

West Region Meeting – Wednesday, January 10

Duration: 90 minutes (started at 7pm.)

Location: Springdale Recreation Center Meeting Room

1. Opening remarks by Glenn
 - a. Review of teams playing last year
 - b. Importance of younger children participating – T-Ball – Coach Pitch
2. Discussions of communities progress in registration
 - a. PYO – coming a bit slower this year.
 - b. Reading – last 3 Saturdays in January to register (walk-in registration)
 - c. Greenhills and North Hills – both use blue sombrero websites
3. Season timeline
 - a. Start April 14 (later for A level and T-Ball/Coach Pitch have their own separate dates.
 - b. Season (regular) ends in Mid-June
 - i. World Series (top 4 teams in each age group); and
 - ii. Regional tournaments (ideally, all other teams will participate).
 - c. Post season playing opportunities:
 - i. Regional Tournament winners round robin; and
 - ii. All star team for each age group from each region
(these events will extend the baseball season into July)
4. Financial Position:
 - a. \$244 in the bank account (effectively, the opening cash balance as we start the 2018 season.
 - b. Discussed below payment of \$125/team registration fee to West Region.
5. Registration process:
 - a. 2/1 – approximate number of teams from each community.
 - b. 3/1 – firm commitment date//
 - i. Payment of \$125/team registration team required.
 - ii. Completion of team registration form (on last page of hand-out with the GCKA rules) required.
 1. Same information as in the past – name of coach with complete contact information and weekday and weekend field for scheduling of home games.
 2. Note any day(s) that team can not participate (Kid glove, graduations, religious services, etc.).
 - iii. On or about April 1 final draft of schedule sent to community reps.
 1. NOT to be shared with managers.
 2. Community Reps to make any modifications (final at this point).
 - iv. Schedules will be revised and redistributed as final schedules to coaches.
 1. Goal – coaches ONLY see the final schedule – coach should not receive multiple edits of schedule.
 - v. Assume approximate 14 game schedule – April 14 to June 10

1. World Series and Regional Tournaments follow (see discussion above).
 2. Need 8 teams, minimum, from each age group to have regional tournament within the West Region.
 3. Try to avoid co-mingling with other Regions.
- c. Knothole working on Select league
- i. Age D-2 (U-9) and above
 - ii. Higher level of completion.
 - iii. NOTE THIS ON SCHEDULING FORM
 - iv. Goal – more completion and less expense than typical select league
- d. League Athletics website for each teams schedule – same as last year.
- e. Awards:
- i. Top two teams in each age group during the regular season
 - ii. Top two teams in Regional Tournament
 - iii. Awards similar to those of last year (for the team and each player)
6. Rules (the following GCKA Rules were discussed. It is important to note that the West Regional Rules, on the website, will be the SAME as they were in 2017 (there are no changes in the West’s regional rules – and particularly focus on them for the D-1 (U-8) and D-2 (U-9) Rules.
- a. Bat Rule (Rule 15)
- i. NOT required to use new bats (deaden impact on ball- quasi wood bats).
 1. This rule will become operative in the 2019 Season
 2. Recommend do not purchase new bats this season.
 3. Most all youth baseball organizations adopting this rule – rule based on safety considerations – reduced impact to protect fielders, particularly pitchers and corner infield positions.
- b. Conduct (Rule 21)
- i. New for 2018 – specific rule that Manager is responsible for conduct of team, players, coaches and fans of the team 60 minutes before, during and 30 minutes after each game.
 1. Behavior extends to area around the field of play.
 2. Improper behavior includes smoking of any type of tobacco products (many parks prohibit smoking completely), possession of firearms/dangerous weapons, foul language, and generally any improper conduct.
 - a. Violation could result in ejection of the ‘offender.’
 - b. Rule to be enforced by umpire – important to note this.
 - ii. Rule is another example of an item that should be discussed during ground rules – Manager’s need to cooperate with each other in enforcing rules.
- c. Manager’s Agreement Responsibilities(with respect to team roster and contracts)
- i. Contracts MUST be completed and signed by player and parent.

1. Still to be finalized is use of electronic system for completion. It is anticipated that improvements will be made this year to make it easier to complete the contract signing process on-line.
 2. Correct birth dates and correct permanent address and phone number must be included.
 - ii. Copies of BOTH completed player contracts (forms 1 and 2) and a final roster must be delivered to the West Region on/before the first game of the season. (if not done with on-line method)
 - iii. Penalty for violation is an automatic 3 game suspension of the team manager and additional penalties could be imposed by GCKA including permanent suspension (ban) from managing.
 - iv. The importance of completing the player contracts was emphasized and the West Region was of the opinion that the team manager was not required to check birth certificates. Manager can accept the information provided by the parent/guardian UNLESS the team manager has information that would indicate the information provided is not accurate or that the information is obviously in error (e.g. a youngster 6' tall normally would almost assuredly NOT be eligible to play at the D-1 level). The Team Manager may have to produce a birth certificate based on an appeal.
- d. Hurdling/Plowing Over the Catcher or other Fielders (Rule 25)
- i. Effort made to clarify the rule.
 - ii. The defensive player MUST be in POSSESSION of the BALL BEFORE making any attempt to make a play on the runner attempting to advance a base.
 - iii. Even with possession of the ball, the defensive player must be given an opening in which to slide into the base.
 - iv. The defensive player in possession is the 'protected player.' Without possession, the defensive player can NOT interfere with the runner's attempt to advance to the next base.
 - v. Rule is enforced by the umpire –and the offending player could be assessed a penalty for Unsportsmanlike Behavior and ejected from the game.
 1. Intent of the rule is not to be punitive. The overriding goal is player safety.
 2. Contact between players, in and of itself, is not unsportsmanlike conduct.
 3. The key element is intent – is there an intention to plow into/hurdle another player.
- e. AGAIN – RULE ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCUSSING THIS AND OTHER JUDGMENTAL RULES WITH THE OTHER MANAGER AND THE UMPIRE DURING GROUND RULES. IF YOU ARE AWARE OF AN EJECTION OR OBSERVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE TO BE PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIOR PLEASE NOTIFY ONE OF THE WEST REGION BOARD MEMBERS ASAP.

7. State of Ohio training requirements:
 - a. Concussion training – on line (same as last year)
 - b. Lindsey’s law – sudden cardiac arrest awareness and protocols
 - c. Both are online videos that should be reviewed by all coaches and parents – goal is to raise awareness of these issues.
 - d. Will put more information on West Region website
 - e. Concussion training certification good for 3 years (certification of completion)
 - f. Lindsey’s law – training must be done each year
 - g. Training may have been completed for other sports
 - i. Emphasize to coaches to keep file of completion on these training requirements.
 - h. See this website: <http://nfhslearn.com/courses>
8. Background screening for coaches – recommended
 - a. General expectation that some form of ‘checking’ done.
9. Kid Glove
 - a. 5 dates for games
 - b. Great way to acquire equipment
 - c. Purchase vouchers for \$12 and receive a \$10 credit to be applied to purchase equipment/uniforms.
 - d. Contact person: Paul Kramer. His email is: paulwink@fuse.net
10. Central Region
 - a. Effort to form – would extend to communities serviced by City of Cincinnati Public Schools.
 - b. No organization/community required to join if already in a separate region.
 - c. In process of formation –we will have to wait and see how this develops (how many teams in each age group will participate from the Central Region).
11. Fees per team/ \$125
 - a. Reduced from \$250 based on input feedback from prior meeting in October. Specifically, the meeting of October 24 in which this issue was discussed in detail.
 - b. Original goal of GCKA in recommending imposition of the \$250 fee was to get more teams to play in the tournament.
 - c. No net increase in fees from last year – last year registration fee was \$25 and tournament fee was \$225 (which is a very ‘friendly’ price for a tournament and reflects that the tournament was operated on a break-even basis).
 - d. Again the \$125 fee is due at time of registration of the team (MUST be paid on/before March 1).
 - e. The remaining \$125 is payable only if a team participates in either the Regional or World Series Tournament.
12. Additional sources of equipment
 - a. Use the GCKA on-line store. Please see this website: <https://shopknothole.com>

- b. Can purchase official knothole baseballs featuring the GCKA logo (Diamond Brand baseballs with GCKA logo affixed).

Final Comment: Follow the West Region Website for additional information.

<http://knotholebaseballwest.com>

Attachments:

Meeting Agenda (all items on Agenda were discussed)

Final GCKA Rules (discussion limited to specific rules noted above).

2018 Team Registration Form (form and timing for submission discussed in detail)