

Final Minutes

VSS Board of Directors Meeting February 22, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Board Members Present –

League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin

Internal Competition – Bill Hettinger

Social Committee – Ronny Griffith

Director of Umpires – Keven Busque

Public Relations - Kevin Massey

External Competition - Ken Hartwright

Treasurer – Richard Nabel

Recording Secretary -Gail Gretzmacher

Past Commissioner – Craig Tanner

Guest: Dave Hutchins

Absent none

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting.

Motion passed and Bill will post to the league website.

Old Business

- *The 2021 Season registration information was sent via email to membership on January 19, 2021*
- *The VSS website was updated by Bill on January 19, 2021 with:*
 - *the registration information for 2021 season and the Commissioner's letter on the 2021 fees*
 - *The final VSS October 23, 2020 Board meeting minutes and the DRAFT January 14, 2021 Board meeting minutes*

New Business/Discussion

Registration –

- *Kevin C to send out a second reminder notice to membership about registration deadline and refund due date of April 18*
- *Bill reported 42 registrations received*

Softball bats & policy:

- *A suggestion was made to consider selling our league shared bats to membership as a funding source. There was a bit of discussion and this is likely something that will not be pursued but will be further discussed at the next meeting.*

- *It was noted that with a revision to the rules in 2020, the bat policy language was inadvertently removed. A revised bat policy was discussed and the following was approved and will be posted to the web site.*
 - *The first two paragraphs of section L were modified and the senior bat language was added.*

Note: BPF= Bat Performance Factor

 - *Bats: In order for a bat to be legal, a) it must have an ASA certification stamp if the bat was manufactured in 2020 or before, or b) it must have a USA sticker if the bat was manufactured in 2021 or later. This ensures the bat will have a ball launch velocity of 98 mph or less when using our 44/375 core league approved softballs.*
 - *After field testing, some bats have been found to exceed that launch velocity after a break in period and/or have been found to have defects that can affect its performance or safety. Those bats are listed under the USA “banned” bat list with ASA or USA certifications. Banned bats may not be used even if they have the appropriate sticker. A current copy of that list is posted on the VSS web site (click [Here](#) for the list).*
 - *Senior bats are defined as a) those bats with a BPF up to 1.21 or with an SSUSA sticker if the bat was in manufactured in 2020 or before, or b) those bats with an SSUSA sticker if the bat was manufactured in 2021 or later. Senior bats may be used by male players aged 75 and older and by any female player. Players who turn 75 during the current calendar year will be considered aged 75 throughout the year for purposes of this rule. The Board of Directors will publish a list of players approved to use senior bats. Senior bats must be approved by the league and have a league sticker prior to use. The senior bat sticker will be distinct from the sticker used for other bats. Any player not on the published list that takes their stance in the batter’s box with a senior bat, whether by deliberate or inadvertent means, will be called out and will forfeit their at bat.*
- *Dave and Bill have volunteered to:*
 - *assure the all bats to be used in the league have appropriate stickers*
 - *act as consultants to members seeking to purchase a bat*
- *A suggestion was made to pursue a sponsorship opportunity with local bat retailers or internet bat retailers (eg: Batter’s Box, Columbia). Bill will initiate contact with these retailers. Kevin M will connect with Scott’s Sports in Windsor.*

Membership surveys:

- *It was again recognized that the Survey Monkey was an effective means of collecting membership feedback. There is a fee for using this capability when there are more than 40 responders (less is a free opportunity). Dave to evaluate the use of Google which offers a free survey capability.*

The Board to develop a policy (inclusive of Town guidance) for league members and vaccination protocol for league play. This will require further discussion at a separate meeting to be held on March 15th. The Town is expected to release their guidance in the first 2 weeks of March and this will be incorporated as needed into our VSS policy.

Kevin C to contact the Town (call with Marty) to confirm the fee structure for 2021 season field use. To date the town holds \$500 of VSS monies. The town fee has been \$3500 per season at a rate of \$28/game for 125 games.

Kevin M acknowledged that the American Eagle opportunity for sponsorship is not appropriate as other organizations are a better fit for the criteria.

Next meeting: Monday March 15, 2021 at 6pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 7:13 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary
2/22/2021*

