

# West Coast Fantasy Baseball Association

Board Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2013

Present: Keith DaCosta, Mark Gemello (Treasurer), John Haines, Rob Lanterman, Scott Lueders, Matthew Schmuck, and Rob Weber (Non-Voting Chairman and Tournament Director)

- **Treasurer's Report**

Mark issued the treasurer's report to the board. Specific cash balances are in the report, but the association is healthy and has no current debt.

- **Glendale Tournament Demise / Possible Replacement**

Our annual Arizona tournament in January is in jeopardy. Spring training facilities have become big time money makers for the major league organizations. Doug Penney has been trying to pin down the Glendale facility for months now, but he has been unsuccessful. If we are forced to move the tournament to another spring training facility, we will lose our ability to use Troy Timney to run the event for us. Troy has been our clubhouse manager and has taken care of lockers, laundry, showers, snacks, and mementos in the clubhouse. The only other alternative is to move back to the Mesa facility we used in the early years of the tournament. We could use Troy for this event, but Doug does not feel the facility is up to our standards. The clubhouse is old and we cannot have alcohol on the premises.

Even with the facility issues, attendance stood to be down since a new Dodger / Angel / Padre fantasy camp will kickoff this January in Tucson. Many Dodger and Padre players who attended our tournament could be going to the new fantasy camp instead.

After much discussion, it was decided we will not attempt to play the Glendale tournament in 2014. Depending upon the popularity of the new Dodger / Angel / Padre camp, we may approach Mark Stone, the camp organizer, to see if we can run a tournament at the Tucson facility before the 2015 camp. We felt it was inappropriate to ask him about 2014 since he is still trying to get his first camp up and running.

Since we are not doing anything in January, we can add a new tournament to the schedule. We have long discussed the possibility of playing in Monterey. We have connections nearby in both Denis Horn and Mike Furutani who can help us with fields and other logistics. Keith DaCosta has volunteered to run the event and is targeting late September or early October. He must coordinate with any potential league event occurring at the same time.

**ACTION ITEM** : Keith DaCosta will begin to coordinate a 2-3 day tournament event in Monterey for late September or early October, 2014. He will find fields (likely Monterey Peninsula College), lodging, and a banquet facility.

- **Bats – What is Legal and What is Not?**

The topic was broached about what is a legal bat and what is not. As of today, the only rule the WCFBA has on the books regarding bats is that male players ages 30-59 must use wooden bats. Male players 60 years of age and older and all ladies may use metal bats.

Other organized leagues have started to adopt rules regarding the bat weight and length. The thought is that longer, lighter weight bats have a 'slingshot' effect. These bats bend more on impact and propel the ball outward at greater speeds. Some leagues have decided this is unsafe and are requiring that all bats have a 'minus 3' rating or less. This means that the difference between the bat's length in inches and the bat's weight in ounces cannot be more than three. A bat that is 34 inches long and 31 ounces in weight is legal. A bat that is 32 inches long and 28 ounces in weight is not legal.

The WCFBA board has a long discussion on the topic and it was decided that we will not adopt any new rules regarding bats at this time. The board could not pinpoint any individuals who are greatly benefiting from bats rated higher than minus three. As the average age of the league gets older and more players begin using metal bats, we will likely revisit the issue.

**ACTION ITEM** : No action at this time.

- **Uniforms**

A discussion took place regarding what type of uniforms the association will organize the purchase of on behalf of players. We have a long-standing policy of buying the same quality uniforms that are provided at the fantasy camp. Some have asked if we should get cheaper quality MLB models available off the rack at some stores.

In the past, it was agreed we would continue to manage the purchase of the authentic uniform pieces for paying players. However, the rise in price of these authentic uniforms has made the purchase of a uniform cost-prohibitive for some.

It was agreed we would offer both authentic and replica pieces for our players. The players will be provided the prices for each piece and they can determine which items they want us to order.

**ACTION ITEM** : Rob Weber will work with Terry Lee, our uniform representative, to put together a price list and issue it to all WCFBA members before the coming season.

- **Rule Changes**

Rob Lanterman brought up for discussion our rule regarding wild pitches and passed balls. Currently, if there are runners on base and a pitch eludes the catcher and strikes the backstop, then each runner automatically moves up one base.

Rob felt a modification should be made to the rule to allow for 'plays at the plate' when a runner is coming in from third base. He said that sometimes the pitch hits the backstop and comes right back to the catcher. The catcher would then have a relatively easy tag play to get the incoming runner.

A discussion ensued which involved some history regarding the original adoption of the rule. Two points were brought up:

- We do not allow base-stealing because the bulk of our pitchers do not know how to hold runners on and the bulk of our catchers do not have the arm strength to reach second base. Since our pitchers and catchers are not tasked with guarding against runners attempting to steal, they have been asked to make an effort to control pitches in play. The 'penalty' for not blocking a pitch is that the runners are allowed to move up. Whether or not there is a possible play after the pitch hits the backstop is moot.
- With our current rule set, we don't have a lot of plays at the plate, but when we do, the runner must slide or avoid a collision with the catcher. If we were to adopt Rob's modification, it would make for a lot more plays at the plate and a lot more safety issues. If this is happening as often as Rob suggests, perhaps the player at the catching or pitching position should be replaced.

**ACTION ITEM** : No action at this time. The current rule stands.