



BASEBALL CHARTER PRESIDENTS MEETING

MONDAY 25TH May 2015 – 7:00pm

DSR Vincent Street Leederville

Attendance:	Stuart Tyson	PM South	Adam Lamont	Coastal Bay
	David McKay	PM Central	Mark Beyer	West Coast
	Kurt Russell	Southern Hills	Matt Callaghan	PM North
	Scott Parker	PM South	Mike Hays	PM South
	Troy Flynn	Coastal Bay	Denis Druzianich	PM East

Apologies:	Marina Brenna	Swan Hills
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Staff	Mitch Williams	BWA Development Manager
	David Hayes	Little League District Administrator
	Caroline Adamson	Operations Support Manager

Meeting opened: 7:00pm

David Hayes Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This meeting is to discuss the upcoming season changes happening in WA and Nationally.

The meeting also seeks to stress that charter and club issues will be dealt with separately and that this will be the first in regular meetings specifically for Charter Presidents to attend.

He introduced Mitch Williams as the new Baseball WA Development Manager and his role does encompass the National pathway as per the Pathway document for Baseball Australia. The Structure in the BWA office is, Steve Fish is now 100% high performance and player development which is completely separate from Mitch and the development, retention and grass roots of the sport. Mitch and Steve work alongside each other and they both report to Lachlan Dale. The BWA resources for development is Mitch so Charters need to contact him.

- 1.0 The Charter committee document has become old and needed to be overhauled. There have been a few people in the community which has helped David develop this new document and he wish to thank them all for their help in the past three months. This document will be review every year and change where appropriate. (Document attached).

Charter delegates need to understand they are representing the charter not the club, so it is important that delegates understand what clubs want and what their development plans are, as there is no point in the charter working on development programs that

contradict club programs. The Charter is complimentary and support to the club, but it has to be seen to operate as an independent body and work together with clubs.

The Little League and Junior League committee will now be only one committee overseeing the entire program.

One of the things that has been tightened up is that the operational work has been moved into a Vice Presidents role. The reason for this is that a President cannot coach a SC team and we lost five presidents last season. The people who want to coach can be Vice presidents. The Charter Presidents role will become almost entirely strategic. As of tonight charters can start working as one. This document has not been released to clubs as yet and will be introduced at the club meeting at the end of June.

Please read the positions of the committee in the document as it shows who can be on the committee.

- 2.0 Point 7 – Charter re-alignment “rumours” – There would only be two reasons why a change would be made, one is that it’s best for the relationship of clubs in a charter and the need to make some relationship changes, second would be if charters have less than four teams or more than ten teams. The latter reason would not come to light until Charter formation night when team numbers are announced. For those who are unaware, Gosnells is moving to Southern Hills and Kenwick is moving to Central and reason is the first reason stated. Points made:
- Acknowledge charters are different and working with long term strategies to improve the game.
 - Pockets of enormous growth that we have to get on board.
 - If LL teams pear up in State Championships and they are fewer teams attending then fewer teams will go to the nationals.
 - Players being cleared to other charters is an issue and need a strategy to stop this happening.
- 3.0 Points 2 & 3
- Bank Account – Charters are not incorporated so have legal issues to hold an account. This is a National problem and some legal advice will be coming as Baseball Australia is working on a process to hopefully resolve this issue by the start of the season. Baseball WA, in the interim, can offer charters to use the BWA account to run their finances through this account and keep a separate ledger for the charter if BA haven’t resolved the issue. Charters need to contact Lachlan Dale if they wish to discuss this option.
 - Sponsorship – in the past Sponsorship for teams has been run through the LLWA Department budget and are doing away with it. LLWA will allow charters to create sponsorship for themselves. There will be a negotiable payment to LLWA Department as a sponsorship portion need to go the department’s budget. Just be mindful not to have a conflict with interest with BWA/LLWA Heathway sponsors.

4.0 Point 4

- Bat regulations take effect September 2015. JL & SL cannot use the yellow, orange or green bats currently used in Tournament play, There is no exception. It will be discussed at a club level. There will be a phasing out in Club Ball with non-compliant bats.
- Apparel Range and new ordering process – Shopdesq on-line system on the website will be used. Treasurers will be given a password for shopdesq to do the ordering. There will be a standardized Range and size. For anything specific charters want to order, contact David Hayes as he is looking for feedback.
- Coaching Accreditations – Many coaches appointed for State Championships were not accredited. Charters need to do this early, and as soon as a coach is nominated. Accreditation levels for SC teams are, Head Coach to be Level 3 and Assistants to be Level 2. All coaches in Development grades and lower will be Level 2. Contact Mitch Williams to do accreditations.
- LLSC “B Teams” – is now irrelevant because of the changes with age in the Dingo World Series. Attached is a flyer with Dingo information.
- Dingo – As our teams are currently filled with younger players, teams can pull out if they feel the age group change is not suitable for their kids. Geoff Hooker is trying to get permission to have the younger teams play in the “Super Regional Tournament” instead.
- LLSC Timing – Please give David feedback. The forum generally agreed to play at Easter.
- Mirrabooka – Some teams were not happy with the light on Diamond 3 and 4. We may not be able to hold the Easter tournament there. We have also outgrown the facility. The League is looking at Wanneroo or somewhere else but require lights for night games.
- SLSC – BLSC – ILSC: The order of the national pathway roll out is Senior League SC (U17), Big League SC (U19) and last to roll out will be Intermediate League SC. WA will run an IL Invitational SC in the meantime. SL is indicated to be on the pathway to LL International. SL is charter based and BL is District based. Younger players playing up in these older age groups of SL and BL will still be eligible to play in a State Championship team of their own age group. Eligibility will be within the team they play in for the regular season.
- JLSC Singapore – Feedback for this tournament was fantastic but logistically was a nightmare. One issue arising were people not committing to the tournament and pulling out. Other tournaments such as Dubai are also under review as well as resources are quite slim. First priority is to maintain the pathway of the little league program.

5.0 New BWA development Program (Mitch) School based Machine Pitch – was a trial with some primary schools.

- Schools came to the Perth Heat games
- It attracts schools and can generate players for clubs
- Needs to be linked to clubs
- In term three or four, will pilot this program in conjunction with West Stirling
- Mitch looking at November for another school day to promote the game
- This program can help generate memberships.
- Aim eventually is to roll out and have a program running at every club.

Pitch Hit and Run – This is a skill based program and will be re-launched. Interested schools will be given a kit for this program and winners of each school will progress to a State Championship which will be run by Perth Heat. The program will be piloted in different areas.

Aim is to have each charter run a charter championship each year with the winners going to the State Championship. A Pilot will be run this year in Port Hedland with state-wide roll out in 2016-17.

6.0 Age Cut off – in 2017-18 season LLI will change the birthdate cut off to 31st December of each year. In doing this, players in each grade of competition will be a year younger. We will need to start thinking seriously the cause and effect of this change to prepare for it.

7.0 Other Business

7.1 No change to the Colts system except for the pitching rules. Pitching will be the LLI rules (green book). The competition will be run under the Little League Department as all junior grades have been separated from the senior grades.

Meeting closed 9:37pm