

Rye Little League Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 16, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: R. Neitz, C. Rohacek, S. Turner, S. Turner, D. Dosckocil, G. Carr, M. Shepcaro, R. Hindle, P. Kane, P. Predaris, J. Madden, T. Durkin, J. Balboni, P. Berube, N. Gardella, C. Reaney, C. Dewsnap, M. Luneau, S. King, D. Richard, J. Sexton, B. Stewart, D. Crisp, P. Taylor, T. Sanborn, B. Monahan, D. Record

Peter Taylor led the meeting. John Sexton and Del Record gave a presentation of Little League policies and procedures.

Evaluation / Major League Draft – Discussion was held concerning the older aged players that did not make the Major League Draft. Questions were raised concerning making a fifth Major League team so more of the older player ages ten and eleven would not be playing with players of ages seven, eight, and nine. It was stated that this was tried in the past and it did not work very well. The Board stated they would be open to suggestions as to how to add a fifth team for next year. Answers regarding the scoring system and the evaluation process were explained. It was discussed that historically when a Major League player is injured and cannot return to the season of play, that a National League player is brought up to the Major League. This decision for next in line would be base on age and skill level, and that the National League coaches may be asked for input as to the playing performance during games. It was agreed that this discussion should be re-visited in September in preparation for next season.

Umpires – John Sexton reviewed the Umpire Team for this season. They are a group of volunteers who have many years of experience with baseball; many have been managers and players in the past. Conduct during the season / games was discussed; the umpires calls are final, managers and players will respect the umpires authority during the game, players will use proper language and behavior, and parents will support the umpires. During the regular season, the umpire's pre-game procedure includes inspecting the field, fences, etc.; meeting with the team for full uniform, no jewelry, bats in the dugout, and catcher's equipment, etc. They review the lineups, misc. information, and make sure the game starts on time.

Rain Games – The Major League teams are required to show up at the field on time and dressed in full uniform. The field will be inspected by the Umpires and Managers / Coaches. A decision will be made at the field. It was voted and passed that the wording be changed from **shall** to **may**, to allow for flexibility in making decisions regarding the following policy. "... if all four teams have missed an equal number of games, these games **may** be cancelled and not rescheduled."

Weeknight Game Time – The Board voted to return the start of game time to 5:15 p.m. for weeknight games instead of 5:30 p.m. It was agreed that the 15 minutes does have an impact regarding darkness on occasion.

Pitch Count – Age requirements for ages 7 – 16 from the Little League Baseball Organization are to be enforced this season. Each team is responsible to keep these records for each game and pitcher. For Major League games, the Umpire will sign a separate log verifying the pitch count. The pitch count will be verified on the field and after each inning. Each team will be provided with a "clicker" to keep track of the pitch count.

Tracking National League playing time – It was voted and approved that the National League would begin documenting the playing time for each of the players on their team. If there is a complaint or dispute regarding unequal playing time, the Vice-President of the National League and / or the Player Agent would check the records for the past games. It was requested that the League provide a log book for keeping track of this and it was agreed that the coaches of the National League do not need to keep track of runs / hits / errors, but only the pitch count and playing time of each of the players on their team. This is a developmental aged league and equal playing time should be provided to develop a continued love of the game of baseball. It was voted and approved to discuss the exact wording of the new policy at the next meeting.

All-Star Coaches – Much discussion was held concerning how the coaches for the All-Star team are selected. The concern raised was in regard to the appropriate representation of our league, players, and town at the state and possibly national levels. A suggestion was made to involve the parents in a vote as to who is the best manager to represent our league. Discussion followed regarding the current policy and procedure and how it works and why it works. It was agreed that this discussion would be continued at the next meeting. It was stated that background checks are done on all the coaches, managers, and umpires.

Opening Day – Monday, April 30th is the first game for this season and Opening Day is on Saturday, May 5th. The festivities for the day were discussed. The “out-going” 12 yr olds will ride in the antique fire truck this year during the parade to the field. All the Major League teams will meet at the RJH and go to the field in the back of a pickup truck during the parade. The Rye Police will lead the parade to the field. All the Minor League teams are to be at the field to welcome the Major League teams. Each team, starting with T-Ball will be announced as they run onto the field with their coaches. Last year’s Flash Jenness Award recipient, Duncan Robinson, will throw out the first pitch. Chloe Walton will sing the National Anthem.

Field Day – Sunday, April 29th is set for cleaning up the field and getting it ready for the first Major League game on Monday. Each team and family members of the teams are requested to participate.

Closing Day – Saturday, June 23rd will be the final game for the regular season. Playoffs will be done and the championship game will be held that day. The picnic will be organized at a further date. Trophies, awards, etc are handed out after the game, during the picnic.

The next meeting date will be announced at a further date.