

West Coast Fantasy Baseball Association

Board Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2012

Present: John Haines, Mark Gemello (Treasurer), Ray Mialovich, Doug Penney (President), Michael Simon (League Commissioner), and Rob Weber (Non-Voting Chairman and Tournament Director)

Absent: Matthew Schmuck

- **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.

- **League Scheduling**

Discussions centered around our current scheduling issues and the difficulty in getting fields. The following points were agreed to:

- Scheduling will continue to be handled by the league commissioner and the field coordinator.
- A standard schedule independent of fields will be posted for league members prior to the start of the season.
- It was agreed that in the future, if at all possible, any cancelled games would be added to the end of the schedule in October.
- As July is a big vacation month, triple-headers will be avoided during this month.

With the information we have, it is believed the league will operate with six teams again in 2013.

A discussion took place regarding the timing of the league event in Napa. September may be a good time to get the field, but it is an awful time to find lodging. Rob Lanterman has let us know if we could wait one month and play in late October, that we would have more luck with hotels. Ray Mialovich does not believe the field will be available.

ACTION ITEM : Ray Mialovich will contact the Yountville facility to determine what times of year we can rent the field. It is not necessary that this be a year end event for the league, but it should also not be the start of our season.

- **New League and Tournament Rule for 2013**

A proposal was made to adopt a long-standing MSBL rule regarding pitchers who hit three batters during a pitching appearance. The rule states that if a pitcher hits three batters during an appearance, they must be removed from the pitching position and are not allowed to pitch

again in that game. It was agreed that this rule will be adopted by the WCFBA for the 2013 league and tournament season.

- **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. It was agreed we will continue to manage the purchase of the high-end uniform pieces for paying players. If a player wants to purchase something cheaper, that is their prerogative.

With that decision in hand, approximate current prices for Giants model pieces are:

- Crème pants – Wilson or Majestic models at ~\$80
- Black practice Visitors jersey with number and name - ~\$80
- Crème Home jersey – Majestic model with number - ~\$150 if ordered in quantity of 12 or more

ACTION ITEM : Michael Simon believes he can get a better price on the home crème jersey by working with Redwood City-based Goetz Sports. He buys in volume from them and thinks they will provide a better price. We will not move forward on purchase until Michael confirms a price from Goetz.

- **Equipment**

John Haines did an overview of the current equipment tallies. He believes we have plenty of helmets. He quoted his current cost for baseballs (\$51 per dozen).

ACTION ITEM : Michael Simon will check to see if he can get a better price on baseballs from Goetz Sports.

- **Player Recruitment and Qualifications**

The Giants Fantasy Camp has lowered the age at which players can attend. It is unclear what that age is, but it is definitely lower than 30. The Dodgertown West group has changed their membership requirements so that sons and daughters of players can play in league and tournament events. We believe their requirement is that you be in your 20's.

The WCFBA has long had the requirement that you be 30 or older in order to participate. We discussed the pros and cons of changing the requirement and agreed unanimously that our current policy will stand. You must be 30 and over to play in league or tournament events.

The question was asked as to how we currently recruit. There are two methods used:

1. If you have attended a fantasy camp (and are 30 years of age or older), you are eligible to play in league and tournament events. Current WCFBA members attending camps should invite players to contact Rob Weber at rweber5@prodigy.net. Rob will send them an invitation and explanation as to who we are and get them on our distribution lists.
2. If you have a friend who is 30 or over that you think would be a good fit for our association, send along their contact info to Rob Weber at rweber5@prodigy.net. Rob will send them an invitation and explanation as to who we are and get them on our distribution lists. We will ask them to come out and watch us play once and if they like what they see, we will ask them to play a game or two to see if both parties enjoy the experience. If all goes well, they become a full-time member with all the privileges that entails.

- **Umpiring**

We voted unanimously to pay Burt Field his \$200 scheduling fee for the 2012 season. Burt is responsible for making sure we have two umpires every play weekend regardless of whether or not he is umpiring.

Burt Field has requested a raise for the umpires for the 2013 season. Burt points out that he and his partners love working with us and they prefer to continue to do so. He also points out that they have the opportunity to make more money working in other leagues and associations. He understands our games are easier to work and take less time, but he was hoping we could consider a raise.

The board voted to offer Burt and his partners a \$5 per game raise and \$20 in gas money every time their travel causes them to cross a bridge. In exchange, we would like Burt and his partners to address the following on-field issues:

- Be less communicative to the players regarding the strike zone.
- Take charge of the games and get them started on time. This will require the umpires to be at home plate 15 minutes before the start of each game.
- Demand a home plate meeting with the coaches of both teams before the game and create the exchange of information such as who needs runners, etc.
- Manage those players who are taking too long on the mound or in the batter's box.

ACTION ITEM : Michael Simon will relay the proposal to Burt to determine if he is agreeable.

- **Tournament Scheduling and Signups**

A discussion took place regarding the tournament schedule for 2013 and attendance issues that have plagued each tournament. While each tournament is healthy in terms of outside attendance, the WCFBA participation has been on the downturn for a few years now. In many of the tournaments, we are trying to fill two or three teams and are unable to do so. Too frequently, we are left to scramble to fill out rosters leaving the teams with too few players to

handle the skill positions (pitcher, catcher, shortstop, center field). Our teams are not strong enough to play in our own tournaments.

We have opened up invitations to most of the tournaments to all WCFBA members (A's), but it has not always helped.

With the exception of the Lodi tournament, here is the plan for the coming year regarding WCFBA sponsored tournaments:

- Glendale - This tournament may be moved to Goodyear to accommodate the World Baseball Classic which causes MLB teams to report to spring training earlier. We will work to get as many players as possible, but will not base a schedule on a certain number of WCFBA teams. If the WCFBA only sends one team, the tournament can still take place.
- Palm Desert – The WCFBA currently fields three Giants teams and one A's team. We will turn back one of the Giants squads this year and fill it with a team from a different camp. We will ask the Padres or Tigers to attend.
- San Diego – The WCFBA currently fields three WCFBA (Giants and A's combined) teams. We will turn back one of these teams and invite an all A's squad in 2013.

ACTION ITEM : Rob Weber is still tasked with contacting Rich Hertz to perform a poll of WCFBA members to see why their tournament attendance is down.

- **Upcoming Board Elections**

We will be holding an election at the end of this year. The only question was how many people would be elected to the board in 2013. Research shows that JC, Mark, and Ray were voted in at the beginning of 2009 and that John and Matthew were voted in at the beginning of 2011. That means JC, Mark, and Ray have reached the end of their terms.

In 2010, the board recommended adding a sixth member to the board which we have not done as yet. Thus, we will be voting for four new board members to serve beginning in 2013.

A review of our by laws shows that there is no restriction on existing board members running for another term. If the three exiting members are interested in returning, they may run again.

- **Field Coordinator Help**

The board had a discussion regarding providing help to the field coordinator, Ray Mialovich. Ray has a good handle on the west and south bay, but we feel he could use some help with the leg work in the east bay. Sometimes getting people to return phone calls and emails doesn't always work, but if we can find somebody to make office visits, we feel we may have more luck getting fields. Whoever helps Ray must have the power to act on the league's behalf.

ACTION ITEM : Ray Mialovich has some people in mind that he will approach about helping him. If Ray has no luck, we will help solicit an assistant for him that he will approve.

- **Field Maintenance Statement**

Michael and others have voiced their displeasure that few people help with field maintenance issues. Many of our fields are not dragged or lined before and after. Rob pointed out that this is a relatively new phenomenon for us and that we may need to formally ask our players for their help as they may not understand that this is a league-wide responsibility.

ACTION ITEM : Rob Weber will create a communication to the league members explaining the need and asking for weekly assistance. Ray and Michael need to let Rob know when and where help is needed.

- **Potential Dodger Tournament in Santa Barbara in September**

Mark Schneiderman of the Dodgers has worked with Westmont College in Santa Barbara to rent their field for a tournament next year. The Dodgers would run this tournament and it would replace their annual event in Fresno.

The tournament cannot take place during the team's baseball season which runs through the beginning of May. The last half of May and all of June are okay, but that conflicts with the Giants tournaments in Palm Desert and San Diego. July does not work due to high school tournaments.

The beginning of September is available and might work. We would need to move any potential Napa league weekend for sure.

ACTION ITEM : Board members . . we did not get to talk about this item very much. What are your thoughts? Rob Weber needs to get back to Mark. It would be good if the Dodgers sponsored an event again.