

New Hampshire Baseball Umpires Association

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting October 16, 2011

1. Minutes of the January 23, 2011 Executive Board Meeting were accepted as corrected by Mark Cherbonneau
2. Treasurer's report was handed out and approved with a balance of \$15,835.21.
3. Secretary reported that he has not received dues payment from 11 active umpires. The secretary was instructed to send a certified letter to each of the 11 informing them of their suspension as members per NHBUA By Laws. They must pay their dues plus penalty (\$80 + \$40) by December 31st and ask for a hearing in front of the Executive Board at their next scheduled meeting on January 22, 2012. The secretary also reported that Tom Gibson is going active for 2012 and Brad Avenia is going inactive. He also read an email from Mark Cherbonneau's wife Kristine. She is asking for donations so that she can spend her winter break going to the Dominican Republic to help under privileged children. After the email was read, a motion was made & seconded, passed unanimously to send her a check for \$200.
4. Rules Interpreter Terry Dostie observed that 32 umpires, supposed NHBUA listed members through the NHIAA, don't take the test and just do Division 1 sub varsity games. Billy Mak will find out about their status. The on line testing was discussed with the following conclusions: must be completed by the due date, may be taken twice, must score at least 80% or no varsity schedule, test will be randomized; will include 20 of the NHBUA questions which will have some mechanics questions. Billy Mak will find out if the NHIAA will give the Association a copy of the written test that may be used as a study guide for members to use before going on line. There were no regular season protests – one protest during the playoffs. Terry proposed the four 2012 Rules Interpretation sites as; Souhegan coaches meeting in February, the Annual Business Meeting the second Sunday in March, Holderness School on a Saturday in March and Somersworth H.S. on a week night in March. The site of the Annual Meeting was discussed with Tom Fischer informing the board that SNHU will require a \$400 fee to use the same site as last year with a \$150 fee for a video tech. NHTI will let us use their Auditorium for \$200. It was decided to use NHTI next March.
5. Assigning Chairman Bill Makarawicz reported that there were 1,820 games with 3,613 assignments (some sub varsity games use 1 official) 203 of these assignments were filled by non-members. These non –members paid \$650 in fees to be listed on the Arbiter. Bill handed out *three* reports. The *first* was about the peer evaluations done by members on their partners and the scores that were given. Most umpires gave very good scores no matter who they worked with. The *second* report was on the rating from the evaluations. The first 2 pages of the 3 page report listed everyone in the 90% plus range. The *third* report listed umpires with 5 or less games – their scores were all excellent. These reports confirmed what we already knew – peer evaluations are not the best way to evaluate. Terry talked about how to evaluate. He also remarked that perhaps a 50% peer evaluation & a 50% assignor evaluation might work. Bill commented that that approach is 50% flawed. He also said that comments criticizing an umpires' performance may be sent directly to the Supervisor. Don Micucci related his experience with evaluations and gave his report in the process. He said that choosing to use an independent evaluator can conflict with scheduling. He referred to last years' evaluations when he did 2 umpires and rated them in 85% range and checked their peer evaluations and they both were in the 90+% range. Bill relayed a concern from the NHIAA that officials from all sports are not familiar with the NHIAA's Policies & Procedures. We must know them and not depend on getting that information from a coach. Bill explained the process he uses when beginning to assign on the Arbiter starting in December. First he puts in a 39 mile restriction, then the blocks, then a 14 game limit, doing all this before "hitting the assigning button". Then by January 2nd he sends this info to the regional assignors. Brian Troupe asked Bill and Bill confirmed that the only ones needing this info at that time are the Regional Assignors. Brian made a point of informing the board about some umpires getting game assignment info that should not be available to them. Let the assignors assign. Bill will scope the assignments so that the people who should get the info will and others will not. Lee Champagne questioned the procedure regarding re-assignment of games. He cited a situation last year when the 2 original officials were given the make-up game by the coach and no one informed the assignor. Just before the makeup game date, the game was cancelled and only one of the umpires was notified. Thus one umpire went to the game and wanted to be paid for the game because he was not told it was cancelled. If the coach or either umpire had told Lee about the re-

New Hampshire Baseball Umpires Association

scheduled game, this wouldn't have happened. Bill said that the policy was followed and the coach or AD or umpires should have notified the assignor.

6. Supervisor of Officials Mark Cherbonneau was unavailable.
7. Liaison Jim Walsh was not available.
8. BUD Chairman Tom Fischer reported that last year the class started with 52 applications. The 1st class was at Laconia H.S. on March 13, 2011 and ran for 6 weeks. The scrimmage at Hopkinton was cancelled because of weather. 17 new sign-ups and 5 returnees from last year's (2010) class for a total of 22. Of the 22, 2 dropped out, 1 didn't show for his field test, 1 still has to be field tested, 9 tested in Manchester and passed, 1 passed in Dover, 8 tested in Bristol with 4 passing. We also had 3 apprentices from the North Country complete their 4 classes and field test. We also had 11 returnees for 4 classes. One was away at school who has not completed any of the 4 classes required and one has 1 class next year. We have had some problems with apprentices not showing up for the field test. The written test was taken on June 12, 2011 at SNHU with an 82% average score. Eleven passed and three were very close. Thank you for the support of the Executive Board. The trainers put a lot of hours to make the classes work.
9. Performance Review Coordinator: Don Micuccis' report was given with Billy Mak's.
10. Website Chairman – Bill Jennings was unable to attend but wanted to remind the Board that changes to the web site should be directed to him in a timely manner.
11. Old Business: The awarding of a pullover jacket was finalized. Tom Desautel will submit an order for 12 jackets for the 12 umpires that worked final games in 2011. The jacket is like the one given a few years ago. It will be black with gold embroidered NH State outline with N.H.B.U.A. circling the top and "State Finals" underneath.
12. New Business: Terry Dostie queried the board about why protests during the playoffs are handled by the Rules Interpreter except for the semi-finals and finals which are under the jurisdiction of the Baseball Committee? Perhaps Supervisor Mark Cherbonneau could enlighten us.

Vice President, Rick Force, suggested and the board agreed that Executive Board Meeting dates should be set on a regular basis. Passed by unanimous agreement that starting in January the dates will be: Annual Business Meeting on the 2nd Sunday in March, the weekend after the Finals that Sunday in June, the Sunday in October after Columbus Day Weekend and the 3rd Sunday in January.

Duane Welch
Sec/Treas NHBUA