

*CRNAA 13 Year Old Parents Meeting
Meeting Minutes*

Date of Meeting: February 5, 2009
Date of Issue: February 6, 2009
Location: American Legion Hall
Recording Secretary: Glenn Seibert

Attendees

Kevin O'Shea - President	Paul Jacob- Baba Ruth Commissioner
Mark Bartlett - Director	Keith Terry- Volunteer
Dave Buten - Director	Stacey Simcik – Parent
Joel Grosso – Director	Bart Cerami – Parent
Mike Hartwell - Director	Mike Gumino – Parent
Glenn Seibert – Director	Ed Mackin – Parent
George Whitney - Director	Russ Fannon – Parent
Tom Rogers- Legion Commissioner	Kevin Rowland – Parent
Phil Tully – Jr. Legion Prep Manager, CRNAA/STBL Commissioner	Fred Mancini – Parent

1. Meeting called to order @ 7:03PM
2. CRNAA President Kevin O'Shea introduced himself and thanked the parents for coming to the meeting. Kevin also explained the opportunities available to 13 year olds who play in our league.
 - a. After Little League, different Babe Ruth boundaries mean that more 13 year olds are eligible to play in our league.
 - b. Jr. Legion Prep is now under the jurisdiction of CRNAA
3. To cut down on the amount of misinformation and poor communication, O'Shea invited all parents to attend board meetings, which are held regularly. If they're unable, they should read meeting minutes. Meeting dates and minutes are posted on our website (www.crnll.com).
4. O'Shea explained that in-house baseball remains the priority of the league, and explained several steps taken by the board to ensure the health of the in-house program:
 - Took over Legion program to better coordinate schedule with in-house and eliminate conflicts that historically impacted the success of the league.
 - Reached out Jeff Manto with regards to his program. Jeff agreed to delay his season until late summer to avoid conflict with our program.
 - Reclaimed the travel program. Kids must play in-house baseball to participate in the CRNAA travel program, which also means they must live in our boundaries.
 - Limited Travel baseball and Legion practice during in-house season to nights after in-house games are played, Fridays and Sundays. This was to avoid conflicts with in-house games that are played on weeknights (Monday through Thursday) and Saturdays.
5. O'Shea explained the boundaries are different for Babe Ruth, compared to CRNAA's Little League boundaries. These changes can result in much confusion

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- since some who have played in CRNAA in the past may not be within our Babe Ruth boundaries; others may now be within Babe Ruth boundaries.
6. Boundaries explained below. Please also see map on the wesite:
 - a. CRNAA Babe Ruth boundaries include Newtown Borough, Newtown Township, parts of Lower Makefield, and Langhorne. It does NOT include Upper Make.
 - b. Newtown Township is the only area that is shared between the Tri Township and CRNAA Babe Ruth programs. Residents have the option to play for either CRNAA or Tri Township.
 - c. Newtown Borough residents MUST play for Newtown. Upper Makefield residents MUST play for Tri Township. Babe Ruth does not grant waivers to allow a player to choose to play outside of these boundaries.
 - d. The only waivers permitted in Babe Ruth are for those who lived within a set of boundaries, played for a Babe Ruth program and then moved outside the boundaries. A player can then choose to finish their Babe Ruth career with the program they started with.
 7. Babe Ruth program is “age pure” for players 13-15 (e.g. no 12s ‘playing up’).
 8. Babe Ruth District Teams
 - a. Post season with open tryouts for interested players.
 - b. Coaches are chosen by their peers with board approval.
 - c. Last year, our 14s and 15s made the state tournament.
 - d. The state tournament is generally in late July, but the dates have not been set for 2009.
 9. Travel Baseball Guidelines
 - a. Our board has approved as many as 2 teams (based on interest) at the 13 year old level.
 - b. While the general feeling is that ECTB baseball conflicts with our in-house program, Suburban Travel dovetails nicely. In fact, our league has presence in STBL from starting at age 8. The Friday/Sunday games are outside of our in-house schedule.
 - c. STBL players must reside within CRNAA Babe Ruth boundaries and play for CRNAA in-house Babe Ruth teams.
 - d. Manager and coach selection has not been made for 13 year old travel. It was noted that neither John Dugan nor Phil Tully are interested in taking a team. Ed Mackin indicated that he would help out where needed. Keith Terry relayed a message that Danny Kerr would also be interested in helping out.
 - e. Until a manager has been selected, Keith Terry will run open tryouts and assist in player selection.
 - f. Managers or coaches do not need to coach in-house to qualify to manager or coach travel teams.
 - g. STBL baseball should not interfere with American Legion Jr. Prep, however, CRNAA is examining whether or not to allow “double rostering”. The feeling is that we want as many opportunities as possible for as many players who are interested.
 10. O’Shea expanded on the recent situation with ECTB baseball and Newtown Blue Lightning:
 - a. CRNAA was working with Jim Renck to fit an ECTB team into the structure of the CRNAA travel program.
 - b. The board agreed to allow the team to participate in the ECTB league provided that all players resided within CRNAA boundaries and played for

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CRNAA in-house teams. Also, game schedules could not conflict with in-house games.

- c. Later, it was determined that Matt Renck did not reside within our Babe Ruth boundaries and could not play for a CRNAA-sanctioned team.
- d. Jim Renck has decided to move forward with the Blue Lightning ECTB team. CRNAA will have no affiliation with Newtown Blue Lightning.

Questions and comments were taken from the floor...

Q. When are STBL tryouts?

A. At the present time, we'll use the Skills Assessments (2/7 and 2/21 @ Manto, see the website). If a manager wants a different tryout at a later date, we will accommodate that request.

Comment by Phil Tully: as of yesterday, STBL reports (14) 13 year old teams for the 2009 season, not including CRNAA or 9 other groups who are within STBL's area.

It was emphasized by several that STBL tryouts are separate and different from American Legion Prep tryouts.

Tom Rogers, Legion commissioner, spoke about American Legion baseball.

1. 2009 is CRNAA's first year with American Legion Jr. Prep.
2. In the past it was run by external people but it was brought under CRNAA to better coordinate the choices.
3. There is a great relationship between Post 440, American Legion, and CRNAA. Post 440 has been very generous with their facility and offers to contribute at all age levels of CRNAA.
4. A Jr. Legion Prep team has not been selected.
5. Tryouts will be 3/21 and 3/22 at Pickering Field, Newtown Boro, 3PM for Prep, 5PM for Jr. Legion.
6. Phil Tully is the Jr. Legion Prep Manager.
7. There has not been a coach selected. This will occur after the team has been selected.
8. The Prep team is part of Jr. Legion. It is made up exclusively by 13 year old players.
9. Brian Steutz is the Jr. Legion Manager and will help Phil Tully with tryouts and team selection.
10. Legion has many games in a short time span, so look for 14-15 roster spots.
11. Currently, since there is not a team, there are no workouts or practices. Once the team has been selected, there will be plenty of workouts and practices.
12. Tom Rogers has contacted the Council Rock North coaches and invited them to be active in the program.
13. Boundaries for Legion include Newtown Boro, Newtown Township, and parts of Upper Makefield, Wrightstown, Middletown, and Lower Makefield Townships. The boundary will be posted on our website.
14. You do not have to play in-house for CRNAA to be eligible for American Legion.
15. Prep season is from Memorial Day to mid-July.

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Q: There is a concern about the number of teams – Babe Ruth, American Legion, STBL, ECTB, Jeff Manto, Council Rock Schools, St. Andrew CYO, etc. and the potential for fragment talent and/or resources for players. What are CRNAA's thoughts on this?

A: The feeling is that people will stay if the quality of the program is maintained. The number of teams in STBL speak to that question – people like the size of STBL and the fact that they work closely to promote, not conflict, with in-house baseball. Programs like ECTB are in direct conflict with in-house programs. Until this year, Jeff Manto's program was in direct conflict with in-house baseball. Since Manto has changed their season, the schedule has opened up to allow more opportunities for kids who want to play baseball. Some programs are cost prohibitive, American Legion Prep is uncharted waters, ECTB may impact the success moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM.