



Missouri ASA Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes: October 14, 2015

Madison's Café • Jefferson City, Missouri

The annual fall meeting of the Missouri Amateur Softball was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at Madison's Café in Jefferson City. State Commissioner Joey Rich called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board members present were Joey Rich, Kristy Rich, Rick Petty, Bobby Chick, David Carroll, Chuck Kempf, Ken Kwantes, Mark Nelson, Jack McCracken, Terry Beas, and Tim Glascock. Absent: Bob Garner. Guests: Melvin Respress, George Sutphin, Don Stubblefield, Mike Vogel, Steve Evers and Joe Lane. State Commissioner Joey Rich introduced the group one at a time and presented "appreciation bags" as well as gift cards to all Board members as a thank you for their work with ASA.

Commissioner Rich reviewed the dates for the 2016 national umpire schools, which were released October 13. He also reviewed the state and national tournaments held in Missouri in 2015. Those cities who hosted national events and the overall rating received include:

- St. Joseph - 99%
- Cape Girardeau - 96%
- Rolla - 99%
- Springfield - 100%

All of these cities will be receiving a Jim Ferrell Award of Excellence at the National ASA Council meeting in Louisville. Further, Rich updated the Board on these items:

- Pitch, Hit & Run - Abby Braby, California, Missouri, competed at the National Pitch, Hit & Run competition.
- Junior Men's National Team - Craig Lewis, Winston, Missouri, was selected to the Junior Men's team.
- Boy's State Fast Pitch Tournament was held in Chillicothe on October 10. The event is run by Eric Lewis. Commissioner Rich attended the event.

Code Change Proposals

Both code change proposals, submitted earlier by Commissioner Rich by email, were approved by the board.

- Change code to provide two umpires for all games and all divisions at state tournaments (Apr. 9-1).
- Background check will not be on the Umpire registration form. (Approved 10-0).

Discussion was held concerning the information needed for all team registrations submitted to the state office in proper format and with all required information included.

Finances

Commissioner Rich passed around the financial statement for 2014. He mentioned his goal in 2014 was to be in the black, but we were actually in the red by \$2,700. He projects for 2015 we will be in the black \$6,000-\$7,000 at the end of the year.

State UIC Report (Rick Petty)

State Umpire in Chief Rick Petty reviewed the umpires used for the 2015 national tournaments:

- Coed D (Rolla) - 9 umpires
- 18U Northern (Springfield) - 17 umpires
- 10U B and 12U A (St. Joseph) - 19 umpires
- Men's E Northern (Cape Girardeau) - 12 umpires

Mr. Petty said most of the umpire evaluations were good, but there were some that were not up to par due to poor mechanics. Missouri ASA umpires who traveled to other national tournaments include:

- Melvin Respress - Girls 14U (Salem, Virginia)
- Jennifer Smith - Men's D (Fargo, North Dakota)
- Dean Homan - Girls 18 Gold (Eugene, Oregon)

Jefferson City hosted a Hall of Fame qualifier in May. Rain was a huge issue.

Mr. Petty discussed the use of local umpires during the state tournaments to try to save money. He would like to see umpires go to different places. His major concern is slow pitch umpires. We need to develop new umpires and start a campaign to recruit new people.

Junior Olympic Report (Kristy Rich)

Mrs. Rich reviewed individual registration. Totals are up a little over 2014.

The JO Commissioners for the Mid-America Region had a conference call September 23 to review the tournaments in rotation for 2016 and to confirm dates and venues for the events. Missouri ASA has the 12A ASA/USA national qualifier. This event has been placed in Rolla and will be held June 4 & 5. The Girls 18U Gold regional championship will also be held in Missouri and has been placed in Jefferson City June 25 & 26.

National ASA Council Meeting - Louisville, Kentucky

The National ASA Council Meeting will be held October 31-November 6 in Louisville, Kentucky. Joey Rich, Kristy Rich, Ken Kwantes, Mark Nelson and Rick Petty will be attending the council meeting. Mr. Rich also announced he will be coming off the national board of directors at the conclusion of the council meeting. He will not run for re-election.

ASA Changes for 2016

- A proposal to increase Individual registration by \$1 was presented by Mr. Rich. After much discussion for a \$2 increase, the board passed a motion to raise individual registration to \$14 and to market the increase such that no further increase would occur for at least four years.
 - Ken Kwantes made the motion to increase Individual registration to \$14 starting January 1, 2016. Rich Petty seconded. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- Umpire registration will increase by \$2 at the national level, moving from \$23 to \$25. The increase is to provide insurance coverage for other softball organizations such as high school and college. The current Missouri ASA umpire registration is \$48. Mr. Rich recommended increasing the registration to \$50. He also mentioned the form will not say anything about background checks except for a paragraph about having a background check for championship play. Flipping coins are planned to be provided in 2016.
 - Tim Glascock made the motion to increase the umpire registration to \$50 starting January 1, 2016. Mark Nelson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

ASA National

Mr. Rich discussed the re-branding of ASA. The current USA/ASA Softball will be phased out. The new name will be USA Softball. There has been concern with the umpire equipment changing, and the national staff made assurances it would be 3-4 years before the new logo would be required.

Hall of Fame Ring

Mark Nelson has been working with MTM in developing a ring for Missouri ASA Hall of Fame members. There has to be 10 rings before an order can be placed. The cost will be \$222 (normal size ring) and \$245 (extra-large ring).

2016 State Convention

The 2016 Missouri ASA state convention will be held February 19-21 at Lakewood Resort. Meetings will start Friday night. The registration fee will be \$175 which is the cost of the condo for two nights. This fee will be paid by each individual directly to Lakewood Resort. Other details:

- ASA Executive Director Craig Cress will be the guest speaker and will have two or three sessions.

- Rick Petty and Terry Beas will be in charge of breakfast. The Missouri ASA office will provide lunch.
- Everyone was encouraged to provide a wine or beer basket for the silent auction. Rick Petty will do a 50/50 raffle.
- The Missouri ASA Sponsor of the Year is Gail's Hair Fashion (Gail Owens, owner).

Raindrops to Rivers Campaign

Mr. Rich presented the Raindrops to Rivers proposal for a way to have a little fun and raise money for projects and/or organizations supported by Missouri ASA. At the state convention, each attendee will bring their "pennies" and put them in to support various projects.

- Rick Petty made a motion to approve the Raindrops to Rivers project. Mark Nelson seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Some of the organizations suggested to support were the umpire travel fund, Wounded Warriors and the student scholarship.

Special Olympics

Mr. Rich discussed the partnership with Special Olympics. There has been concern the upper management of Special Olympics doesn't want anything to do with Missouri ASA until they need umpires and volunteers for their district and state events. The board recommended Mr. Rich meet with Gary Brimer to try to resolve the issues.

2016 State Tournaments

Kristy Rich discussed possible 2016 tournament dates for the girl's state tournaments. KC Metro will have its "A" tournament June 18 & 19 and its "B" tournament June 25-26. She suggested the Missouri ASA state tournaments be held the same weekend as the KC Metro tournaments in hopes of keeping Missouri ASA from competing in the KC Metro events.

- Terry Beas made a motion for the Girls A state tournament to be held June 18 & 19 and the Girls B and C events to be held June 24-26. Rick Petty seconded. Motion approved.

The following are the tournaments and venues for the 2016 Junior Olympic State Tournaments:

- 10 & Under Modified – Springfield – June 25-26
- Girls "A" (All ages) – Jefferson City – June 18-19
- Girls "B" (All ages) – Rolla – June 25-26
- Girls "C" North – Kirksville – June 24-26
- Girls "C" South – Springfield – June 25-26

The following are the tournaments and venues for the 2016 Adult State Tournaments:

- Men's Church – Springfield – July 9
- Women's Superball – Springfield – July 9
- Coed "C" & "D" – Rolla – July 16 & 17
- Men's "C" – Columbia – August 6 & 7
- Men's "D" North – Columbia – August 6 & 7
- Men's "D" South – Cape Girardeau – August 6 & 7
- Men's "E" – Rolla – August 6 & 7

Ken Kwantes made a motion to accept all these tournament dates and venues for the 2016 season. Terry Beas seconded. Motion approved. Mark Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack McCracken seconded. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.