

Southeast Regional Meeting
October 25, 2019
Grand Shores Ocean Resort
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Henry Sermons, Southeast Regional Commissioner, welcomed attendees (listed on last page).

State Commissioners present from Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina gave reports.

Attendees introduced themselves.

John Armentrout reported on rookie tournament rules. Changes in game length, 4-pitch limit instead of 5, use of ball bucket is an option but not recommended, no walks in machine pitch, each half inning is over with 3 outs or 5 runs scored, no limit on runs in sixth or subsequent innings, 15-run rule at end of 3 innings, 10-run rule at end of 4 complete innings (3-1/2 if home team is ahead), umpire no pitch is a judgment call after pitch reaches batter (strike first two sentences in red on rule 9B. was suggested but not accepted) Voting for approval were Jimmy Sanders, ENC; Paul Link, Virginia; Wayne Harwell, WNC. Doug Strong, Tennessee, voted against.

Regional tournaments - Doug Strong reported on incident between coach and umpire at 13-15 Regional.

Paul reported on tournaments in Virginia, specifically problems delaying games due to high heat index. Suggested State champs in one bracket and invitees in another. Accolades to Greenville, NC, coach.

Jimmy Davis reported on 11s in Wilmington, NC.

Jimmy Sanders reported on 16-18s in Hickory, NC.

Cherrie Sanders reported on 12s70 in Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Paul Link gave a presentation on the Virginia 16-18 State tournament. The presentation included ideas to increase registration numbers. Program enjoys success year after year.

Pool play determination - Everyone has to be diligent in making sure teams understand the rules. Include this discussion in the breakfast meeting. Paul Link suggested a second meeting of the teams that might be involved in a tie breaker and explain the rule again. Pool play will be used again in Regional tournaments in 2020.

Background checks have to be completed before participation in the organization. Failure to comply is a liability. Sports Engine is the best company for background checks. USA Baseball is also good for the background check at no cost. Henry advised State Commissioners to obtain a copy of and read the Federal law on abuse reporting. Steven Tellefsen reiterated the importance of background checks and abuse training not only from a legal standpoint, but also from the standpoint of it being our responsibility to protect the kids entrusted to us. Leagues need to obtain officers and directors liability insurance.

Umpires - There have been several suggestions about how to get umpires for the Regional tournaments. Wayne Harwell suggested naming the UIC for Regionals earlier so they can check on others assigned to the tournament. There was agreement from several that this would be a good idea. Paul Link suggested the leagues need to beef up their code of conduct policies to curtail abuse of umpires.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. until Saturday morning.

October 26, 2019

Teleconference with Rob Connor - objective of presentation is to help commissioners stay in touch with their leagues. Use phone, email (personal and pre-can), social media (twitter, facebook, instagram, snapchat), website, e-newsletter. Chartering opened October 15, league kits go out early December, slight increase in liability insurance (others remain same), insurance can activate as primary if person doesn't have insurance. To do for 2020 - election certifications, background and abuse training, financial statements, banner order review (order by November 30 for 2019 price, national awards orders. LOE approval begins June 5. The only rule change expected for 2020 is that the background check and abuse training paperwork will have to be in the credentials book. Clarification about wireless communications will be a separate line item. Dates for World Series were presented. Background checks must be done every 2 years. Abuse training can be taken at the same time. Fines for not reporting abuse claims can reach \$125K. 31 to 32 thousand background checks were completed for 2019. 113 failed. Babe Ruth celebrates 70 years in 2021. Paul Link asked that presidents be required to put a phone number on the charter information. That is in process. Are there any guidelines for approved abuse/background courses. Babe Ruth approves Sports Engine and USA Baseball. Any others should get approval from headquarters.

Jessica Cusimano spoke about the Babe Ruth Network. Please send photos and (or) videos that can be published.

Steven Tellefsen expressed appreciation for all the volunteers. Youth baseball is not growing. Possibility of changing tournament trail to help extend season for league players. BR nominated for National Council of Youth STRIDE award, Best amateur sports event (softball), Cal Ripken received Economic Impact award. Working on growing internationally. How can we grow Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken? 2009 numbers started decreasing. 13-15 decreasing for 35 years. Any ideas are welcomed.

Mickey Davis gave a presentation on the Hall of Fame section in the Baseball Museum in Wilson, NC. He asked for memorabilia from other States.

Henry reminded those present to nominate deserving individuals for the SE Region Hall of Fame. Anyone who has been with Babe Ruth for 25 years is presented a recognition pin.

John Armentrout reported on the Regional website.
State tournament dates need to be established soon for early planning purposes.

Give consideration to what to do with the 12s60 program. Some leagues are opting to enter teams in both divisions.

There was a USA Quickball presentation by their representatives.

Hal Brady gave a presentation on softball in the SE Region.

Hall of Fame dinner and presentation to be held tonight.

Meeting adjourned.

(List of meeting participants on next page)

Meeting participants

Name	State	Position
Steven Tellefsen	New Jersey	BRL President-CEO
Steve "Spike" Hupka	Tennessee	BRL International Board At-Large Member
Jessica Cusimano	New Jersey	BRL Asst. National Commissioner
Henry Sermons	North Carolina	SE Regional Commissioner
John Armentrout	Virginia	SE Asst. Regional Commissioner
Hal Brady	Georgia	SE Asst. Regional Commissioner
Damon Messina	Florida	Asst. to Softball Regional Commissioner
John DeYoung	Virginia	Admin. Asst. to Regional Commissioner
Cherrie Sanders	North Carolina	SE Regional Secretary
Jim Guzdowski	Virginia	HoF inductee - VA umpire
Jimmy Sanders	North Carolina	Eastern State Commissioner
Mickey Davis	North Carolina	Eastern Asst. State Commissioner
Jimmy Davis	North Carolina	Eastern Asst. State Commissioner
Wayne Harwell	North Carolina	Western State Commissioner
Joe Lane	North Carolina	Western Asst. State Commissioner
Doug Strong	Tennessee	State Commissioner
Paul Link	Virginia	State Commissioner
Phil Larcomb	Virginia	State Secretary-Treasurer
Don Gowen	Virginia	Asst. State Commissioner
Curtis Moore	Virginia	District Commissioner
Dave Cogar	Virginia	District Commissioner
Donny Rose	Virginia	State UIC
Mike Windell	North Carolina	HoF inductee - LGE President
Stacy Caraway	North Carolina	HoF inductee - New Bern League
Brandon Currence	Virginia	District Commissioner
Nancy Currence	Virginia	Asst. District Commissioner