

New Hampshire Baseball Umpires Association

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting June 22, 2014

1. Minutes of the January 26, 2014 Executive Board Meeting were accepted.
2. Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Treasury has a balance of \$1,207.12, well below the usual on hand amount of approx. \$7,000.00. Expected dues outstanding of \$10,563 should be received by the end of June. Still unpaid major expenditures of \$900 for our website overhaul, \$3,000 for NHIAA Rules/Case Books, \$1,500 for mileage of 3 Executive Board Meetings, unknown amount for Collins Sports Center, 13 BUD Evaluations, \$600 secretary's stipend and unknown amount for awards from Harris Trophy.
3. Rules Interpreter Terry Dostie reported that he made or received few emails during the season. Discussed as the safety issue of teams huddling on the baseline or on the mound during their changes from offense to defense also the misuse of extending the dugout when it is not necessary. Terry said that he would include those subjects at his next Coaches Rules Interpretation and will remind the membership of their responsibility in those areas and how to manage them. Reducing a pitchers warm-up throws in order to comply with the 1 minute rule is a way to get their attention and cause the players to hustle between innings.
4. Assigning Chairman Bill Makarawicz reported that it's time to clean up the Arbiter and delete those umpires who are listed but are not doing games. He referred to the email attachment that he sent to the Board and requested that the list of umpires on that attachment be perused and let him know if there are umpires listed who shouldn't be there. Brian voiced a concern that some umpires (and some AD's) are not notifying the assignor of a rescheduled rained out game that is not listed on the Arbiter. Our umpires must be reminded that if they go to a game and it is rained out, they must notify the assignor of the situation when it is rescheduled and they can or cannot make that game. Bill reported that lack of coverage of sub varsity games was a problem and will probably be a problem in the future. Brian suggested that our umpires should be concerned with NHIAA affiliated games not Jr. High or Middle School games. He said that we should cover all high school games with 2-man system and not be concerned with lower level games. Our primary responsibility is the NHIAA Schools. Jim Fletcher delivered a message from Bob Skinner that said he would like to see Alan Merrifield take over Dave Kyle's region as assignor. Bill said that he would like to do both his region and Dave's at least next year to work on some problems with the assigning system. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the need for younger officials coming in and taking part in the administration process. Also discussed was the time table for giving the assignors their regions schedules. Bill said that he gives the schedules out as soon as he receives them and has them ready.
5. Supervisor Jim Fletcher reported that the 3-man first round Tournament coverage was adequate with no "game changing" mechanic errors. Jim said that covering the prelims was a challenge with several good umpires unavailable. He will emphasize to the membership the importance of making themselves available during the Tournament schedule! During the season the pitching rule was violated but self reported by White Mountains H.S. There were 18 ejections and 5 coaches restrictions. The coaches evaluation of umpires as not instituted because the NHIAA did not send out the forms. The terms of "CATCH!" and "NO CATCH!" was discussed with the consensus being that at your pregame, you should discuss what your mechanics will be for calling a fly ball to the outfield. Next years Tournament dates are: Prelim, June 2 (Div III) & June 4 , Quarters, June 6, Semi's June 10 & 11 and Finals, June 13.
6. BUD Chairman Tom Fischer reported that out 15 apprentices, 3 quit and 7 of the 12 passed the written test. 5 apprentices passed the field test. 4 need to take the written test. The Fall schedule will be held at Laconia with a time table of Sundays, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 19, 26. A plan for having some classes at Keene State will be considered if interested umpires from the area apply. In the future, the Fall program will be made available to north country applicants.
7. Performance Review Coordinator Don Micucci reported that 2014 marks the third year of evaluations. We were able to evaluate 44 total assignments – 40 on the plate and 4 on the bases. The season was tough with fewer Tuesday and Thursday games but with some Saturday games available they helped to get the job done.

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Availability of evaluators was reduced due to their college schedule and weather related rescheduled high school games. Those evaluators who were available did a fine job! Although the reports were slow coming in, all evaluations were sent out to the umpire evaluated. To date we have evaluated 134 umpires – 118 plates and 16 bases. With still a few to go in the first round, we plan on starting a second go around for the plate as well as some on the bases. As we are evaluating a base umpire we will check the plate umpires previous evaluations to make sure corrections were made. We will evaluate those that are in that 5 year window now and the rest of the evaluators to finish up the first go around. We will impress upon the umpires being evaluated that these evaluations are not considered to be your final rating but just your rating for that particular game.

With schedules as they are, we are going to add more evaluators to the staff which will be discussed at the October 19th Meeting. Names will be brought before the Board for review and approval. The form we use for the 2015 season will be on our website. The 2014 form was not on the site so some reports differed and some I transferred to the main form that I had. With any luck all will be better in 2015.

8. Website Chairman Paul Viens reported that our antiquated and unsafe website is being reworked and made secure. A new evaluation form is being sent to Don Micucci for his perusal. Paul will post dates mentioned at this meeting to update the site.
9. Executive Session was used during evaluations & new business.
10. Old Business: A brief discussion regarding the Sportsmanship Award was held with a proposal to revisit the subject at the next Board Meeting. Some would like one award, some would like four awards, some for a team and some for a coach. All to be determined.
11. New Business: Lee Champagne inquired about the possibility of having those umpires who want to, wear pink shirts as a reminder of the fight against cancer. Since pink is the color of the Breast Cancer Crusade, it was suggested that blue bracelets or some other sign be considered to promote the awareness of prostate cancer. This will be discussed at the October Meeting. Complaints about the umpires pants quality has surfaced this past season and a discussion about vendors, colors and corrections of this issue was discussed. Honig's will be contacted to see if there is a suitable solution to this problem. The next meeting will be on October 19, 2015.

Duane Welch
Sec/Treas NHBUA

In Attendance: Rick Force, Duane Welch, Jeff Turgeon, Steve Durrance, Terry Dostie, Jim Walsh, Tom Fischer, Bill Makarawicz, Tom Desautel, Brian Troupe, Don Micucci, Lee Champagne & Jim Fletcher

Absent: Ted Houlihan, Bob Skinner