



## Southeast Region Meeting

### MINUTES

21 October 2017 ~ Saturday

Babe Ruth League International Headquarters  
 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road  
 Hamilton, New Jersey 08619-3822

#### Participants:

John Armentrout	Southeast Assistant Regional Commissioner, Operations
Hal Brady	Southeast Assistant Regional Commissioner, Softball
Rob Connor	National Commissioner, Babe Ruth League
John DeYoung	Virginia Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Assistant State Commissioner
Roger "Jabber" Giles	Tennessee Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken/Softball State Commissioner
Stephen "Spike" Hupka	Board Member, Babe Ruth League, Inc.
Paul Link	Virginia Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken/Softball State Commissioner
John Lucas	Florida Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken State Commissioner
Doug Robinson	Florida Softball State Commissioner
Jimmy Sanders	North Carolina Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken/Softball Acting State Commissioner
Henry Sermons	Southeast Regional Commissioner

*This Southeast Region (SER) meeting followed a joint meeting with the Middle Atlantic Region (MAR), which included 13 10-minute sessions where groups of two or three SER and MAR Commissioners were briefed by members of the Babe Ruth League (BRL) headquarters staff and by some of BRL's sponsors (SI Play, Cherrydale fundraising, BSN Sports, Spikes Trophies, SKLZ, Quickball, and Gamemaster).*

Henry Sermons called the SER meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

Henry presented John Lucas with a 25-year pin in recognition of his (more than) 25 years of outstanding service to BRL; John was also given pins to award to other 25-year volunteers in Florida.

Henry provided input and directed that a citation page be created on the Babe Ruth Southeast Region Hall of Fame web pages for Grace Paglione, who was inducted during a ceremony yesterday evening.

### **Feedback on the joint meeting:**

Henry asked for feedback on the meeting with MAR. Doug, Paul, and Jabber said that there were many benefits, including learning about the work at headquarters, comparing operations with those of another Region, hearing how others are encountering and dealing with similar situations that SER experiences, and seeing the new facilities at BRL headquarters.

Rob added that assessment of the benefits of two large Regions meeting together might lead to a national meeting in the future. Henry recalled that, some years ago, a meeting among three Regions was held in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Opryland Hotel.

### **Regional updates (Henry Sermons):**

Henry announced that the annual SER meeting will be held on Friday, February 23, 2018, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and will be followed by the Regional Tournament Directors Training workshop on February 24. There were not adequate rooms available for the weekends in early March.

SER is the only Region that provides 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> place awards, banners, plaques, baseballs or softballs, and umpire caps for Regional tournaments

SER is now seeking host leagues for 2019 Regional tournaments.

### **Census report:**

Henry Sermons distributed copies of the tabular resume of chartered leagues and teams from the 2016–17 season.

### **Input from participants:**

Henry led a discussion of experience with pitch count requirements in the 2017 tournament season and discussed proposed modifications in order to more closely align Babe Ruth rules with the guidelines established by USA Baseball.

Participants discussed the new bat rules that go into effect on January 1, 2018, with special attention to the curious aspects of requirements stated in the USABat Tee Ball Sticker Program (“an initiative designed to allow for the sale and continued use of tee ball bats that were manufactured prior to the implementation of the new USABat standard. This program will allow bat manufacturers, retailers, and individuals to purchase stickers marked with the USA Baseball logo and language which reads: ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS.”)

John Lucas:

- Recommended that the Region use the double-elimination format for all Regional baseball tournaments. **The Region approved this recommendation.**
- Recommended that the Region address the tradeoff between size of length of tournaments and numbers of participating teams by adhering to the Babe Ruth rule book and not including runner-up or invited teams in Regional tournaments for age groups that have a tournament trail leading to a World Series. **The Region will take this matter under advisement.**
- Recommended that we should address the question of the enforcement of the stated penalty for teams that do not fulfill their obligation to complete required participation in the tournament trail. The team from Lumber River, North Carolina, in the 2017 Southeast Region 16-18 Year-olds baseball tournament failed to check in at the tournament, forcing a rescheduling of tournament games on the morning of the opening game and introducing attendant problems with inequity among the remaining nine participating teams in pitching use and player availability. **Henry asked that this issue be placed on the agenda of the SER annual meeting scheduled for February 23, 2018.**
- Questioned whether we should be scheduling Regional baseball tournaments on dirt infields or on fields with portable pitching mounds and suggested that we should at least ask that State Commissioners (when they endorse a host league) notify the Region as to the type of fields that will be used so that the teams will know the field conditions ahead of time so they can practice using the same conditions. **It was decided that this information would be added to the MTIP (as is done for the turf fields that do not allow metal cleats). John Armentrout will add that question to the MTIP Questionnaire.**
- Suggested that the location of Regional meeting be varied from year to year among the States in the Region. Henry stated that the Myrtle Beach location is as close as we get to being a central location in the Region, and that the costs are in line with his budget, which was not the case for some other locations (in Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida where meetings had been held before the first meeting in Myrtle Beach in 2004). **No action was taken on this matter.**

John DeYoung:

- Asked that “prevent protest” in Rule 11.05, paragraph 4j, on page 28 of the 2017 Babe Ruth baseball rule book be changed to “prevent forfeits” to be consistent with the wording in Rule 0.06, paragraph 4, on page 11. Babe Ruth officials should be taking actions to prevent teams from being penalized with a forfeit, but should not prevent protests, which are permitted by OBR 4.18 and a right akin to those afforded in the Bill of Rights. **Rob Connor made that change.**

Paul Link:

- Noted that he had discussed with Rob Connor amending the Consent for Treatment forms to account for situations where an 18-year-old player may not require parental permission for treatment. There was discussion of differences in laws regarding this issue in various States.

**Ending:**

The meeting ended at 3:21 p.m. and was followed a meeting among some of the participants to address changes in the process for State, Regional, and World Series Babe Ruth Softball tournaments.

Prepared by John DeYoung