



AMBA All Volunteers Meeting
Feb 10, 2025 @ 7:30 - 9:30pm - ARC Mezz

Call to Order: 7:46pm
Welcome

In attendance:
Derek Giesbrecht
Joe Meleg
Rob Brandsma
Chelsey Iwama
Colin Dawes
Lauren Meinen
Brad Nedimovich

Not in attendance:
Steph Deglan
Steph Ingwersen

Additions to Agenda -
Feedback teamsnap
Umpire equipment and raises
Chelsey
Joe

Adoption of Agenda -

Derek G and Brad N

Treasurer's Report - Gaming Grant update / Umpire Fees /
-working on gaming grant, include batting cage improvement
-increase umpire fees to be at industry standards

Other Reports:

VP1 (Chelsey) VP2(Brad N.)
Director #1 (Colin D.) Director#2 (Derek)
Director #3 (Joe M.) Director #4 (Vacant)

Director #5 (Lauren)

VP1 (Chelsey) - Coaches Banquet / Mid Summer Classic

Banquet:

-Brad and Chelsey putting together an itinerary, door prizes, etc.

-Contacting commissioners to communicate with coaches

Mid Summer Classic

-full except for 15U

-working on new sponsorship packages

VP2 (Brad N.) - Follow up to evaluations, what went well, ways for improvement (See attached report below)

15u coach selection went smoothly.

Contacted commissioners for updates on volunteers for the season.

Start using Teamsnap for scheduling events for teams.

Get teams more involved within the association and help with younger divisions and/or special events as well as Challenger. Look into mini games during Cardinals double headers.

Director #1 (Colin D.) - MSet programs for 11u & 13u. Get this scheduled / Todd. Spring evaluation plans for 9u / 11u. Webform

-MSet- 11U - follow the same system as last year as long as we have the resources. Starting 3rd Sunday in April.

-MSet- 13U - follow the same system as last year as long as we have resources. Starting the 3rd week in April.

Spring Evals - dates set. On the website.

9U Spring season rule change - player pitch entire game, coaches will come in after 4 balls. 7 pitches total. No walk.

Spring Draft for 9-15UA has to be completed by March 2nd.

Director #2 (Derek) - Do we have enough Coaches at the 13u / 15u house level? Spring evaluation plans for 13u / 15u. Webform

-Kirk wants to create a 13U High Performance Training program.

-13U short 1 coach

-15U short 1 coach, struggling with getting volunteers

Spring Evaluations dates set. On the website. Will need volunteers.

Spring Draft for 9-15UA has to complete by March 2nd

Director #3 (Joe M) - Update on Uniforms and equipment, ready to hand out at Coaches banquet

-All single season team jerseys are ordered.

-balls arrived.

-gear ready to hand out at coaches banquet

Director #4 (Vacant) - Two applicants that have put their name forward. Board to review.

Will need to complete further discussion at the next meeting and possible in person meeting with applicants.

Looking into a multi sponsorship banner for each field.

Start advertising at schools.

Director #5 (Lauren) - Assisting in Uniforms / 1st aid supplies

-purchase 3 new kits and supplies, get polysporin, afterbite.

-get lists of coaches from commissioners for CRC checks.

Business:

- Sponsorship Package. Framework of a sponsorship package to get local businesses signed on for a yearly sponsorship.

- Hit House Partnership - review their partnership with AMFA - wants to do something similar with AAHA.

-Approach Hattrick for quotes and partnership before making a decision.

(need for winter training and evaluations)

- Concession Trailer - what should we do with this?

-option to sell it was discussed.

- Teamsnap Schedules - Adding key dates etc.

-Teamsnap Coach resources - added fee for coaching videos to help coaches start. Communicate with coaches and Technical Director. Do a trial run and see how coaches like it.

- Wrap up meetings - Open forum discussions to help eliminate "Meetings after Meetings"

Next Board Meeting: Week of March 3rd 2025

Adjournment: 9:30pm

Joe Meleg, Brad Nedimovich

Board Meeting VP2 Report

15U & 13U Player Selections

The 15U player selection process went smoothly without any issues.

The 13U coach selection process also went nearly as well. Following the 13U AAA team selections, we proceeded with selecting head coaches for the 13U AA teams. There was a delay selecting 13U AA coaches due to a pending BC Minor vote regarding possible tiering of the 13U AA teams, which could have impacted our selections. The ruling was to not tier the teams and so we proceeded to select our coaches.

Applicants for the 13U AA coaching positions included Jim, Derek, Luke, Josh Kirk, Dave G., and Rod F. After deliberation, the selection committee voted for Derek and Josh to be the head coaches, with Jim assisting Josh and Luke assisting Derek. However, due to personal commitments, Josh respectfully declined the head coach role, opting for an assistant role instead, which Jim accepted.

Additionally, Derek was asked to take on an assistant coaching role for the 15U AAA team. To ensure clarity, we reached out to Tyler, the 15U AAA head coach, to align expectations regarding Derek's potential dual role. Once expectations were confirmed, we proceeded with the selection process. The committee felt that the final coaching pairings provided the best structure for both teams and their players.

13U AA Selection/ Evaluation Process Improvements

One issue we encountered was the timing of getting 13U AA coaches involved early enough to properly evaluate players and help draft balanced teams. Moving forward, we will address this by ensuring AA coaches have more opportunities to assess players before the player selection process. Additionally, we will explore how to implement an exit interview option for players to the process with the Technical Director to provide constructive feedback for players who were not selected, helping guide their skill development.

Draft Process

The draft process went smoothly. Colin and I were present to facilitate the draft and provide insights based on Colin and Todd's observations of players during evaluations. Notably, Colin's list of the next 24 players after the AAA selections closely matched the actual players chosen for the two AA teams, confirming a strong alignment in player assessments.

After contacting selected players, Jim had some commitment issues with his roster requesting to add a 13th to offset the players with commitment issues (3 players, one in particular potentially missing considerable time). This was reviewed and approved by the selection sub committee.

Some miscommunication was had and Jim contacted his player of choosing without consulting with the TD and receiving approval of the committee. Luckily the player was still considered a 2nd year bubble player which gave enough justification for his selection. The player Jim had most concern with commitment issues after a family discussion has since dropped out of baseball to avoid potential burnout and to focus solely on hockey. Jim is now back to having a 12 man roster.

Future Planning & Process Refinements

Steph D. and I have already begun scheduling the next season's evaluation sessions and are gathering feedback from coaches, the Technical Director, and other involved volunteers to improve the process further.

Key Areas for Immediate Improvement:

1. Separate the AAA and AA Selection Process

- Select AA coaches earlier, allowing them equal opportunity to collaborate with the Technical Director and observe players, similar to the AAA selection process.

2. Introduce Measurable Metrics in Evaluations

- Incorporate objective data points such as running speed, velocity, and pop time alongside subjective evaluations from coaches and the Technical Director.
- Ensure note-taking includes assessments of throwing, fielding, pitching, swing mechanics, running form, attitude, coachability, and overall effort/hustle.

3. Adjust Timeline for Player & Coach Selections

- Start and complete the selection process earlier, ideally from September to November.
- Run evaluations for AAA and AA over 5-6 weeks each, with a short break in between.
- Select AAA teams first, allowing them to begin offseason training while AA evaluations are conducted.
- Begin AA offseason training in January, with December as a rest period for all teams.

These changes aim to create a more structured and effective selection process, ensuring both AAA and AA programs operate efficiently and fairly.

15U AAA is requesting an alumni coach this year, Ryder Silverton was of interest if not they would like to see a list of available alumni coaches to choose from if there is one.

House league coach acquisition seems to be going well. I connected with all commissioners last week and gave an updated list of volunteers from registration and there looks to be enough potential coaches and assistant coaches to fill out the needs of each division.