VPA SOFTBALL COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 28, 2017  
VPA Office

Members Present: Dave Capman, Carleton Laird, Rich Long, Dave Christiansen, John Lumsden, Jay Hartman, Natalie Soffen, Geri Witelac, Dennis Barcomb, Bob Johnson  
Also Present: Brigette Olson and Eric Ramey (Castleton University)

Minutes:

- Jay H. selected as committee Chair by consensus.

- motion by Natalie, second by Rich, to approve minutes of 1/11/17. Vote – approved unanimously. Noted that Joe T. was Interpreter, not Assignor.

- Correspondence – letter from Enosburg parent outlining injury that happened to her daughter during a regular season game at Peoples Academy. Mother is requesting that face shields be considered for softball pitchers. Discussion. This is a safety issue and combined with new bats, can put infielders and pitchers at risk.

  Motion by Rich that effective the 2018 season, face masks are strongly recommended for all infielders. Motion does not receive a second.

  Motion by Rich, second by Dennis, that effective the 2018 season, face mask are strongly recommended for pitchers, 1st base and 3rd base players for all levels of the VPA. Vote – approved unanimously. Bob J. will put in the Guide.

- Presentation by Castleton University concerning the possibility of Castleton hosting the VPA Softball championships. Field at Castleton is one of the best in New England. Castleton sports information department is will to do on-line stats and is willing to serve as the official scorer and announcer for the championships. Castleton does not have lights, but this would not necessarily be an issue. Castleton does not have a “double” first base, but this issue can be dealt with also.

  Motion by Carleton, second by Geri, to have Castleton University serve as the VPA Softball Championship site for the 2018 and 2019 season. Vote – Yes-7, No-0, Abstention-1 Motion approved.

- Review of 2017 season. Everything seemed to go well. There was an issue with the wearing of a hijab in a softball game and possible safety issues. This was dealt with both by the school and by the umpires association. Dennis gave a link that Winooski uses for purchasing sports jahibs. Bob J. will get this information out to schools.
- 2018 season – umpires association noted that Dave C. and Carleton L. will be the Interpreters for this year. Mari G-M will serve as the Sec./Treasurer for the organization.

Spring umpires meeting will be on March 18th @ Spaulding HS.

Championships will be on June 8/9, 2018 @ Castleton University.

- 2018 NFHS Rule Changes – Intentional walk rule change is noteworthy. No other major changes.

- Revised Softball Guide. Motion by Rich, second by Geri, that under the General Rules in the guide, Letter H should be changed from “may” to “must”. Vote – approved unanimously (requires a double first base to be used)

  Motion by Carleton, second by Natalie, that under General Rules in the guide, eliminate “For the 2017 season” and start with “One …….”. Vote – approved unanimously. (only one defensive coach is to be out of the dugout, now a permanent rule)

- adjourned