

## Minutes From the Spring DYB Board Meeting in Dickson County, TN February 9-10 of 2024

Session 1 on 2/9/24 @ 7pm CST

Attending from the DYB board were State Director Alan Reed; Assistant State Director Aaron Prince; TN National Directors Tony Brown, Don Rudolph, and James Tidwell; Arkansas National Director Robert Hudgins; District Directors Mike Neisler, Denise Lineberry, Rory Osborne, Marilyn Tidwell, David Conrad, and Robert Puckett; Media Specialist Morgan Yates

Alan Reed opened the first ever meeting with a combined DYB/DYS board meeting. James Tidwell led the opening prayer. Aaron Prince put a motion on the floor to accept the minutes as distributed. James Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Rudolph gave the treasury report. We have \$14,500 in the bank before meeting expenses. Don encouraged the leagues to collect host league fees of \$75 per team at the credential's meeting.

Tony Brown reported on scholarships at the national level \$2,000 scholarships and state awards \$1,000 per district.

Softball Scholarship will not be awarded in 2024 as rules say you have to have played for 1 year to be eligible by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. All the money collected at tournaments this year will go towards next year's scholarship fund. DYB has loaned \$500 to the scholarship fund to get the account started. Current balance \$459.07 after fees for opening the account and purchasing checks.

Baseball Scholarship Fund total balance is \$21,690.64. \$11,690.64 sits in the checking account and \$10,000 in a CD drawing 5% interest for 8 months and can be rolled over when needed. We have received several donations that went towards the scholarship funds. Don presented Tony with a check in memory of Tony's recently departed wife, Jeannie Brown.

Alan Reed made introduced guest of the National Board from Arkansas Robert Hudgins followed by the Diamond Youth Softball Board. State Director Chuck Moser; Regional Directors Amanda Crutcher; Directors Mike Moore, Cory Moser, Tracy Coleman, Tobi Vernon, and Baron Tapp;

Appointments:

Robert Puckett made a motion on the floor to accept Cheryl Laxton as East Regional Director. James Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chuck Moser nominated Teresa Barnett for Secretary of DYS State Board. James Tidwell motioned. Robert Puckett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

State Tournaments Report:

Baseball Information

**6U-A State Tournament in Harriman, TN beginning Thursday June 27, 2024**

**8U-AA State Tournament in Crossville, TN beginning Thursday June 27, 2024**

**10U-AAA State Tournament in Greenbrier, TN beginning Friday July 5, 2024**

**12U-Ozone State Tournament in Wayne County, TN beginning Friday July 5, 2024**

Alan reminded baseball district directors are due for election in 2024. During upcoming district meetings, they must elect director for the next 3 years with the term beginning in September. On the National Board, Alan's term is up and we will see how that goes.

To the hosting teams, DYB provided t-shirts for championship teams as well as hats for umpires. The host is responsible for paying for these and it will be on the invoice that comes from Don Rudolph.

Softball will host bidders for district and state tournaments at tomorrow's meetings.

East	Crossville, Harriman
Middle	Dickson, Springfield, Charlotte Park, Portland
West	Collinwood, Summertown, Waynesboro, Lewis County

Fairview has been awarded DYS World Series.

Don Rudolph asked the softball league to consider offerings the board provides to the host of state tournaments. These offerings include a championship flag, championship plaque, championship rings, championship t-shirts, Runner-up plaque, Runner-up trophies, Sportsmanship plaque, sportsmanship medallions, Commemorative award. Ordering through the board helps keep costs down and be consistent across tournaments. The cost will go to the host league through invoice.

Chuck requested to allow each league to vote on where tournaments are held. Tony noted issues concerning proximity and field safety. Alan noted TN is setting the precedence for following states. For 2024, DYS will make recommendations and DYB will make the decision. Next year, DYS will vote on their own decisions.

The DYB and DYS boards split to conduct individual business.

Alan distributed forms.

Alan said Phillip had requested an umpire clinic. Phillip explained other states are meeting to develop a standardized base to go on. Phillip requested contacts from other states.

Alan announced plans to retire from teaching hoping to open his schedule to continue supporting DYB. He plans to make that decision in May. Tony gave thanks to Alan for his dedication through the years. Alan reciprocated thanks to Tony and Don who provide continuous support as national directors.

Boundary maps are due this year. If you get an unusual address on the roster, ensure boundary rules are being followed. There will be no player releases, leagues are expected to direct players to the appropriate league. Conditional releases will be considered when a league doesn't have a team in that age group, it must be signed off by Alan. Rory said he has 2 kids with previous releases. Alan mentioned Conrad has also from players who were on the league before their local league was formed and he will allow those conditional releases until those players age out.

Class A Rule Revision:

Don Rudolph announced a state option rule change on tournament rules a state organization may adopt a rule in the 12U, 10U division to allow a team to score a maximum of 10 runs per half inning except the 6<sup>th</sup> inning in District and/or State Tournament play. After the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, the 10 run rule is enforced the remainder of the game. Following discussion, Rory put a motion on the floor to adopt the rule, Denise seconded the motion. With 1 no, the motion passed.

Don Rudolph proposed a rule which last fall motioned by Aaron Prince for the catcher to play directly behind home plate. This requires specifying. The current rule 103 can be used in local league play, the new rule 103B will be used in tournament play. We will add to the playing rules for Class A **Rule 1:03 (B) For Tournament Play: The catcher must be in a squatting position behind home plate in a direct line with the pitcher and home plate when the ball is pitched. All protective equipment must be worn including a cup for male catchers.**

Don also announced the need for rule the 10 foot arc for tournament play to be added to the website. We will add to the playing rules for Class A **Rule 1:07 (For Tournament Play): An arc will be drawn 10 feet in front of home plate measured from the tip of home plate and running from 1st base line to 3rd base line. The ball must be on the line or cross the line to be a fair ball. If it does not cross the line, it's a foul ball and pitch counts unless its pitch number 5 and the batter would continue to bat.** And add **Rule 1:07 (B) Local League Option to adopt rule 1:07 for regular season play.**

State Tournament Support:

A @ Harriman            Alan, Tony, Rory David  
AA @ Crossville        James, Marilyn, Robert, Don  
AAA @ Greenbrier      Rory, Aaron, Phillip, Tony, David, Robert  
Ozone @ Wayne County: Don, Denise, Mike            @Clifton: James, Marilyn, Alan

Don asked if individual trophies he got last year for runner up was ok. Rings: next order buy gold and silver

Don said there have been problems with umpires getting involved with outside the fence and causing big disturbances. Umpires should only focus on inside the fence and call on the tournament director and host league to manage problems outside of the fence.

The softball board returned to announce decisions made in their meeting. State tournaments will be 12 team, double elimination bracket. The gate fee set no more than 3 games \$10. Decided for Alan to order rings for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place as well as plaques with medallion for sportsmanship awards. Tournament dates were announced as follows.

<u>Age</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>State</u>
6U	6/21/24	7/5/24
8U	6/13/24	6/27/24
10U	6/13/24	6/27/24
12U	6/21/24	7/5/24
15U	6/13/24	6/27/24
18U	6/13/24	6/27/24

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 to reconvene the following morning.

Session 1 on 2/10/24 @ 8:30am CST

Attending from the DYB board were State Director Alan Reed; Assistant State Director Aaron Prince; TN National Directors Tony Brown, Don Rudolph, and James Tidwell; Arkansas National Director Robert Hudgins; District Directors Mike Neisler, Denise Lineberry, Rory Osborne, Marilyn Tidwell, David Conrad, and Robert Puckett; Media Specialist Morgan Yates

Alan Reed opened the meeting. James Tidwell led the opening prayer. Alan introduced himself then Arkansas National Director Robert Hudgins who recognized the TN state board for their support in his local tournaments. He welcomed any questions for the National Board closing with thanks. Alan thanked Robert for joining us on behalf of the National Board.

Alan explained last fall, DYB decided to restart a softball program. Tennessee has pushed hard to bring back the program. We have 35 leagues committed with potential for more. Alan wants to bring for girls the same quality of program as for boys. Alan introduced Chuck Moser as the Assistant State Director overseeing the softball program. Alan followed with introducing the baseball state directors and in efforts to align the softball board in the same format as baseball is set up, Alan said they have elected regional directors announcing Cheryl Laxton (East) and Amanda Crutcher (Middle). Alan asked baseball District Directors to introduce themselves and along with the Softball Director.

Alan said TN has progressed farther than other states in developing a board and were approached about hosting the softball league World Series. Fairview presented a bid and has been chosen to host the Inaugural DY Softball World Series. Amanda announced the Opening Ceremonies will be held 7/17/24 and games begin 7/18/24. There will be 20+ teams attending. Alan recognized the big undertaking and the attention it will bring to the state.

Tony Brown explained softball's scholarship program will mirror baseball. At tournaments, and extra \$1 per day will be taken at the gate dedicated for the scholarship fund. The award amounts cannot be determined at this time. To qualify for a scholarship you have to complete 1 year of play in the program so as such no scholarships will be awarded this year.

Alan realized he missed previous introductions and asked Chuck to introduce Teresa Barnett as DY Softball Secretary. Alan welcomed Teresa and introduced his Assistant State Director Aaron Prince and Media Specialist Morgan Yates.

Alan announced baseball director elections are this year. Those elected will take office officially in September.

Boards split to discuss individual business.

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Tony introduced Baron Tapp representing Harriman hosting the A State Tournament. Baron reviewed the packet and schedule of umpire meeting on 6/26/24 6pm EST at City Hall and the coaches meeting on 6/27/24 8am EST at City Hall with games to follow at 10am EST. Alan said the winner and runner up with advance to Regional World series beginning 7/18/24 in Colton County, South Carolina.

Tony introduced Nick Davis representing Crossville Youth Group hosting the AA State Tournament. Nick reviewed the packet and schedule Umpire Meeting on 6/26/24 7:30pm CST followed by the

scorekeepers meeting at 8:15pm CST at the press box between fields. The coaches meeting is on 6/27/24 8am at Stone Memorial High School cafeteria.

Rory represented Greenbrier hosting the AAA State Tournament. Rory reviewed the packet and schedule umpire, coach, and scorekeeper meeting on 7/5/24 7:30am CST beside the park. Breakfast for coaches and staff will be provided. Games begin 7/5/24 10am CST.

Denise represented Wayne County hosting Ozone State Tournament. She explained Division 1 will be played in Waynesboro and Division 2 games will be in Clifton which and there are 20 minutes between the two. Umpire meeting on 7/5/24 8am CST followed by the coaches meeting at 10am, location undecided. Games will follow about 1pm. Tony said 2 teams out of division 1 and 2 teams from division 2 will advance to the World Series in Louisiana.

Alan announced updated boundary maps are due to the District Director this year. Alan said if a player comes in outside of your boundary, they can play in the league, but will be ineligible for All-Stars. Leagues are supposed to turn them in and are required to communicate ineligibility for All-Stars with the player. Alan explained he will accept conditional releases considering adequate facilities, cases of divorce, or home vs school of attendance.

Don reviewed the rules adopted the previous day as well as 8.02 which was passed in the fall and added to Class A rules. **8.02 In Class A the coach-pitcher shall pitch from a standing position only and from a distance of 36 ft. from the back of home plate. 8.02B (Local League Option in local league play) In Class A the coach-pitcher shall pitch from a standing position only and from any distance along a straight line from the center of the mound or pitching slab to home plate.**

Alan announced in Class A we have adopted for District and State Tournament play, the pitch distance is 36 foot overhanded and you cannot kneel.

Alan drew seeds for tournament brackets

Softball board returned to the meeting to announce their recommendations. Centerville is recommended to host 18U and 8U host. Marilyn made a motion to accept the recommendation as host. Aaron seconded the motion and it passed. Collinwood is recommended to host 9U and 15U host. James made a motion to accept the recommendation as host. Aaron seconded the motion and it passed. The other hosts will be determined later.

Alan made closing remarks and opened questions.

James Tidwell closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned.