



## 2018 Gopher State Baseball League

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2018 Pizza Ranch, Crystal

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Patrick Reese at 6:00pm on October 10, 2018 at Pizza Ranch.

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

**Associations Present:** Alexandria Baseball Association, Andover Baseball Association, Anoka-Ramsey Baseball Association, Big Lake Baseball, Blaine Area Traveling Baseball Association, Brooklyn Park Baseball Association, Buffalo Baseball Association, Centennial Baseball Association, Elk River Youth Baseball, Forest Lake Baseball Association, Mora Traveling Baseball Association, Pine City, Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association, Rogers-Otsego Youth Baseball, Roseville Area Youth Baseball, St. Francis Youth Baseball Association, St. Michael Albertville Youth Baseball, Zimmerman Baseball Association.

**2018 Review:** 411 teams from 70 Member Associations is the highest amount of associations the Gopher State Baseball League has had in one season. 38 Champions were crowned this year from 9u to 19u. The 14AAA (STMA) and 15AAA (Forest Lake) league champions played at Target Field in the Play Ball! Minnesota Championship game. The Gopher State Baseball League All-Star Series up to 390 players at ages 13u-15u.

**Items Discussed:** **Continuous Batting/Free Substitution-** In past seasons the 15AAA, 15AA, 14AAA and 14AA play under high school rules for most rules including substitution and batting lineups. It was discussed at length if this should stay the same, add an option to use continuous batting/free substitution or only use continuous batting/free substitution. The committee decided to vote on this by age group. For 14AAA and 14AA, there will now be an option in GSBL play to use either high school rules or continuous batting/free substitution for each game. 15AAA and 15AA however will remain under high school rules for substitution and batting lineups.

**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.

**Bat Standards-** We once again discussed 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 almost unanimously determined to once again 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.

The GSBL Playoffs time length was discussed to determine if there was a way to not have the playoffs packed into a small window of time while the State Tournaments going on. To not have the season shortened and to not make the playoff go longer, it was ultimately decided to keep the playoffs as they are. The one chance that will be made is whenever possible, championship games will be on Wednesdays. Otherwise they will be on Tuesdays or Thursdays to stay away from State Tournament weekends.

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