

USA Softball of Connecticut 2020

Annual Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2020

I. Call to order

Patricia Patusky (President) called to order the regular meeting of the USA Softball of CT at 10:07am on December 5, 2020 via ZOOM meeting.

II. Roll call

Bradley Sanchez (Secretary) conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Patricia Patusky, Henry Koritkoski, Cliff LaRose, Steve Kolitz, Ed Emielita, David Reno, Frank Begen, Angelo Santomassimo, Bill Uluski, Don Mohr, Anthony Roberto

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

All received and read minutes from last meeting. Hank highlighted changes from the 2019 minutes to be discussed later in the meeting. The Secretary from last year (Pat Austin) retired, Bradley Sanchez has been appointed acting secretary at this time. Steve Kolitz made a motion to accept minutes, Cliff LaRose seconded. Motion passed

IV. Treasurer's Report

- a) Financial Report was presented. Equity Balance as of 2019: \$97,713.00
- b) Checking Account Balance as of October 31, 2019: \$67,677.00
- c) Checking Account Balance as of October 31, 2020: \$78,195.96
- d) Raymond James Investment Account as of September 30, 2019: \$ 25,027.00
- e) Books are being audited by Polenski and Sons at this time so 2020 account information not updated.
- f) Upcoming expenses for 2020 will be incurred for Hall of Fame Dinner in March of approximately \$10,000.
- g) 2019 Expenses were reported at \$89,035.00. 2020 Expenses were not reported because books are currently at the auditors.
- h) Motion to accept minutes by Cliff LaRose, seconded by Don Mohr. Motion passed.

V. President's Report

- a) Motion to change order of Agenda to New Business of Election of Officers was made by Steve Kolitz, seconded by Don Mohr. Motion passed.
- b) Draft Bylaws was presented: All changes were highlighted and discussed. Motion was made to add the line "the State UIC shall appoint Deputy UIC with the approval of the Sate Commissioner" in 3.09 and remove in 3.02 the Deputy UIC appointment by the Commissioner by Steve Kolitz and seconded by Don Mohr. Motion passed. A motion was made to add Adult to title of State tournament director to read Adult State Tournament Director in section 3.11 by Steve Kolitz and seconded by Tony Roberto. Motion passed. A motion was made for 3.16 to change the wording to read, "No council member shall hold a position of authority in a competing organization" by Dave Reno and seconded by Tony Roberto. The motion passed with one abstention. A motion to accept the Bylaws with amendments as discussed was made by Steve Kolitz and seconded by Tony Roberto. Motion passed as of December 5, 2020.
- c) A thank you to Pat Patusky, Dave Reno, Bill Uluski, Don Mohr, and Jessica Caro for creating the Bylaws update.

VI. Commissioner's Report:

- a) A National Council met by Zoom this year.
- b) No increase for Team registrations this upcoming year.

- c) Team registration forms need to be updated. Adult registration should match import data for the state of Connecticut with National's registration forms. Dave Reno will be handling adult team registrations.
- d) Badges were made for background checks of \$4.95 as a cost saving measure. Ace coaching for JO will now be done online and print out certificate or on phone. Increases of \$3.00 for ACE and background checks.
- e) The National has no code anymore. The Code and the bylaws and procedural manual have been combined.
- f) Insurance PowerPoint was shared: Concerns for JO insurance increases from \$250 to \$500 is not too bad because new organization - PGF pays \$2500 per team. Gagliardi Insurance was fraudulent. Bolinger and Markel Insurance very stable. Adult team registration for liability insurance has an increase of \$25 for 2021 to \$225.
- g) At this time USA and USSSA are not merging.
- h) The HHP will be forming a team of U13 – U19 in Region 1 which is Mass., CT, and RI.
- i) The Grass Root program is designed to have leagues that do not register with USA, will still provide these leagues with registered umpires. JO teams that are not involved with Little League in Southington, Fairfield and New Haven County do not want to be affiliated with USA even though efforts have been made to have them join. Carl Pignone – District Commissioner - Teams are not registering to USA east of the river for several years, so they are not insured and haven't been for years. North Central area also not registering.
- j) Commissioners need to reach out to local Recreation Depts to register teams.

VII. Player Representative Report:

- a) Players that were being reclassified were allowed to play in state tournaments. Whatever your class is as of January 1st of that year, you will not be able to reclass until following year. Can appeal and it will take a few weeks to review. To be reclassified, you apply by August 1st or else wait until following year. Strictly going by player classification for qualifiers and tournaments for 2021.

VIII. UIC Report:

- a) JO umpires need to be certified in Safe Sport and background checked.
- b) Umpire Registration Fee increases: \$43 for 2021; \$44 in 2022 and \$45 in 2023. To cover insurance costs for umpires on the field.
- c) National Umpire School will be in March 2021 in Auburn Maine.
- d) There will be no printed rule books. Umpire cards and new test.
- e) Umpire Meeting on February 20, 2021 at the Elks lodge in Middletown.
- f) National UIC clinic will be ZOOM on February 5 – 7, 2021

IX. JO Commissioner's Report:

- a) Had tournaments starting in June through end of October. Tournaments were held every weekend.
- b) USA Insurance does not cover items related to a pandemic. NASO members are covered for pandemics under their insurance.

X. Tournament Director's Report:

- a) Had an E-championship. They did well in the Nationals.
- b) All tournaments, players must have a mask entering fields.
- c) First tournament March 20, 2021 – Open Tournament with 3 brackets – Recreation, E, and Open at the Complex.
- d) State tournament will include E, Rec., D, Women's and Co-Ed. Dates: August 6 – 8, 2021.
- e) Website has all updated info: www.usasoftballne.com

- f) Plans to run 3 or 4 D and E qualifiers, a northeast Shootout in June, and the Turkey Trot which made great strides in attracting Women's and Co-Ed teams. Would like to run more Women's and Co-Ed tournaments in 2021.
- g) Wood Bat States held in Milford had 19 teams.

XI. District Commissioner's Reports:

- a) To help each other out, attempts to have District Commissioners interact more or meet.
- b) Continue to help register teams that are playing in their districts.
- c) A proposal for an early January Zoom meeting for commissioners.

XII. Old Business: None

XIII. New Business:

- a) Motion was made to close the Nomination of 2021 Officers and Council Members by Tony Roberto Jr., and seconded by Dave Reno. Motion Passed.
- b) Vote of Nominated Positions was taken: All in favor passed.
- c) Hall of Fame Committee positions questions should be directed to: Kevin Russo - Slow Pitch Chairman, or Rich Wilkinson - Fast Pitch Chairman.
- d) A selection of council members for a Nominating Committee was chosen. Volunteers are Tony Roberto, Don Mohr, and Bill Uluski. A motion was made to accept the Nominating committee by Dave Reno and seconded by Steve Kowitz. Motion passed.
- e) Motion was made to have Player Representative to speak by Dave Reno, and seconded by Cliff LaRose. Motion passed.
- f) Website update needed with new Officers and Contact information with photos: www.usasoftballct.com

XIV: Adjournment

Patricia Patusky (President) adjourned the meeting at 12:56.

Minutes submitted by: Bradley Sanchez (Secretary)

Minutes approved by: Name