

**Pacific Coast Region 14  
Junior Olympic Commissioner Meeting  
August 19, 2006  
Half Moon Bay , CA**

**In Attendance:**

Linda Henry-So-Cal PCR 14 Jo Commissioner, Kristi Allen-So-Cal, Marc Sorensen-So-Cal, Mike Blondino-Nor-Cal, Manny Hernandez -Nor-Cal, Manuel Gomez-Nor-Cal, Cheryl Wilson-Greater San Joaquin, Don Smiley-Greater San Joaquin, Bart Magellan-Greater San Joaquin, Don & Gracie Amaral-Oakland, Val Sinkavich-San Francisco, Steve Boschken-GSSA, Steve Clark-Sacramento, Tom Dowd-Central Cal, Sally Commerford-Nevada  
Not Present: Merton Ishida Hawaii

**Meeting Called to order @9:00 AM**

**First order of business- Introductions**

Linda Henry asked for a volunteer to take minutes- Val from San Francisco will take meeting minutes

**Association Reports**

Don Amaral - Oakland reported a good year, good registrations, but fewer tournaments. Gary Ybarra is booking lots of tournaments. Umpire numbers are up.

Marc Sorensen – So Cal youth registrations are up, some staff changes, most things are good.

Steve Clark - Sacramento Same as before although in certain age groups the attendance at Championship events and HOF tournaments are down.

Val Sinkavich - Reported City of SF is considering conversion to multiple use fields, installing turf in two as test case. Also, reported Marin team is going to register as SF team next year. Val be contacting directors at Little League softball to offer new avenue for graduating players to move into ASA.

Don Smiley - Greater San Joaquin New little leagues, league championships Offered sample of their own ID/Insurance card they use in their area. Save \$\$ on printing and great fundraiser for association. Don reported mandatory ACE compliance for all adult participants (coaches). Mentioned some problems with tournament in Atwater.

Sally Commerford - Nevada- Too many tournaments in Las Vegas- otherwise ok. The camps are very successful at the exposure tournaments. Moved 760 girls through camps, recruiting tournaments also good turnout. There seems to be a drop off in Hall Of Fame in 18U group

Kristi Allen - So Cal - Very busy, ACE clinics have been very successful, enrollment is up, registrations are up, Little Leagues switching over to ASA. Required Photo ID for All-Star teams in Rec ball program- Moving to implement background checks and be sure coaches are registered and insured.

“C” regional not as successful, 48 teams but registered late. Unfortunate conflicts with State Games. There were major communication problems and registrations with C regional and C State. Invite Sandy Hill to next Regional JO meeting to negotiate the status of ASA teams and more equitable division of \$\$ especially for host town/organization

**Motion by Tom Dowd-** Mike, Kristy make a plan to resolve the conflict between State games and C Regional Championships, Draft proposal and guidelines to resolve the issues regarding distribution of \$\$ earned, and Friday play problems, and place it on a rotation.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mike Blondino- have made ACE clinics mandatory for ALL ‘A’ ‘B’ ‘C’ teams/programs

Propose online ACE for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Good year for Assoc Championships, shared 16U & 18U with Oakland, Held 10-12 A championships at Twin Creeks Manny Hernandez- 14U ‘A’ Regionals in Sacramento went well.

NOTE: Sandy Scott is moving to Sacramento area.

#### **Next Agenda Item-Tournament Program of Region 14**

A discussion about the 18U Gold and ‘A’ and recruitment by college coaches. College coaches claim they don’t look at 18 ‘A’, only at 16A because of early commitment guidelines and only 18 Gold because of pitching distance. There were 69 teams going to the gold nationals. This prompted a discussion about moving the HOF Qualifier earlier in the year. It was revealed that too many conflicts exist, with school, graduations, prom, travel, etc. to realistically consider changing the dates. Issue stands as is.

Player booklets were mentioned. Marc suggested doing away with completely because of danger of private information about minor players becoming available to wrong people, because coaches throw them away. Extremely dangerous to young girls. Want to provide a single sheet info form of some sort, easier for coaches to carry and less likely to throw away. Possibly an online college recruitment information form with guidelines and rules for parents to refer to.

**Motion** made to have Lorrie Ivie, Marc Sorensen and Mike Blondino design said form, with guidelines and rules of conduct, recommendations for recruitment etc, make available in JO handbook and online .

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously

Marc Sorensen-Travel ball in So Cal had 70 teams in 14U, 43 teams in 16U Association Championships.

These numbers are becoming very difficult to manage. Also, College coaches mentioned the high number of injuries of incoming freshmen softball players. Need to talk to NFCA about expectations they have, and realistic expectations at showcase events, recruiting venues with regard to preferential seating and hotel & meal expenses.

Proposed a booklet, front and back cover and 8 pages to fill with advertising from major sponsors and send out to tournament directors @ each association to fill with local info and brackets. Sally has contacts with some corporate sponsors to cover \$\$ for printing initially. She will research \$\$ for ads and get back with numbers by November 1. Suggested including info about ACE, ASA and VTD can take an ad, Region 14 tournament schedule.

**Next Agenda Item; JO Web Page within the PCR web site**

Mike B. still working on it, almost ready. Do we want passwords? Not necessary to post minutes of meetings. Establish links to @ association web pages and we can put up our own info section. Mike can e-mail members for updates. Bart asked that tournament web pages be updated and linked to region 14 and ASA national sites.

**Next Agenda Item: Championship Play-Natl. Qual, HOF Qual, Regionals**

Review of championship play schedule, went over host cities and dates. Brief discussion of 10U teams-always given berth because 10U don't usually travel and turn out at National tournament is usually low. Why automatically give away berths? Issue remains unresolved. Another discussion of dates for 18 Gold regional & sectional unresolved because of too many conflicts with scheduling. News that Disney corp. may want to host 18 HOF. Awaiting confirmation from National Office.

Idea presented by Commissioner Grove would be to take 1 regional berth & add to HOF Qualifier to enable greater number of teams to qualify, create direct berth to Nationals and raise more \$ for national events.

RE: 'A' Regionals We need our teams to understand that they should NOT directly contact National Tournament Directors about fill ins. This notice should be placed in our regional handbook. Also need to establish an official cut off date for entry and mandatory drop out deadline for both Regional and National Qualifier.

Break for Lunch :12:45-1;35

**Next agenda Item: Super Regional**

Proposal (hand out passed around by Marc Sorensen-SoCAL)

This item was discussed at last J.O. meeting and Commissioners voted against. The problem with forcing teams to participate in our Region Championships and compete for few berths is that our teams would rather skip the Regional event and go straight to Western Nationals.

Nevada suggested that Regionals should be an OPPORTUNITY to go to Nationals IF THEY WISH, but not forced. Proposal for distribution of berths, adding up all associations in Reg. 14=8 (Hawaii gets geographical hardship), 8 associations = 32 berths. 32 teams very easy to manage and bracket for

tournament, can be played in one weekend. Associations not using berths have option to surrender for other qualified teams to use. Review berth assignment yearly based on registration of teams and participation. At the May meeting, the numbers should be available in a hand out. Linda to send out a tournament distribution fact sheet annually.

**Motion** was made that Linda, Tom and Don Smiley draft a proposal to submit to the commissioners for review

- 1) Issue berths as described
- 2) Add a box on the entry form or in the packet indicating intent to advance if qualified.

Motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Sally suggested a type of reverse fill in procedure, allowing next qualified team to accept a berth.

Group designated to draft a proposal to e mail the committee and allow us to review before final draft and submission.

### **Next Agenda Item: ACE Program**

A tally was taken of Associations implementation of ACE program  
Nor-Cal, Central & Sacramento- all teams & programs - mandatory  
Oakland, SF and Nevada -Optional at this point.

So-Cal – Would like to see travel coaches by 07, all rec ball by 07

The PCR might consider establishing a deadline for full implementation of ACE and background checks for any adult members of team organizations. This proposal will be presented to the PCR Board of Directors for vote.

**Motion by Steve** to set deadline for background checks of “dugout personnel” for travel teams by 2008 and all A B C teams by 2009.

Duly Seconded- in favor 15 opposed 1

**Motion by Don S.** to do the same for ACE, phase in for all programs by 2008

Seconded – in favor 15 opposed 1

Opposing commissioner only concerned about costs involved with certifying ALL team personnel, suggested mandate certification of 1 coach or head coach or manager and 1 assistant of some sort for B & C rec programs.

### **Next Agenda Item: PCS tournaments**

Gary Ybarra is a very busy guy. Seems to be going well- noted that part of \$ raised during the year goes to very nice awards at the end of the season. Bart raised the question- why are all PCS tournaments printed in red in the guidebook, and no one else's are? Who gets the \$\$ raised by these events? Who is endorsing these tournaments? Sally provided a brief history of PCS concept and its founding. These events were established to be an alternative to NSA and AFA, and provide more opportunity for playing.. Not sure what the purpose is at this point. Linda will check red listing and find out why.

### **Next Agenda Item- Umpires**

Don Amaral reported more umpires are signing up. We were asked to please not schedule so many events in same weekend. There was a brief discussion of pay scale. At national events, umpires get less cash per game, but more perks. Most get \$28 per game for regular events. Most umpires enjoy J.O. softball officiating because of polite players. Don't want the headache of officiating at adult games.

Bart expressed problem with umpires wanting cash ONLY for tournaments. In the GSJ Association they refuse to work if forced to take a check. They are suddenly unavailable for your event. Also don't want \$\$ reported to IRS.

Brief discussion of importing umpires to officiate at out of town National event. Code states that officials should be drawn from local pool, not imported. This rule needs to be enforced better.

**Motion by Tom Dowd** that Associations that run Championship events should file a 1099 form with the IRS. Otherwise they risk losing their non-profit status. Payments to umpires and other tournament personnel should be documented. In favor-16 Opposed 1

### **Next Agenda Item: Proposed Legislation to submit-2006**

Colorado Springs Council Meeting

Strongly suggested any legislation you submit must go by local JO first . Code change forms were handed out to be returned to Linda Henry ASAP. The legislative proposals will then be forwarded for consideration at the Sept.22 Board of Directors meeting. It was the consensus of the committee that perhaps legislation may have more strength if submitted by a Commissioner.

Roster change deadline- discussion about rules and when a roster is frozen. Linda and others suggested not submit to council at this time.

Steve Clark proposed we submit legislation to return to the "3" part Championship Roster form to eliminate falsifying records and signatures, tampering. There are too many variations of "official rosters" to be sure players are valid and eligible.

Pick up player rule- Regional conflict between code and handbook . Should language be changed to correct it.

Territorial Representative and Regional Commissioner- With 4 corners concept does this rule change. Should we be talking to other regions and asking them to conform?

Should we submit a change at the Dec meeting to address the loophole about 14 year old playing High School and also rec ball, and eligibility problem (see page 17 of hand book rule 5 "recruitment")

Pitching Distance- Set distance for 18U "A" 43 feet  
and 18 U "B" 40 feet

College Players-discussion about college players on 18 A and gold teams. Need a new argument for restricting college players on these teams. And get John

Miller to inquire with a friendly eastern commissioner to sell this proposal for us since anything from California gets rejected.

**Motion by Steve** that Mike B. write up proposal, get language straight and pass it along for submission.

Duly seconded and carried unanimously.

JO Hall Of Fame- News that Disney Corp is offering to host HOF in both Orlando and Anaheim. The consideration would be to get it out of Oklahoma City. Waiting to hear with a confirmation from Meigan at the National Office and then we would have to submit a proposal to the council for a vote.

Possible legislation to send to Co. Springs- ejection of coaches for unacceptable behavior. What are the standards? Length of ejection? Sally- NV states a case by case situation based on a coaches behavior and passion. Steve states that it should be the decision of UIC, and tournament director or tournament committee. Unfortunately, that is not what the ASA code states. What about reporting to other associations. If one trouble maker is in system, is it wise to give heads up to other directors?

### **Next Agenda Item\_ Jo Handbook**

Conflict between hand book and code about travel permits. Our region has an agreement that Intra regional travel does NOT require a travel permit and National Tournament Entry Form and/or the National Championship Roster serves as permit to those events. Need to make a decision about traveling out of region or out of association. Linda will check that this policy is okay and get back to us.

Kristi will notify So Cal rec commissioners that permits for travel within the region are NOT required.

Need to add a note to section on organizing a tournament that "At least one UIC be present at each site for Championship Play" or UIC designee ( pg. 9 and pg. 20) Typical "housekeeping" will be handled by Linda Henry and Sally Commerford. Page 15 has a duplicate paragraph. Rewrite line 'A' on pg. 16 of handbook.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE-LOCATION**

April 21,2007 in Stockton Location TBA

August 25, 2005 in San Diego Location TBA

Meeting adjourned approx 4:30 PM

***Respectively Submitted by: Valerie Sinkavich***