

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL PROGRAM

BOARD OF RECREATION RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY January 27, 2010

President Diane Maglione called the special meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Mary Koegel, Tom Essig, Lloyd Domke, Leigh Rivera, Mike Ruiz and Frank Zaccherio. Commissioner Hugo Poli was also in attendance.

Team representatives present were:

Royal Blue/Them	Bella Wagner
Green/Harley's	Craig Lynch, Rose DeLorenzo, Cathy Doyle
Red/Jersey Girlz	Jennifer Simmons
Kelly Green/Grasshoppers	Mike Dalton
Grey/Bergen Chiro	June Campbell
Purple/Vipers	Marsha Kelley/Theresa O'Connor
Black/Back in Black	Linda Scalabrini, Bettina Choi, Natalie Lisa
Maroon/Lanigan's Ladies	Tricia Hamm
?	Kelly Higgins

Not present:

Blue/Jack's	Jack Fossimo
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President Diane Maglione stated that originally the league started as an "apron string league" for women of Ridgefield Park. The league has grown and is more organized and now most players no longer live in Ridgefield Park. The league must be self-funding. The Village picks up the cost for insurance and maintenance of fields, including the lights, which is more costly than most people realize. Registration fees cover the cost of umpire fees, shirts (if needed), end of year party and trophies. Any leftover money is used for the end of year party. No alcohol can be purchased by the Board of Recreation for the party however.

Teams cannot have a sponsor name on them due to it being a Village sponsored event. Under its by-laws the Board cannot raise funds, so no sponsors can be placed on the shirts although a sponsor can pay team registration fees if desired.

The purpose of the meeting is to hopefully eliminate the problems that occurred last year. Previously, there was a meeting held with all team reps three years ago and rules were revised according to input from the team reps. It is time to revisit the rules and put things in order again.

Last year there were at least seven players that participated without the Board's knowledge. No registration forms or fees were given in for these players. This cannot happen again. Packets were sent out and the Board thought the instructions were complete but instructions were not followed. It is clearly stated that all packets should be turned into the Board Secretary only but this was disregarded last year. The Board wants to make it clear that no forms are to be given to Frank Zaccherio or anyone else. Packets are due at the Board meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2010, between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 pm. If teams are not able to deliver the completed packet then, they can make arrangements with Barbara DeLuca for delivery on another date. Packets can be left at the front office for the Board. Only **completed** packets should be turned in. It is too hard to keep track of missing forms and checks. If a college player will be added on in May, they need to be put on the roster in March.

The Board explained the purpose of the registrar is to make sure everyone that plays is a registered player. At the previous meeting, there were complaints of ringers being used for playoffs so it was agreed that a registrar would be used. Diane Maglione will be the registrar this year. Rosters need to be turned in within one week of the game being played, ideally before the

next game is played but within one week. If rosters are not turned in on a timely basis, teams will not be eligible for the playoffs. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE, ALL TEAMS MUST TURN IN ROSTERS FOR BOTH SIDES ASAP AFTER THE GAME BUT WITHIN ONE WEEK.**

At this time Diane Maglione asked if there were any questions on the packets previously emailed to all teams (and mailed to Jack's until an email address is provided).

June Campbell asked what the intent of the seven game minimum was. She questioned if a player starts the season and then gets hurt but is able to come back if she can participate in playoffs. Diane explained that the purpose of the seven game minimum was to eliminate the ringers previously used by some teams for playoffs. If a player starts the season but gets injured, the Board has no problem with her returning to her team. The player must follow injury notification procedures as well.

Diane Maglione explained that the Board is trying to take some problems out of Frank Zaccherio's hands. Frank is to handle no paperwork at all. All paperwork, questions, concerns, etc., need to go through the Board Secretary at BarbaraDeLuca@msn.com or by leaving a voicemail at (201) 641-4950 ext. 610. Teams that give their packets/paperwork/injury notification to Frank do so at their own risk of not being in compliance with Board rules. Frank is a member of the Board, he is not able to make decisions on Board matters as an individual. Decisions on the league are made by the entire Board after the Secretary brings the matter before the Board so proper procedures need to be followed by all teams.

Tricia Hamm asked why the fee is per person and not per team. Treasurer Tom Essig explained how the fee was figured out (dividing up previous year expenses per player) and how this was the most equitable way to make sure expenses were covered. The Board needs to pay 50% of the umpire fees at the start of the season and then the remaining 50% mid-season, plus there is a small charge per team for administrative expenses from the umpire association. There is a cost for the insurance premium, which is per person. Once the program reaches a certain level, the Village can ask for that difference from the Board if necessary.

Rose DeLorenzo asked about the ruling on metal spikes. Although it does not happen often, there are times when players wear metal spikes. The Board informed her that the umpire association will be contacted and told to make sure spikes are checked prior to the start of the game and if a player is wearing spikes, they will be asked to remove them immediately or be ejected from the game. It was also requested that all team managers remind their players that no metal spikes are permitted in this league.

Kelly Higgins questioned how the two game suspension rule works. It was explained that the game in which a player is ejected does not count as one of the games. The player must immediately be removed from the game in which they were ejected and then a two game suspension immediately follows that game. The suspension must take place in the immediately following two games played regardless of whether they are playoff games or not. A rainout does not count as a suspended game, it must be the immediate two games following the ejection that are played. A team can also not add on make-up games in order to comply with a suspension. When there is an ejection, the team manager must immediately notify the Board by email and/or telephone. The Board will then issue an email on how many games the suspension will be.

The Board also made it clear that college players need to be on the roster when the packet is turned in on March 18. If a team plans on using college students, they need to be registered even if they will not play until May. It was also made clear that players cannot be "swapped" for another player. If a player gets injured or needs to leave the team before the first game of the season, then the Board should be notified and that player can be replaced without a new registration fee (form still must be given to the Board prior to participation). Once the season has begun, any new player must pay a registration fee. **Add-ons will be accepted until May 1 only.**

Extenuating circumstances after May 1 must first be brought to the Board. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN A PLAYER PARTICIPATE WITHOUT FIRST TURNING IN A REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO THE BOARD SECRETARY. THE PLAYER MUST OFFICIALLY BE ON THE ROSTER BEFORE ANY PARTICIPATION.**

A discussion was then held on rainouts. This year Frank Zaccherio will include a certain amount of rainouts in the schedule. Rainouts will be made up in the order in which they occurred. Rainouts need to be made up in a timely manner. When a rain date is available, both teams will be notified of the new date. If a team is unavailable, they must forfeit that game. No schedule accommodations will be made for any reason. A team is either available or unavailable. This is the only way the season will move on and playoffs will start on time. Schedules will be distributed at the start of the season and will be strictly adhered to. The only reason a game will be cancelled is due to a rainout. If a team plays in more than one league, they must decide which game they will forfeit. No game will be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. Do not request Frank Zaccherio to reschedule any games.

Games that are not made up by the end of the season will be assigned a point system so that playoffs can begin on time. The season must move along this year. Make ups will be scheduled before the end of the season and playoffs will not begin until all make ups are complete (those that can be made up). If there are too many rain outs that cannot be made up and there is extra money, the money can be put towards the next season. There will be a firm date in which rain dates will end and playoffs must start. The Board will notify all teams when rain dates end and playoffs begin. The fields have other uses and the Board must stop using them by a certain date. The point system will be two points for a win and one point for a loss. Teams with the most points will make the playoffs provided they have followed all Board rules throughout the season. If a team does not turn in their rosters on a timely basis, they will not be eligible for playoffs regardless of their win/loss record. The Board will email the field locations for rain dates. It will be in the best interest of the teams to make up rain dates as soon as possible.

Commissioner Poli will check to see if the men's field might be available for make-ups. It appears that the field is not always in use and it could help out with rain dates. Rain date games will not be scheduled in order to accommodate another league. Teams must forfeit the game if they are unavailable on a make-up date.

All comments, concerns, questions, etc., need to be brought before the Board and should be directed to the Board Secretary. Frank Zaccherio is only a member and not authorized to speak on behalf of the Board. All decisions regarding the program are made by the entire Board. Make up games will be scheduled as soon as possible on an available field. If at the end of the season all games cannot be made up, they will be assigned a point system.

Participation in playoffs will be decided by who sent in line-ups, who did not send in line-ups. If it is found that a player is used that was not on the roster, the team will be disqualified. Each team will only be given one date for a make up and they must decide if they can field a team or not. If it rains, then the game can be made up but only if it rains on the rain date can a game be rescheduled. The only conflict that will be honored is if there is a conflict with a game already scheduled in the Ridgefield Park league. The Board wants the teams to play as many games as possible. Saturday will be used as an emergency make-up day.

There are new procedures to follow in case of injury. Procedures are clearly outlined in a separate memo. It is the responsibility of the injured party to file the proper claim forms on a timely basis. The Board must be notified immediately if there is an injury. GJEM Insurance must be notified within 60 days of the injury and an injury claim notification form must be filed with the insurance company. Village insurance is secondary. The injured party must first go through their own insurance and then the Village insurance will pick up customary out-of-pocket expenses.

In the event that a player needs to be added to the roster, May 1 is the final date for add-ons to the roster.

Again, any questions, concerns, paperwork, etc., need to be directed to BarbaraDeLuca@msn.com, who will forward them to the Board for a reply.

A revised set of rules will be distributed to all teams who were instructed to make sure all players received a copy. Packets are also available on the internet at www.ridgefieldpark.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca
Secretary

cc: Commissioner Hugo Poli