

3/26/22 – Special Meeting called by C. Culligan

Roll Call

Christine Culligan
Christina Naughton
Michael Culligan
Ahmed Gresham
Helen Gresham
Harry Devine

Jenya Gonzalez (Parent)
Kevin Blankenbuehler (Parent-10U Assistant Coach)
Dennis Smith (parent)
Josh Carboni (parent)
Mike Tosh (Parent -10U Coach)
Kristi Rago (Parent -10U Coach)
JR Gentile (Parent -10U Assistant Coach)
Mike Eykyn (Parent -8U Assistant Coach)
Emily Hansen (Parent -6U Coach)
Joe Vitiello (Parent -16U Coach)
Erika Muniir (Parent)
Toni Rispoli (Liaison)

Special meeting was called by President C. Culligan to discuss the latest updates on our season. A letter from C. Culligan to coaches and parents was passed out. She began by introducing herself and providing her background about how she became involved in softball.

She explained that the Board was excited to go back to playing other towns which is why the Board had decided to try to get back into the ABRSL. C. Culligan explained her tireless efforts to get EHT back into ABRSL including numerous last minute meetings. After teams had been made and practices had begun, ABRSL started questioning several EHT teams. For example, one 16U had 3 travel players and the other had 1. Also, 10U team had 4 travel players, one had 2 and the other 2 teams did not have any. C. Culligan had spoken with the parents of the 4 10U travel players who advised they would just withdraw from the rec program and continue with travel ball rather than to have their child moved to another rec team.

C. Culligan explained that hesitation with ABRSL started at the coaches meeting. One EHT coach had asked a simple question about pitching and C. Culligan was reminded after the meeting that EHT was on probation and needed to reign in its coaches. C. Culligan advised she was repeatedly reminded that EHT was on probation. Many present today, who were at the coaches meeting voiced that EHT as a whole felt unwelcomed at the ABRSL coaches meeting.

C. Culligan explained that at one point things seemed to become personal. C. Culligan had asked ABRSL for a copy of its bylaws, as 10U Coach Naughton wanted to review them, in an effort to resolve current

issues. K. Parker then became irate and stating she knew the request came from a coach who was an attorney and stated she more than has the means to battle it in court. K. Parker had then advised other members of the ABRSL that EHT was threatening to sue them.

C. Culligan explained that she called this meeting to advise coaches and parents what was going on, especially in light of the false information that was being spread around. She reiterated that EHT was not kicked out of ABRSL. After being given a deadline (of 12 hours) to change around multiple teams, she called a special emergency meeting of the softball board. At the meeting, the aforementioned issues were discussed. The Board felt, as a whole, that they did not want to deal with continuous issues playing in ABRSL this season. Vice President R. Ivie made a motion to withdraw from the ABRSL which was seconded by A. Gresham. The board voted unanimously to withdraw from the ABRSL.

C. Culligan advised that this does not mean EHT will be playing intramurally. She explained she has already been in contact with multiple other towns including Northfield, Absecon, Ocean City, Lacey Twp., Waretown and New Egypt. All levels will still have multiple other towns to play. M. Tosh provided contact information for Middle Twp Softball so they could be contacted to see if they were interested also. We will still have playoffs. It was pointed out that we will need to come up with a reporting system for scores.

The season will still start the week of April 11th. An 8 week season will take us through first week of June.

All present were in support of the Board's decision to withdraw from ABRSL and play other teams, without the oversight of ABRSL. It was suggested that next year we should start our own Babe Ruth affiliated League, as ABRSL isn't even actually affiliated with Babe Ruth Softball. It just uses the name. It was suggested that the League be formed for next year, however, we should start making preparations now.

C. Culligan stated that we will likely continue with the proposed game start times for the age groups, as with ABRSL. It was also stated that Saturday games could be added to the schedule to lessen the travel burden for further away towns during a weeknight.

C. Culligan will be reaching out to coaches again to confirm times and days for games that will not work for their team.

We were advised that on May 21st Waretown is having a rec tournament. We are going to try to get as many teams involved as possible.

April 3rd is the monthly Softball Board meeting. Also on April 3rd, Michelle from the batting cages is hosting a coaches clinic at the fields at 3pm. The next Rec Board Coaches clinic will be on May 2nd at 6pm. C. Culligan to confirm date and time with Rick for issuance to all coaches.

It was suggested that the letter that was handed out today be emailed to all parents, as well as posted on our Facebook page. Schedules will hopefully be out within the next week.

T. Rispoli suggested that a draft be started at the 6U level next season so the new kids and coaches only know the draft. It will be discussed at the next board meeting.

M. Tosh asked if we could keep coach pitching all season in 10U. He was advised that C. Culligan will speak with other towns and come to an agreement for all. M. Tosh also wanted to point out that he did not call the Rec Board at any time to make a complaint. He is aware a Mike T. had called the Rec Board on a number of occasions but reiterated that it was not him.

It was suggested that we host a pitching clinic prior to the season and during the season for all pitchers from each level to help development. A. Gresham will reach out to Michelle from batting cages ASAP to see what dates she has available.