

MABL Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Present

Mike Abercrombie, Commissioner
Rich Doster, Umpire Liaison
Elias Steadman, Treasurer
Matthew Reidy, Secretary

Absent

Ryan Swindle, Awards Chairman

Business Addressed

- By laws.
- Lineup rule amendments.
- Flat seam vs. raised seam baseballs.
- Umpire management post Jaime.

By Laws

In order to promote long term functionality of the Board of Directors the Commissioner has tasked himself and the Secretary to draft by laws. The board voted on the following bylaw subjects.

1. Approval process for new board members.
2. Removal process for existing board members.
3. Rule change voting system and (in the event of) tie breakers.

Section 1. Board member approval process – Unanimously voted for approval.

In the event of a new board member running for election the board must first approve the applicant by a majority rule. After an applicant is qualified to run by the board, the managers of the MABL teams will all have 1 equal vote in the matter. In the event of a tie, the commissioner will have the deciding vote.

Section 2. Removal process for existing board members – Unanimously voted for approval.

The board of directors may remove any existing member by a majority vote. Managers may force the board to vote on the removal of any member by a 5 team petition, though the decision is still entirely up to the board majority.

Section 3. Rule change voting system – Unanimously voted for approval.

The board of directors must first unanimously approve a rule change in order to present it to the managers of the MABL. Once proposed to the managers of the MABL, there is a 1 week

period of discussion allowed before teams vote. A majority vote will approve a proposed change to the rules. In the event of a tie, the commissioner will have the deciding vote.

Lineup Rule Amendments

The lineup rule change proposed in the last managers meeting were approved by a 5-3 vote of the managers of the MABL, but opposition was expressed to the subsection addressing injuries during game play. Managers do not want to be penalized for a players injury, especially in a “pay to play” league where ages range from 25-65. The board discussed the rule and proposed amending the rule to have an exception for injuries but also include a subsection that addresses abuse of the “injured player” removal. The subsection states “violation of the spirit of this rule will result in forfeit.”

Any team suspecting an opposing team of violating the spirit of stated rule will continue the game in petition after notifying both umpires and the opposing manager. Any games played under petition will be immediately subject to board review. – This would call for a “special board meeting” proposed by the manager accusing.

Flat Seam vs. Raised Seam Baseballs

Rawlings has a customizable “flat seamed” ball that may carry a bit farther and provide pitchers with a slightly higher velocity. They run \$69.99 (plus shipping) per dozen and can contain our MABL logo, and the commissioners signature. The board is interested, the Treasurer and Umpire Liaison will be provided with some sample balls to see how seasoned pitchers like them. Treasurer will make ultimate ordering decision for next season balls.

Umpire Management Post Jaime

Rich has taken on more responsibility with Jaime’s departure and led the discussion on the following subjects.

1. Umpire scheduling and communication.
2. Umpire clinic.
3. New umpire from Oahu.
4. Getting the umpires back behind home plate.
5. Uniforms

Section 1. Umpire scheduling and communication.

As Jaime has departed for the mainland, Rich has taken over the responsibility of scheduling the umpires for all games and is leading communication between the umpires and the league. In doing so, Rich has discovered the umpires desire to be paid prior to each game and will communicate this to each manager individually. He has also encouraged the umpires to communicate more on foul balls, balls and strikes at the plate, and plays on the basepath during games. His attempts in this matter are already proving successful with better on-field communication by the umpires.

Section 2. Umpire clinic

While communicating with Jaime over his departure, Umpire Liaison and Jaime came up with the idea for a mandatory umpire clinic hosted by Jaime once a year, attended by all current and prospective youth umpires for the MABL. The MABL will look to train and include younger umpires in the rotation of both the MABL and high school leagues.

Section 3. New umpire from Oahu

1 new umpire from Oahu has been added to the umpire rotation in coming weeks. Discussion and review to follow.

Section 4. Umpires behind home plate.

As both the league and individual umpires have expressed a desire to get the umpires behind the plate, The Umpire Liaison will investigate what it will take to get them back behind the plate during games. These options may include.

- Voluntary submission from each team of members who are vaccinated.
- Making sure each catcher is vaccinated.
- Making sure the umpires feel safe and up to date on how the MABL is handling covid protocols.

Section 5. Uniforms

MABL will provide the umpires uniforms in coming seasons. Design to follow.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM April 12, 2021 by Commissioner Mike Abercrombie. The next meeting will be held virtually at 6:00PM on May 3rd.

Meeting minutes submitted by : Matthew Reidy