

GREATER CINCINNATI KNOTHOLE ASSOCIATION – WEST REGIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

1. Date: Wednesday, December 21.
2. Location: Wyoming Recreational Center
3. Attendees: Glenn Schaaf , Gene Drozd, Brian Hill, and Bill O'Brien
4. Duration: 60 minutes
5. Primary Focus: Final revision of rules// January 10 meeting at Springdale

Topics discussed:

1. Rules – Gene edited the rules based on notes and intervening memos from and following the November 30 meeting
 - a. Discussion on interplay between penalties for ejection and plowing rule
 - i. Key is umpire understands presumption is the runner does not intend harm.
 - ii. If harm is intended, penalty is appropriate
 - iii. Generally, penalty intended to serve as a deterrent.
 - b. Special Rules for D-2 (U-9)
 - i. National or American Rules
 - ii. At least 6 teams will use the National League Rules
 1. These teams will be the only eligible teams for the World Series
 2. Final approval/selection of teams at discretion of West Regional Board
2. Glenn's Report from 12/8 GCKA Board Meeting
 - a. Riddell will offer baseballs at \$34/dozen with GCKA logo
 - i. Riddell will offer shirt and hats (combined) for \$35/40
 - b. Participation in the Riddell Program is optional
 - c. West Region will be composed of same communities as last season.
 - d. GCKA still pursuing franchise/affiliation concepts with communities not currently participating in GCKA
 - i. Goal is to broaden the base of participation
 - ii. Ultimate goal is additional world series playoff between GCKA champs and champs from the affiliated groups.
 - iii. GCKA is trying to grow its brand
 - e. GCKA player who participated in Reds Fest had a positive experience
 - f. GCKA may tie opening day for the Reds into opening day for GCKA
 - i. This could cause target date for GCKA opening day to be 4/7
 - ii. GCKA again trying to obtain media exposure and brand recognition.
 - g. Ideally GCKA would like every parent who registers for Knothole to fill out additional registration information on the GCKA website.
3. Additional items discussed by Glenn
 - a. Harrison team may participate in the U-8/D-1 program
 - i. Participation would be independent from the Harrison Heat organization
 - ii. Andy Baker is the contact person and he will attend January 10 meeting

- b. West Region Board Members will (if local communities desire) attend community coaches meetings to answer questions and to try to assist in getting the season started.
 - c. Do NOT know if contracts will be available by January 10 meeting
 - d. Springdale Community has authorized us to use their facilities but we must disburse by 8:45 (meeting will be Tuesday, January 10 starting at 7 PM).
 - e. Glenn will obtain information from the local school districts regarding Spring Break Periods
 - i. This info will help with the determination of the West Region Opening Day
 - ii. Consideration will be given to establishing a start date (by age levels) that ideally will enhance the experience of playing baseball
4. Agenda for the January 10 Knothole Meeting for all Communities:
- a. Primary focus will be on scheduling
 - i. Critical dates/ use of forms
 - ii. Approximately 45 days from meeting team commitments need to be finalized (“hard team counts” from each community)
 - b. Review Rule Changes
 - i. Discuss American/National League rules for D-2 (U-9)
 - 1. See discussion notes above
 - 2. Goal is best experience for all participants
 - ii. Emphasize each manager should know the Rules for his/her age group
 - 1. Manager should have copy available during each game
 - 2. Emphasize importance of ground rules
 - c. Generally outline critical dates for the season
 - d. Importance of completing contracts
 - e. Tournament awards – simpler is better
 - f. Some discussion on umpires
 - i. Do not ‘cheap-out’ – impact on the quality of the experience
5. Treasure Report - \$1,210.24 cash on hand in the Board’s account
6. Will review agenda in advance of meeting and finalize