

BOYS OF BASEBALL - NATIONAL TRAVEL TEAM

2004

Annual Board of Director's and Coach's Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2004
Auburn University Hotel & Dixon Conference Center
Auburn, Alabama

I. Attendees:

Steve Cosgrove
Chris Miller
Rob McCaa
Lewis Warford
Bill Sherling
Gene Simpson
Milt Pointer
Michael Guy
Jerry Mattson

II. Key Principles and Ideals of BOB-NTT

- A. **CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT** - continues to evolve and grow. Every participant in BOB-NTT activities is required to review, sign, support, and adhere to this statement of principles.
- B. **BOB-NTT Coach's Golden Rule**- DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE OTHERS DO UNTO YOUR CHILD.
- C. **Player participation**- participation in tournament opportunities requires prior and on-going attendance at BOB-NTT instructional activities (and, to participate with our Cooperstown Dreams Park teams...this is ABSOLUTELY MANDATORY). Emphasis will continue to be given to near-equality of playing time for teammates, to the extent feasible and possible.
- D. **Character** - of all players, coaches, families, and friends associated with BOB-NTT
- E. **Help Build The Program**-
 1. Participation with the instructional activities
 2. Growth through creating relationships...but, PLEASE DO NOT DIRECT PEOPLE TO "call Steve", rather direct them to the website to READ/REVIEW THOROUGHLY, then apply accordingly.
 3. Use of the website for information on involvement in programs
 4. See FAQ below (from website)

Q: What is needed and wanted from BOB-NTT players, families, and coaches?

A: Several things: First, a clear understanding of what the **BOYS OF BASEBALL - NATIONAL TRAVEL TEAM** stands for; full support of our **CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**; **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN BOTH INSTRUCTIONAL AND TOURNAMENT ACTIVITIES... it is**

*not our program plan to have players, families and coaches just show up at tournament sites to play...it is critical that everyone associated with our overall program **HELP BUILD THE PROGRAM** (e.g., showing up and participating with our instructional activities, solicit tax-deductible contributions, identify quality players/families who can fit with our standards and directions, and support the development, enjoyment, and success of everyone associated with the BOB-NTT). And, lastly, a steadfast commitment to a first-class presence in all that we do, both on and off the baseball fields.*

- F. **Access-** to instructional activities and age-group tournaments regardless of a family's ability to pay. This is always handled in a tactful and confidential manner.
- G. **Protection-** strongly emphasized at every event. No participant in a day of instruction or tournament has ever been injured, discouraged, or demeaned in any manner.
- H. **Leave Every Situation And Each Person In Better Shape Than We Found Them (No Exception....Ever!)**

III. Current Promotions

- A. 2004 Planned Events
 1. The available schedules for 2004 have expanded tremendously.
 2. 18 tournaments are scheduled and shown on the website.
 3. 35 instructional schools (not camps) are planned and also on the website...the instructional and tournament schedules virtually fill the 2004 calendar.
 4. There is an addition this year of tournaments (13's *and* 14's) in Fullerton, CA, the first-ever in the Golden State!

IV. Financial Review

- A. Gerald A. Mattson, Jr., CPA, Attorney-at-Law shared his legal perspective
 1. BOB-NTT has recently been granted it's five-year IRS continuation (through 2008) for the [501©(3)] tax exempt not-for-profit status. The organization is a *legitimate tax deductible qualified non-profit entity*. The first five years of such IRS designation determine if organizations qualify to continue as IRS tax-exempt. Steve and Jerry Mattson have worked diligently together to ensure that the organization's IRS status would continue, as it has.
 2. BOB - NTT is an *educational, charitable publicly-supported organization which allows for tax-deductible contributions*.
 3. Tremendous progress has been made in the area of financial status. All bills have been paid, and/or are being resolved in a timely and appropriate manner... no debt collectors are knocking on BOB-NTT door!
 4. The organization's financial strength and solvency has grown every year.

V. Procedure Notes and Changes

- A. Uniforms
 1. **Pants** (2003): discontinued providing pants and set the standard pant as plain white. This worked very well in 2003 and will continue to be the policy.
 2. **Socks** (black): solid black will be the standard, they will be player-provided beginning in 2004.
 3. **Belts** (black): solid black, player-provided

4. Hats, T-shirts and/or long-sleeve shirts, and three jerseys (teal, white, and black) will be provided to tournament participants.
5. Always be fully and properly suited up *before arriving at field*...stay that way!

B. Instructional activities and tournaments

1. It is suggested that a water cooler be provided by BOB-NTT hosts at each baseball school if possible.
2. Laundry service participation at Cooperstown Dreams Park...no longer a parent detail.
3. Indoor backups for inclement weather are very important.
4. KEY LOCAL CONTACT activity is critical to ensure successful and well-attended instruction.

VI. Annual Dinner and Meeting.

A. Name and Cost

1. The 2005 event, and hereafter, will become known as the ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING OF BOB-NTT FAMILIES AND COACHES. The published addition of "families" is in keeping with the spirit and fundamental focus of the BOB-NTT. In the future, as with this and previous years, there will be no cost for participants (players, families, and coaches) attending the annual dinner and meeting. Ways will be explored and created to cover this expenditure through the fund-raising and budget processes of the organization. The nature of this annual event will always be to meet one another, and to show appreciation to the coaches, families, players, and friends of the BOB-NTT...it is our belief that we can best accomplish this if there is not a price attached.

VII Travel Baseball

A. Industry Growth

1. The growth of travel baseball since '95 has been tremendous.
2. Opportunities other than BOB-NTT are more prevalent.
3. Competition for players and participation is increasing.
4. Tournament opportunities continue to expand.
5. It was suggested that many families prefer programs like BOB-NTT, where a clear emphasis is on quality relationships AND top baseball experiences. Definitely, the BOB-NTT is much deeper and much more than just baseball.
6. Such wholesome relationships are enabled, nurtured, and developed through active, continued, and long-term involvement with BOB-NTT.

VIII Note of Sadness

- A. Ricky Harris (53, Opelika, AL), long-time parent supporter and former coach with the BOB-NTT, passed away this week. His son, Dusty, played in the very first BOB-NTT tournament (October, 1995 in Winter Haven, FL)...Dusty was one of the ANNUAL COACHES' AWARDS recipients in 2001. Ricky leaves his loving wife, Nancy, three sons (Shane, Travis, Dusty), and daughter, Allyson...our BOB-NTT PRAYER ALERT is engaged. We will miss Ricky dearly...he always showed a genuine passion for the game of baseball.

IX. Year in Review

A. Highs

1. Participated in a total of 19 age-group tournaments in 2003
2. Reached a total of 206 tournaments participated in since the program began in 1995
3. Continued expansion and growth of instructional schools
4. Additions of great families, coaches, and players
5. LOTS OF HIGHS IN LOTS OF WAYS (check out the testimonials)

B. Lows- only two

1. Failure of a coach to follow well-defined and understood standards of BOB-NTT as it applies to sensitivity of the importance of equality of playing time, position assignments, AB's, substitutions, etc.
2. One instance (and rare) of one family's disregard for the essence of the BOB-NTT philosophy (CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT).

X. Adjournment

A. Next Year's Meetings

January 7, 2005

Auburn University Hotel & Dixon Conference Center

Auburn, Alabama