

JWS Board Meeting
October 6, 2021
Minutes

Attendance: Sheri Dye, Denita Peterson, Quentin Thurmond, Suzanne Nichols, Cassie Wickham, Stephanie DeWitt

August minutes were approved as presented for the September meeting.

Committee Reports

Fall Summary – Quentin (U14) reported that the team has had a lot of drama again this fall. Most of the drama is parent related. He shared that the players are improving and the turn out to practices has been good. Fall league is okay. The team has needed the 5 run rule. Has been disappointed with tournaments as they do not use the ruling – the team has struggled getting outs. He hasn't had the level of help that he maybe has needed. Ashley began helping but has progressively pulled back; would rather not have her assistance in the spring. Josh has worked out okay; would accept his help in the spring. Quentin is okay working alone if that means eliminating the drama and as long as he has the continued support of the team liaison – it is all very overwhelming to navigate USSSA and get tournaments scheduled.

Nick (U12) submitted an elaborate summary to Coach Sells earlier in the month. Season went well. Players grew a lot in their skills, especially the pitchers. Suzie Sheep (a former pro pitcher) has been helping with the pitchers during practice. He really wants to ensure that indoor workout space is secured – players need the time to further develop prior to spring. Suzanne shared that the team appears to be drama free as she had heard nothing (no complaints/concerns) from any parents.

Louis (U9) was not in attendance as the team had practice. Cassie shared concerns that had previously been expressed by other parents. Concerns are 1) An unwillingness to work with parents regarding practice times when there was a conflict – namely practices were to be on Tuesdays until games began (2 families have players on U14 & unable to be in both locations at once). 2) Girls were told they would get to play different positions. This has not proven to be true. Same players play the same positions every week. Louis seemingly has his favorites. 3) The manner in which he speaks to the players has turned many of them off – rumors that several will not be returning for the spring. Suzanne shared that the few practices she attended there was a lot of standing around by the players (they all bat, waiting their turn) then they all field (waiting in line). Doesn't appear to effectively use the parents that he has available to him. Other board members suggested that if these facts are true, he should be replaced as coach. Denita will schedule a meeting with Louis and Coach Sells to verify this communication.

Parents should be surveyed for further input and player retention.

Field condition & usage – Sheri called Coach Sells for an update. Quentin shared that he worked hard to take care of the field (thought it was in good shape) and was a bit offended by the email communication that Coach Sells had sent out early in the fall. Suzanne offered clarification that the email was in response to her sharing with Coach Sells the condition of the field after a rain (when teams attempted to “dry out” the field and practiced). She wanted Coach Sells to hear from the JWS program regarding field condition rather than happen upon it without warning. Suzanne further shared that she had asked Nick to drag the field in the opposite direction so to not further pull lime off the infield and into the grass near the gate – she does not know the current status of lime that was beginning to pile up. Sheri Dye

reported on Coach Sell's behalf that the nets at the field will be taken down next week and arrangements will be made to collect the keys from the JWS coaches.

ACE & SafeSport – Denita & Suzanne had discussed early in September that we needed to have volunteers working with players complete SafeSport. Suzanne did not make that known to those helping with the teams (claims she got distracted by other drama within the teams). Discussion was given to requiring coaches (and all those that are helping at practice & games) to be ACE certified in addition to their registration with USSSA. Concerns were raised if it was financially possible for JWS to reimburse – what if every parent completes ACE? Difference between SafeSport at \$20 & no really way to track completion and ACE at \$28 isn't significant. Suzanne explained that even with the duplication of background checks, we would still be ahead financially (assuming 3 – 4 coaches at U9, 2 coaches at U12 & U14) as budgeted. Need to concretely identify who these individuals are going to be.

Apparel – Oakley Etter has been recruited to "chair" this year's offering. She has been given free reign to recruit others and a design. Is looking at offering a Hoodie, a short sleeve t-shirt, a long sleeve performance shirt, scrunchies &/or bows, headbands, seat cushions and blankets. She was told that WAC has some of these items and we should work with them if possible (don't want to duplicate offerings). Suggested using the bows as a bonding activity for parents (moms) and make them for the girls. Will have a proposal for the November board meeting – want to have a Christmas delivery.

Indoor Practice

- **MMU** - \$100/hr for the entire facility (Mt. Mercy indoor facility). Will have use of all equipment (balls, hitting machine, nets, etc). Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30 are available Nov & Dec; Saturdays 11 – 1 are available Jan – March. At this rate we would come in at or below budget depending on the holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas Break, Spring Break). Kirstin Peterson (former Mt. Mercy player) has volunteered to facilitate as a program donation.
- **Dugouts – is in Fairfax.** 2 hr time slot once a week for 3 cages and all members of the team receive individual memberships is \$4,000. Nick can get 3 cages 2hrs 1x/wk for 3 months for \$2000. Suzanne believes this is a per team rate – didn't interpret from email that it was for the entire program at either price.
- **Perfect Game** – the turf room is now only available to members @ \$125/hr. There is some confusion as to what level of membership is required to be able to reserve the room and bring in a team. Membership rates begin at \$199 for 3 months.
- **DBATS** – There is a discount on rental fee if there is a membership. Membership is \$58/month. Membership is not required to rent cages. 3 cages 2hrs 1x/wk for 3 months is \$2880 (with discount \$2358). All 5 cages would be \$200/hr – space would be similar in size to MMU (possibly a little smaller). Would have access to cages with hitting machines for a fee without a membership.
- **School Gyms** – Denita was provided a spreadsheet, but it is unclear exactly what is being disclosed. Need clarification from CRCSD as it doesn't appear we can request time at WHS. It is Denita's understanding that there isn't a fee for Junior programs to use district space. Ideally, we would like multiple days for 2 hrs time slots beginning in Jan for team practices (as in pre-Covid years).

Quentin offered the suggestion of "The Red Barn" – Jr. Warrior Baseball uses it. Doesn't know anything about cost. Suzanne shared that historically, Jr. Warrior Baseball structures their usage agreements so that they have exclusive rights. We would need to check on it. Further

discussion and cost comparisons regarding indoor facilities resulted in Sheri moving that we rent Motion was approved.

Volunteers and Requirements – continue to encourage parental involvement. If volunteers are going to interact with players in the dugouts – really need to have SafeSport certification. Do we reimburse?

Budget – Only changes to the budget that was sent out was the collection of additional scholarship forms & fees. We still have 3 players with unpaid fees - Denita will follow up with these individuals. Sponsorships are greatly less than budgeted (1 full & 1 practice shirt). Did receive a \$50 money order – was told it was from Hy-Vee but was submitted without any paperwork. Point was made by Denita that decline in sponsorships may be a fallout effect of COVID. Invoice for the shirts U9 & U12 wore as game jerseys is still outstanding. Overall – we are operating on budget. No questions were raised.

Uniform (game jerseys) order has been held. Suzanne requests input on ordering additional jerseys. Currently have an order for 19 jerseys – enough to meet the minimum order amount. The dilemma – if we lose players over the winter, do we order in anticipation for new recruits (if so, in what sizes). Discussion proved there was no good “estimate on size” and to be fiscally responsible – order only what is needed now. Will address player additions as they come.

COVID Guidelines/Return to play protocols – we had 5 players effected by exposure this fall. We followed the districts guidelines but members of JWS this fall interrupted those guidelines differently. Suzanne suggested we define our protocols for return to play more deliberately to avoid confusion and offered a draft. Quentin shared that he was uncomfortable making the call about return to play without clearer parameters. Changes were suggested, those will be made and a final document will be offered at November meeting for approval.

New Business/Miscellaneous

JWS Board Positions – Cami Kay has resigned her position on the board. Will be moving. Stephanie Dewitt, Suzanne Nichols and Denita Peterson’s terms on the board have expired. Stephanie would like to remain involved but does not wish to continue with a position of responsibility. Denita and Suzanne are willing to renew their terms. (Cassie and Sheri’s terms end in Sept. ‘22). We need to set a slate for approval by next meeting. Suzanne shared her concern that the team liaisons don’t fully understand that they are board members – questioned how to correct this situation? Also questioned if we wanted to make the coaches voting board members – answer was “no”. They are welcome at any meeting but should not be required to be on the board in addition to their coaching responsibilities. Quentin expressed that he was interested in being a board member – will add him to the slate. Need at least 2 more.

Next Meeting scheduled **Wednesday, November 3rd** @ 5:30 TBA location.