



Southeast Region Babe Ruth Baseball & Softball



Southeast Region Fall Meeting MINUTES

**Friday, October 22 – Saturday, October 23, 2021
Grand Shores Ocean Resort
201 77th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29572-4242**

Participants

John Lucas, Southeast Regional Commissioner
John Armentrout, Assistant Regional Commissioner
Cherrie Sanders, Secretary
Paul Link, Virginia State Commissioner
Doug Strong, Tennessee State Commissioner
Jimmy Sanders, ENC State Commissioner
Joe Lane, WNC Assistant State Commissioner
Sandra Eldridge, Florida State Commissioner
Pat Eldridge, Florida Umpire
Donny Rose, Virginia State UIC
Phil Larcomb, Virginia State Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Faherty, Vice-President, Babe Ruth League

Welcome and opening comments

John Lucas welcomed and thanked everyone for their service and dedication to Babe Ruth. Attendees introduced themselves.

Hall of Fame Induction

Paul Link presented the Hall of Fame plaque to John Armentrout. John was formally inducted into the Hall of Fame during the summer.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 16, 2021, Zoom meeting were approved after a motion by Doug Strong and second by Jimmy Sanders.

Financial statement

John Lucas reported an income of \$25,000 and expenses of \$9,818. Expenses were for tournament awards, website renewal, and Hall of Fame.

BR Alumni Association donation request

John Lucas reminded the Commissioners of their verbal commitment to donate \$100 per year, per State, to the Babe Ruth Alumni Association. He urged each State to make their donation as soon as possible. Doug Strong informed the group that the Alumni Association replaced and repaired damage to flooded leagues in Tennessee.

Census

The Southeast Region is #1 and #2 in most age groups as far as number of leagues and teams in Babe Ruth Baseball.

Softball review and update

John Armentrout reported that a new WNC Assistant Commissioner (Softball) has come on board and is eager to get a Southeast Regional tournament organized. The feeling of those in attendance was that the Regional softball attendance was lower after implementing the invitational World Series in Florida. There was discussion on dates that the Regional tournament could be held and not be in conflict with the World Series. A start date of July 12th was proposed. Joe Lane will contact the host (Southwest Athletics) to see if that date is acceptable. The host later accepted the proposed dates.

Tournament contract review

John Armentrout presented changes in the host contract. These changes were reviewed by those present. Policy 20211014 will be modified to state that players must be present and play in a game prior to the championship game.

Regional dates and sites

John Lucas reviewed the check-in dates and stated the dates need to be changed on all age groups except Rookies, 9s, and 11s.

Status of 50% play rule

At the Rules Committee meeting in November, the agenda contains a request that the 50% play rule be added back in the rule book.

Regional check-in policies review

Doug Strong led off the discussion of problems encountered at regional check-in sites. Some leagues had rosters that had not been signed. Each player should have a different number. Why don't medallions state whether or not it is champion or runner-up? Tournament team checklist needs to be uniform. Several are available, one should be used. The Southeast Region is compliant with the Babe Ruth rule book and that is what we should use. There was a suggestion to add tournament team player announcement forms to the credentials list. John Armentrout reviewed policy changes to how teams qualify to participate in a Southeast Regional tournament. Motion by Paul Link to accept the policy changes. Seconded by Doug Strong, motion carried. John Armentrout then presented a new proposed policy entitled "Advancement of teams to fill bracket slots (tournament trail tournaments)." The proposal is that offers be made to States in order of ranking based on number of teams chartered. Highest ranked State is offered first and second next, etc. Ranking will be set for 2022 and rotated each year; i.e. in second year, #1 moves to bottom of list and everyone else moves up. That rotation continues each year. If #1 declines to go to SE, #2 will have next right of refusal. After that, ranking order will be used.

State and Regional UICs

Doug Strong stated he feels the State UICs should be more involved with umpire selection for Regional tournaments. At present, State UICs are nominated and they choose their crew. Doug feels that they should attend the meetings so they can be fully involved. More neutral umpires should be used in tournament play.

Umpire travel

Doug Strong suggested that we consider adjusting the travel reimbursements. The participants agreed to the following amounts:

1. Out of State, \$100 travel
2. In State, \$50 travel

Regional umpire fees

Paul Link informed the group that umpires are requesting an increase in pay per tournament game. Currently, the Region uses two umpires per game for Rookies, 9s, and 10s; three for all others. Rates were set at \$45 for Rookies, \$50 for Cal Ripken, and \$60 for Babe Ruth.

Time limits: District, State, and Region

John Lucas spoke about a possible time limit for Rookies, 9s, and 11s. State Commissioners can do whatever they choose in District and State tournaments. Doug Strong suggested that we track times on Regional games to see average game lengths in 2022 and reevaluate at 2022 meeting. This suggestion was agreed to by everyone.

Major60 review

Paul Link reported Virginia had an open State tournament. Regional was opened up to any team. The 2022 World Series will be in Maine and will be open to any State team. The Board of Directors has this issue on their agenda due to lack of team participation. Commissioners were asked to continue to promote the program.

Clarify which age groups send runner up to Region

If a league wants to put two teams in a District tournament, that is fine. Only one team moves on.

Review Region Rookie rules

Paul Link spoke on this issue. He stated that “when available” 10 players in the batting order needed clarity. When available needs to be stricken. No tie games in Southeast tournament play. Motion by Paul Link to remove time limit for rookie play. Second by Joe Lane, motion carried. We need to specify that game begins with first pitch. Do we need to implement 5 runs per inning rule for baseball as it is in softball? Motion by Doug Strong to make no changes to that rule. Seconded by Jimmy Sanders, motion carried. Wording of 10- and 15-run rule in baseball and softball was discussed – Verbiage needs to be changed to read “once becoming regulation a tournament game must be terminated by the home plate umpire if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the end of four (or five) complete innings. Exception – three and a half or four and a half innings if the home team is ahead.” 15-run rule – change also. Dead ball verbiage changed (in umpire’s judgement) and, add no protest allowed. Paul Link asked why the runner is out in softball for leaving base too soon and baseball runner is not? The answer given was, because the games are different.

Invited World Series teams participating in District and State play review

Paul Link stated that Headquarters needs to give advance notice to Commissioners if teams from the previous year are invited to this year’s World Series tournament. State and Regional Commissioners should be copied on these letters as well as on umpire World Series assignments. World Series is under jurisdiction of Headquarters as far as which teams are invited.

Umpire fees (NUA)

Jimmy Sanders reported that umpires are complaining about the certification fees they are being charged. They don’t feel that they are getting a return on their money. Robert Faherty said that he would check into this. He urged the Commissioners to pursue the cadet program and possibly reduce their fee. Jimmy asked if it would be possible to change to multiyear certification.

State Commissioner, Regional Commissioner, and National coordination

Jimmy Sanders stated communications have improved with Robert Faherty as our liaison. Robert then stated that HQ will not raise charter or accident insurance rates for 2022. Liability rates will increase. Leagues need to check to make sure that non-K&K insurance covers tournament play.

Abuse training alternatives and fees

A listing of approved abuse-training vendors should be provided to each Commissioner. Everyone was reminded that when playing in a tournament, protocol for the host State has to be followed.

Review rules between baseball and softball

Paul Link suggested doing away with boundaries for 16-18 baseball as it is in softball. This was not looked upon favorably. Robert said more flexibility will be given to States in determining boundaries.

“U” under update for 2023

There is a big discussion coming up on this issue. Pitching regulations may change based on outcome.

Pitching rules review

Some revisions need to be made in order for the pitch count to function as expected.

Robert – rules being proposed to rules committee:

- Reinstate 50% playing rule
- Bring back minimum 10 game play
- Eliminate local league boundaries altogether
- Tournament play in 11/70 - should be allowed to steal
- Consider courtesy runners for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth – who can have a runner?
- Penalty for use of illegal bat
- Can only be on one tournament roster

- Pitcher can't appear more than 3 days
- Teams receiving automatic byes
- No longer host families
- Jewelry rule – what is and what's not. Change to exposed jewelry?
- 7- & 8-year-olds pitching – innings vs. games vs. days
- Allowed to finish batter when you reach maximum pitch count – does that need clarification?
- Pitch count – go back to innings pitched
- Proposal to eliminate \$5 per team – annual State fees may be established and approved by HQ Conference zoom call on rules on 11/9. Resubmitted somewhere around Thanksgiving.

Paul asked if there could be a highlight on the pitcher re-entry rule.

Local League Guide, insurance rates, and rule books should be completed soon.

John Lucas stated he was open to suggestions on a location for the meeting next year. Paul Link offered Williamsburg.

Jimmy Sanders spoke about a team deliberately forfeiting a game in District play in order to save pitching. It couldn't be proven and there was no rule to fall back on.

Joe Lane spoke about tournament credentials certified by league president. No way to verify so what can be done if kid was not playing in regular season.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherrie Sanders