

Rye Little League Meeting Minutes Sunday, April 29, 2007 – 12:00 noon

Attendance: D. Dosekocil, G. Carr, M. Shepcaro, C. Dewsnap, S. King, J. Sexton, D. Crisp, P. Taylor, B. Monahan, R. King

A meeting was scheduled, following Field Day, to finalize some things before the start of the season on Monday.

Positive Coaching Alliance – The Board agrees that this is a great program and one which will be supported for our league. The Pirates coaching staff has implemented this for their players and parents also. There is a course on line at the Little League Baseball website that takes two hours and costs \$20. It is designed for coaches and parents for the benefit of our children. The Board agreed that this program is strongly recommended for the 2007 season and will be mandatory in the 2008 season for managers to complete.

All-Star Team Coaches – The policy and procedure was clarified and discussed. It was stated and agreed that the current policy is reasonable and fair. The policy states that the Board offers the privilege of representing our town and leading the All-Star team to the manager with the most wins in the regular season. That manager picks the coaches and presents them to the Little League Board for a vote. If that manager is unable to make the commitment to the schedule of the All-Star Team, the manager with the second best winning record is offered the opportunity to manage the All-Star team. The same procedure of picking the coaches would stand. This would continue through the managers, by winning record, until one of them could make a commitment to the schedule required. For some reason, if none of the managers were able to meet this commitment, then the Board would move to the coaching staff, in order of winning record, and so on. The coaching staff is made up of one manager and two coaches for the thirteen players chosen.

All-Star Team Selection Process and Results – The Chief Umpire is in charge of the voting procedure for the All-Star Team selections. A commitment letter is given to all the eligible players for each age group (11 + 12 yr olds) (9 + 10 yr olds). A ballot is made for each group. The voting is done at center field on June 16th when all teams are present. The players vote for ten peers from the four teams, divided by age groups above. The coaches and managers also vote for the players and their vote has a weighted value to counter-act any misguided voting based on a popularity contest. The Chief Umpire counts the ballots and communicates the results to the President of the League. The results are kept confidential by the Chief Umpire and President. The results are announced at the Closing Day Picnic when the awards are given out, since the first practice for the All-Star Team is scheduled on Monday following the picnic. The Manager is allowed to pick three more players from the ballot beyond the ten voted in, for a final roster of thirteen players. To keep the voting procedure credible, every effort will be made during the process to ensure private voting by the players.

Announcing the All-Star Team results – Discussion concerning the best way to announce the players who were selected to represent our town on the All-Star Team was given much thought. The history of different ways it has been handled and the outcome of how it was received were discussed at great length. It was agreed that this year the process would be to talk to the players out on the field, privately among their peers. Time would be given to let them process the outcome of the voting. Then the players would be brought back to the picnic area to make the announcements to the families. After the picnic the coaching and player roster will be posted on the website.

Tournament for players not on the All-Star Team – Last year a team was put together for players who wanted to play more baseball that were not chosen for the All-Star Teams. There is interest in putting this together again for this year. There will need to be a commitment letter for this level also. More discussion will follow.

Flash Jenness Award – After review of the current policy and procedure, it was agreed to continue with it as it stands. This award is determined by private voting by the Little League Board voting members. The recipient is not necessarily the best player in the league. It is for the player who demonstrates good sportsmanship, leadership on the team, and sets a good example for the other players in a consistent manner. This award is announced and presented at the Closing Day Picnic.

Members at Large – There are still some Board Member positions not filled. It was voted and agreed to add Tim Sanborn and Glenn Carr to this position. There are a total of four Members at Large on the Little League Board. Their responsibility includes regularly attending the meetings and participating in the program.

Field Officer – It was voted and agreed to have Jeff Carroll fill this position. Jeff has done so much for the Little League field preparation and maintenance over the years, and continues to be supportive of the program this year.

Pitch Count – This new responsibility was discussed again. The Major League and National League are responsible to keep accurate records for each pitcher for each inning played. The “clickers” and log books need yet to be given to the National League coaches.

Information on the Website – It was agreed that we would continue our efforts to have all the information posted on the website. It is a gradual process that we need to be flexible and patient as everyone gets used to referring to the website for communication and information made available for the league families. The Surprenant family does a wonderful job of maintaining the website.

The next meeting will be schedule at a later date.