



INSTILLING IN OUR COMMUNITY YOUTH THE IDEA OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

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## November 2006 Commissioner's Meeting

A Commissioner's meeting of the Ft. Smith Church League was held on Monday, November 13, 2006 at Christ the King Church. (An attendee roster is attached).

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Darrell Stovall offered the opening prayer.

The minutes for the October 2006 were unanimously approved, motioned by Wes Young and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Seiter.

### Treasurer's Report

Pat Mickle discussed the revenues and expenses for general operations during the recent month. In general, there was approximately \$2,200 in income from Fall Ball and a transfer of money from the Lucas Jackson tournament to the capital improvements account in the amount of \$1107. The primary expenses were for grounds crew and supplies totaling approximately \$4400 for the month. A detailed statement is available upon request.

### President's Report

None

### Old Business

A new slate of officers was nominated for the 2007 season. No nominations different from the previous month were heard. All officials were ratified by unanimous vote of 12-0.

The 2007 officers are as follows:

President	Don Eveld
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Eddie Norman
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	John Mobley
Treasurer	Pat Mickle
Secretary	Jason Brasher

Doug Schwartz suggested that roll be taken and church affiliations be documented so that there is a record of who is attending Commissioner Meetings. Discussion followed, and it was agreed that the Secretary would start documenting all attendees and include that information into the minutes in the future.

Eddie Norman discussed a letter that every Church had received from FSCL. That letter states that FSCL needs to know who was in charge of their Churches program and also list the voting Commissioners and alternate contacts for their Church. He stated that only a few Churches had responded even though he had included a self addressed stamped envelope with them. It was discussed that this will help with getting information out to the correct contact.

Eddie Norman also discussed contacting Lavaca about coming back to participate in the FSCL in the 2007 season since they did not in the 2006 season. After several attempts, he did make contact with a receptionist and was told who the person to talk with was. He stated that he will continue to try and contact them about returning.

Wes Young confirmed that the Lucas Jackson Tournament would be moved back to the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of August in 2007 instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> like in 2006. He stated that the reason was to try and entice more participation.

The following rule changes proposed by Bobby Aldridge, which were each seconded by Eddie Norman, each passed.

Article VII – (Financial Policy) Rule D.

**From**

- D. Each church will pay an entry fee, to the CHURCH LEAGUE, for each of the teams that it has participating in the league. The fee for each team entered in Pee-Wee, Super Pee-Wee, Pony, Midget League, Prep and Babe Ruth Leagues will be sixty dollars (\$60.00). All churches will also pay a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) per team ball fee. In addition, each church will pay a fee of eighty dollars (\$80.00) to fund the Senior Babe Ruth program. The total entry fee for each church will be based on the number of teams entered in all leagues, plus the eighty dollar (\$80.00) Senior Babe Ruth fee. There shall be no refunds or allowances made for teams which are canceled after said meeting. All team entry fees shall be paid to the commission treasurer by April 15th each year. No church may participate in league play until all fees and assessments have been paid.

**To**

- D. Each church will pay an entry fee, to the CHURCH LEAGUE, for each of the teams that it has participating in the league. **The fee for each team entered will be one hundred dollars (\$100.00).** In addition each church will pay a fee of eighty dollars (\$80.00) to fund the Senior Babe Ruth program. The total entry fee for each church will be based on the number of teams entered in all leagues, plus the eighty dollar (\$80.00) Senior Babe Ruth fee. There shall be no refunds or allowances made for teams which are canceled after said meeting. All team entry fees shall be paid to the commission treasurer by April 15th each year. **Failure to pay all fees and assessments by April**

**15<sup>th</sup> will result in the Church's team not being scheduled and as such will not be allowed to participate for the affected season.**

*Change passes. Vote was 12 for and 1 against.*

Article VII – (Financial Policy) Rule E.

**From**

E. 1. Effective January 1, 2006, Churches must pay a \$25.00 per player fee for all leagues to meet to the association's funding needs. The fees are payable to the Fort Smith Church Baseball League in one check per team in each league according to the player totals on the official team rosters. The fees are due on or before the first league game, accompanying the official team rosters. These payments are to be accurately collected by the league presidents and referred to the treasurer. Players added to the roster after May 1st will be assessed player fees to be collected by the league president.

**To**

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*Change passes. Vote was 13 for and 1 against*

Article VII – (Financial Policy) Rule E.

**From**

E. 2. Concession Duty: A significant portion of the league income is derived from concession sales. Every team shall participate in the concession stand by paying a fee of \$125.00 which must be made prior to your team's first regular season scheduled game. This fee covers all workers for all the concession stand operations.

**To**

E. 2. Concession Duty: A significant portion of the league income is derived from concession sales. Every team shall participate in the concession stand by paying a fee of \$125.00 which must be made prior to your team's first regular season scheduled game. **Failure to pay the concession fee by the first regular season game will result in forfeiture of each game until paid, and the non-complying team will not be allowed to play until the fee is paid.** This fee covers all workers for all the concession stand operations.

*Change passes. Vote was 13 for and 1 against*

The following rule changes were proposed by Darrell Stovall, with Eddie Norman seconding each.

Article X, Section I. Pony League Rules, Rule 17.

**From**

17. Pony League strike zone will be enlarged from the shoulder to mid calf.

**To**

17. Pony League strike zone will be enlarged from the shoulder to **the knee**.  
*Change passes. Vote was 12 for, and 2 against*

Article X, Section A. General Rules and Policies, Rule 25 (addendum).

25. For all age groups, if any coach, player, or spectator is noticed by an umpire or league official to be representing FSCL in an unbecoming manner that doesn't reflect favorably on the organization, FSCL will notify the Pastor or Priest for that Church and let them know that there has been a problem and if it is not taken care of, the next incident will result in a one game suspension for that coach, player, or spectator.

*Change passes. Vote was 12 for, and 2 against*

Article X, Section A. General Rules and Policies, Rule 26 (addendum).

26. For all age groups through Midget, the head coach (or designated head coach), is the ONLY coach that can discuss and/or question a call during a game with an umpire or league official. For the Pony and Midget Leagues, there will be ZERO TOLERANCE for questioning umpires on balls and strikes.

*Change fails. Vote was 6 for, and 8 against*

## **New Business**

Rick Deramus proposed the following rule changes:

Article X Section I. Pony Rules, Rule 19

**From**

19. If a team has 10 players ready to play at the start of a game, the extra hitter (EH) must be used and will be considered a defensive position, and players can be substituted into that position. If a team begins the game using the EH position, they must complete the game with an EH position unless the 10th player has been injured and no additional players can be used. Then the subject team can bat with the remaining 9 players without the penalty of taking an out for the tenth position. A coach has the option to bat all players on the official roster that are present. If a team begins the game batting all players they must complete the game batting all players. If the extra batter(s) have been injured, then the subject team can bat the remaining batter(s) without penalty of taking an out for the extra batter position(s) unless their team is under nine players then the team must take an out. The opposing coach has the option to bat the standard nine or ten batters. It's not mandatory that both teams bat the same number of players. All pitching rules and defensive substitution rules stay in affect.

**To**

Fort Smith Church Baseball League, Inc., P.O. Box 3999, Ft. Smith, AR 72913

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Article X. Section J Pony League Rules, Rule 15

**From**

15. A coach has the option to bat all players on the official roster that are present. If a team begins the game batting all players they must complete the game batting all players. If the extra batter(s) have been injured, then the subject team can bat the remaining batter(s) without penalty of taking an out for the extra batter position(s) unless their team is under nine players then the team must take an out. The opposing coach has the option to bat the standard nine or ten batters. It's not mandatory that both teams bat the same number of players. All pitching rules and defensive substitution rules stay in affect.

Example: Team "A" has 12 players and Team "B" has 12 players, Team "A" may bat 12 players while Team "B" may bat 10 players and sub the remaining players into the game.

**To**

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Example: Team "A" has 12 players and Team "B" has 12 players, Team "A" may bat 12 players while Team "B" may bat 10 players and sub the remaining players into the game.

Article V. Managers and Coaches, Rule D

**From**

D. Any manager, coach, or representative from each team in each league shall attend at least one (1) work day at the ball fields. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the second regularly scheduled season game.

**To**

D. Any manager, coach, or representative from each team in each league shall attend at least one (1) work day at the ball fields. Failures to do so will result in the forfeiture of first regular season win.

Donald Schwartz seconded both proposals.

Wes Young proposed the following rule changes:

Article X, Section A General Rules, Rule 15

**From**

15. In all tournaments sponsored by the CHURCH LEAGUE all participating teams shall be composed of the same players, and only the same ones that made up the team of the regular season. There will be no all-star teams allowed. This rule will apply to all participating teams whether they are CHURCH LEAGUE teams or not, and the age limits of the CHURCH LEAGUE will apply to all participating teams. This does not apply to sanctioned Babe Ruth tournament teams.

**To**

15. In all tournaments sponsored by the CHURCH LEAGUE all participating teams shall be composed of the same players, and only the same ones that made up the team of the regular season. There will be no all-star teams allowed. This rule will apply to all participating teams whether they are CHURCH LEAGUE teams or not, and the age limits of the CHURCH LEAGUE will apply to all participating teams. This does not apply to sanctioned USSSA and/or Babe Ruth tournament teams.

Article X, Section A General Rules, Rule 24

**From**

24. The following method will be used to determine teams eligible to represent the Ft. Smith Church Baseball League in the USSSA "A" Division State Tournament.

Jr. Pee Wee and Pee Wee Divisions

American / National Division

6U Teams – Top three (3) teams in each Division based on season standings.

Central Division

5U Teams – Top three (3) teams based on best overall record.

If there is no Central Division then three (3) 5U Teams will be selected from both the American and National

Division based on best overall record.

Super Pee Wee and Bambino Divisions

Super Pee Wee Division

American / National Division

7U Teams – Top three (3) teams in each Division based on best overall record.

Bambino Division

American / National Division

8U Teams – Top three (3) teams in each Division based on best overall record.

If there are not enough teams to have separate age leagues then the top three (3) 7U and 8U teams will be selected based on best record will be selected from both divisions.

Pony Division

American / National Division

9U Teams – Top three (3) teams in each Division based on best overall record.

10U Teams – Top three (3) teams in each Division based on best overall record. 2-way Tie Breaker: 1. Head-to-head, 2. Flip a coin 3-way Tie Breaker: 1. Worst overall record determines 3rd Place, 2. Revert to 2-way tie breaker.

**To**

24. All FSCBL league teams are eligible to compete in the USSSA A Division State Tournament. Any fee's or sanctions are the responsibility of each team.

Article X Section I.

Split the Pony League into Pony and Super Pony according to ages. The Pony League will play FSCBL rules as they exist. The Super Pony will play Midget Rules with the exception of pitching distance and base length, which will remain the same as the original Pony distances.

All of Wes' proposals were sub sequentially seconded by Bobby Aldridge.

Darrell Stovall proposed the following rule change:

Article X, Section A. General Rules and Policies, Rule 26 (addendum).

26. For all age groups through Midget, only **one coach from each team** can discuss and/or question a call during a game with an umpire or league official. For the Pony and Midget Leagues, there will be ZERO TOLERANCE for questioning umpires on balls and strikes.

Proposal seconded by Wes Young

Wes Young submitted tournament dates for the 2007 season. Those dates are as follows:

April 20-22	Bringin' The Heat USSSA
May 26-28	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hum Baby USSSA
June 22-24	USSSA State Tournament, 11AAA / 8U KP <b>OR</b>
June 29-July1	USSSA State Tournament, 11AAA / 8U KP
August 3-5	Lucas Jackson Memorial USSSA

Wes Young submitted a letter to the commissioners that contains two requests and ask that they be attached to the minutes. Those requests are to hold the Hum Baby Tournament on May 26-28 2007 and also to enter the Arkansas Muckdogs in the Prep/Babe Ruth league for the 2007 season. A copy of these requests is available upon request.

Bobby Aldridge suggested that FSCBL do something about the growing problems of teams forfeiting games on make-up Saturdays. Don Eveld suggested fining all teams that don't give proper notice so that

FSCBL can inform the other teams and not schedule umpires for those games. Eddie Norman suggest that we inform the Churches of the violating teams that the coaches are choosing to forfeit games after the Church has already paid to participate.

A discussion was then initiated about the number of players playing both FSCBL and also USSSA baseball. It was discussed whether or not these players and/or coaches were causing the increasing number of forfeits.

Bobby Aldridge suggested that it may be a good idea to look at the USSSA World Series dates and consider them when scheduling the Post Season Tournaments, especially for the younger ages due to the increasing number of players involved in both FSCBL and USSSA.

It was also suggested that there are players playing for both Boys Club and also FSCBL. Eddie Norman suggested that league officials check rosters during league play to ensure that all players are legal. He stated that this might deter someone from trying to play with illegal players.

Tentative dates were discussed for Rain Out dates for the 2007 season. No dates were set.

There was discussion about proposed maintenance. Eddie Norman stated that he is waiting on an estimate for that work.

Bobby Aldridge motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donald Schwartz. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Signature:

Approved: (date)

Or Corrected: (date)

## Attendee Roster

1) Don Eveld	Christ the King
2) Eddie Norman	Central Pres.
3) Jason Brasher	Eastside Baptist
4) Brent Lewis	Eastside Baptist
5) Bobby Aldridge	St. Boniface
6) Darrell Stovall	St. Paul
7) Sean Boyd	St. Paul
8) Rick Deramus	Central Pres.
9) Wes Young	Grand Ave Baptist
10) Rodney Woods	IC
11) Dale Seiter	IC
12) Jason Vrazel	IC
13) Donald Schwartz	Christ the King
14) Pat Mickle	Central Pres.
15) Doug Schwartz	Christ the King