

## **Mansfield Girls Softball Association**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting #2 for 2009/2010 Minutes of Monday, October 16, 2009 Meeting Mansfield High School Library**

Attendees: Tony Dattero, Walter Wilk, Gerard McDonough, Cindy LeBlanc, Bob Hindman, Bill Letendre, Mike Knight, Shelley Rapoza

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 PM and it was determined that a quorum existed.

#### **1. Treasurers Report(Shelley Rapoza)**

- Since the bank accounts had still not been transferred, the board approved that Karen Savageau make the following payments:  
\$120.00 to David Eberhart for rubber balls. This check replaces the \$150.00 check to Grogan- Marciano that was approved at the October 19 board meeting.  
\$36.41 to Verizon
- Shelley reported that the \$240 owed to Sports Manager was deducted from the Pitching/Catching Clinic registration fees.

#### **2. Swarm Program**

The board considered four possible options:

1. Make no changes to the program.
2. Dissolve the program.
3. Require all of the members of the Swarm teams to be split-up and play in their age appropriate divisions during the spring in town season.
4. Allow swarm teams to play during the spring as a team but only against other towns.

After discussing each option, the board unanimously voted for option number three. The board also approved some additional parameters that are detailed in the email below which was sent to all the parents of swarm team members on October 27th:

*To the Parents of Swarm Team Members:*

*As all of you know, the Board of Directors met last night to discuss the Swarm. Two of the main issues (among several) that we addressed were (i) the ability of younger girls to 'play up' an age bracket (i.e., some 12U eligible girls playing on the 14U Swarm team) and (ii) the participation of the Swarm team members in the spring in-town program.*

*After much deliberation, the Board unanimously agreed to keep the Swarm program intact and keep the 12U and 14U teams as they currently exist - and not move the 12U eligible girls on the 14U Swarm team back to the 12U Swarm team, as the Board agreed this would cause too much upheaval on both teams. In addition, the Swarm teams will*

*still continue to practice as a team throughout the fall and winter as planned and play as a Mansfield travel team in the summer Hock league.*

*The Board also discussed at great length the importance of having all of the Swarm team members be part of the in-town spring program. As part of the association, all girls who play in the summer Hockomock league are required to have played in the spring. This spring rule has been in place for years, and has been enforced as recently as this past summer. As part of the decision to keep the Swarm teams intact, the Board ultimately decided to require the Swarm team members to be interspersed in the in-town spring league with the other girls. The two other options were to allow the Swarm teams to play other towns during the spring season (and not play in the in-town program) or to allow the Swarm teams to play in the in-town spring program as a team (and thus play against the other girls who are not part of the Swarm teams).*

*With respect to the Swarm teams playing outside of the spring in-town program, these girls would have no involvement (spring, summer or otherwise) with the vast majority of the girls in the association, and thus they would not be part of the association. In addition, the Board felt that it was not fair to have the Mansfield Girls Softball Association be supporting these teams if they were not part of the association. With respect to the second option (having the Swarm teams play as a team in the spring in-town program), this did not seem fair for obvious reasons - lopsided games, humiliating the other girls in the program, etc. It should also be noted that none of the other sports programs in town operate teams in this manner.*

*Because the Board felt strongly that a commitment had been made to the twenty-four girls on the two Swarm teams, we wanted to live up to that commitment while still taking into consideration what is best for The Mansfield Girls Softball Association as a whole. Thus, as set forth above, the one change we are making to the program is to require all of the members of the Swarm teams to be split-up and play in the spring in-town program. To that end, the Board has decided on the following parameters to ensure that its decision is fair to all:*

- each Swarm team can hold practices as a team throughout the fall and winter and until the first outdoor practice for the spring in-town program;*
- each Swarm team can play as a Mansfield travel team in the summer Hock league as planned;*
- each Swarm team member will be required to play in her age appropriate bracket during the spring in-town program (i.e., no playing up notwithstanding the Board's decision to allow some of the girls to continue to play up on the Swarm teams for this particular year);*
- each Swarm team can enter one weekend tournament during the spring in-town program; and*
- each Swarm team may resume practices as a team following Memorial Day (provided that it does not interfere with the remainder of the spring in-town program).*

*We, as a Board, feel that the above decision sets forth the best compromise for a difficult issue and best serves all of the girls involved in the program in a fair and equitable manner.*

*Respectfully,*

*Walter Wilk*

*Mike Knight*

*Bill Letendre*

*Shelley Rapoza*

*Sean Brumbles*

*Tony Dattero*

*Bob Hindman*

*Cindy Leblanc*

*Gerard McDonough*

*email: [mgsa@mansfieldgirlssoftball.com](mailto:mgsa@mansfieldgirlssoftball.com)*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.