



## Board Meeting Minutes 09/27/2009

The Board of the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Softball Association meet on 9/27/2009. The following were in attendance:

John L. - Commissioner  
Ronnie B. – Assistant Commissioner  
Ronnie L. – Treasurer  
Donnie R. – Past Treasurer  
Dan Brashier – Ex-Officio (appointed recorder for this meeting)

The Agenda was set by the Commissioner.

### RATINGS

The first item of business was the newly adopted player ratings. The Board of NAGAAA has revised the player rating questions. To review what the impact of these changes will be they asked every Association to take the team that attended the World Series in Milwaukee and re-rate that team utilizing the new ratings questions. The deadline for this to be submitted to NAGAAA is October 15, 2009. The board took the GSWS roster for 2009 and reevaluated every player. The effect on the local roster would have required the team to play in the B division as opposed to the C. This new system will be in effect for the 2010 series barring some significant change at the winter meetings of NAGAAA. With the task completed, the Commissioner was instructed to electronically forward this to NAGAAA.

### FINANCE

Donnie R. (Past Treasurer) provided a detailed analysis of the current finances of the league. The league had operated on a tight budget which allowed for a final balance of approximately \$3,700.00 exceeding our starting balance from 2008. Therefore the league is financially sound. The only outstand issue was the hotel deposit refund. At the time of the meeting we had not received from NAGAAA the \$300.00 hotel deposit for the Series. It was also stated that there were several financial obligations that would become due prior to the 2010 season (when we generally have income from players). These are significant cost. They are as follows:

NAGAAA Dues

Cost of sending representatives to the NAGAAA Winter Meeting

Field Cost (the fields at Northside are on a first come first serve basis) So we need to secure the fields on Jan 2, 2010

It was also discussed and decided that we need to change the signatures on the checking accounts and debit cards for the league as well as the mailing address. The mailing address for the league will be that of John L.

It was realized during the 2009 season that although we operate as a non-profit organization, we have never filed for a 501(c)3 status with the IRS. This status will allow for our organization to solicit donations which would be tax deductible for our donors. Dan B. has the application and will prepare all the documentation to be submitted to the IRS. The cost is \$300.

It was also discussed and decided that the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and the Treasurer will attend the Winter Meeting. In an effort to save the league funds the Board Members have offered to drive to the meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

### SCHEDULE

The Board has set a tentative schedule for play for the 2010 season. The league will play an every-other-weekend schedule much like the 2009 season starting **April 18, 2010**. The league will secure the fields through August 8, 2010. The league will consider returning to Richmond during the 2010 season if the percentage of players from that area warrants such a move. The number of games each team will play will be based on the number of registered teams at the beginning of the season utilizing the available dates we have to play and including makeup dates due to inclement weather. The Board has also established July 25, 2010 as the date of our Annual Membership Meeting for purposes of elections or bylaw changes.

The Board will attempt to establish a date of November 7, 2009 as a game day to play against the Greenville/Raleigh team.

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Board reviewed several sections of the Constitution and Bylaws currently available on the Website. Several amendments had been proposed and passed over the past few seasons and not been updated. The entire document was review and these sections corrected to reflect the changes previously voted upon by the general membership. Although most items were simple housekeeping changes, several important changes were included, they are as follows:

Establishment of the Ratings Committee – Established as a Standing Committee chaired by the Assistant Commissioner for the responsibility of setting player ratings in accordance with NAGAAA.

Qualifications for the GSWS – The selection of a team or teams to represent the league in the NAGAAA World Series is established. There are several levels of selection which reflect the memberships desire to participate, as well as limit financial obligation of the league.

Acceptance of ASA Rules – The league has always established rules that exist outside of official ASA rules. This change will bring us more in line with the ASA rules while still allowing some exceptions.

The updated Constitution and Bylaws will be published on the Website as soon as they are available but prior to the start of the 2010 season.

## ADVERTISING

It is the consensus of the Board that we need new members. Several ideas were discussed in regards to advertising and fundraising. Those two items go hand in hand. The ideas as far as advertising were as follows:

Creating a presence on social networking websites - It was decided that we would establish an account on all free websites such as Facebook, Craigslist and others. In addition, the Assistant Commissioner who would be responsible for setting up such accounts will also review other social websites such as Match.com and report to the Board on the cost of establishing such accounts.

Local community newspapers – The Assistant Commissioner will contact the local community newspapers and organizations in an attempt to secure shared links or advertising for free.

Business Cards – The league will order business cards with the league web address for the Board to pass out at social events. Dan B. will order the cards. The cost should be less than \$30.00.

Sponsorship system – The Assistant Commissioner will establish a program for dissemination to local businesses and individuals for sponsorship of the league or a team. The system will have various levels of contributions including items such as listing on our website as well as banners at the field.

As far as specific donations collected, it was determined that if funds are collected for a specific item or event such as bases or a GSWS or league Team Sponsorship, those will be utilized as collected. For example if a donation is made for a specific league Team Sponsorship, the Board shall not direct those funds to any other expenditure.

## 2010 GSWS (WORLD SERIES)

The 2010 GSWS will be held in Columbus Ohio on August 16 – 21, 2010. The Board has set a date of June 8, 2010 for all players interested in attending the GSWS to make a non-refundable deposit of \$75.00. This will be used in accordance with §19.1 of the Bylaws in securing a berth in the GSWS. For more information about this process, please refer to the Bylaws. (Available on the Website).

## COMMITTEES

The Board discussed the establishment of several Standing Committees. The Seaside Showdown Tournament is one area the Board feels that needs to return to bring more exposure to our league. The Committee will be established for that purpose in setting up the tournament for possibly Columbus Day 2010. In addition, several other standing committees, (allowed under § 3 of the Bylaws), to include issues such as the Hall of Fame and other awards and World Series Hosting.

## WEBSITE

The Board and especially the Assistant Commissioner has spent a great deal of time reviewing our current website as well as the current and future needs of the league. It was decided that the current site was not dynamic enough to meet the needs of the league and our future concerns. It was decided to move the site to a new host company which would allow more flexibility as far as the composition of the site. The cost which should be about \$500.00 per year although expensive, gives us a site with much more services. The new site offers the league the following:

- Automated Player Registration
- E-mail or Text Blast to all players when there is a schedule change due to weather or some other reason.
- Teams will have their own page that they can modify.
- The site includes weather for our location.
- Maps to the field
- Swap Shop Exchange

Each team coach is asked to send to their players an e-mail asking them to register on the new site.

The Board adjourned after almost four hours. Recorded by Dan Brashier Ex-Officio