

2023 K-18 Baseball State Commissioner's Meeting at 1 pm

2023 K-18 Team Representative's Meeting/Commissioner's Meeting at 3 pm

Date: 01/15/2023

1:00 PM call the Meeting to order at the K-18 Field Press Box in Lucas, Kansas.

Present were Dave Urban-Lucas, John Walz-Ellis, Rudy Perez-Arapahoe, Ne. and

Derrick Hittle-Concordia

3:00 PM the joint Commissioner's Teams Meeting was held in person at the K-18 Café in Lucas and by Zoom.

Reading of the 2022 K-18 Baseball State Meeting Minutes by John Walz at both meetings and a review of the commissioner's meeting with team representatives.

(1) Treasurers Report by Dave Urban.

Dave reported we were down from last year's balance. We have \$16, 809.73 in our checking account. We had lower gate receipts at the Regionals and State Tournaments. Umpire and other expenses were higher.

(2) State Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner Reports by Dave Urban and John Walz.

Dave Urban reported outfield grass still needs to be replanted. The city of Lucas lost their employee that took care of the field.

John Walz reported he had spoken with Tim Wilson from Smith Center who was wanting to know where we were at with addressing the age eligibility change he had proposed. I told him we would be addressing at the Commissioner's meeting and would report at the later team/commissioner meeting at 3:00 p.m.

John Walz also advised he had called and left messages for individuals in Onega, Kansas who are in the Big Six League in eastern Kansas.

(3) What is needed for 2023? Baseballs, K-18 Rulebooks, Lucas Field and so on.

Dave will order 2023 Rulebooks from Lucas Publishing and John will get baseballs ordered.

(4) Set State K-18 Baseball Tournament Dates and times.

1 st Day will be Saturday July 22 nd , 2023 starting 1 st game at 9 a.m.

2 nd Day will be Sunday July 23 rd , 2023 starting 1 st game at noon.

3 rd Day will be Wednesday, July 26 th , 2023 starting at 3 p.m.

Bracket will be determined after seeding is known. The team that has to travel the longest distance will be playing in the final game on Saturday.

(5) Vote on Rudy Perez as his term expires 2023.

John Walz made a motion for Rudy Perez to serve another 4-year term expiring in 2027.

Derrick Hittle seconded.

Passed with a 4-0 vote

(6) Vote on Dave Urban as his term expires 2023.

Rudy Perez made a motion for Dave Urban to serve another 4-year term expiring in 2027.

Seconded by Derrick Hittle.

Passed with a vote of 4-0

(7) West Region Report by Rudy Perez.

Rudy reported that his 2022 Regional Tournament went well but the gate was down and umpire expenses were up. He had 12 teams in the west for the 2022 season. Rudy is looking at 13-14 teams in the 2023 season with Oakley hoping to be back with a team.

(8) East Region Report by Derrick Hittle.

Derrick reported he had 11 teams in the 2022 season. He talked with coaches who could not make it to our State Meeting due to being so early.

Maybe next year set a definite January weekend or go to a definite February Meeting date.

(9) Discussion Items for Team/Commissioner's Meeting: The below items were items teams and commissioners wanted to discuss from the 2022 season.

(a) Discuss moving K-18 Baseball player age cutoff date to December 31st/ January 1st to align with American Legion Baseball Rules. Basically, any player that is 16-year-old on January 1st or after would be eligible in the season of play. K-18 Rule #201 addresses voting on Age Change.

Commissioner's vote on and if simple majority approves making the age change the change is presented to the teams. One of the teams would need to make a motion to address and

vote at their meeting. The vote would be done by secret ballot, needing a $\frac{3}{4}$ in favor to change or wait to see if the issue is presented next year with new requirements for making rule changes?

Pros: Would align with Legion and add 4 months of eligibility for players, help some teams have enough players to form a team.

Possibly keep some players from jumping to Legion Teams.

Cons: Communities would need to adjust their programs. Concerns that a change may be a safety issue with us now having more 16-year-olds playing against 12-year-olds.

May lose younger players where players or their parents do not like playing against older players due to safety and age spread.

American Legion teams have dropped drastically and we do not want this to occur with K-18 Baseball.

Rudy and Derreck advised the secret ballot did not pass with a $\frac{3}{4}$ in favor vote in 2022.

A motion was made to approve the age change to give teams the go ahead to vote on by secret ballot for the 2023 season of play. The motion failed by a vote of 3-1. No change will be addressed for the 2023 Season.

Commissioner's want more input and discussion from Team/Community representatives to be sure this is a good

change for players, communities and K-18 Baseball.

Regional Commissioners decided they will have a Zoom

Meeting on April 2 nd , 2023 at 2 p.m. to discuss the pros and cons of making an age change. It was also decided that any K-18 Rule Changes would need to be proposed to one of the Commissioners by no later than August 31st

(b) Also discuss procedure for making any rule changes requested by K-18 Team Representatives that are in good standing.

Commissioners decided that rule changes from this time forward will need to be proposed by teams to a Commissioner by August 31 after season played with the language for the rule change and what benefits this first has for players, communities and K-18 Baseball.

(c) As discussed last year announce before every game a location for fans to go if severe weather is approaching. Have someone designated to get fans to that shelter before severe weather conditions arrive.

Dave Urban will make sure locations are available, announced and open for fans to be relocated.

(d) John will talk about Big Six League.

The intent is not to take any teams away from other organizations but allow communities to provide the opportunity for postseason play. John Walz left messages with contacts numbers in Onega, Kansas. John will try to call them again if he gets no response.

(e) Discuss the mandatory use of Game Changer to ease problems for the League Recorders and if league recorders could get direct access to team's accounts?

Derrick reported the East does not want to use the Game Changer program.

Rudy said the West uses game changer and he will discuss at his meeting

how his league recorder can get access.

(f) Discuss NFHS Rulebook purchase or have teams purchase their own hard copy or electronic copy on their phone. Install rules on each commissioner's phone or order them a hard copy of rules?

Commissioners have been purchasing on their own and will continue to do so. Teams will continue to get their own NFHS Rule books but will be furnished a hardcopy K-18 Rulebook. The K-18 Rulebook is also located on our website. K18baseball.com

(g) Add the tie breaker rule to our rulebook for Regional and State Tournament seeding if tournament is not played or is not completed or just place the rule on our web site? Vote to approve Tie Breaker rule for all of K-18 Baseball and where it will be located for all to see.

Consensus was to add to the rulebook. John Walz will submit to Lucas Publishing to add.

(h) The team in the State Tournament that has the longest distance to drive will be placed in the last game of the first day of the State Tournament.

(Saturdays games)

Consensus was to follow this procedure with State Bracket completed after State Seeding is accomplished.

(i) No tents or chairs on the concrete areas around the backstop and rope off? Consensus for safety and to keep areas open for fans to walk and to be able to see the games was to keep tents and chairs away from the backstop lanes. There is always enough space in the stands and along 1st and 3rd base line for fans to use their tents and chairs.

(j) 4 th Place Metals? They were given out years ago, but at that time no one wanted them. Consensus was not to give out 4th place metals.

(k) Safety base for 1st base?

Will bring up at the Commissioner's/Team Meeting but at this time Will not be used this year but could be in the future.

(l) How to monitor K-18 Players who play in other baseball leagues at

the same time as K-18 to monitor their pitch counts?

Not a good way to monitor by K-18 Baseball so must be an honor system where teams make sure their players are not being over pitched.

(m) All League Games must be completed one week before the Regional Tournament.

(n) Any team that cannot complete the season cannot have their players go to another K-18 Team to play in the same season.

(o) EMS/AED on standby at games? Dave Urban will check out what locally can be offered. Rudy Perez is going to find out if a Trainer or Trainers from FHSU could be at our State Tournament Games.

(p) Should the idea of using wood bats be suggested for the future due to aluminum bats getting really high? Wood has always been allowed. Passed on to teams as an option to lower costs.

(q) Team Pictures with player/coaches' names to the Regional Commissioner one week before Regional Play.

Regional Commissioners will let their teams know at their Regional Meetings.

(r) Pay Regional Umpires \$75/\$80 a game with no mileage paid?

The amount will be decided closer to the start of the 2023 season.

The East and West will pay the same amount for their Regional Tournament Umpires.

State Umpire Pay increase. Softball vs. Baseball?

Dave will discuss with the umpire crews he contracts with.

(s) K-18 cornhole board fundraiser? John Walz will look into.

Discussion of any items for the good of K-18 Baseball.

Meetings Adjourned