



# DENVER AREA SOFTBALL LEAGUE



## Meeting Minutes *May 17, 2020*

### **Opening**

A special meeting of the Denver Area Softball League was called to order at 9:30 am, on May 17, 2020 via Skype Conference Call by Commissioner Becky Richmond. Introductions were given to board members as well as managers and players.

### **Members Present**

Becky Richmond – Commissioner

Thomas Pugh – Assistant Commissioner – Open Division

Mike Barrett – Secretary

PC – Treasurer

Katelyn Backowski –Assistant Commissioner – Women’s Division

Nate Larkins – Open Division Member at Large

Thomas Herrera – Open Division Member at Large

Kat Martinez – Women’s Division Member at Large

### **Guest Present**

Jason Ashby – Storm

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was emailed to the membership prior to the board meeting. No additions to the agenda by membership.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the May 10, 2020 meeting were reviewed by the membership. Nate Larkins moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting; Kat Martinez seconded the motion. Passed.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

No Treasurer’s Report was given at this time as the meeting was called to monitor and develop a plan of action based on new data provided by Denver County Health as well as how other areas are treating their softball seasons and how DASL will progress.

### **Open Issues & Public Comment**

**Public Comment** – No Public Comment currently.

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## Revisiting Bat Checks

- ***How will bat checks proceed?*** PC discussed that bat checks can still be performed without physically touching the bats. The bats will be held by the player while being inspected for the number and stamps on the bat. Becky Richmond stated that this will only be a physical check of the bat and not a safety check of the bat. At this time Nate asked if there will be a separate spaced area for bats to be checked. PC suggested to set up a check point at the entrance of the field or parking lot.

## Park Restrooms

- ***Status when public restrooms will be open.*** Becky stated that in communications that all park restrooms are closed at this time and her questions have been forwarded to park rangers to answer. At this time Becky has not received further communication from the park rangers. Mike Barrett discussed that Denver has been closing park restrooms and are no longer maintaining and instead contracting port-a-potties in public areas for example Skyline Park in Downtown Denver.

## Team Fee Refunds

- ***How will Team Registration Fee's be refunded?*** PC stated that a formal letter would be required to issue out the refund. The \$5.00 processing fee will not be included in the refund as it was a processing fee at the time of online registration. PC also stated that field have already been paid for as well as equipment and supplies for the season. Beck stated that the board needs to adopt language on how to issue refunds. Katelyn stated that teams should be encouraged to roll their registration fees into the 2021 season and suggested that all communication of refunds be made prior to the team registration deadline next year. Becky will work on a refund policy for approval of the board by the next meeting.

## COVID 19

- ***Denver County Health Department Discussion*** – Mike updated the board on recent communication with the Denver County Health Department in which was communicated to the board members prior to the meeting. Mike also encouraged to visit [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) website as updates are made daily and while the county health department did supply us with guidance from May 5, 2020, that the data changes daily as updates are made by the governor and mayor. The overall take-away from the conversation is as follows:
  - ***Once we obtain our permit we can only enforce social distancing in our permitted areas such as on the field and in the bleachers as DASL can't enforce their group safety practices on park patrons in the park itself and parking lot as that is property of the City of Denver.***
  - ***Recommended to rope off the bleachers to avoid public spectators from watching games up close.***
  - ***Public spectators are encouraged to maintain social distancing away from the fields.***

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- *Suggested to create a map of the park area for our group so everyone is informed where DASL has control and where park officials have control.*
- *Look towards May 26, 2020 for further communication from Denver County Mayor and State of Colorado Governor.*
  
- **Commissioner's Call & Other State Timelines** – Becky stated that on May 13, 2020 she along with other commissioners joined a call to discuss how the virus has impacted seasons and what timelines were being looked at by other states. The following is a list of cities and how they are developing timelines to view their own seasons:
  - **Chicago** – Registration has been suspended and will not have a reopening until they enter Phase 4.
  - **Palm Springs** – 50% credit to be issued towards a fall season. They are looking into field refunds and only a small percentage of their membership wanted to move forward with a season.
  - **Houston** – When the orders began, they were only two weeks into their season. They are hoping that by the end of the month they could resume their season.
  - **Phoenix** – Their board has determined to follow specific guidelines set forth from their health department.
  - **Philadelphia** – They have cancelled their season.
  - **Washington DC** – They have cancelled their season.
  - **Tampa** – Plan to issue refunds.
  - **Orlando** – It is a split decision on what they will do.
  - **Milwaukee** – They are still planning on having their season.
  - **San Diego** – Refunds are being issued as they have cancelled their season.
  - **Columbus** – The season never started, and they have cancelled their season.
  - **Dallas** – The board surveyed its membership with only 55% of the membership wanting to move forward in mid-June or sooner to play. They have concerns about attending the GSWS.
  - **Seattle** – Has cancelled their season.
  - **Fort Lauderdale** – Has cancelled their season.
  - **GSWS** – PC stated that nothing has been communicated that the World Series would be cancelled.
  
- **USA Guidelines**
  - Prior to the meeting Becky attached the guidelines on which USA Softball will be moving forward to get players back onto fields. PC stated that we have secured hand sanitizer, will rope off the bleachers, bat checks at entrance and will not handle bats for a safety check, verification of name and DOB to be done without handling the actual ID Cards. Mike moved and Katelyn seconded to make a motion to create a committee to develop similar protocols that we would follow and how to address COVID 19

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issues to get DASL to a safely playing environment and to address the concerns of the community and membership. Mike, PC and Jason Ashby have volunteered to serve on this guidance committee and will present their plan of action at the next meeting.

- **State & County Guidelines** – Becky stated that in the upcoming weeks there will be more information released by metro counties and the Governor’s Office and stated that she has investigated how surrounding states are addressing moving forward from the virus.
- **League Survey** - Prior to the meeting, Becky sent out to the board examples of the survey that would be sent out to the membership. Jason suggested to add language that includes how to address living situations with high risk individuals. Nate updated the board on the number of cases from Denver County as they have seen a spike in recent days. Katelyn and Jason agreed that the survey should be sent directly to the membership as there is uncertainty if coaches are relaying the information from the board. Becky stated that the questions will be released on a platform such as survey monkey to the membership.
- **Player Registration Extensions** – PC stated that we needed to develop a form that can be printed out to verify information from players at in person registrations. Jason stated that the website has not cut off player registrations. Becky stated that she will update the site to extend the registrations until Friday, June 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm to close.

## **Next Meeting**

- The next DASL Board Meeting will be held on May 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Skype.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am. The motion was made by Mike and seconded by Katelyn.

**Minutes submitted by:** *Michael J. Barrett*

**Approved by:**