



BTBA Board: December Special Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2018 – 7pm
Bloomington City Hall – City Hall (Hage Conference Room)

Board Attendees:

BTBA Board Members Present:

Jim Peterson – President
Drew Squires – Vice President
Robert Chamberlain – Treasurer
George Bender – Secretary
Jodi Syrjamaki – Tournament Director
Scott Nelson
Adam Brown
Jean Gonzalez
Corey Vucinovich
Scott King
Brian Carter
Austin Hamilton

BTBA Board Members Absent:

Aaron Dean, John Coady, Ryan Schilling

Membership Attendance: ~40 parent members present

Open Discussion Forum:

First Topic

Q: What coordination occurs with the high school programs? Why is there not a lot of coordination between the traveling program and the high school programs?

A: Some, not a lot. The high school programs annually lead winter workouts in the activity centers. Some parents expressed an interest in utilizing financial resources to develop fundamentals in the 10U – 13U age groups including a desire for additional workouts programs.

Q: Why was the assistance the high school coaching typically provided at tryouts (primarily independent grading of the players) in the past re-directed?

A: Last year there was a conflict in scheduling the tryouts in the activity centers. BTBA believed space was reserved as it had been annually. BTBA was informed the space was

reserved by a different organization and we would not be able to operate the tryouts as we normally have in the past. BTBA was left to find other alternatives. Options were researched and the best alternative was to utilize facilities at Pitch2Pitch. The proposal included a program for the grading of the players. Financial impacts had an impact on determining allowing P2P to provide the independent player analysis portion of the tryout process.

Additional discussion on the topic:

- Coach development would be a good place to invest resources in order to develop players.
- The 14U age group has a new rule last year that required continuous batting in lieu of playing with a true 9-man baseball line-up.
- 13AAA had paid coaching last year as an experiment. The paid coaches were hired based on recommendations from the Starter's program.
- A current thought is to build upon the good experience last years 13AAA had and hire paid coaching at the 14AAA & 13AAA levels.
- An idea was discussed to have a paid coach go around to the 10U – 13U age levels to help coach the coaches and help the players.

Second topic

Q: Has there been discussion to have the 14AAA and 13AAA teams absorb the costs of hiring paid coaches?

A: Some parents contributed they would be ok with this because of the experiences they've had and some parents indicated they would not be for adding a ~\$400 fee for paid coaching. Parents from lower age groups indicated they don't want to fund benefits for older age groups. Last year, 14AA sought to have 20 practices with hired coaches. This was allocated from the only special fundraising and first banner that was sold. Only \$600 of the \$1500 raised was spent.

Third topic

Q: Why hire AAA coaches in lieu of AA or A?

A: The AAA level is highly competitive and contentious at times.

Q: Has registration went down due to the hiring of paid coaches at any level?

A: A paid coach has typically been hired at the 15U age level in the past. Last season was the first year paid coaches were hired at another age level. There was not a 15U team last season which helped fund the experiment.

Q: At what age level can parent coaches less effectively coach age groups?

A: This answer is subjective to other factors but generally it is felt that at the 14U age group it becomes a greater challenge.

Additional discussion on the topic:

- A thought was provided that AA and A players need to develop more in order to compete within the age group and AAA players are likely in offseason development programs.

- A thought was provided to hire 2 coaches at an age level but to allocate one coach to AAA and one coach to AA.
- Last years intent was to have the paid coaches assist at other levels and teams. It didn't occur for a variety of reasons.

Fourth topic

Q: Can the expense for paid coaching be split or alternatively funded?

A: A fee to parents and possibly by fundraising?

Additional discussion on the topic:

- In past years, the high school coaches have hosted a pre-season meeting to assist the coaches.
- This year, the Federal government is requiring additional reporting.
- The Starters program may back the paid coaches they recommend and help with any issues that may come up.
- Teams within an age group could be encouraged to practice together and scrimmage each other.

Fifth topic

Q: Who will pay for the paid coaching?

A: As proposed, all of the member families contribute in part because the funding would come out of the general funds of the organization.

Additional costs on the topic:

- There was general support from the meeting attendance to maintain the current registration fee and avoid any increase.
- Paid coaching can alleviate a lot of problems that can arise from parent coaches.
- What are the defined goals of hiring paid coaching? Winning? Player development? More fun? A better overall experience? Elimination of conflict/drama?

Sixth topic

Q: Are last years paid coaches willing to come back?

A: Yes

Seventh topic

Q: What would help build up parent coaches?

A: Again, this is subjective and there are many factors. A defined program and a coaching manual would be beneficial in lieu of minimal support.

Eighth topic

Q: A concern was expressed the high school programs are minimally involved.

A: The general response was the high school coaches are primarily focused on the high school programs.

Timeline discussion for a vote

▸ A request for when will decisions be made as club tryouts are typically in February. The Board will have discussions at the Board meeting in January and a vote is expected at that meeting.