

# Armstrong Athletics Board Meeting

## March 8, 2020

Members Present: Brian Shaffer, Steve Gilliland, Todd Ashbaugh, Tom Scheeren, Chad Hill, Brian Harclerode, Erica Bowser, Julie Pella, Mike Johns, Roy Stull, Greg Baker, Travis Crawford, Mike Mills, Ericka Atkinson

Meeting called to order at 7:16

Approval of minutes and agenda

Motion: Roy Stull

Seconded: Steve Gilliland

Unanimously passes

Special Guest: Josh Gilliland (by way of Steve Gilliland) requested the board consider scheduling T-Ball games on big fields at Pawkovich, Stewart, Jud, and Montebell when the older kids aren't playing. While the board feels that any T-Ball game can and should be played on the big fields when they aren't being used, it also feels the games shouldn't be officially scheduled due to rainout rescheduling of older level games and the extra communication that would need to take place. T-Ball managers are more than welcome to use any of the big fields for their games if they show up and the larger fields are not occupied.

### Treasurer Report - Roy Stull

All but one of the Nextier accounts (\$1900) have been moved to Northwest Savings Bank.

\$29,529.76 in main account

\$756 in Little League account

\$454 in Pony account

\$638 in Softball account  
All outstanding bills have been rectified

#### Equipment manager - Vacant

Steve G. talked to Jim M. about the things we most likely need to order

T Ball will most likely switch from Star 5s to softer Star 1s

The board will have to take a committee approach to hand out equipment this spring

#### Safety Officer - Brian Harclerode

98 Volunteers registered so far, 13 Child Abuse clearances needed, over half still need to do the State Police Patch Criminal Record System

Request for First Aid kits for each equipment bag

The fence issue at the Civic Center is in fact their responsibility

Brian S. and Brian H. looking into a verified volunteer marking on the coaches' uniforms to make everyone aware they have the proper credentials to coach children

#### Player Agent - Steve Gilliland

Registrations are rolling in for all age levels. Steve has created a very promising rating scale to evaluate the coaches' players and all players in general to ensure a fair and equitable draft. Steve is also removing girls

who the system made sign up for baseball when they really wanted to register for softball.

### Coaching Coordinator - Mike Reed (No Report)

### Field Maintenance Coordinator - Chad Hill

The board welcomes Chad and thanks him for his time to volunteer. Chad is willing to look at each field and make a list of things needed to be done and then schedule a "work day" for each. He will connect with Brian S., Brian H., Todd, and Julie about what each field may need done before opening day. Chad adds that True Green is the best service out there but AA needs to stay on top of them for the free spot treatment when weeds start to appear.

### Fundraising Manager - Ericka Atkinson

Ericka and Steve G. report that mesh banners are much better than the vinyl ones and suggest giving our sponsors their old vinyl ones and tell them we are getting nicer mesh ones for the fields.

Motion to replace vinyl with mesh: Steve Gilliland

Seconded: Ericka Atkinson

Motion carries unanimously

Fundraiser raffle tickets (sold or unsold) should be brought to Ericka at evals on Saturday, March 14th.

### Concessions Coordinator - Erica Bowser

Erica is starting on Montebell stand this week, cleaning and stocking. Brian S. suggested checking prices at Sprankles Market to see if they can beat the Sam's Club prices at the moment. Also Erica will start looking for satellite coordinators for each of the stands in the league.

### Pony Division - Tom Scheeren (No Report)

### Softball Liaison - Greg Baker

Evals are on the 15th, all kids should be present. Possible ATV needed for dragging Jud along with mowing tractor sold. Greg is going to look at the value of the mower before sale takes place but has a buyer. Needs a check from AA before the March 29, ASA meeting. He will connect with Roy.

### OLD BUSINESS

Field boundaries at Jud are in a good position so that utilities will not have to be moved once AA takes full control of the field.

### NEW BUSINESS

Motion to purchase a load of top soil to fill outfield holes at Montebell -  
Todd Ashbaugh

Seconded - Mike Johns

Unanimous approval

Todd will get the debit card from Roy and connect with Chad on work dates

Update on LL boundary with West Shamokin/Kess Little League. AA found out that elementary school attendance trumps the line of

boundary. We would need the boundary moved about one mile to encompass Lenape Elementary and then those students could choose to play for AA or WS/KESS LL. West Shamokin/KESS will consider our request at their next board meeting. There are 10 athletes who fall into the WS/KESS Boundary who want to play at AA this year due to actually living closer to AA fields. WS/KESS will sign off on those waivers however these players will not be able to participate in All Stars.

Update on proposed merger between AA and FCYBL. Brian S., Todd, and Steve met with the Ford City board to fully discuss merger. The meeting was very productive with a Fall 2020 merger date was confirmed. Most likely keep separate banking accounts in the fall and then do the full blown merger in Spring 2021. Executive board from AA will meet again with FC on March 22nd at 5:00 to finalize details and then merger will officially be brought to the full board for a vote.

Softball/T Ball under the lights at Montebell and Pawk. AA will figure out a way to get some softball games scheduled under the lights this season. Also, T-Ball games will be scheduled once school is either out or nearly out to accommodate the families with younger children.

Issue last year of practices being held at non-AA facilities - practices are NOT to be held at off site locations due to not being covered by league insurance. The list of insured fields is on the league website. Players and managers who choose to violate this policy do so at their own financial risk. No AA equipment is to be used at any of these practices should managers choose to go against this policy and if these practices occur they cannot be mandatory.

Motion to not allow off site practices: Brian Harclerode  
Seconded Mike Johns  
Unanimously approved

Equipment grant - March 19th distribution. April 7 on field presentation. AA board is in the process of choosing families to attend on field presentation at the Pirates game.

Division Managers Chosen:

Softball - Julie Pella 12U, Mike Johns 10U, Greg Baker 8U

Baseball - Brain Shaffer 14U, Todd Ashbaugh 12U, Jeremy Cigola 10U, Steve Gilliland 8U, Josh Gilliland T-Ball.

Little League Home Run Derby - a free contest offered by T Mobile. Steve Gilliland said he will plan and advertise

Pawkovich Dugouts - need done ASAP. Chad Hill and Roy Stull checking into other contractors to see if job can be done at a more efficient cost than the large bid we received due to no roof or fencing included. Chad and Roy will get back to Brian S. as soon as possible.

Managers and Coaches Meeting on March 1st was very well attended

Player Pool Regulations - Steve Gilliland will create a player pool for the upper divisions to pick from should they need a player during the regular season or during the league playoffs.

Player Evaluations - Ready to go for baseball 3/14 and softball 3/15 at Armstrong High School

Kittanning Township Fields - tabled until contact can be made

Community Park Plan - Mike Johns reports the Community Park fields have an excellent chance to be a positive asset for our league and for the community. Discussion that the baseball field could be an excellent place for the 14U to play their regular season games if the field can be resurrected. Kittanning Borough will do all the work and may even match the funds needed for this venture. Brian will call Jeremy Oliver to maybe meet him up there to take a look as to what would need to be done.

Motion to adjourn at 9:38 by Brian Shaffer  
Seconded by Todd Ashbaugh  
Unanimously approved

**Next Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 12th, 2020 at 7:00 PM**  
**Craft House Gastro Pub**