

**Mahtomedi Fastpitch Association
Board Notes
April 6, 2010
6:30 p.m. District Education Center**

Members Present: Tom Moore, Tina Ziemer, Kevin Brown, Greg Eick, Bill Putney, Paul DeWitt, Mark Kuschke, John Kieger, Susan Anderson, Kari Rambo

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Abby Olson, Jeff Olson, JoAnn Karch, Heather Kuschke, Guy Becker

Introduction to Coaches

The Board reviewed the following items with the coaches for the upcoming season:

- Coach, player and spectator conduct
- Schedules for practices and games
- Coaches certification

The highschool varsity fastpitch coaches, Abby and Kevin will hold a coach's meeting for training techniques for pitching, batting and fielding on Thursday, April 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the varsity field.

Donation

There was an anonymous donation to the association. The board agreed to allocate the money for scholarships and equipment needs as requested by the donor.

Field Issues

The board discussed the need for covered dugouts and other field improvements.

Action Item: Paul DeWitt will look into the cost for covering the dugouts and this will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Pitching

The Tri-county League has changed the pitching distance for the 16 & 18 year olds to 43 feet. The varsity field will be changed.

Action Item: Kari Rambo will send letters to the 10U, 14U, and 18U teams to work out home game nights. Tina will inform Pam Klinkhammer so the fields are properly prepared. 10U (35') and 16U & 18U (43') need to be on the same field.

Evaluation Debrief

The board discussed and recommended the following changes to the evaluations for next year:

- Having the girls stretch out before running to prevent injury.
- Have assessment on how they ran the bases not just running times.
- Use our pitching machine as Hamline's threw some wild pitches.
- Possible outdoor evaluations for fielding & fly balls and running the bases (weather permitting)
- No parents allowed in the evaluation area. This is to keep the girls from being more nervous during their evaluation and to keep bystanders from getting hurt.

The board also discussed and recommended these changes to the pitcher and catcher evaluations for next year:

- Having a RSVP for the pitcher and catcher evaluations.
- Evaluating throwdowns to 1st and 2nd base for the catchers.
- Having separate age groups for each evaluation.
- Have same age level pitchers and catchers evaluated together

We will start having pitching and catching clinics in early January next year. Also, the varsity coaches Abby and Kevin will hold additional fastpitch clinics for all players during the end of this summer and early fall. More information will be forthcoming.

We are also looking into having the evaluations at our fields next year versus having them at Hamline again.

Also, board members should attend the first 10U evaluation/practice as it sets a good example to new parents on the board's involvement with the program.

Action Item: Tom Moore will look into Hamline's cancellation policy.

Association Night

The board discussed and approved having an Association Night at the Mahtomedi Varsity fastpitch team's game on Tuesday, May 3rd. The association will provide hotdogs, drinks and cookies for everyone.

Action Item: Greg will send an invitation to all fastpitch players and their families.

Fundraising

The board discussed having a fundraiser early next year for field and dugout improvements.

Action Item: Bill Putney and Kevin Brown are reviewing several fundraising items.

**May Board Meeting on May 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. District Education Center
Submitted by Susan Anderson**