

IEBU/SBU Board Meeting Agenda
Sunday, February 23, 2025
Teale Residence

4:00 Call to Order (Kevin W.)

In Attendance:

Kevin Wellington
Clark Cosby
Kevin Gawenit
Gary Teale
Frank Wintersteen
Bob Francis
Larry Randall
Kerry Kelly
Rich Hobson

Unable to Attend

Matt Miethe (at wrestling regionals)

Approval of board meeting minutes for January 19, 2025.

Quorum present, Minutes approved unanimously

Assigner's Report (Bob Francis)

- Updated Rankings in Arbiter
 - Rankings in for high school are done, other levels (Jr. high, Rec ball) in process.
 - After discussion the board authorized Bob, Kerry and Gary to place unranked returning and experienced umpires into the rankings as per their judgement. This may also require some consultation with the training team.
- Still waiting for a small number of rural schools to provide their game schedules.
- Bob suggested the possibility of only doing two-person crews for high school games, to encourage schools to not schedule JV, Frosh and Varsity games at the same time. This suggestion was discussed and thought worth pursuing, but no board decision was made.
- Many umpires are still short of being certified. Bob asked Gary to send out a “nudge” email to active umpires regarding the importance of getting certified.

Treasurer's Report (Rich Hobson)

- ✓ Financial statements were presented to the board.
- ✓ There was a net surplus in 2024, primarily due to the significant reduction in L& I expense and an increase in the number of rec ball games where we were able to fill slots because of the increased number of umpires.
- ✓ Profit & Loss trend over the last 2 years has been positive.
- ✓ Net equity is stable, sufficient, and capable of covering any cash flow needs
- ✓ Suggestions for how some of the surplus from the previous two years could be used:

- There was discussion around yearly recognition awards, e.g., Ironman, Rookie, Outstanding umpire, etc., It was also suggested that we should have items such as hats, shirts and vests with a logo as appreciation gifts, or available for purchase.
- Frank suggested small white boards with a diamond diagram to use during pre-game to provide visual information to newbies. Boards available through Ump Attire and Big 5, could be provided to new umpires.
- Kerry suggested purchasing binders containing important training documents for new umpires.
- It was recommended that these suggestions be investigated further.

Old Business:

- Feedback from training meetings/Suggested improvement for 2026
 - Prepare our own videos for next year on specific rules and mechanics.
 - Cut back on the case plays in Patrick's videos, utilize our own videos and quizzes to review the case plays.
 - Focus on creating more engagement/interaction within the group
 - Provide a binder to newbies with important handouts
- Records Retention Policy and Process (tabled until a future meeting.)
- Update on Game Fee negotiations
 - Fees have been submitted to the leagues, now awaiting their agreement.
 - Bob recommends that Bob and Rich do the preliminary fee meetings for next year and then have the board review the proposals.
- Fee for evaluators (Larry Randall)
 - Larry made a motion to increase the **evaluator fee to \$30.00/game**. Clark moved to accept the motion, Gary seconded, the **motion was approved unanimously**.
 - It was recommended that the evaluators observe umpires as a group to improve evaluator inter-rater reliability. It was suggested that this could be done at the pre-season jamborees.
- Selection of post-season regional/state playoff umpires (Larry Randall)
 - As per the By-laws, the Vice-President has the responsibility to convene a committee to determine post-season assignments.
 - Kevin delegated to Larry the responsibility for convening the committee for recommending post-season assignments. Those recommendations would then be passed on to the board for final approval.
 - Procedure for determining post-season assignments:
 - Determine who's available
 - To be eligible, umpire must complete the RTO requirements
 - Umpires can only participate in post-season playoffs for a maximum of two years in a row. They cannot do a 3rd consecutive post-season assignment.
 - Include evaluations and "intangibles" in the determination; dependability, etc. plus experience with 3-person crews would be a plus.
- Confirming Evaluation procedures/steps
 - Larry will convene an evaluator's meeting to review procedures in early March.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Records Retention Guidelines

6:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting, will be on Sunday, March 23rd at 4:00 PM at the Teale Residence