

Meeting Minutes – General Membership Meeting
Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Softball League
Sunday, July 17, 2011
Baierl Center, Wexford, PA

Attendees:

Tony Goreczny – Fox Chapel (President)	Jim Schindler – Shaler (Vice-President)
Ed Vesely – North Hills (Secretary)	Bill Vodde – Hampton (Treasurer)
Renee Schopper - North Allegheny (Scorekeeper)	Ralph Pagone – North Allegheny (Exec. Board)
Frank Byers – Shaler (Exec. Board)	Diane Palmer – Bethel Park
Doug Griffith – Fort Cherry	George Brown – Fort Cherry
Dave Kerr - Hampton	Al Waltz – Montour
Jim Tempert – North Hills	Dan Levine – Peters Township
Martin DeGore – Plum	George Brinser – Seneca Valley
Leo Cannon – Shaler	Dan Mackulin – Thomas Jefferson
Rick Bernardo – West Allegheny	

Discussions:

1. Approval of the January 30, 2011 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and by a show of hands the Meeting Minutes from January 30, 2011 were approved.
2. President's Report: Tony Goreczny introduced Marty DeGore of Plum. During the past several months Tony has been communicating with Marty about Plum joining the WPISL. According to Marty, Plum would like to come into the WPISL as an approved club rather than through their local community association. Marty said there may be a meeting with the Plum Athletic Director about Plum School District entering the WPISL as a club in August and the issue may go the Plum school board for approval in September. Marty said that his Athletic Director (AD) has told him that if Plum is approved as a club sport that they may only be allowed to play other club teams within the WPISL. Ed Vesely stated this may be a problem scheduling wise for the regular season since only four (4) of the current twelve (12) members are clubs. Ralph Pagone added that the North Allegheny AD has recognized this issue and has permitted North Allegheny school district to play non-club teams, as the WPISL is just getting started and not enough members are clubs yet. Ralph added that there have been discussions between the Plum and NA ADs and this should continue over the next several weeks as Plum attempts to enter the WPISL as club team.

Tony Goreczny reviewed the status of several schools that were not in attendance at the meeting but have expressed interest in joining the WPISL or have communicated with Tony over the past several months.

Butler (Meridian) – questionable whether they would enter the WPISL in the Fall of 2011
Keystone Oaks – no word since last fall.

Knoch – unlikely to enter the WPISL in 2011 as there does not seem to be enough interested players.

Mercer – unlikely to enter the WPISL in 2011

Mount Pleasant – last year they conducted an in-house fall league and that is why they chose not to enter the WPISL in the fall of 2010. *They are likely to do that again in 2011, but they may also bring a group of interested players into the WPISL as well..*

Penn-Trafford – likely to enter a jv or varsity team in the Fall of 2011.

Shango - questionable whether they would enter the WPISL in the Fall of 2011.

Thomas Jefferson – likely to enter the WPISL in 2011 with a junior high or jv team

3. Secretary's Report: Ed Vesely had nothing to report.
4. Treasurer's Report: Bill Vodde handed out to those in attendance the Treasurer's report that identifies the league's expenses and income (fees paid by members) for 2010 and proposed revised operating budget for 2011. The operating budget includes projected revenue from the sale of t-shirts which was discussed later in the meeting. See Item 8 below. The 2011 budget includes the following fee structure: \$70 for each varsity team, \$30 for each junior varsity team and \$30 for each junior high team. Checks for those fees should be brought to the scheduling meeting on August 27, 2011 made out to the WPISL.

Secretary's note: After the meeting a conversation ensued between board members. It was brought up during the conversation that one fee for the operation of the WPISL was not included in the Treasurer's report. That fee is \$50 annually for the domain names of wpisl.org, wpisl.com and wpisl.net. Bill Vodde was contacted to add that fee into the next Treasurer's Report

5. Committee Reports

Tony Goreczny decided not to proceed with committee reports at this point of the meeting stating that the action covered by the committees would be addressed in subsequent agenda items.

6. League Softballs

Tony Goreczny explained that since our last general membership meeting he has learned that orders for softballs takes place through local suppliers only once a year in the fall. So, it is too late for the WPISL to order softballs with our name or logo on the balls for the 2011 season. Instead the WPISL will be ordering softballs stamped with our logo or name for the 2012 season. Tony went on to explain that supply vendor Jim DeStout of the Sport Shop has provided the best deal for the WPISL. The Sports Shop is willing to purchase the minimum order of 100 dozen softballs for the WPISL and carry the financial burden by not charging our league to purchase all the balls when ordered. The Sports Shop will then sell each box of a dozen softballs to WPISL teams over the next two years until the supply runs out.

So, for the 2011 season, the WPISL will use the GPGSL stamped softball supplied by the Sports Shop and Jim DeStout. A vote was taken and the members agreed to use only the optic green softball for the 2011 season and that white softballs that member teams may have in stock should not be used during games. Frank Byers brought up the idea that we may be

able to purchase the same softball that we want to use (11-inch, .44 core, red-stitch, optic green) with no stamp on it. We could then stamp it ourselves or get the local retailer to do that. Renee Schopper volunteered to call a local retailer to investigate and will report back to the board. Tony went on to explain that with the minimum order of 100 dozen softball we get several extra dozen softballs and three bats. Tony said we could use the extra softballs to supply softballs for the playoffs starting in 2012 season, and this could help reduce the league fees. It was agreed by the membership to raffle the bats off during the playoffs. The raffling of bats would not occur until the 2012 season at the earliest.

7. League Address

For the league letterhead and for receiving correspondence the membership decided to use Tony Goreczny business address. That address is 101 Emerson Avenue, Aspinwall, PA 15215.

8. T-shirt Fundraiser

Bill Vodde presented to the membership the concept for a t-shirt fundraiser which was provided in writing to those in attendance on the back of the Treasurer's Report. The concept and what was agreed upon by the membership is summarized below. The fundraiser would consist of each varsity team soliciting two sponsors. The sponsors would pay \$50 each to have their business listed on the back of the t-shirt. Each varsity team would receive fifteen (15) t-shirts that they would hand out to their players for free at the playoffs.

Funds would be raised for the WPISL by selling the shirts to parents, junior varsity and junior high players (or booster organizations can buy the shirts for their players). The members voted to sell shirts at \$10 each. The membership voted that the color of the shirt will be optic green or something close to that to match the color of the league softball. The weight of the shirt will be 5.6 ounces. A two color WPISL log will be printed on the front of the shirt. On the back the sponsors will be listed. Bill Vodde will investigate if the color of the sponsor information can be printed in black and if there is any extra cost for that color printing. The members tabled the concept of purchasing American made shirts at \$2 extra per shirt until sponsors are lined-up and the total estimated cost is determined. The membership does not want to create a deficit spending where the league would loose money by giving out t-shirts to varsity players for free at the playoffs without having enough sponsors to cover the cost.

9. Web-site

The WPISL web-site is currently not operational. A new improved web-site is expected to be launched next week. Tony Goreczny and Ralph Pagone will coordinate with Tom Meinert (North Allegheny) and Justin Pyles to get it launched. Justin Pyles is our web-master. Justin is currently also the web-master for the North Allegheny School District's athletic page.

Frank Byers suggested providing a link between community web-sites and the WPISL web-sites and visa versa. He also suggested the WPISL web-site provide a link to the McCandless web-site that lists tournaments for Community based teams. Tony Goreczny was in favor to providing the link from community based web-sites to the WPISL web-site but he was not in favor of the other links, stated we (the WPISL) want to be separate from community based teams.

Tony explained with our web-site we have use of up to 100 domain names. The membership agreed to provide domain names to all officers and managers.

10. Penalty for Games not played

Ed Vesely said that last year games at the junior varsity level were not played as scheduled. Ed Vesely suggested that the membership consider a financial penalty for games scheduled and not played as scheduled for reasons other than weather or poor field conditions. Rick Bernardo brought up the point that since the junior varsity and junior high levels do not have playoffs there is no incentive to play the games should players have something else on game day like a birthday party. Dan Mackulin asked why the WPISL does not have playoffs at the junior varsity and junior high levels. Tony Goreczny gave a brief explanation including that the WPISL is trying to mirror the PIAA/WPIAL which does not offer playoffs for the junior varsity and junior high levels. Tony also said that one concern of having an end of season playoffs for junior varsity is that teams might play varsity players in junior varsity games to give them a competitive edge rather than using junior varsity players. Secretary's note: *The WPISL wants to emphasize that the junior varsity and junior high levels should be used to develop player skills to play at varsity level in the future and winning should not be emphasize at the sacrifice of player development and diversity to learn and develop skills to play multiple defensive positions.* Tony Goreczny went on to say that the membership has discussed having an end of season tournament for the junior varsity level, but to date it has not been pursued and no member has volunteered to host an end of season junior varsity tournament. Ed Vesely recommended tabling the discussion at this point.

11. Request for Scorekeeper Volunteers

Tony Goreczny explained that the board would like to find volunteers to assist Renee Schopper the Scorekeeper by filling new positions of junior varsity scorekeeper and junior high scorekeeper. The junior varsity and junior high scorekeepers would report to the Renee, who would also serve as the varsity scorekeeper. The junior varsity and junior high scorekeepers will not be board positions. Rick Bernardo stated that Joe Bolton of West Allegheny will be glad to volunteer as assistant scorekeeper and is willing to post the results and standing of the WPISL teams on a weekly basis. After a brief discussion the membership decided to forego the junior varsity and junior high scorekeeper positions and just have Joe Bolton serve as the assistant scorekeeper to Renee Schopper.

Renee is requesting that managers of the host team report their scores to Renee and Joe Bolton no later than the Monday following their games each week. Renee will develop a template that will be distributed to the managers that identifies the information needed each

week to report the scores. The officers decided Joe Bolton should have access to the WPISL web-site to post the scores. Renee will serve to check the scores and standings that are posted on the web-site. Renee will keep the official records and resolve any discrepancies.

12. Constitution, By-law and Rule Changes

Ed Vesely reviewed the proposed Constitution changes as e-mailed by Tony Goreczny to the membership on July 14, 2011. In particular, Ed reviewed significant changes and items addressed by comments received from the WPISL's Athletic Director consultant. Frank Byers suggested that at least one officer of the WPISL should serve on each committee. After some additional discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed Constitution changes except for Article III, Section 1, which was not included with the motion and will not be changed at this time and Frank Byers suggestion would be written into the changes. Regarding Article III, Section 1; the board will review this section at a later date and provide recommended changes to the membership. In particular, Article III, Section 1 will be reviewed for terminology of the board members and the possibility of defining term limits for the three (3) permanent members. Tony Goreczny took a role call vote of the membership and motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the 11 member organizations in attendance. Penn-Trafford was not in attendance and did not vote by proxy.

Ed Vesely reviewed the proposed By-law changes as e-mailed by Tony Goreczny to the membership on July 14, 2011. In particular, Ed reviewed significant changes and items addressed by comments received from the WPISL's Athletic Director consultant. After the review and discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed Constitution changes except Rule 2, Proposed Item 5 will be modified such that the managers of varsity and junior varsity teams will be responsible for obtaining photo IDs and keeping record of them at all games. The photo IDs of players (grades 9-12 only) will not be supplied to the Scorekeeper. Tony Goreczny took a role call vote of the membership and motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the 11 member organizations in attendance. Penn-Trafford was not in attendance and did not vote by proxy.

Ed Vesely reviewed the proposed Rules changes as e-mailed by Tony Goreczny to the membership on July 14, 2011. In particular, Ed reviewed significant changes and items addressed by comments received from the WPISL's Athletic Director consultant. After a discussion about the Section 5 – Subsection A, the members decided to leave the rule strict ASA, Tony Goreczny took a role call for the vote of the membership and motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the 11 member organizations in attendance. Penn-Trafford was not in attendance and did not vote by proxy.

13. Scheduling Requests – Clubs play only club teams

This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting. See the President's report.

14. Other General Comments/Items

The Scheduling Committee recommendation for Fall 2011 season were reviewed and discussed. After the discussion was completed a motion was made, seconded, and a majority of the membership in attendance voted for the following scheduling changes for schedule for the 2011 season.

1. Varsity regular season games will be scheduled between Tuesday, September 6, 2011 (day after Labor Day) and Sunday, October 23, 2011. The varsity regular season will consist of 14 games. Secretary's note: *By no later than August 21, 2011 – All varsity teams must declare their desire to enter the WPISL for the fall 2011 season. This declaration must be made to the WPISL, President (Tony Goreczny, Secretary (Ed Vesely) and Chair of the Scheduling Committee (Brian Cronin - Montour). Failure to submit notification by Sunday, August 21, 2011, means if a member has a varsity team, they will not be scheduled, and not be allowed to participate in the WPISL varsity playoffs.* Varsity teams should try to schedule all their games on Sundays as two seven-inning contests played back to back at the designated host team's field. The varsity playoffs will be conducted on the weekend of October 29-30, weather permitting. If the playoffs get rained out, games will be played the weekend of November 5-6. The approval voted by the membership is contingent on the WPISL receiving verification from Seneca Valley that they will have fields available to host the playoff the weekend of October 29-30 and November 5-6 (if necessary).

The junior varsity regular season games will be scheduled between Tuesday, September 6, 2011 (day after Labor Day) and Sunday, October 23, 2011. The junior varsity regular season will consist of 14 games. Junior varsity teams should try to schedule all their games on Saturdays as two seven-inning contests played back to back at the designated host team's field. There will be no junior varsity playoffs.

The junior high regular season games will be scheduled between Tuesday, September 6, 2011 (day after Labor Day) and Sunday, October 23, 2011. The junior high regular season will consist of 14 games. Junior high teams should try to schedule all their games on Saturday or Sunday as two seven-inning contests played back to back at the designated host team's field.

The information contained in these minutes represents the Secretary's interpretation and understanding of the discussions and decisions that occurred during the meeting. Any clarifications or corrections to these minutes should be submitted in writing to the Secretary within five calendar days of the issued date of these minutes. No response implies that the information contained herein is agreed to be correct as written.