



# **FINAL Minutes**

## **VSS Board of Directors Meeting January 30, 2023**

**Meeting called to order at 5:59 PM**

### **Board Members Present –**

*League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin*

*Internal Competition – Bill Hettinger*

*Internal Competition – Tim Poloski*

*Treasurer – Richard Nabel*

*Recording Secretary -Gail Gretzmacher*

*Umpire committee -Matt Kellie*

*Public Relations - John Murphy*

*Public Relations - Jack Frascarelli*

*Missing: Social Committee – Brian Battles*

*Guests: Kari Martin, Ken Hartwright, Mike Smith, Tom Krajewski, Joe Handelman*

- *Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion passed and Bill will post to the league website.*
  
- **Opening Comments**
  - *A thank you from Tim Cromwell for the gift card received was expressed to Kevin and shared with the Board*
  - *AED (Automated External Defibrillator)*
    - *With the recent severe injury to Demar Hamlin (Buffalo Bills player), Kevin and Tim explored the opportunity to secure this device for the league*
    - *Options include a semi-automated and automated defibrillator*
    - *Extensive discussion and conversation about securing an AED occurred:*
      - *temperature-controlled environment needed (control humidity)*
      - *Need 2 clean, hair-free, spots on the chest*
      - *Resetting the product requires the manufacturers help*
      - *Town lacks funding (although a defibrillator is at the pool area at Community)*
      - *Liability concern as well as possible member concerns with using tool*
      - *Local police have an AED in their vehicle and can arrive at the field quickly*
    - *Result:*
      - *For now, the league will not pursue purchasing and developing a storage and process for an AED but will continue to review situation going forward*
      - *CPR – readiness will be the league focus for season 2023. Kevin will send out an email to the membership to determine those who are skilled with CPR as that skill is needed on each team (multiple members). A refresher course on CPR will be pursued for team managers, umpires and interested league members to attend.*
  
- **Treasurer Update – Dick**
  - *\$3088 in the operating account*
  - *Insurance payment will be made in March*
  
  - *Joe Handelman noted that system issues may prevent him from filing Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) to the IRS which is normally due by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Issues*

- started in January with no known fix date. Joe contacted IRS and determined there will be no issue if the form cannot be sent on time.*
- **Internal Competition- Bill, Tim**
    - *Registration update – 29 members have registered*
      - Bill gave the Treasurer \$2,075 worth of registration checks and there was \$146.04 in the PayPal account from registrations.
      - Bill gave the Treasurer access info for the PayPal account on a printed paper, a commitment made from the December Board meeting.
    - *Bats inventory – With Ken’s help, an inventory of current league bats (15) was collected.*
      - *Desire is to have Regular and Senior bats (2 of each 26,27,28 for Community)*
      - *Kevin suggested there was a strong need for a SR 25 bat*
      - *Older bats will be provisioned at Henry Park; field seeing limited use*
      - *A motion was made and approved to purchase 4 bats not to exceed \$1000.*
      - *Ken will purchase a bat-etching tool to be used on league bats for better control*
    - *Softballs – Kevin will purchase 8 dozen Trump State softballs for 2023 league play*
    - *Heat Index review- With Bill’s help identifying impact to league play in 2022 for a consideration to lower the heat index from 97, it was determined that there was no real impact to taking that action. Therefore, Heat Index of 97 or above to cancel games will continue and retained in our VSS rules.*
    - *Rules Committee update: Bill (Chairman) –*
      - *Committee members attending- Matt Kellie, Tim Poloski, Fred Valenti, Gail Gretzmacher, Keven Busque, John Hardy, Kevin Conklin; Guest- Kari Martin*
      - *Meeting was held on January 16*
      - *Bill shared the committee recommendations (see addendum below) with the Board for their review and decisions:*
        - *Motion was made and seconded to require the use of a pitching screen. Motion failed with 2 in favor, 5 against*
          - *Note: The Board appreciated Joe Handleman for attending the meeting and sharing his experiences using a pitcher’s screen. Once Joe left, The Board had extensive discussion about using a screen which then resulted in a vote taken.*
        - *Motions were made and approved for the following:*
          - **Safety equipment:**
            - *The league will reimburse two pitchers on each team who need to buy a chest protector up to \$40 each. Pitchers must wear during league play.*
            - *League to purchase a Med, Lrg, and XL chest protector for emergency use by a team and to be stored in the shed.*
            - *Four shin-guards to be purchased by the league and shared by team pitchers. Sizes will be 2 Medium and 2 Large and similar to the ones Commissioner Kevin wears.*
          - **Changes to courtesy runner from home** :*Courtesy-Runner-from-Home plate will be removed and replaced with a line the league will put down that aligns with Red tape on the backstop. All Courtesy runner must start with both feet behind the line and be the Last batted out player.*
          - **Hit over the fence when using courtesy runner:** *If the batter is using a courtesy runner from home and hits the ball over the fence, the courtesy runner stops at first base rule doesn’t apply the first time hit over the fence (it’s a home run) but does apply for additional balls hit over the fence (it’s a single, the runner stops at first).*
          - **Changes to clarify playoff seedings language:** *Regular season champions and playoff seeded determined by winning percentage. Ties count as half win and half loss. The tie breakers for seeding are head-to-head games; run differential in head-to-head games; then coin flip.*
  - **Public Relations – Jack, John**
    - *Efforts are in progress to create a small brochure that will contain all the sponsors for our 2023 league play (example of a sample brochure below)*



- <= VSS brochure will adopt this model
  - Sponsorships will include a ¼, ½ and a full-page opportunity
  - ~ 6 sponsors have committed
  - To produce 100 copies of the VSS brochure (\$297 for 12 pages); printer will waive the setup fee
  - Brochures will be distributed to membership to use for needs our sponsors provide
  - Formal donation letters to be sent to sponsors by Gail
  - Fence signage – not needed in light of the brochure creation as well as being very costly
- **Umpires** - Matt
  - There are 3 new umpire volunteers
  - Returning umpires, upon registering, are being contacted
- **Social Committee** – no update provided
- **External Competition** – Bill will seek update on tournaments (where many VSS members would participate) that would cause significant conflict to league play for planning the VSS schedule.
- **New Business:**
  - Kevin shared that the green screen behind Community's Home plate had severely deteriorated and that the Vernon Rec department has no funding to replace. The Board recognized this screen is needed for league play.
    - Motion was made and approved to purchase a 7' x 20' green replacement screen for no more than \$150.

*Next meeting: March 6th 6pm at Shea's*

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 8:07 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary  
1/30/2023

Addendum: Below find the Rules Committee Recommendations from January 16, 2023

VSS Proposed Rule Changes for 2023  
Rules Committee Recommendations  
January 16, 2023

The rules committee met on January 16, 2023 in the upper room at Sheas; Committee members attending: Bill Hettinger, Tim Poloski, Kevin Conklin, Gail Gertzmacher, John Hardy, Fred Valenti, Keven Busque, Matt Kellie. Absent: Mike Calabro, Rick Krajewski, Mike Bard, Tom Krajewski. Guests: Kari Martin.

The following summarizes the proposed rule changes recommended by the rules committee:

1. **Changes to courtesy runner from home.** The committee recommends keeping the existing courtesy runner from home rules in place, except we will stop using the plate and the town painted line and instead put some red tape on the backstop as far back as possible and get some cans of spray lines to mark the starting line and the runner will have to start facing backwards (to mimic the delay in getting out of the box).

Comments: The committee discussed eliminating courtesy runners and using the fall league rule that balls hit to the outfield grass were safe at first and also discussed using the last out as the courtesy runner but rejected both of these in favor of the tape on the fence for the line.

2. **Hit over the fence when using courtesy runner:** If the batter is using a courtesy runner from home and hits the ball over the fence, the courtesy runner stops at first base rule doesn't apply the first time hit over the fence (it's a home run) but does apply for additional balls hit over the fence (it's a single, the runner stops at first). The committee recommends this clarification to the rules.

3. **Changes to clarify playoff seedings language** (someone said it wasn't written down in rules): Regular season champions and playoff seeded determined by winning percentage. Ties count as half win and half loss. The tie breakers for seeding are head-to-head games; run differential in head-to-head games; then coin flip. The committee recommends this clarification to the rules.

4. **Protecting the pitcher/Pitching Screen:** The committee discussed several alternatives for protecting the pitcher including the use of the pitching screen. The committee is not recommending the use of the screen at this time. Instead, the committee recommends pitchers use approved chest protectors and leg protectors and recommends the league purchase two sets of protective equipment per field.

Comments: Prior to the rules committee meeting, league primary and secondary pitchers were sent an email asking for input on the use of the screen. Several provided long emails in favor and several provided long emails against. Others responses were brief and neither for or against. Wallingford uses a screen per town rules but does not require a pitcher to get behind it. Ludlow over 70 uses the screen and requires pitchers to get behind it. The decision of the screen versus safety equipment is the boards at this point.

**Discussed but not recommended:**

5. If the batter hits the ball over the fence with runners on the base and one of the base runners scores as the fifth run, it doesn't count as an over the fence home run towards the one per game. The committee does not recommend this change.

6. Play two innings defensively to speed up the game. The committee does not recommend this change.

7. A courtesy runner can only run once per game. The committee does not recommend this change.

8. Number 1 players cannot use senior bats regardless of age. The committee does not recommend this change.