

Blue Ridge Classic League Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2008
(Approved)

Call to Order: 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call. Quorum determined.

Guests: Jennifer Renner

V.P. of Adm. – John Lenhardt
V.P. of Operations – Sandy Petersen
Treasurer – Joan Schumann
Registrar – Linda Kemppainen
Secretary – Suzy Sauerwald
Administrator – David James

Quorum Determined

Reading/Discussion/Approval of Minutes from last meeting
Minutes Approved.

Officer and Committee Reports

V.P. Operations – Sandy Peterson. League is underway. We have 57 teams playing this spring. Questions that have come up – goal size, field dimensions, etc. Windy this season – make sure the goals are anchored well. Put extra anchors/sand bags.

Director of Sportsmanship – Lee Boehling – not present.

Treasurer's Report – Joan Schumann - Operating Acct. - \$25,672.29. Registrar's fund: \$1,960.48.

Registrar's Report – Linda Kemppainen.
Busy this spring. 101 new players. 50 roster changes.

Secretary's Report – Suzy Sauerwald – nothing to report.

V.P. of Administration – John Lenhardt. Working on timelines for the fall.

Administrator's Report – David James. Explanation of scheduling, how it is done is provided on the pages 3 and 4 below.

President's Report - Joel Coman. Not present.

Special Committee Reports

Referee Liaison – Jennifer Renner- No comments recently. Discussion regarding comments from referees about pay – incident where 3 man referee group was paid in a lump sum. Manager needs to bring correct change to the field to pay each individual referee.

Discussion regarding referee fees – getting paid at the field vs. using a system to be paid by check. System can be expensive. Cash has worked well with BRCL.

Guest Report - None.

Unfinished Business (Carried over from Previous meetings). None.

New Business – None.

Proposals for Change of By-laws, Rules and Procedures

Rule change to allow “children to be carded and placed on a roster on their eighth birthday”. Section 7, page 2 –a child must be 8 years old 08/31 if they want to register for the upcoming year.

Proposal – A player must be eight years old to register. This is for anytime during the seasonal year.

Discussion regarding issue.

Motion. 2nd.

Role call vote – Augusta - n, Danville - y, Franklin - y, Freedom-y, New River-y, PASA-y, Piedmont – n, Radford-y, Roanoke-y, Salem-n, VAFC- n, Sandy – y, Joan – y, Suzy – n.

Motion passes – 76/30.

Discussion regarding team formation is needed.

Miscellaneous announcements – None.

Adjournment: 8:05 p.m.

To: BRCL Directors, Alternate Directors, Executive Board
From: David James, BRCL Administrator

Below is a list of club requests impacting scheduling that are within my ability to achieve for everyone.

- Scheduling matches around coaches who coach more than one team.
- Maximizing referees by scheduling back-to-back games at field complexes.
- Continue to produce schedules that are not “front loaded.”
- Minimize the number of weekends where teams do not have a match.
- Do not end the season too early for teams. Spring = extend season to last weekend of April/first weekend of May. Fall = extend season to last week of October/first weekend of Nov. This is particularly an effort for 5 team divisions that play 8 matches.
- Honor 4 no-play-dates for each team
- Honor club field closings.
- Attempt to not have more Sunday matches than Saturday matches for any team
- Attempt to schedule equal travel distance for divisions where each team plays the other team only once.
- Provide limited schedule for teams in U18 division in fall

Spring 2008 Scheduling Summary

- 57 teams used 221 of 228 no-play-dates.
- 32 of 57 (56%) teams reserved 2 weekends with no-play-dates. Meaning, a minimum of 44% of teams used Spring 2008 no-play-dates for non-tournament reasons.
- No-play-dates and field closures are main reasons teams have a series of home or away matches in a row.
- 6 of 9 Spring 2008 divisions were comprised of 5 teams. A 5 team division allows only 4 of 5 teams to play on a Saturday. A Sunday match for the 5th team is only method to minimize the number of weekends where a team does not have a match.
- Much time /effort is spent filling a team’s weekend where there is no match with at least one match. Sometimes when a team has one date on a weekend as a no-play-date, that will increase the chance that team will not have a match on that weekend.
- Very few matches are scheduled in May for divisions with only 8 matches in a season (5 team division). Many teams for the Spring 2008 season had a May weekend reserved via no-play-dates, assuming this reservation is for a tournament.
- Divisions with 8, 9 or 10 matches in the season are the easiest to schedule as the number of games easily fills each weekend with a match and extends the season into the last month of play.
- Divisions who play each other only once are the hardest to schedule fair and equitable travel distances.
- Teams who have a majority of their no-play-dates in a particular month vastly affect the number of matches that division has in that month.

- Rarely does a team have games scheduled on the last weekend of BRCL play, therefore, there is always a weekend available for a rainout makeup. Multiple rainouts for the same team increase the difficulty of rescheduling rainouts.
- Reschedule requests for ODP or tournaments are rare occurrences and the easiest to accomplish.
- I receive more requests to reschedule matches due to players not being available to play or coaches not being able to attend the match. These requests are denied and are usually followed by an email from the requesting party expressing “disappointment.”

Sunday play (or not playing on Sunday) is the growing scheduling issue. One particular club does not want to play on Sunday. Teams from other clubs are persistent in their requests to not play on Sunday or to have late (3:00pm) Sunday matches. With fewer teams participating in BRCL spring play, I am able to minimize Sunday play or move Sunday matches to a later time slot for all teams. However, I will not have time to do the same for the fall schedule nor will field schedules allow me to minimize Sunday play, meaning there is not enough Saturday time slots to afford minimal Sunday play. A minority of teams not wanting to play on Sunday will use 4 Sunday no-play-dates. However, other teams will use their no-play-dates and make persistent requests for late Sunday matches or no Sunday matches. **Sunday play should be the same for all teams.**