

Travel Parent Meeting Feedback: 8-24-08

Dennis Steiner, Rob Schultz, Pam Birch, Craig Birch, Jeff Fiechtner, Rhonda Rerick, Kevin Tollefson, Jim Demarais, Julie Smith, Scott Peterson, Ernie Nygord, Dawn Nygord, Stacy Bitter, Jolene Demarais, Nicki Tollefson, Kristi Ostendorf, Sheilia Horner, Donn Bryant, Bryan Duncan, Aaron Kliniske, Tyler Tracy, Kellen Lewis, Brian Horner, Bill Williams, Jennifer Grieve, Bill Killoran

- Dennis Steiner opened up floor to public opinion regarding the travel program:
- Julie Smith: Pitching coach provided for the players. Also suggest having a travel league or travel players on one team.
- Rob Schultz: Would like to see the separation due to league and travel commitments occupying a significant amount of time each player has. Travel ball ties up weekends and league ties up week nights.
- Jim Demarais: What if the travel team was organized as a league team
- Tyler Tracy: Although Babe Ruth is separate from a park district; we still are considered a recreation league. This would create a great distant between A to D players during a game.
- Sheilia Horner: Is it possible to have the travel league players play in the league, but only play 10 games and play only the top teams in the league.
- Dennis Steiner: What is the opinion the people that they want out of travel?
- Rob Schultz: They want to win
- Jim Demarais: They want to be competitive. They want to play with the best.
- Julie Smith: Competitive
- Brian Horner: Competitive, double coaching is tough for the kids
- Dawn Nygord: Go back to double headers
- Bill Williams: Grand Forks has a similar system (double headers). Start earlier and end earlier allowing the travel teams to player without league interference come July. What is competitive?
- Jeff Fiechtner: What would the room consider we need to do to be more competitive? Is there some major glitch? If more competitive, then what is it going to take?
- Stacy Bitter: With the 11 year old division, there were no cuts. Believes with a cut, then better players would play.
- Dennis Steiner: Game time experience would allow the teams to be more competitive.
- Jennifer Grieve: Play more games would allow the coaches to see the players more
- Craig Birch: 11 year old team did not play enough and the team didn't gel until end of the year
- Scott Peterson: Why can't coaches return the following year
- Bill Killoran: We had one coach return and we can't force coaches to come back the follow year
- Jeff Fiechtner: If we carry over coaches then they would eventually become the 15 year old coach and then we get rid of them?
- Bill Killoran: In response to Stacy Bitter: When 120 kids are in the 11 year old division and only 20 show up for try outs, it's difficult to cut players
- Bill Killoran: If we desire more competitive players, then we need to work on the skills of the players
- Julie Smith: Why then were players neglected that needed attention?
- Rob Schultz: It's difficult to pull kids aside, when there are 12 other kids that need attention.
- Bill Killoran: Improvement needs to be done starting with the younger ages and growth will begin
- Stacy Bitter: Is there an evaluation form Babe Ruth come provide the travel coaches
- Dawn Nygord: Metro Rec is available, why is it not being used?

- Julie Smith: How about Babe Ruth running a clinic?
- Bill Williams: What is the groups' opinion regarding hired and parent coaches?
- Jim Demarais: I believe hired coaches benefit the kids better.
- Brian Horner: Hired coaches' benefits more than parent. As a parent it's tough once the season gets started to deal with the politics
- Bill Killoran: Is it better to see two hired coaches or a batter and pitching coach for all travel teams
- Jim Demarais: Would like to see two hire coaches.
- Dennis Steiner: Dickenson has parent coaches, Bismarck has parent coaches at the younger ages, Grand Forks has parent coaches, West Fargo has parent coaches and Wahpeton has parent coaches
- Bill Williams: Other communities have more teams at a smaller population...why?
- Kristi Ostendorf: Too much baseball. Time limit is a lot
- Jim Demarais: Lakes
- Tyler Tracy: This is a large hockey region, lakes and its very expensive to go to a 3 day tournament in Bismarck
- Bill Williams: West Fargo had 24 players try out for the 10 year old division. Why? What if we made 10 year old travel free?
- Julie Smith: Financial?
- Dennis Steiner: Fund raiser
- Bill Williams: What about a coach coordinator that would also be the pitching and batting coach?
- Jolene Demarais: Would the coaches then work less
- Bill Williams: Coaches would work harder. Coaches were not effectively supervised this year and a coordinator would decrease.
- Kristi Ostendorf: We are hearing two different things. If its accountability, then a board member would suffice. If it's increasing talent and working with players then we need a different person.
- Jeff Fiechtner: We are seeing this: separation of league, pitching and batting coach, accountability of players and play together more.
- Dawn Nygord: Fix the fields!!
- Stacy Bitter: Policy of picking up players.
- Jim Demarais: Try outs need to be done.
- Rob Schultz: Would like to see the older levels field the best 15 players in Fargo.
- Sheilia Horner: Strongly suggest not hiring a coach coordinator and utilize the three coaches and office staff
- Dennis Steiner: We need the public to help us out with sub committees.
- Bill Williams: This is your (public) program.