

Meeting notes from Open Forum Meeting 10/27/2011

In attendance: Leslie Germundson, Joe McQuillan, Tim Frisch, Betty Lindahl, Kevin Corbid, Dawn Ecker, Danny Chang, Michael Meyer, Jeff Anderson, John Schulte, Dan Hafner, David Jordan, Tim White, Dan McKay, Chris Murphy, Stephanie Murphy, Tom Harrington, Lee Valsvik, Kevin Tholen, Jayne Wilcek, Dylan Bell, Mike Hurley.

Meeting called to order at 6pm. We reviewed Bob's outlined email with the group to and reviewed that we are looking to talk about what we want the philosophy to be moving forward at each level of play.

As a side note, Dylan/Betty/Mike did mention that regarding a 10U evaluation, the 14's are looking at doing their tryouts outside later in the spring. If this is approved by the Board, it would free up that dome time for a 10U evaluation.

After discussion, the recommendations are as follows:

10U – The goal at 10U will be to raise the bar as we strive for excellence, but still offering opportunities to develop players. It is recommended that general evaluations will be done at this level to assist in placement of players. The general evaluations will consist of similar stations used by 12/14U tryouts including throwing/fielding/catching, hitting/bunting, and fly ball stations. Evaluators will consist of any previous age level coaches. Pitchers will be evaluated at the general evaluations. Pitchers will be asked to throw 20 pitches mix of fast (and change-ups if available) to a catcher with a batter in the box. Teams should be split based on the talent pool coming through that year and will be relatively equal. The decision on what league level to play will be made annually. Individual teams may choose to go to nationals if they qualify. It was also recommended that the bylaws be amended to state that to play at this level, the player must be 8 and entering 3rd grade or approved through evaluation. It will also be recommended that players take fall/ winter clinics.

12U – Teams will be divided by how they fall 1, 2, 3, and 4. The decision on how to split the level of play will be based on the talent moving through that year, but there will always be an A team. The pitchers will be evaluated and placed on teams with primary consideration placed on their pitching tryout scores, but only pitchers will sign letters. Catchers will be given the opportunity to play down if they want to have more catching time. Up to 3 pitchers will be placed on the A team, the balance will be distributed based on the talent moving through that year. It was also suggested that at ALL AGE LEVELS, the previous year's coach's evaluations be used to assist in team placement. With this in mind, all head coaches will be asked to complete an online player evaluation so they can be used to help determine team placement. It was also suggested that an at large non-parent board member be involved in the team selection. A parent may be told where their individual player fell in the tryout process as long as no other players name is shared. A parent will be able to ask for an area of improvement.

14U – As stated previously, they are looking at doing later tryouts for 14's (hopefully outside). They were suggesting a team selection date of May 1st. There was also a suggestion of creating a 14 team that will play fall together and then play spring together as well. Suggestion was that we field teams, Elite and A, based on the talent pool and number of players each year. The 14U coordinator will look into finding an alternate league option to retain the remaining players who could potentially be cut and provide an opportunity for these girls to play competitive ball. Each year the number of competitive 14U Stillwater teams placed in the Tri County league should be evaluated by the board to ensure that we are maintaining the integrity of our program. Field resources will need to also be considered on a year by year basis as well.

16U/18U - These questions were forwarded to John Schultz. He will address. There was a hopeful suggestion that we don't pull from the 14's.

- Other issues that were presented were that we need to add that there will be a cancellation fee for any registrations made online
- All cuts will be called by the age level coordinator prior to posting of teams.
- All teams will be posted at the same time online – based on pinnie numbers given at tryouts.
- It was discussed that we should look into appointing a recruitment coordinator for the 10/12 levels.
- All players will be notified of their team placement at the same time by an online website notice followed by an email blast announcing teams. Any player cut will be personally notified by the age level coordinator prior to the posting of teams.

Suggested that there be consequence for sharing confidential tryout scores – Following should be added to the By Laws: Tryout scores are the property of SCVGFA and shall be kept private and in confidence. Anyone who is given access to tryout scores is responsible to maintain this confidence. Violation of this confidence may result in disciplinary action up to expulsion from the SCVGFA program . Bob suggested that we remove this.

Dome ball - It is felt that it should be run through the association. We need to add verbiage to by-laws to have the following added and will need to add a Dome ball Coordinator position.

Dome Ball

1. If there is sufficient interest, the St. Croix Valley Girls Fast Pitch Association will

assign teams to the 18U, 16U, 14U, and/or 12U age brackets.

2. Teams that represent the Stillwater program may be coached by an outside coach and paid as long as the association is not responsible for the payment of the teams coach. All equipment for this team will be supplied by the SCVGFA. They may wear any part of the association clothing as a team uniform.

2. Email notices and web site postings announcing dome ball registration will be sent and posted on the association web site in August and September each year. The registration deadline will be set by the Dome Ball Coordinator. All registrations and payments must be received by the association Registrar by this date. Fund raising monetary requirements could also be assessed to each participant.

3. Fees will be dictated by Stillwater Dome rental fee, number of participating teams and the Dome Ball Coordinator in conjunction with the Executive Board.

4. Team selection for 12U and 14U will be determined by the committee consisted of Dome Ball Coordinator, age-level Coordinators, two At large members approved by the Executive Board, and summer/fall coaches' input. The team selection for 16U and/or 18U will be determined by committee consisted of Dome Ball Coordinator, age-level coordinator, and the Varsity head coach and coaching staff, and the Association President. This team will play at either the 16U and/or 18U level. All team selection must be approved by the Executive board. The roster sizes will be dictated by the number of participants.

5. The philosophy of the Dome Ball will be competitive.

Fall Ball

It was discussed that we could try to offer a higher level team determined by the age level coordinator on a trial basis to see how it works.

General consensus was that Fall Ball would continue to be developmental and Dome ball would be more competitive. The Dome ball coordinator and board would need to develop criteria for selection of kids to participate in Dome ball. There was some discussion on letting the first year A team players at a level continue to play together on a fall ball team. No real decisions were made regarding this.

There may need to be additional discussion for Fall and Domeball specific procedures moving forward to be addressed in another committee meeting.