



# **Babe Ruth League, Inc.** *Southeast Region* **Baseball & Softball**



The Bahamas \* Dominican Republic \* Florida \* Georgia \* North Carolina \* South Carolina \* Tennessee \* U.S. Virgin Islands \* Virginia

## **Southeast Regional Meeting Grand Shores Ocean Resort Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

**Friday, February 23, 2018**

### Call to Order and Introductions:

Henry Sermons called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Each state commissioner introduced those in attendance from their state. Henry introduced Spike Hupka and Hal Brady.

### Recognition of Individuals:

Henry recognized Spike Hupka for being awarded the Nashville Old Timer's Mr. Baseball Award and John Lucas as a Babe Ruth Hall of Fame inductee.

### Presentation by Babe Ruth Headquarters:

Rob Connor first gave an update on a Babe Ruth Softball player from Florida who was severely burned in a bonfire accident in December, Layne Chesney.

Leagues are starting up and need to be reminded to get insurance coverage ASAP.

Bat standards have changed for 2018. USA Bat stamp must be on bat, t-ball excluded. 13-15 is BBCore or USA Bat. Wood is permitted at all levels.

Pitch count changes survived the first year. Change for 2018, Pitcher cannot be in 3 consecutive games as a pitcher. Probably more clarity at end of the 2018 season.

World Series - 4 new age groups for CR in World Series for 2018, 8u player pitch, 8u machine pitch, 9-year-olds and 11-year-olds. Open to state champions who have gone through trail to completion. Aug 6th through Aug 13. All play in Jensen Beach, FL. Anyone with teams interested in participating should contact Rob. No entry fee, will be a gate fee. No travel funds provided. Regional champion uniforms will not be provided for the new age groups.

Uniform program - Dark green with gold and white trim, will be provided to World Series participants. Baseball managers, coaches, players provided hat, jersey, pants, belt,

sock. Softball, no hat but headbands, coaches will get hat and polo shirt. At each regional event, a BSN rep will meet with all teams at start of tournament. By end of tournament, each team should have been measured and jersey sizes and numbers should have been validated. Orders placed next morning for winning team. Ensuring that this works smoothly, cooperation will be needed from everyone involved.

Rosters - verified rosters. When tournament rosters are submitted, HQ will verify that info is correct for each coach and player. This info will be linked for each player and will be there for duration of world series. Players can be highlighted throughout the series, even those who did not make it to world series.

World Series logo will be on sleeves.

A manager and 3 coaches will be allowed this year. Babe Ruth will only pay for 2 coaches for world series tournaments.

Henry reminded commissioners that proposed rule changes need to be written up and given to him. Committee meets in November so they must be received prior to that.

Review from morning Softball Meeting:

Paul Link gave an update on regional softball changes. World Series will be held immediately following Southeast Regional tournament. Tourney Machine will be used for scoring games. Gate passes \$400 per team. Extra jersey and pants can be purchased for \$29.95. Ideas for promoting softball and getting more participants were discussed. China will be sending teams in 8U, 10U, and 12U groups. Dominican Republic will also be sending teams. Several concepts were presented. Rob will present those at HQ. Baseball teams suffered a loss of \$350,000 on World Series last year. There was discussion on why this occurred and how to prevent it in the future.

Report from State Commissioners:

John Lucas, Florida - 8 new programs.

Jimmy Sanders, North Carolina - regrouping since loss of Tom Steele. Gained some leagues and lost some.

Paul Link, Virginia - 10 new softball, 4 baseball 8 team double elimination brackets for state

Roger Giles, Tennessee - Doug Strong appointed as Asst. Commissioner for softball. Gaining new leagues and some that were out are returning. Possibility of 1500 players joining softball program.

Dan Phillips, Georgia - Struggling to get new leagues. Working hard to get exposure to new leagues.

Ron Duncan, South Carolina - Resumed as commissioner after 4-year absence. Working hard to get new leagues and build the program.

Spike Hupka thanked Roger Giles for providing a Southeast Region banner. He also asked about the participation this year of the Dominican Republic. Rob spoke about their participation. Goal is to have Dominican teams playing here in 2019. Building relationship with Virgin Islands to get their participation.

Presentation on Geographical boundary requirements:

John DeYoung - league population and geographical boundaries, gives resources. Current rule is 0.01. John highlighted the history of the boundaries rule, major provisions, exceptions, text examples, misconceptions.

There was general discussion on joint custody and where the kids can be allowed to play. Henry suggested these situations be presented to headquarters for a ruling.

Review of Rule 0.02:

Henry reviewed the provisions of the Definition of League. There is a blanket waiver for our region for 4 teams or less to charter. Leagues of less than 3 teams will probably not get approval; one team leagues will not be approved.

Review of tournament website stats:

John Armentrout - 58,246 hits during July 2017, tournament time 2018 charters update

Important dates for 2018 - includes check-in dates for tournament play

New tournament host request procedures include a Commissioner Endorsement Form and Future Host Application Form

True Pitch (portable) Mounds - approved by Babe Ruth

The new Consent for Treatment Form changes who signs form. If child is 18 or over they must sign the form themselves. Under 18 must be signed by parent or guardian.

Team plaques will be provided by the Southeast Region. Babe Ruth to provide State and Region plaque for all Division age groups. This will be for first place; the Southeast will purchase the Runner-up plaques and non-World Series Champion and Runner-up plaques.

Donny Rose brought up the subject of additional fees that have been placed on umpires. He asked if anyone else was having problems getting umpires. Umpires have to purchase a shirt in order to get a patch. Put all complaints in writing and send to Steven.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherrie Sanders  
Secretary