

Esko Youth Baseball Meeting

4/11/24 | 8:00 PM | Esko Trails

Attendees: John Feely, Amy Feely, Rob Parrot, Jed Frederick, Samantha Martin, Ryan Pierce, Jared Anderson, Reid Smith, Jed Fredrickson, Dave Furcht, Kristin Piontek, Matt Hayes **Public Attendees:** parents and coaches of 13U freeze team

Amy motions to begin meeting at 8:07 , Reid Seconds

Open Forum: head coach of the 13u freeze team brought up his questions and concerns regarding potential freeze policies and how it might affect the team. Many parents also shared their feedback

Freeze committee had proposed the following to be brought for a vote by the board regarding players at the 12U and 13U level:

Option 1

All kids play at correct age level

Pros:

- this follows the rules that's have been set out and approved by the board
- both teams will be able to field a team and should likely see some level of success (i.e one team won't be left non-competitive.)

Cons:

- All 3 coach's are strongly against it and will not support it.
- presumably there are a few other parents on the team that will also be upset and may pull their kids
- The board will be blamed for "breaking up" that team
- *The 13U head coach proposed to take (their original team) and play as an unsanctioned team (i.e. no freeze ball team at 13U level)*

Option 2:

Two players only play at 13U because their Dads coach the team, all other players play at age appropriate level, no age appropriate 13U kids will be cut from the team but playing time will be determined by the coaches

Pros:

- 13U coaches are open to this idea and won't openly oppose it, (it should be noted they also don't necessarily support the idea either)
- No kids would be cut from either level

Cons:

- The 12U team will likely fold if selected 12u coaches do not coach.

- This doesn't follow our policy of no move ups and sets bad precedent.
- There would be 14 kids on the team which would reduce/eliminate playing time for many kids

Option 3

Selected 12U coaches coach both teams and the two players (coaches kids) play at both levels, all other players play at age appropriate level, no age appropriate 13U kids will be cut from the team but playing time will be determined by the coaches

Pros:

- 13U coaches are open to this idea and won't openly oppose it, (it should be noted they also don't necessarily support the idea either)
- both teams should compete well
- Both teams will be well coached
- No teams will fold or break away from the organization

Cons:

- This doesn't follow our policy of no move ups and sets bad precedent
- There would potentially be 14 kids on the team which would reduce/eliminate playing time for many kids

Option 4

All kids play at correct level, 13Us play 2 of the planned tournaments, coaches take an unsanctioned team that they select, to play in an additional tournament and any other exhibition games they play.

Pros:

- this follows the rules that's have been set out and approved by the board for all sanctioned freeze teams.
- Neither team will fold
- It somewhat appeases what the coaches are asking for (they still get to play some ball with the team they want to select).

After group discussion Matt makes a motion to move forward with option 3, Jed seconds that motion all in favor - motion passes.

- 1. Treasurer Updates:** Nikki Crotteau helped find more sponsors and Danielle Lane had inquired being concession stand coordinator. Amy will confirm that she is still interested. Jerseys and hats are ordered for all league teams.
- 2. President Updates:** Rob was informed of quad cities proposal of AAA level at the majors level. Rob is trying to get additional details.
- 3. Level Updates:**

- Intermediate - teams have been selected. Jared will work with Rob to get practices scheduled. All teams should compete well
- Majors - teams are drafted. May consider partnering with Hermantown or Proctor if Quad Cities implements AAA level. Rob and Ryan are talking with Hermantown to get more details. **** Special vote held 4/22 via group me**** Ryan makes a motion to withdraw from Quad Cities and partner with Hermantown for the 2024 season. John Seconds. All in favor- motion passes. We will work on getting information out to families ASAP.
- Rookies - teams are drafted and scheduled sent out.
- Developmental - teams formed. Matt was informed Cloquet might be moving to in house league at this level. Potential to partner with Carlton if needed. We will know more after Cloquet board meeting. Matt will keep the board updated.
- Fun League - teams formed and schedule sent out.
- Bantams - Ben suggested a high school coach to help with this level. It sounds like Finn Furcht is interested in coaching and helping to coordinate umpires.

4. Miscellaneous:

Freeze Travel Baseball:

12u and 13u have completed evaluations. 11U evals will be happening soon. Confirmed number of players at each level TBD. No teams have been selected yet. Once teams are selected coaches will send rosters to the freeze committee for review.

Field Project Updates:

New equipment (mounds, fencing, bases) have arrived. Jared is watching weather so we can complete hydro seeding. The batting cage near the upper field is also in rough shape. Not sure who is responsible for repair. Will look into this further.

Amy makes a motion to approve storage shed purchase (up to \$5000) to store needed field equipment at the upper field. Jared seconds , all in favor. Motion passes. John will send some options to the board.

We still need to plan a work day for memorial field before the season starts. Dates TBD pending weather.

Matt motions to end meeting at 10:32 pm, Jed seconds - meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting date: TBD (September)

