

## USA Softball Missouri Board of Directors Meeting

October 11, 2017 • Columbia

State Commissioner Joey Rich opened the meeting at 10:34 a.m. He introduced Diane Gillespie, Executive Director with the Jefferson City CVB.

### Commissioners Report

- **NIF Awards** - Commissioner Rich presented National Indicator Fraternity awards to Rick Petty and Pat Hagan.
- **New Umpire Registration Card** - Commissioner Rich passed around the umpire registration card which would be produced through RegisterASA.com. He said the background check would still be included on the umpire form.
- **Award Recipient Votes** - Bill Gunn, Sr. was the only nominee for the Slow Pitch Impact Award. Ken Kwantes and Kristy Rich both spoke on Mr. Gunn's softball background. Ken Kwantes made a motion to approve Bill Gunn for the Slow Pitch Impact Award. Mark Nelson seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Norvin Porter was the only nominee for the Hall of Blue. Bob Garner and Commissioner Rich both spoke about Mr. Porter's umpire background. Rick Petty made a motion to approve Norvin Porter for the Hall of Blue. Terry Beas seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- **All-American Games** - Commissioner Rich reviewed the new All-American games and the success it had this year. There were four Missouri girls who made the Regional team. Kristy Rich added that tryouts for 2018 would need to be held earlier in the year as the date for the games will probably be moved to May so to have the event at the Hall of Fame Stadium. Renovations at the stadium will not allow for events to be held in August.
- **National Tournament Bids** - Branson and Springfield both submitted bids to host the National Council Meeting. Branson in 2019 and Springfield in 2020. The National Board of Directors tabled awarding the venues during its fall meeting and are considering shortening the National Meeting by one day and then having cities resubmit. Commissioner Rich said St. Joseph, Cape Girardeau and Columbia have put in bids for national tournaments in 2020.
- **National Council Meeting** - Commissioner Rich, Rick Petty, Ken Kwantes and Mark Nelson will be attending the National Council meeting in Greensboro, NC October 21-26. JO Commissioner Kristy Rich will not be attending this year due to family commitments. Others attending the meeting include David Cavin and Jannie Castanada, both from St. Joseph.
- **Hall of Fame nominations, national** – Rich also mentioned that TODD JOERLING and NANETTA CARTER of Missouri have been nominated to the National USA Softball Hall of Fame.

### Umpire in Chief Report

UIC Rick Petty reviewed the umpires who worked nationals this year. Melvin Respress went to the Men's B in Oklahoma City; Keith Townsend went to the 14A in St. Louis and Jennifer Smith went to the South Dakota and to the Men's D in Liberty. Mr. Petty also reviewed issues from both the youth and adult state tournaments.

Mr. Petty said his goal for 2018 was to increase umpire registration.

### Junior Olympic Report

JO Commissioner Kristy Rich reviewed the individual registration numbers. To date for 2017, there have been 3,946 registrations from 297 teams. Numbers are up over 2016, which saw 3,696 and a total of 276 teams. The total number of sanctioned tournaments remained the same in 2017 as in 2016 (31). Mrs. Rich encouraged everyone to get their invitational tournament dates in as soon as possible so everything can be listed on tournamentasa.com by December 1.

Mrs. Rich also mentioned she had completed the slow pitch classification list for the national office. There are currently 2,693 names on the list. With adding all players to the national list, it will make verifying classifications at state tournament time a lot easier.

The goals for the JO program would be to exceed 4,000 individual registrations and have a minimum of 40 sanctioned tournaments.

**The Board broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and presented Richard Green with a Life Time Achievement Award. Mr. Green was the long time Park Director with the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department and served as a District Commissioner for the Central District.**

### **Proposed Items & Policy Statements**

**Student Scholarship** - The board discussed eliminating the student scholarship program since there has not been but a handful of submissions the past few years and most of those submissions are from players who have not participated in the Missouri program. Rich Petty made a motion to discontinue the student scholarship program. Terry Beas seconded. Motion carried.

**Establishing a policy for refunds at state tournaments** - The board discussed changes to code concerning refunds during state tournaments due to weather issues and changes to the tournament format. Commissioner Rich suggested that all JO state tournaments will be 4-game (omit the word guarantee) and the exact format would be based on the number of teams. He also suggested in the event of rain delay(s), teams would not receive a refund if 2 or more games have been played by that team and in the event of rain delay(s), a team that plays only one game would receive a refund based on expenses in the tournament, including grounds crew costs, and any balance of entry fees remaining. Rick Petty made a motion to accept the recommendations made by Commissioner Rich and include the same in the USA Softball Missouri Code. Bob Garner seconded. Motion carried.

**Establishing a policy for state tournament awards** - Commissioner Rich presented a plan for state tournament team and individual awards, and there was much discussion.

The following was proposed:

**Adult Tournaments:** First & 2nd place teams would get t-shirts in Coed D, Men's D & Men's E  
All other adult tournaments, first place shirts only.  
At adult tournaments with cash awards, the payout checks will be written by the tournament host, given to the teams on site and then included on the expense report.

**JO Tournaments:**

1 to 6 teams	1st and 2 <sup>nd</sup> team teams; 1st and 2nd medals
7-12 teams	1-2-3 team awards & 1-2-3 medals
13-20 teams	1-2-3-4 team awards & 1-2-3 medals
21+ teams	1-2-3-4-5 teams awards & 1-2-3 medals

Terry Beas made a motion to accept the new tournament award policy and include the same in the USA Softball Missouri Code. Rick Petty seconded. Motion carried.

### **Changes to Forms; Website; no printed roster except for Nationals**

**Sanction Tournaments** - Commissioner Rich suggested changing from not charging to sanction a tournament and start charging \$5 per team. With many organizations hosting multiple events with numerous teams, the board was concerned the increased fee would cause groups to stop sanctioning their events with us. With many of these events also having \$10 per team fees to use the tournamentasa.com program, board members thought a \$50 sanction fee would be sufficient.

**Weekend Only Registration** -- Commissioner Rich suggested lowering the fee from \$30 to \$25. Board members felt the fee should be left at \$30 since there haven't been complaints about the fee. No action taken.

Adult Team Registration -- The National Board of Directors increased the adult team registration by \$10 to cover adult liability insurance. The Missouri fee will increase \$30 in 2018. It was asked if Commissioner Rich would draw up an informational flyer showing why the increase so board members could give it to their cities.

TournamentASA.com -- Commissioner Rich reminded the board that all tournament directors must be trained on TournamentASA.com and must use it for their respective tournaments. All rosters will also be submitted through tournamentasa.com and tournament directors will print them for use at their events.

**2018 State Convention** -- The 2018 State Convention will be February 17 in Columbia. The time will be announced at a later date, but more than likely will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided at no charge. There will not be a banquet or an awards ceremony.

**State Tournament Concerns** - Bob Garner discussed allowing out of state teams to play in our adult state tournaments. An Arkansas team was allowed to play in the D South tournament in Cape Girardeau with approvals by Commissioner Rich and the Arkansas Commissioner. Mr. Garner made a motion to follow the National code as to team participation in our state events. Terry Beas seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Nelson asked if the bat list on the website could be updated and listed as recommendations for USA Softball leagues only. Several Board members said they do use the list for local league play.

**Girls Class C National Tournament** - National tournaments have been added for the JO "C" program. Rules will be created per region and Commissioner Rich hopes we can get two tournaments in Missouri for 2018. St. Joseph, Cape Girardeau, Columbia and Jefferson City have all expressed interest in having an event. More information will be coming out following the National Council Meeting.

The following dates are tentative and a final listing will be sent out in late November.

#### **2018 State Tournaments**

Church Invitational	Springfield	July 7
Women's State	Rolla	July 7
Coed C & D	Jefferson City	July 14 & 15
Men's C	Columbia	August 4 & 5
Men's D North	Rolla	August 4 & 5
Men's D South	Cape Girardeau	August 4 & 5
Men's E North	Columbia	August 4 & 5
Men's E South	Cape Girardeau	August 4 & 5

Tentatively, Jefferson City may host a special D/E state tournament on August 11-12.

#### **JO Tournaments**

Girls C State	Jefferson City	June 15-17
Girls C State	Maryville	June 23 & 24
Girls C State	Kirksville	June 30 & July 1
Girls C State	Jefferson City	July 6-8
Girls 10 Modified	Springfield	June 23
Girls A & B State	Rolla	June 22-24
Girls B State	Palmyra	June 16 & 17

Maryville has also expressed interest in having an "open" or an "A/B" tournament, too.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.