

RCSL MANDATORY COACHES MEETING

Thursday April 23, 2009

Attendance: Lori Chandronnet (Town Hall Lanes Manager); David Squillace (Manager of Blazing Kitties); Kristen Lancaster (Manager of GirlSpot); Jessica Phipps (Manager of Blazing Kitties); Corey Edwards (RCSL Player Liaison); Nick Hugel (Manager of CAT-ATOMIC); Jonathon Scott Ricci (RCSL Commissioner & Manager of the Gallery); Jennifer Wall (RCSL Secretary); Jimmy Page (RCSL Treasurer & Manager of the Bandits); Dave Johnson (RCSL Assistant Commissioner & Assistant Manager of the Grind); Keith Christian (Coach of the Blazing Kitties)

Meeting Called To Order: 7:15 p.m.

Welcome

- Thanked everyone for agreeing to coach teams this year and for being part of expanding the RCSL.
- Introductions- went around the room and introduced ourselves. Stated name, team affiliation, role on team or in league and number of years involved in the RCSL.

What's In It For Me?

- Passed out index card to everyone.
- Asked everyone to think about why they agreed to be a manager or on the Board of Directors this year. Asked everyone to write down their answers on index card.
- Told everyone that their responses would remain anonymous and at no point in time would in be used against them.
- Compiled List of Answers:
 - “Love of the game. Fresh Air. Exercise. Team Interaction.”
 - “I choose to be a manager because I was a coach for two years of the team and I like to help others and make sure everyone works well together as a team.”
 - “Hoping for a fun season! I’m managing this year because I won’t be able to play (due to surgery) and I helped round up some friends to build a new team.”
 - “I am assisting in putting a new team together in an effort to make the RCSL league grow and become even more inclusive. I agreed to be on the Board of Directors because I see a lot of potential in this league and feel I have a lot to offer it.”
 - “I enjoy the sport of softball. I enjoy outdoor activities.”
 - “Dedication. Community Service.”
 - “I like the game. Going out for surgery so this is the next best thing to playing. Still get to be part of a team.”

“I joined the RCSL for the love of the game and for the simple fact that this league is laid back and fun.”

“I enjoy playing sports in general! Have enjoyed playing in RI and getting to know new people in the league. I have enjoyed coaching and helping out the less experienced/younger players develop! I ran for the Board to further enhance and grow the league.”

“The love of the game! I have served in an officer position for several years! I enjoy serving and the satisfaction of seeing the league grow! I also served in Florida League as Assistant Commissioner and tournament volunteer.”

Sign In Sheet

- Passed around a sign-in sheet including first & last name, team affiliation, role on team or in league, email address, home phone # and cell phone #.

RCSL Confirmed Teams

- List of confirmed teams can be found on back of agenda.

Softball Teams Spring 2009

“C” Division

Providence Grind
Blazin’ Kitty’s
Cat-Atomic

“D” Division

Town Hall Lanes
Mirabar Bandits
Club Gallery
GirlSpot
Wheels

- Total of 8 teams confirmed to date. Possibility of one more.

Recapped Website Launch Party

- Revenue- made about \$300 at the door. Made \$207 from 50/50 raffle.
- Discussed Successes & Challenges- very successful event. If we do it again, we should get our own shot boy and run the evening from beginning to end. We need to be a little more organized.

Recapped Duck Bowl Tournament

- Successes & Challenges- MERI bailed out last minute. Still a decent turn out. RCSL keeping all proceeds.

RCSL Recruitment Update

- Discussed number of new players who have signed up with teams already.
- Discussed number of new players that have signed up through Craig's list, our website, from fundraisers and through word of mouth, that have not been assigned to a team yet.
- Discussed talking it up and trying to get as many players to come to Clinic as possible.

Softball Clinic Update

- Recapped the email that the Commissioner sent out.
- Discussed that we need all the coaches to be present at the Clinic. Look like a united front.
- Clinic taking place at Agawam Field.

Opening Day Update

- Discussed that we need all coaches at Opening Ceremonies and to encourage all players to be present.
- Opening ceremonies taking place at Agawam Field on Mothers Day. Ceremonies beginning at 11:30am. Wear uniforms.

Coaches Responsibilities

- Reviewed Rules of Play and Code of Conduct. Passed out team signature sheet to each Manager and asked them to review the Rules of Play with their players and have everyone sign. The contract is due to the RCSL's Commissioner or Secretary by the close of the second week of play. This will ensure that all players are knowledgeable of the expectations of the RCSL.
- Updated Rosters- asked all managers to look over the rosters they have provided to the Commissioner. Anyone who has any new information has been requested to submit it to the Commissioner ASAP.
- Player Fees/Waivers- all players fees need to be turned in by the end of the second game. Next year, it will be the managers responsibility to get fees and submit.
- Player Ratings- it is the managers responsibility to rate their players. Commissioner and Ast. Commissioner are available to assist anyone who has questions.
- Cleaning Up After Games- discussed that we all need to keep the fields clean. Mentioned that it's a privilege to be playing at such nice fields and we'd like to get the opportunity again next year.

Board of Directors Responsibilities

- Asked managers what they need from the Board of Directors. Not a lot of discussion. One manager mentioned that assistance with player ratings would be helpful.

Refreshments

- Locations- refreshments will be sold at both fields during the year.
- Items To Be Sold- will be selling water, power drinks, candy, chips, etc. No grill items; too much work.
- Rotating Teams/Responsibilities- discussed that we might need each team to pitch in with refreshment stand at each field. Rotate teams throughout the year. One manager mentioned that it would be easiest if teams each assisted with games before and after when they play. A Board Member mentioned that it would be best to assign a team to a particular field each week and they are responsible for running the concession stand on that day. More discussion about how this will work to take place once the season has begun.

Approved Bat List

- Passed out non-approved bat list to all managers. Discussed certification marks. Bat lists can be found on RCSL website and link to NAGAAA is also available. Very important that Managers pass info along to players. Any bat which isn't on the non-approved bat list can be used.

Practices

- Locations- Agawam and Pierce Field can be used to practice but the RCSL doesn't have a permit. First come first serve. George West Field is also available on a first come first serve basis.

Committees

- Encouraged all Managers and Ast. Managers to talk about committees with their teams. Encourage participation on a committee. Will discuss specific fundraisers, ideas and details during these meetings.
- Sent around a committee sign-up sheet.
- Interested In Tournament Committee- Lori Chandronnet, David Squillace, Dave Johnson, Jessica Phipps, Nick Hugel, Keith Christian, Corey Edwards.
- Tournament Committee needs to start meeting before the end of the spring season. Need to make Columbus Day Tournament a success this year in order to obtain a corporate sponsor and gain respect in NAGAAA.
- Interested In Fundraising Committee- Nick Hugel, Jessica Phipps, Jennifer Wall.
- Fundraising Committee to meet in early June.

- Suggested that we hold committee meetings prior to the next coaches/Board of Directors meeting. Working groups.
- Ideas for fundraisers which were discussed and noted: cook out, beer pong tournament, charity date auction.

New Business

- Asked if anyone had any new business which needs to be discussed. Nothing was brought up.

Coaches Meetings

- Asked if we should schedule a coaches meeting to check back in. Decision was made that we should. Discussed meeting in late May after season starts or in early June.

RCSL's Best Interest

- Reminded everyone that we need for everyone to think about the big picture throughout the year. It's important to keep the league's best interest at heart and to let that all guide us. Discussed keeping the lines of communication open at all times.

Call To Action Summary

WHO (responsible for completing task)	WHAT (what needs to get done)	WHEN (timeframe)	✓ (check when completed)
Board of Directors & Mangers/Coaches	Talk up Clinic as much as possible and get new recruits	Before 2 nd full week of play	✓
Coaches/Mangers	Attendance at Clinic	May 3 rd	✓
Coaches/Managers	Attendance from all teams at Opening Ceremonies; everyone in uniform.	May 10 th	✓
Coaches/Managers	Review Rules of Play with team	May 10 th	✓
Coaches/Mangers	Get entire team to sign Rules of Play Signature Sheet	May 10 th - June 7 th	
Coaches/Managers	Submit completed signed Rules of Play	June 14 th	

	Signature Sheet to Commissioner or Secretary		
Coaches/Managers	Review roster and provide updates to Commissioner ASAP as necessary	On-going	
Coaches/Managers	Notify teams that all player fees/waivers are to be submitted or else they can't take the field	Second full week of play; extended on case by case basis	
Coaches/Managers	Rate players and submit ratings to Commissioner	July 1 st	
Commissioner & Ast. Commissioner	Provide player ratings technical assistance to Coaches/Managers	As needed	
Commissioner	Submit player ratings to NAGAAA	July 15 th	
Coaches/Managers	Remind to keep fields clean after games; set example	On-going	✓
Board of Directors	Set-up Coaches/Managers Meeting to check back in and to discuss player ratings process	Late May/ Early June	✓
Board of Directors & Coaches/Managers	Assist with refreshment stand at fields; revisit rotating teams/responsibilities for manning the stands if needed, once games begin.		
Coaches/Managers	Pass along info about non-approved bat list to players	May 10 th	✓
Coaches/Managers	Discuss and encourage player participation on fundraising and tournament committees	On-going	✓
Secretary	Compile interest list and idea list for committees and disperse	Before meetings	✓
Board of Directors	Set-up fundraising committee meeting date; couple committee meeting with Coaches/Managers meeting	Early June	✓
Board of Directors	Set-up a tournament committee meeting date; couple committee meeting with Coaches/Managers meeting	Before end of Spring	✓

Secretary	Get location, time and date for meetings, schedule accordingly and get information out to everyone	Before meetings	✓
Board of Directors/ Coaches/Managers	Keep the lines of communication open at all times; keep league's best interest and big picture in check	On-going	
Secretary	Compile notes from Coaches/Managers meeting; send notes out to Board of Directors for review; send notes to coaches/managers; send notes to Manny to be posted on website	Before next meeting	✓

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45pm.