual trophies and medals for 1st place in the top bracket
        + Have 90, option to give extras to coaches for end of season awards
  + Tournament rules
    - Drop 3rd strike and 5 run per half inning rules will be different based on bracket play (encourage coaches to read through tournament rules)
    - Walk up and pre-game music will be allowed (discretion of ump and/or on-site coordinator if complaint received and deemed disruptive)
    - Designated warm up areas with map included in tournament packet
    - 8U tie-breaker rule: 1 extra inning and then coin flip to end game if still tied
      * Other levels with follow tie-breaker rule with runner on 2nd and 1 out
    - Game time limits
      * 60 minute games for pool play
      * 65 minute games for bracket
      * A new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning
  + Accommodations/Amenities
    - Port-a-potties are all set with request for extra toilet paper and soap/hand sanitizer
    - Parking spots reserved for “tournament runner volunteers”
    - Due to limited shade options at Erickson, will send reminder to teams to bring EZ ups/canopies
  + Fences at Erickson
    - Debbie able to recruit a volunteer to use metal detector to locate the 190 holes for placement; volunteer will mark with spray paint
    - Volunteers set for shift to start at 7 on Thursday for set up, however some fields not available until 8 due to basement games
    - Need board member to be present Thursday night for signing in volunteers, providing instruction and unlocking the shed (Chad & Shelby N-V volunteered)
  + Banners:
    - 2 welcome banners and 2 sponsor banners to hang at both locations
    - Tricia & Mindy volunteered - plan to hang by 4PM Friday
  + Rain plan
    - Discussion around game times shortened, etc
    - City will not drag the fields if it is raining
  + Bracket Winner team pictures
    - Obtain team pictures of 1st place teams to update on tournament website
* **Tournament Volunteer (Shelby N-V)**
  + 5 open shifts remaining
    - May need to hire or have board step in to help
  + Shelby N-V to reach out to families that have only signed up for 1 shift and families that have not signed up at all
* **Tournament Equipment (Cory)**
  + New grill has arrived (purchased new on Amazon)
  + Working with baseball regarding propane tanks
  + City to deliver a pallet of chalk 6/5
  + Blue flame pitching machines are set and working (will be needed on fields 1, 2, 3, 4) for 8U
  + Purchased 2 large First Aid Kits
  + Batters box chalk templates are missing (reaching out to baseball to see if softball one was taken to UMore)
  + Instructions for turning on lights at Erickson will be up at the fields
* **Tournament Concessions (Shelby P & Nicole)**
  + Have purchased majority of supplies
  + Erickson building key can be picked up at RCC park n rec department office this week
  + Will have 2 concession runner volunteers from 10-2 on Sat/Sun to run between Shannon/Erickson, to the store, etc
  + Jill has hot spots for square payments
    - Discussion surrounding use of Venmo; RAAA does not allow Venmo, however liaisons will inquire reasoning
  + Vendors:
    - Discussion around where vendors should be located, all need power source
    - Rita’s Italian Ice on site
    - Nautical Bowls on site at Erickson on Saturday
    - New tshirt vendor change - Northwest Designs Ink printing shirts onsite
  + Cash boxes:
    - Shanna will be picking up the seed money on Wednesday
    - Nicole will bring home at end of shifts and Shanna will pick up all cash on Sunday
* **Tournament Marketing (Janie)**
  + Created Sponsorship levels (Gold, Blue, Green) based on donation
    - Gold = $1,000
      * CA Gear
    - Blue = $500
      * Motorwerks BMW
    - Green = $250
      * East Valley Chiropractic
      * Culver’s (donated 346 concrete mixer coupons)
        + Plan to divide coupons for coaches to hand out to player of their choice (will include in tourney packet)
  + Reached out to various local businesses for sponsorship and to prepare them for influx of customers
  + Grafix Shoppe will be printing sponsorship banners (Janie will pick up Friday)
  + Advertised tournament via “Hometown Source”
  + Heidi to post “Gold” sponsor on Facebook; Debbie to share via tourney machine
  + Heidi to post all sponsors logos/names on website
* **Age cut off date change (Doug)**
  + Update: MN Softball is changing but USSSA is not. Other local organizations are staying the same for now
  + 10U/12U/14U higher level teams play in some USSSA tournaments
    - Teams wouldn’t be eligible to play in these tourneys if we follow MN softball changes
    - What is best for the program and overall mission?
    - Plan to discuss with RAAA and make the final decision before fall ball registration

**5 Minute Updates**

**(**For sake of time we will not be doing updates for every group this month)

* **Player Development (Amy & Danielle)**
  + Plan to reach out to coaches to check in with teams to see if resources or speciality options (pitching, catching, etc) are needed or what gaps in players they are seeing
    - Idea to incorporate more game-like situations/strategy into dome
  + Awareness that fall ball will have 8U players move up to 10U and will need pitchers
    - Parent/player pitching session/clinic?
      * 12U pitchers could help
      * Collaboration with Strike Zone Sports or DCTC softball players?
* **Uniforms & Apparel (Tricia)**
  + New fastpitch apparel items on CA Gear website
  + Looking into an additional business/shop for more apparel options
* **Community & Culture (Jill)**
  + Kudos to all who helped with varsity youth night!
  + Jill is gathering feedback from team managers
  + Looking into Leprechaun days options (booth, parade, etc)
* **Team/Coach Selection Process Notes(Doug)**
  + Ideas with ranked and notes added after May meeting

1. Coach Selection Process

Have interview committee meet

Then have a larger board meeting to rank

? coach candidates present or not?

Where in the pick zone do we want coaches coming from if multiple candidates Natural vs bubble

1. Balance of teams: When we have 2 teams at a level? Do we have equally balanced teams. Suggest start pushing for 2 10U A teams, 2 B teams. Suggestion from Tri-County Competition committee.
   1. Pros and Cons
   2. If so then later need to figure out coach selection process team selection
2. Additional Tryout metrics
   1. Coaching feedback?
   2. age considerations
   3. sports, vacation conflicts
3. Team selection process without names
4. Locking Pitchers and or Catchers
5. Coaches request to move player up?
   1. What is the formal process to go through this.
6. Players ability to move down - Pitchers & catchers, do we get rid of this option
7. Families with multiples - do we give choice to be on the same team?
   1. decide what this would look like

* Other Considerations:
  + Check in on new coaches new to the program?
    - Resources, collaborate practices, etc
  + Idea to have some type of coach mentor on the board who is not a current coach
    - Currently managed by VP
  + Discussion on 8U try out/skill evaluation or some type of skills clinic
    - Would need to develop a bylaw if implemented
  + 14U try out date
    - Before or after club try outs?
  + Nationals/state
    - Let Shanna know when registered
  + MN Selects tournament
    - Coaches can nominate 2 players from the team, coaches need to be aware of the deadline
    - Idea to have teammates vote?
  + Contract has been renewed with the dome
  + Athletechs is going away as of July 1
    - RAAA was notified at the end of April
    - Converting to Sports Engine
* **Meeting adjourned @ 8:11 PM**
* **Next regularly meeting scheduled for July ???, 2023; date and time TBD due to conflict with state tournament**
* **Meeting minutes prepared by: Janie Lambert, Secretary**