



2019 Gopher State Baseball League

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2019 Pizza Ranch, Crystal

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Patrick Reese at 6:00pm on October 22, 2019 at Pizza Ranch.

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

Associations Present: Andover Baseball Association, Big Lake Baseball, Blaine Area Traveling Baseball Association, Brooklyn Park Baseball Association, Buffalo Baseball Association, Coon Rapids Baseball Association, Elk River Youth Baseball, Forest Lake Baseball Association, Fridley Baseball Association, Monticello Baseball Association, Osseo Maple Grove Baseball Association, Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association, Rogers-Otsego Youth Baseball, Spring Lake Park Baseball Association, St. Francis Youth Baseball Association.

2019 Review: 388 teams from over 60 Member Associations. 38 Champions were crowned this year from 9u to 19u. The 14AAA (Sartell) and 15AAA (Blaine) league champions played at Target Field in the Play Ball! Minnesota Championship game. The Gopher State Baseball League All-Star Series had 412 players at age groups of 13u-15u which is our largest participation yet.

Items Discussed: **NOCSAE Chest Protectors for 9u-14u** – The High School is now requiring having new chest protection for catchers. There was a long discuss on if this is necessary at the younger age levels or not. Many issues came up in the possibility of this chest protector being the new standard. These concerns had to do with the lack of research on the additional benefit to these chest protectors, the fit on these protectors on smaller players, and that no other youth national organizations are requiring these, they are just the high school level. It was ultimately decided to not require it but strongly recommend them and revisit it next season.

Number of League Game at 10u-14u - There was discussion on whether or not we should shorten the season at 10u-14u from 16 league games down to a 12 or 14 game schedules. It seemed to have the most discussion with the 13u and 14u year old levels. The issue is that some felt that there are too many games and not enough practice time to develop their players. After a lengthy discussion, it was voted against by the majority to shorten the season and for 2020, 10u-14u will remain at 16 games. Many felt that league games could be used as development time and that teams could work to spread out their games more.

Bat Standards– Bat standards were briefly mentioned on two levels: (1) the fact the nationally that USSSA is having 13u go to -8 bat. The room all agreed that is not necessary and we will stick with our current bat standards that were set for our state to keep a -10 at 13u. (2) If we switch to USA or remain USSSA. This was not voted on since it has the past two years and the room felt there was no need to discuss and the league was happy to remain with USSSA bats.

Continuous Batting/Free Substitution- Last season we moved to having an option for Continuous Batting for 14AAA and 14AA. This seemed to go well after the first year and will remain the same. It was brought up if we should have this option for 15AAA and 15AA however it was quickly turned down and it will remain under straight high school rules.

The GSBL Playoffs were brought up again to see if there is a way that we can help out teams that have state tournaments going on. We will look at different ideas with the playoffs to help with July and the madness that takes place.