



## 2017 Gopher State Baseball League

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2017

Courtyard by Marriott, Roseville

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Patrick Reese at 6:15pm on October 25, 2017 at Courtyard by Marriott.

**MYAS Staff Present:** Pat Reese, Tony Groff, Eric Rathke and Bobby Strickland

**Associations Present:** Armstrong Cooper Youth Baseball Association, Big Lake Baseball, Blaine Area Traveling Baseball Association, Buffalo Baseball Association, Elk River Youth Baseball, Forest Lake Baseball Association, Fridley Baseball Association, Mahtomedi Youth Baseball, Mora Traveling Baseball Association, Orono Baseball Association, Pine City, Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association, Rogers-Otsego Youth Baseball, Roseville Area Youth Baseball, Shoreview Area Youth Baseball, St. Francis Youth Baseball Association, St. Michael Albertville Youth Baseball.

**2017 Review:** 429 teams from 69 Member Associations is the highest amount of associations the Gopher State Baseball League has had in one season. 40 Champions were crowned this year from 9u to 19u. The 14AAA (Foley) and 15AAA (Anoka) league champions played at Target Field in the Play Ball! Minnesota Championship game. The Gopher State Baseball League All-Star Series down to 329 players at ages 13u-15u.

**Items Discussed:** **Age/Grade Determination-** Currently Gopher State Baseball traveling teams are classified by age only. USSSA has moved to letting teams classify by age OR grade at 13u/7<sup>th</sup> grade and up. It was determined by the Advisory Committee that Gopher State Baseball teams should stay age only as it would only cause issues to add grade since grade based teams would not be able to enter tournaments.

**9u Classification-** There was discussion on whether or not 9u traveling should be classified into AAA and AA or left "open". It was determined that 9u traveling baseball will remain classified as "open" for the 2018 Gopher State Baseball season.

**9u Inning Run Limit-** Since 9u is considered an introductory age to traveling, it was voted on that there will now be a 6 run limit per inning (except the last designated inning will be unlimited) for all GSBL regular season games. This rule will not be in effect for Gopher State tournaments or league playoffs.

**Ejection Rule-** In past seasons, if a coach, player, or spectator was ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, they would be suspended for the remainder of the season until they petition their suspension to their local association. At this point, the association could overturn the suspension on a first time offense to any length they felt necessary. New for 2018, an addition to the rule will be a one game minimum suspension. Now, when a season suspension is petitioned, the lowest an association could change a year suspension for is a minimum of one game.

**Bat Standards-** After much discussion on if Gopher State should (1)stay with USSSA bat standards, (2)have a one year transition to USA bat standards, or (3)have an immediate switch to USA bat standards, it was determined to stay with USSSA bat Standards for the foreseeable future. As a side note, the USSSA bat standards include USA bats so either bat may be used for league play. As always, there will be no rule on how associations run their tournaments. If an association decides to run a USA only bat standard tournament, it will not hinder them getting a GSTC qualifier.

**Pitch Inning Limits for League Playoffs-** It was discussed to eliminate the innings pitched rule for league playoffs only and just have the pitch count rule in effect. It was ultimately voted on to keep the rule as it is and have pitch limitation be the same through the regular season and the playoffs.

The MYAS baseball staff will continue to promote the Gopher State Baseball League to the western communities in an effort to cut down the distance of travel between teams on the western part of the state.

MYAS will continue to recognize two different baseball seasons. April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> will be reserved for community association baseball only. The MYAS baseball staff will continue to support community associations throughout this season. August 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> is considered the "open" season.

Minutes Submitted By Pat Reese