



APTOS LITTLE LEAGUE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA
April 30th, 2020 7:30pm
Zoom Video Conference

- 1) Call to Order: 7:33pm
 - a) Executive Board members attending Zoom Video Conference:
Erik Cormier- President, Soren Bjorn- Vice President, Steven Allen- Treasurer, Brian Dudley- Player Agent, Ericka Bermudez- Secretary, Scott McConville- Information Officer, Brad Williams- Safety Officer
 - b) General Board members present- Amber Melenudo, Alex Smith, Will Meyer, Manny Rivas, Garret DeLaTorre, Baylee Whitted, Nick Tanza, David McGillicuddy, John Paul Berg, Quinn Cormier, Michael Pini
- 2) Approval of March 12th & April 2nd 2020 BOD Minutes- Approval postponed for next meeting.
- 3) Changes to Agenda- None
- 4) New & Open items
 - a) Discussion on how to proceed and whether to extend the current suspension of the Spring 2020 season. As of the date of this meeting, we are scheduled to return on May 11th per the in-place strong recommendation of Little League International.

Erik- No decisive decision will be made at today's meeting regarding Aptos Little League and whether to continue extending suspension of any & all baseball related baseball activities or whether to re-launch the season. Today, Little League International announced the cancelation of 2020's World Series and all regional tournaments. This is the 1st time the organization has ever done this. We will wait to get input, guidance and more information from communications with our other District 39 League members. The 8 league Presidents within District 39 are scheduled to meet on May 6th and we hope for a unified consistent message or something as similar as possible respective of our different league circumstances. Erik wanted to clarify and make sure we all have clarity on dates on events and decisions that have been made over the last six weeks.

- March 11th Aptos Little League announces suspension of ALL baseball related activities due to local community spread in Aptos.
- March 12th Little League International recommends that leagues suspend/delay the starting of 2020 baseball season with intent on returning to the fields on April 6th



- March 12th- ALL BOD voted and approved to follow the recommendation of suspension until April 6th.
- March 16th Santa Cruz Public Health Officer issues county SIP, Little League International follows with a follow up strong recommendation to continue suspension of baseball activities until May 11th
- March 19th State of California, Gov Gavin Newsom, issues statewide SIP order
- April 2nd - Aptos Little League Executive BOD, under a Special Meeting of the BOD, voted to follow Little League International guidelines. As much as we try to be inclusive to the general board members, time was of the essence and a decision had to be made with a quorum of executive board members. This was a short meeting. Per the constitution of Aptos LL, a quorum is required among the executive BOD in order to vote and approve.
- April 30th – LL International announces closure of the 2020 World Series and their other regional tournaments.

As of today, April 30th Aptos Little League is status quo and still under suspension/delay. We ask board & league members/volunteers to refrain from speculating of the status of the league until an official announcement from the Aptos Little League BOD is made. The decision to re-launch the 2020 Season is a complex situation. There are many underlying layers which need to be addressed. Several examples include but are not limited to; Field availability. All schools are closed and 4 of the 6 fields that ALL utilizes are therefore closed. We've been in communication with Pajaro Valley Unified School District and superintendent Dr. Michelle Rodriguez. 2 of the 6 fields that ALL utilizes at the Polo Grounds are closed via SC Park & Rec department. We've been in contact with the SC Park & Rec. Player/Volunteer availability is another issue to address. Umpires are in short supply. Upon return to play, what percentage of families will be comfortable allowing their players to come back to play. Since our last BOD meeting, the Re-Launch Committee has been working on devising a plan for preventative steps & social distancing measure in preparation for the potential re-launch of the season.

-Update from the Re-launch Committee members

The committee has been in communication via email and using google sheets. They have started to formulate a list of preventative steps, however, we ultimately will need to follow the guidance from the state and local public health department. We need guidance from them on what parameters that we'll need to follow and implement in order to be able to re-open. We need more clarity. We must adhere to the guidelines from the local Santa Cruz health officer. Restrictions are changing on a fluid, daily basis. One member provided comments about refraining from making any long term plans as things change so fast.

It was also discussed about considering to work backwards on a worse case scenario. We need to have a Plan B in the case that the suspension doesn't lift. We also need to follow



PVUSD guidelines. What is the importance of re-starting baseball activity while the schools remain closed? This is something to consider.

Floor Open to comments/suggestions;

Question was asked about whether D39 is looking at an end deadline date on re-starting? Erik didn't know, tough question, hoping to have more answers and guidance from other D39 Presidents at the May 6th meeting. All 8 leagues are having these same discussions.

Comment was made that some northern CA travel ball teams are starting practices on Monday, May 3rd. Batting practices mostly. They are not playing games and this is for older age groups. Little League likely can't do this but we should be cognizant that this is happening, albeit in youth baseball.

Question was asked about putting together plans to honor the 12 yr olds that are aging out this year? The answer is 'yes', Erik has spoke to Baylee, plans are being worked on to make each 12 yr old their own player card with picture and stats. We can put them on a slide show format on social media. We would need their managers to collect the photos from the parents. Maybe do a collage? For the sponsors, we could collect the sponsor logos at each division and do something similar. These could also be placed on the ALL website year round.

Question was asked if we could supplement the Fall Ball season with the Spring season format? Potentiall a tournament. 12 yr olds are still eligible to play in the Fall per LL rules. Another question was asked for Erik to request the season extended into June/July/August? This is not on the current agenda but Erik can mention this at the Presidents meeting on May 6th.

Comment was made about whether LL International will extend eligibility for current 12 yr olds. Erik would be in favor but that's a governing body issue that LL International will have to amend and address. Individual leagues can't make this decision.

Comment(s) made about the lower divisions...it will be difficult for the younger age groups to abide by the SIP & social distancing guidelines. It is harder to monitor the young kids. Many of the members with younger players have set expectations that the season will be cancelled. Most important to look at the greater good of the community. When baseball resumes, we'll need to have a system in place to classify them again based on age and skill level having missed a year of baseball. There is a lot of skill development in those younger years.



Erik made comment about keeping in mind that Fall Ball registration opens in 60 days. That is not that far away. Erik will attend the Presidents meeting on May 6th. He will likely call a Special Meeting of the Executive BOD shortly thereafter to vote on any decisions about suspension & moving forward. We intend to communicate something to the league before May 11th.

Open Items to be followed up and looked into:

- Data center. Outstanding balance of \$50.00 has been paid done. League is current with International.
- We had a lot of volunteer signed up for background check(s). Great work by all that was involved with gather the background checks.
- Nomination Committee: This committee was formed to recruit and fill candidates to run for open positions on the BOD. Steve Allen, Treasurer, has his son that will be aging out. Steve sent financial(s) and balance sheet to the BOD earlier today. Current members of the Nomination Committee are Briana Bauen, Alex Smith and Brian Dudley. It will be very important to find a replacement at Treasurer. Robyn Huber, Steve's assistant, has offered to stay on and help with general book keeping & service contracts. Brian Dudley asked about any outreach that has happened. He suggested that we send an email to all league members and inquire about interest. Often times it's easier to have a board member with a player in the league. Maybe also to CPA's and other small businesses associated with the league. Erik asked Nick/Scott to send this email out.

- Partial Credit/Refunds/Donations:

Erik would like to come up with a plan. We have received inquiries about what the league plans to do if the season is cancelled. Offering full refunds will be a lot of work, will be complicated and may not be viable. Aside from the upfront costs that the league incurs before the season starts, there is some money in the bank account. We have a credit on the lease of Polo Grounds fields. The credit will be issued for Spring 2021 season but that money is spent and we'll likely not get to terminate the lease now and have the cash returned. That is our single largest expense of the year. It was recommended that we issue a credit for the Fall Ball or Spring 2021 season.

Scott mentioned that he's had 5 people contact him specifically asking about a refund. 2 people had questions regarding donations to the hit-a-thon. A few others were financial hardship cases. Erik mentioned he's received inquiries as well.

One concern is if the season is cancelled, we'll get a flood of requests for refunds. We'll not be able to exercise refunds to the entire league. An option would be to set aside a budget for financial hardship cases. Another comment was made about perception from



the community and being consistent with what other local businesses are offering....credit/partial credit/deferral, ? Another member offered we calculate a formula and create a standard. You paid X. League incurred costs of Y. We can offer Z. It was also discussed to provide the members some options. Perhaps the options could be a partial credit to Fall Ball/Spring 2021 or have the fee be a donation to the league. A donation to the league is not a tax write off. The league is non-profit. Many members may be inclined to support the league via their fee as a donation?

Steve reminded the board of the leagues fragile financial state a few years back. We currently may only have \$10k available in the bank. This season is a wash. There was a lot of work in the last 5 years to climb out of piling bills.

Whatever the decision, the comment was made that we'll need to differentiate that their fee has been used and distinguish from the perception that the league has this money just sitting in a bank account. And clarifying the reasoning behind the credit/refund policy will be important.

Erik acknowledged this is complex. He asked if Soren and his staff can help write the letter when we come to agreement and vote on this. This should be part of communication if/when any cancellation is announced. Motion was put forth to push this vote until after the President's May 6th meeting and hear what other leagues are doing. Motion was approved.

- Lower Division Uniform Status.

Some team uniforms are still at SportAbout and have not been picked up yet. Managers are calling Fausto on a weekly basis to pick them up. The issue is that the uniforms have been paid by the sponsors yet. What to do? Consent was to go ahead and release the uniforms. The players will get some fun out of having them during this shelter in place. Erik put a motion forward to release uniforms to managers even though payment not received. Motion passes by voting via Zoom via raising hands.

- Sponsors

Amber. Any sponsor who paid in full this year should be given a significant discount or keep the signs up on the field. As of right now there is no plan to take any signs down. We need to show good will towards our sponsors. Our Sponsors donate not just to us but to schools and other causes. Businesses are hurting. We need to take care of them. We will need them next year. I will reach out to sponsors and check on them. We want to keep business within the league.



Team Sponsors are also Sign Sponsors. I know we want families to feel we support them but the business / sponsors also need good will.

Steve. Agree. About 5k come from signs.

- Potential theft. Locker where tractor is stored. There was an attempted theft. The locks have been replaced.
Steve- Thank goodness tractor is still there. It's been stolen twice.

5) Field Manager Update

Erik – We need to greatly appreciate all the volunteering work that Will Meyers and Mike Pini have continued to do. They've continued taking care of the fields at the Junior High during this suspension.

Will – He and Mike will need help continuing to take care of fields especially during the month of May. If anyone volunteers please contact Steve Allen, Erik and or Will to get access to the fields. Immediate plan is for Brad to service the mower this weekend. The front tire is flat and needs to be fixed as well. Once fixed, Erik will go fill the gas tanks up and mow both fields this weekend.

6) Equipment Update

7) UIC Update

8) Safety Officer Update

9) Snack Shack & Score Booth Update

10) Commissioner Update

11) Appointment of Executive Committee

12) Adjourn /Next Meeting

- a) Next scheduled Aptos Little League General Meeting for May 14th at 7:00pm via Zoom.
- b) Next meeting: Meeting date to be determined. Executive BOD will meet via Zoom conference again before the currently scheduled ALL General BOD Meeting.
- c) Meeting adjourned- 8:46pm