

Next Steps
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2020

Location: VGSA Fields (we practiced social distancing)

In attendance: Rick Hansen, Gina Fifer, Scott Smith, Madonna Underland, Nikki Meler, Ronda Swanson, Stephanie Wagner, Amy Ritchie, Betty Richie

On Zoom: Elizabeth Hostettler, Michele Concannon

Social Distancing:

1. First - there was discussion about the WashingtonUSA Softball guidelines for social distancing on the fields during play. Most of the guidelines, we as an association were already discussing based, on the Social Distancing guideline Rick has sent me, that I forwarded to everyone.
 - a. Everyone thought the guidelines were good.
2. Rick Hanse shared that he was on a Zoom meeting earlier in the morning with the USA Washington Softball Executive staff, and they are trying to come up with ideas for the 2020 season. He shared all State tournaments will be cancelled. They are suggesting that local associations hold invites instead. May be able to go into September 2020. National Office is asking Bollinger to extend the registration period a month. This is still TBD.

For VGSA:

1. Based on the timeline presented by Governor Inslee, Phase 3 will begin June 22, 2020; Phase 4 will begin July 13, 2020.
2. Madonna shared survey results. 10U, 12U, and 14U all agree (more or less) to begin in July. Two games per week will be played. Madonna will send out a survey to TB, TL, and 8U - asking parents if they would at all be interested in playing. We discussed, depending on how many want to play, of having a one night a week for this age group, probably divide among the age groups, since the skill levels will be different for each, and have a "Come to Play Night". Some of us on the Board might have to couch. May it a "learn as you play" night.
3. Move all tournaments to start the weekend of July 17 - 19th, 2020. Email all the teams that have paid and explain that we are moving the tournaments and asking if they want to remain with the new date.
4. Discussed having a "Showcase" tournament for 16's and 18's. We would need a college coach or someone with connections to run it. Scott Smith suggested Todd Marquiss. Heather Tarr was also mentioned.
5. We discussed, beginning in Phase 3, which is mid-June, renting out the fields for practice. We discussed this would be for travel teams. Not all 5 fields could be used at

one time, due to social distancing, but we could do three. Maybe 1, 3, and 5. Separate them as much as possible because we cannot have more than 50 people on the field. We would probably have to set the parameter that parents watch from the fences. We currently charge \$25.00 per hour. Ronda sent an email later in the day, suggesting we increase that fee. She proposed 15 – 50%. This would have to be discussed, but it is a great suggestion. We do not want to make the practices pre-emptive for teams, but we need to make money also. We need to find a happy medium.

6. We discussed reaching out to Little League, since they cancelled their season. We could register them as teams to play in our league.
7. We discussed reaching out to Oregon teams, see if they want to rent fields.
8. We discussed moving forward with the T-shirts, sponsored by the TODAY foundation. We will pass out on a Saturday event or something, to get the word out in good faith. Stephanie indicated she would have the design to us tonight. Feedback to her by Wednesday.
9. We discussed equipment. We will need balls. We decided to use the Dick's Sporting Goods vouchers for replacement of equipment. Amy to get the ball count need to Rick so he can purchase the balls for \$49.00 per dozen.
10. Stephanie suggested a "Facebook Live" in replacement of the Board meeting. I have to say, this is not my first choice. I said I would write something up and someone can read it or something. Not my preference for an open forum. Personally, I do not see the value add.
11. Along the lines of the Showcase idea, we discussed clinics as well for example, Kim always does a clinic in July. I received a text from Scott Smith, indicating that Kim would like to do her clinic from July 20 – 23, 2020. She would run the clinic from 8am – 2pm. **I gave the okay for those dates so Kim can go ahead and plan.**

Action Items:

Rick Hansen:

1. Email teams that have registered for tournaments, asking if they will take the new dates
2. Email host teams, giving them the new dates. He wants to ask them what dates they want, but if they do not respond, we will just assign.
NOTE: I made the statement as Board Members, we might have to step up and run some tournaments this year.
3. Post the tournaments as "List Only" for now, to see interest.

Madonna U:

1. Do a survey of all TB, TL, and 8U parents regarding beginning season in July. She will share the responses once she gets them.

Stephanie W.:

1. Stephanie shared she would get the T-Shirt design to us by Saturday night. **(I did not see any design in my email)**. We needed to provide feedback by Wednesday, May 6th.
2. She will check on the amount of money available on the Dick's Sporting Good vouchers. **She responded on Saturday, there is \$250.00 in voucher money.**

Ronda Swanson:

1. Ronda will contact some college coaches, seeking interest in helping with a Showcase. Heather Tarr was mentioned.
2. Ronda will determine how we contact Little League teams. We do not want Little League to think we are trying to take their teams from them. We just want to give them the opportunity to play.
3. Ronda and Betty will meet the end of May to discuss Concession stand for 2020.

Scott Smith:

1. Contact Art Raz regarding sand. He will let us know what his response to getting us the necessary sand.
2. Contact Kim about her clinic. **Closed: Kim provided the dates of July 21 -23, hours of operation – 8 am to 2pm.**
3. Input the VGSA teams into RegisterUSA. (Both Madonna and I indicated we can help him get started in that process).
4. Showcase Tournament

Nikki:

1. Produce a timeline indicating VGSA actions around the 4 phases presented by Governor Inslee.
2. Prepare an update for the website.
3. Formulate a budget for 2020.
4. I can send a mass email to all travel team coaches, asking about using practice fields during Phase 3.

Unknowns:

1. How do we contact Oregon and Portland Metro teams? Stephanie – do we have a social media way of getting options out to them. We, as a board, will need to provide a contact person to organize this.

Anything else? What did I forget????