

## Department of Illinois Baseball Committee Meeting (October 10, 2015) Report

Meeting was held on a teleconference starting at 830AM.

Members present were Vice Chairman Jim Shaw (3<sup>rd</sup> Division), Ray Rowroznik (2<sup>nd</sup> Division) Harry Rakers (3<sup>rd</sup> Division), Butch Ogle (5<sup>th</sup> Division), Chairman Don Wallis (5<sup>th</sup> Division).

Paul Knudston (1<sup>st</sup> Division) was briefed by phone later that morning of the subjects covered by the conference.

The Senior Legion State Tournament was hosted by Wheaton Post 76 this past summer. The Wheaton college artificial turf field was used. We had a excellent banquet for the teams with Department of Illinois Commander Paul Gardner in attendance. The teams were served meals in the Wheaton Post home. There were many positive comments made about the meals and the staff who cooked and served the meals. The team managers liked the fact that the team ate together. District 11 Baseball Chairman Del Miller did a great job providing the visiting teams with a quality positive experience. Elgin (2<sup>nd</sup> Division) beat the BEARS (5<sup>th</sup> Division) in the championship game. The Senior Legion State Tournament will be hosted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division next year.

The Junior Legion State Tournament was hosted by Quincy Post 37 . Quincy College which also has an artificial turf field was where the games were played. CJ(Joe) Mason was the host chairman. There was some confusion about playing times the first day and time constraints with field availability that had some teams playing two games the first day. Junior Legion State Chairman Butch Ogle did a great job dealing with some issues previously mentioned and providing the teams who played at Quincy a good experience overall. The Championship game had Breese Gray (5<sup>th</sup> Division) beating Swansea/Fairview Heights (5<sup>th</sup> Division). The Junior Legion State Tournament will be hosted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Division in 2016

Illinois hosted the Great Lakes Regional this year at Gordon Moore Park in Alton. We has six state Champions from Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois. The host was the BEARS and Wisconsin sent their runner-up to make it a eight team tournament. We had an excellent banquet held at the golf course field house with several good speakers including some of the players from the 1998 Edwardsville Post 199 World Series Champions team. Tournament host Director Derrick Ater reported this was one of the best run tournaments he had witnessed. He has been A Regional Director for at least 10 years. We had to move two games to the Gateway Grizzlies stadium due to weather issues on Day 1Midland,Michigan beat the host team in the championship game. The Great Lakes Regional will be hosted by Illinois again next year.

It was requested that if any changes in the manager of a team from 2015 different in 2016 by submitted by email to the Chairman to make the 2016 State Rulebook reflect these updates.

The use of baseball booster decals to show support for the legion baseball program was encouraged. These decals can be placed in car/truck windows and in business windows. They can be obtained from Emblem sales.

The next agenda item was to cover the subjects discussed at the Americanism Conference September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> held in Indianapolis.

Larry Price(SD) Baseball Subcommittee Chairman for the last twenty years announced he was resigning to undertake a new project which will to develop a program for the Youth Police Academies in each state. At present he said that eighteen (18) states have a Youth Police Academy program,

We have been asked to change how we handle the review of birth certificates. We are not to make copies and they should be returned to the team manager immediately after the review. We are to instruct the team managers not to keep the birth certificates in his vehicle overnight. The Form 2 next year will not ask for the last four digits of the players SSN as it did this year. There may be additional instructions issued concerning how we verify the players DOB. The Illinois Driver's license does not qualify as a source of birth identification.

A suggestion to make player ID's was made. This needs to be studied further.

Mike Buss, Deputy Director of Baseball/Youth Programs Americanism Committee announced a goal of 5000 teams by 2020. He also thanked those present for all their work

We are asked to use baseballs with the Legion Logo on them in 2016. Diamond and Wilson (ProA1010) are the two baseball companies that will have them available.

The President of S.A. Van Dyk, Maggie Van Dyk reported on various injuries this past season that players and coaches had experienced. She also announced that the insurance rates for 2016 would be the same as the rates in 2015.

There is a new marketing person working with the National baseball program. His name is Jeremy Fields. He presented to us some of the pamphlets that have been developed to promote the program. He hopes to have some initiatives to promote our baseball program in the near future.

USA Baseball in conjunction with major league baseball is promoting the Pitch Smart Initiative. This is to limit the innings pitched for players and has developed a chart to give rest for players based on their age and the numbers of innings pitched. The increase in rotator cuff surgeries in young baseball players have caused a panel of doctors to promote this guideline. More information is available at [Pitchsmart.org](http://Pitchsmart.org)

It was suggested that each member of the baseball committee register a team to better understand the working of registration and better understand the issues that online registration create.

It was proposed that new rules changes only be submitted in odd years and those rules changes approved be implemented in even years. The exception would rule changes concerning safety or health issues or new rule changes that are not working as hoped.

There were twelve (12) rule changes proposed at the conference. We reviewed them for content. The majority of these were rejected by the department chairman who attended. The final ruling will be with the baseball subcommittee. This information should be available in January 2016.

Each member was asked for comments /questions.

The meeting concluded at approximately 935AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Wallis  
Chairman-Department of Illinois Baseball Chairman