

ITL Kickoff Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2019

- **Attendees:** HVAA, Langhorne, Lenape Valley, Northampton, Southampton (Ardsley, Plumstead, Warminster, and Warrington emailed their intent to participate)
- **Proposed rule changes for 2019:**
 - o Clarify that in the case of a balk warning no runners may advance nor be put out.
 - o Clarify the forfeit rule for the case where the “winning” coach declines the forfeit to try to reschedule the game but the game does not get rescheduled.
 - o Clarify that there is no penalty for a player leaving a game due to injury or another activity but the departing player cannot return.
 - o Require that after an ejection it is the responsibility of the opposing coach to report the ejection to the league. This rule is necessary since the umpires do not report to the league.
- **Proposed Format Changes for 2019:**
 - o Split the responsibility for paying the umpires between both teams during the playoffs. This will require lots of notice from the league and communication from the home team coach to the visiting team coach about specific arrangements.
- **Schedule:**
 - o Start dates –Saturday April 6 for 13-15s & Sunday April 9 for 16-19s.
 - o Easter on April 21 (16-19) – games will be scheduled for Monday April 22.
 - o Mother’s Day - games will be scheduled for Mother’s Day (May 12). Coaches can reschedule as necessary.
 - o Relay for Life - games that would fall on Saturday May 18 will be scheduled for the preceding Thursday (May 17) for teams in the Central Bucks School District due to Relay for Life. Coaches can reschedule as necessary.
 - o Regular season will be scheduled to end prior to Memorial Day. 12 games will be scheduled and the week before Memorial Day will be open to allow for makeups.
 - o Playoffs start Tuesday May 28 for 13-15s and Wednesday May 29 for 16-19s.
 - o The 13-15 All Star game was proposed for the weekend of May 4-5 but many thought this was too early. Some in attendance questioned the benefit of an All Star game. The topic of whether and when to hold a 13-15 All Star game will be discussed again at the March meeting.
- **Request to ITL representatives:** This topic was not discussed but is being included as an important reminder from previous years. We have had a number of scheduling problems at playoff time when a team has ITL players who also play Connie Mack (or similar leagues). We have had Connie Mack (CM) coaches tell players that they must attend CM regular season games or even CM practices or be cut from the team. **Please ask your local board to issue guidance to their coaches that ITL playoff games should have priority over regular season CM (or similar league) games and practices.**
- **Team Commitment meeting:** The schedule agreed to above would drive our traditional TC meeting to Sunday March 17. However, there was an objection to holding the

meeting on St Patrick's Day so it was decided that we would coordinate another meeting day sometime that week. **Please bring:**

- # of 13-15 teams; # of 16-19 teams
- Checks for league fees of \$100 per team made out to "ITL Baseball"
- Copy of local baseball organization insurance with ITL named as "Additionally insured" (these can be emailed as attachments)
- Position on proposed rules changes (see above)
- Position on proposed format changes (see above)
- Position on whether and when to hold the 13-15 All Star game
- Scheduling guidelines: Field availability, field priorities, day of the week, and time slot preferences – we have only 3 weeks between this meeting and the start of the season.

- **Coaches Coordination Meeting?:** tentatively Sunday April 7 via telecon?
- **League fees:** \$125 per team