



Board Meeting

April 9, 2020

Meeting Start time: 8:00 pm

Meeting End time: 9:00 pm

Board Members Present: Lucy Campbell, Kurt Fluegge, Chris Freer, Cesar Garcia, Larry Holden, Fred Clarke, Derek Roth, Erika Satterlund, Alan Wittman, Soren Llanes, Elisabeth Carroll

Note: This meeting was held virtually via Zoom in compliance with Governor Jay Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes

Updates

The pandemic continues and information is changing constantly. Families are asking about what to expect for our season, but it is hard to say. The decision about whether or not Little League will be canceled isn't ours to make. Little League International is not responsible for canceling either.

We know that the Bellevue School District is planning to make a decision about field use on May 4th. City fields could be available after June 1st. It seems unlikely that school fields would reopen on May 4th, but we don't have any other information at this point. It has been announced that all-star minimum game requirements would be waived and there would be no out-of-state travel this season.

Bellevue East (BE) had their board meeting two nights ago and discussed the possibility of not interlocking. Rick (President BE) noticed that from mid/late July through August there is zero field availability because fields have already been reserved by summer ball, football, and other programs. BE created a survey for families asking about ages of players in their family, flexibility, preferences about beginning the season on various dates, and levels they are interested in. They decided to set two different dates as cutoffs for lower and upper divisions.

District 9 provided us with a Safe-to-Restart checklist. Brainstorming about what this could look for Thunderbird:

- Kids could practice during the week with "tournament style" scheduled games on the weekend? Maybe we could schedule lots of games in a short period of time. Some players could have several games one weekend, then none the next? We could put a time cap on the length of games and schedule them back-to-back. Maybe there could be as many as five games scheduled on a weekend day.

- Double header rules could be eliminated for all levels, although pitchers would still be protected with limits.
- If there are neighboring leagues unable to offer programs, we could offer to enroll their players, JUST for this season.
- Players wouldn't wear uniforms, just play softball/baseball. This would eliminate all expenses other than fields, insurance, storage, etc.

Thoughts about Starting our Season

We have asked for guidance about what would be appropriate with refunds to families. No decisions have been made yet. We want to be as accommodating and gracious as possible.

It makes sense to start by surveying our families. Once restrictions are lifted, things will most likely move very quickly and we want to have a plan in place. We want to know how late in the season players and coaches are willing to participate. Hopefully families will be very excited. "We consider ourselves a community organization that would like to give your child the chance to hang out with other children three-four days/week in a low exposure sport."

We would like to know our coaches preferences and availability. Fred could make calls to the Majors coaches to talk one-to-one and find out where they are at. Lucy would like to make a list of questions for him to ask so we have the same information from everyone.

Lucy will take our notes to Rick and share our plan, with several date scenarios. If we decide NOT to interlock, these ideas could be considered:

- Maybe combine some divisions and our teams would play against each other. We could split Coast kids throughout AAA and Majors to make more teams, being sure to comply with Little League Rules.
- Combining divisions in softball wouldn't work for our league. Maybe D-9 will accept responsibility for softball planning and scheduling? Lucy will discuss this with Janice.
- Maybe girls and boys could play on the same team. Our softball survey can ask "Would your daughter be willing to participate on a mixed-gender baseball team?"
- To determine whether or not a softball or baseball game would be played, athletes could be counted. If more girls show up, softball could be played? If more boys show up, baseball, could be played?

Opening Day

We should let go of the plans we made. Even if the Newport High School field opened late in the season, we wouldn't want 500-600 people to gather together in close proximity for our celebration. Chris has already notified vendors. Instead of our professional team photos, a parent can simply take one. Teams can agree on colored t-shirts to wear instead of uniforms.

Expenses

We have already been billed a very large amount for fields prior to the shut-down. Since there were only three practices held in 1.5 weeks, we could try to work this out. Larry volunteered to look over the bills, with support from Fred and Lucy. We are also responsible for our public storage fee and two outstanding board member reimbursements. Since Soren needs to have co-signers before checks are issued, we will solve this by mailing them to each other for signatures.

We should receive confirmation from the school district to make sure all April field reservations are canceled. Lucy will double check invoices from the school district and city.