

Eau Gallie Little League Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of Meeting for Fri Mar-12-2010

Call to Order at: 6:33 PM

Attending Board Members:

Lee Arrowood, Bill Blalock, Cindy Bonavito, Mark Cherry, Greg Clark, Nancy Clark, Paul Crane, Kristie Escalera, Scott Farnham, Rick Kuhn, Scott Stewart

Absent:

Walt Kressler

Approval of Minutes:

None.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The Board met to discuss the events following a softball player's injury at Crane field on Saturday, March 06, 2010.

When the injury occurred, the League's charter had not yet been submitted. It was the league's intention to submit the charter after all teams had been formed and a accurate number of players had been determined. This would allow the league to submit the correct fee associated with the charter, rather than an estimate which has in the past resulted in a significant overpayment or underpayment that then had to be resolved.

Since Scott Stewart was out of town immediately following the incident, Greg Clark was left in charge of the League. He should have been notified of the injury so that he could complete the appropriate accident form and take the appropriate action. However, there was a breakdown in communication and the chain of command was not adhered to. This resulted in improper handling of the incident and a resulting delay in getting the insurance information to the parents of the injured girl.

All practices and games were cancelled on Monday, March 08, 2010 until the charter and insurance were verified.

Mark Cherry was able to contact the proper persons at Little League of America. Mark Cherry overnighed the completed charter application and fee and it was received and

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accepted. The incident was completely resolved within 72 hours of the girl's injury and the Little League of America's insurance policy information was provided to her parents.

In light of this incident it has become clear that the Board needs to communicate to the coaches how to deal with a player injury and whom they should/should not contact. It is important to stick to the chain of command so that matters can be dealt with efficiently and effectively.

Misconduct by the coach was discussed. His actions which included calls to Little League of America, rather than allowing the local board to resolve the issue and statements made to the local paper which were false and negative toward the league were identified. Scott Stewart will be contacting the coach to discuss these issues with him. Disciplinary action was discussed but a decision to act upon it was not made.

Scott Stewart apologized for the trouble the League went through due to the decision to delay turning in the charter. He suggested that next year the league submit the charter in January. He also clarified that many leagues turn in their charter late – sometimes even after the season is complete due to their need for fundraising in order to pay the charter fees. In these cases the charter is retroactive to the start of the season. Scott also noted that incidences where there was an injury before the charter was accepted by Little League of America were not uncommon; in fact it has happened approximately 700 times. In these cases the insurance is typically retroactive and covers the injured party.

The misinformation in the article by Florida Today was discussed. Members of the Board voiced their desire to share the facts of the incident with the EGLL coaches, parents and with the community. It was discussed that Scott Stewart would write a letter to the editor that would be shared with EGLL coaches and families via email. The goal would be to reduce speculation and rumor by giving the facts so that we could move forward as a League and concentrate on providing a quality program for the kids.

Other League Issues Discussed

- Complaints about “daddy ball” in t-ball, pre-minors and minors divisions were addressed. These divisions are to be instructional, not competitive and players should be rotated through all field positions (and the bench). Scott Stewart will be attending games in the non-competitive divisions in order to assess the situation. Coaches will be reminded of their duty to provide a learning environment for all of their players.
- The incident involving juniors coach, Kevin Powell, and an umpire at a game was discussed. Coach Powell was ejected from a game, after which he made inappropriate actions toward the umpire. Coach Powell sat out an additional game and was placed on probation. He also (independently) apologized to the umpire, who

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stated that he accepted the apology unconditionally. The Board believes this event was handled appropriately and barring any additional incidents involving this coach, no further action will be taken. However, the coach will be permanently removed if he breaks the terms of his probation.

Next Meeting:

No time or date was set for the next meeting.

These minutes prepared and submitted by:

Kristie Escalera
Secretary
EGLL BOD