

Minutes from Organizational Meeting  
December 14, 2014  
5:30 PM to 7:25 PM

1. Role Call (by Organization)

Organization	Person	Present/Fine
Bethlehem Township	Rich Sheffer	Present
Bushkill		Absent
Easton	William Stocker	Present
Forks Township	Brian Trimmer	Present
Lower Nazareth		Absent
Northeast	Greg Ehret	Present
Palmer Township	Paul Cinoa	Present
Pen Argyl	Jen Butzgy	Present
Phillipsburg		Absent
Saucon Valley		Absent
St. Jane	Joseph Clymire	Present
UMBT (LMBT)	Ariel Beltrano	Present
Upper Nazareth	Jeremy Setzer	Present
Williams Township	Andrew Cuttic / Eric Torgerson	Present
Wilson		Absent
Wind Gap	Sherry Acevedo	Absent **
Others:	Dennis Grube	Absent

\*\* Wing Gap communicated they were fine with the rules changes as drafted and sent to out prior to the meeting.

2. Proposed Rule Changes by level.

**2nd/3rd Grade**

Two division approach:

At the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade level, the proposal is for two divisions, each designed to best serve the needs of the girls. The options are provided as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in her 4<sup>th</sup> year is at a very different place than the 3<sup>rd</sup> grader who is playing for the very first time. Descriptions and guidelines are provided below, but it is up to the individual organization to best determine which division(s) to place their girls. Organizations fielding multiple teams may put all of their teams in the same division or split them up in separate divisions.

**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Competitive Division**

This level is designed for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders who have played at least one year. The rules are based on those used in 2014 at the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade level, but will play with the 11" hard ball. It is highly recommended that 1<sup>st</sup> graders who played a year of t-ball not be pulled up to this level. This level will have scores, standings, and All-Star tournament.

(Organization agreed with All-Star Tournament, not playoffs at this level in the meeting)  
No Inning will start after 1:30 minutes

### 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Instructional Division

This level is designed for:

- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Graders who have never played before
- 1<sup>st</sup> graders who played t-ball the year before and think they are ready for something more advanced than t-ball.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders who have played before but are **significantly** behind the curve.

Please note that this level is not limited to just these types of players, but rather designed for them so they can develop the necessary skills to play 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Competitive the next year or move up to 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade. The rules for this level will mirror what was used at Coach Pitch in 2013 and before. An 11" softie will be used, coaches will pitch to the girls, for the second half of the season girls will have an option to pitch in a limited capacity. No scores, no standings, and no playoffs or All-Star Tournament. Use of a catcher is optional. Rosters at this level can be small as you could play with as few as 7 players. No Inning will start after 1:20 minutes

The focus is to be on instruction, learning, and establishing a love of the game.

Also approved during the meeting was organizations may decide the number of players offered for the All-Star tournament where players from the instructional division may be considered.

### Other 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Rule Changes

1. Mound set at 30' instead of 32' (2014)
2. Update the pitch count rule to be once the pitcher throws 4 called balls, the coach steps in rather than 6 pitch max/4 ball rule. Same as last year, when the coach took over pitching, the strike count will be one strike or less.
3. Allow opposing coaches to help other team's players, basically eliminating the "no talk rule at this level.
4. Organizations with more than one team at the 2/3 grade level should consider some type of evaluation method when submitting 2 or more teams at the competitive level to be balanced, or deciding which players are selected for the competitive vs instructional teams.
5. Teams requiring to pull up players from the instructional to competitive division will be the same as other age groups.
6. No change to the cheering rule at this level. This needs to be emphasized during coaches meetings that we are consistent throughout the season, for each team.

The vote was 9-1 with UMBT voting no.

Other notes is grade level will play primarily Monday through Saturday based on field availability once the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade levels schedules are made.

#### **4th/5th Grade**

1. Change the possession rule from the infielder to the ball in the circle. It does not require possession by the pitcher. Then apply the 2014 possession rule on base runners.
2. Increase the steals to 10 from 6 (2014)
3. Change steals from any bases verses 2nd to 3rd and 3rd to home only (2014)
4. Under pitching, point 9, remove special reference to rules prior to May 15 that a struck batter is just considered a ball. Apply the struck batter rule consistently all season. No change to point 8 on removing pitcher from pitcher position if striking batter directly 3 times.
5. Change rule on base runner leaving from the release of the pitch in 2014 to when it crosses the plate.
6. Strengthen requirements for scorekeepers from both teams to confirm scores and steals after each inning.

The vote was 10-0

Other notes is 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade level will play primarily Monday through Saturday based on field availability once the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade level schedules are made.

#### **6th/7th Grade**

1. Increase steals to 14 from 12 (2014)
2. Change rule on throw by catcher with regards to steals that all runners can advance one additional base at their own risk. (This does not have to be an overthrow.)
3. Clarify drop 3rd strike rule that the catcher is making the ball live with the throw. Advancing runners are not considered steals and there is no special overthrow rule. Fielders need to get the ball back in the possession of the pitcher.
4. Minor change to pick-off attempts. The ball is live, where the runner is not required to make attempt to return to base. The base runner may advance at her own risk until the play is made and ball in possession of the pitcher. (No specific over throw rule and does not count against the steal count).
5. Strengthen requirements for scorekeepers from both teams to confirm scores and steals after each inning.
  1. This makes the rules closer to PIAA
    1. Still no slug bunts
    2. Still no delayed steals on catchers throw to pitcher

The vote was 10-0

Other notes is 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade level will play primarily Monday through Thursday, possible Fridays and minimal Saturdays so more tournament players can play.

### **Juniors (8th/9th)**

1. For teams' field more than one team at this grade level, consideration will be made to allow organizations to submit two B level teams.
2. If pulling up player from 6th/7th level, they can be designated as a designate pitcher, meaning they will not take a spot in the batting line-up. Coach can elect not to use this designation and have them in the line-up. That said, if less than 9 players, the called up player will bat.

The vote was 10-0

Senior Level (This was placed on-hold to the January Meeting to get more thorough and discussion with the organizations).

1. For communication purposes (sign-ups), designate two weekend night to play (Monday/Wednesday).

### **Other Rules**

1. Eliminate coach's ejection rule for fan conduct. Umpire will address fan conduct.
2. Action, Gary to look at the overall rules by level for ejections. Possible consider making new section on ejections rather than mixed in with existing rules.

Next meeting will be Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup>. Considerations will be made if the Eagles are playing during this time.