

MABL Summer 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Opening

Meeting was held at 6pm on 17 July 2019 at Maui Meeting Place in the Kai Ani Villages complex in Kihei.

Present at the Board Meeting:

M. Abercrombie (presiding as Commissioner)
R. Doster
S. Mearriam
G. Coulson
B. Sparkman
M. Newsome
C. Collins
K. Takamura
K. Spaise (filling in for R. Swindle as Centipedes rep)
S. Hart (not an active participant)

Invited but not present:

J. Rigsby
A. Benigno
J. Hamilton
R. Swindle

Discussion of Spring 2019 Changes

New baseballs

- Switched to the Rawlings R100-H2 to save money
- \$70/dozen, compared to \$74/dozen for Diamond D1-PRO HS

GC, CC, RD, KT all expressed an interest in reverting back to the Diamond baseballs for the Summer 2019 season. Primary reasons cited were a preference among pitchers for the Diamond baseballs, a perceived advantage in longevity (to be used as practice balls following game use), and general concerns about the difference in quality. The difference in price was considered minimal. No objections were raised by anyone in attendance, and the decision to revert back to the Diamond D1-Pro HS ball for the Summer season was passed unanimously.

Distribution of new players

- Waiver wire system, ordered by reverse of previous season standings
- After selecting a player, team moves to the end of the order
- A player who is “passed on” is made available to all teams

No concerns were raised regarding the system put into place prior to the Spring 2019 season.

Pinch runners

- May run for current pitcher and catcher, and one other player who should be denoted on the lineup card delivered prior to the first pitch

RD expressed a concern for his specific case: low player turnout, difficulty for him (injured ankle) and Steve “Catfish” Hart to run, but occasional need for either or both of them to fill in. General agreement to keep the current restriction (1 player, in addition to current pitcher and catcher) but allow exceptions if cleared with opposing manager prior to the start of the game. The intent is to retain the spirit of the rule, but to allow for exceptions when necessary (not to gain a competitive advantage).

HR Derby

Feedback on this event was good. There was some discussion regarding the wood vs. metal debate (what should be allowed). MA suggestion was that ideas should be directed towards Ryan Swindle, assuming that he wishes to remain in his role as primary organizer of the event.

Discussion of Player Ejection

- S. Doyle: 24 Mar 2019 game between the Warriors and the Centipedes
- 3 games for comments made towards the home plate umpire
- Feedback requested and considered when settling on suspension length

General sentiment was that the league needs to ensure that the umpires don’t feel like they need to take any unnecessary comments. The suggestion was made that they should feel at liberty to eject players who are “pushing the limits” in order to discourage what is viewed by some (MA, SM, RD) as a growing issue. In addition, MA raised the topic of increasing umpire pay. RD was strongly in favor, saying that they should receive a raise before they have to ask for one. No objections were raised, and a \$10 increase per umpire was approved. For the Summer 2019 season the home plate umpire will receive \$80, the base umpire will receive \$70, and extra innings will remain an additional \$5 per umpire, per inning. Umpire fees are paid by the

home team, except in the case of playoff games when the league covers this expense (from league dues).

Maehara Stadium care

- MA raised several concerns regarding use of the Stadium
 - No official county complaints, however several stadium dates were revoked around the same time that word got out that dumped barbeque ashes and tobacco spit were found by County employees
 - Regularly found trash cans that had not been emptied
 - Beer cans/bottles and barbeque ashes are a particular concern
 - The MABL must recognize that we are at the bottom of the pecking order, very easy to lose the privilege of Stadium use if we do not remain diligent
 - Should additional penalties, restrictions, etc. be instituted to help ensure that we retain the ability to use the Stadium?

The prohibition of alcohol or barbecues in the Stadium was discussed. Due to the widespread inclusion of these things by most teams in the league, it was decided that teams must be more diligent about removing the remnants from grills, empty cans and bottles, etc. GC raised the concern that Stadium cleanup should be the joint duty of both teams playing the last game of the day (instead of just the Home team), and MA suggested the loss of “night game” privileges for teams found in violation of the Stadium clean up duties. This was agreed upon as an appropriate approach for trying to ensure the league’s continued use the Stadium.

Youth Clinic

- Scratched last season due to short notice of approval from the County
- If using the Stadium, must occur in August (on a Saturday?)

BS is working with Nelson Okamura and Barry Takahashi to organize a free event for the community for which he will require volunteers from across the league. No immediate plans are in place for this, adequate time required (multiple months) to put together a polished product.

100, 200 Game Plaques

- Growing expense as more and more guys reach these numbers
- Has the league outgrown this recognition?

It was decided that uniform patch distribution will continue for 100 and 200 game milestones, but plaques will only be provided for players reaching the 200 games moving forward. This is being changed as a way to reduce league operating expenses and because the recognition is perceived to mean as much as league awards. This was unanimously approved.

Distribution of new players

The current waiver order is as follows based on the Spring 2019 standings. The Royals were offered a pair of brothers prior to the meeting due to their low roster numbers (hence their position at the end of the list). The Centipedes are currently “on the clock” regarding a number of free agents who have contacted the league about joining.

1. Centipedes
2. Hurricanes
3. Dirtbags
4. Rays
5. Warriors
6. Pirates
7. Brewers
8. Royals

Field Checkers:

- Maehara: Josh Meier, Chuck Collins
- Maui High: Anthony Benigno, Chuck Collins
- Makawao: Rich Doster, Ryan Swindle
- Lahaina: John Hamilton
- Kihei: Jay Rigsby

These roles remain unchanged from the Spring 2019 season. The call must be made by 8am Sunday morning regarding field playability.

Open Discussion

KT raised a concern regarding the 5 game minimum requirement for playoff eligibility which was returned to for the Spring 2019 season. A discussion ensued about reducing the requirement to 3 games for players who have met the 5 game minimum for the previous 4 seasons, or instead for players who have 50 played 50 career games. These suggestions were aimed at making exceptions for “veterans” of

the league who might be off island for much of a season, or injured and unable to play. It was decided that a player who has played 50 career games must meet a 3 game minimum.

Following the Board Meeting, MA suggested an alternative solution:

- 5 game minimum requirement for playoff eligibility remains
- Exceptions may be granted by a majority approval of the Board for extenuating circumstances

This alternative for the playoff eligibility requirement was approved 7 votes to 1, with 3 Board members not submitting a vote.

KT brought up the possibility to hosting a inter-island tournament, similar to the trip to the Big Island members of the MABL took in 2010. RD, KS, MA and others enthusiastically endorsed this idea. The need for someone to step up to head this effort seems to be the limiting factor at this time.

Closing

Meeting closed with announcement of Managers Meeting the following week

- Wednesday, July 24 at 6pm at Maui Meeting Place
- Team Rosters and \$850 League Dues due
- An overview of rule changes and emphasis on key policies will be presented

The Board Meeting concluded at 7:30pm.