



East Coast Umpire's Association

Executive Board Meeting

December 4, 2017

(Received 12-18-17)

Mr. Schiller called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

Mr. Schiller opened the meeting by addressing a matter that was discussed at the November 6, 2017 Executive Board meeting and had been tabled until the December 4, 2017 Executive Board Meeting. This matter is the separation of East Coast Umpire's Association Baseball from Softball and into two separate associations and the Baseball side to create a new association separate from East Coast Umpire's Softball Association. This matter had been brought up by Mr. Benhart at the previous Executive Board Meeting on November 6, 2017. At that meeting Mr. Benhart advised the Executive board that he and the Baseball Executive Board members to including the baseball Trainer and assignor had held meeting discussing this matter and that they have also been in touch with Mr. Justin Harrison (via email) of FHSAA and advised them that a separation could be completed by Executive Board approval. Mr. Benhart stated that they wanted to move this matter to a vote by the Executive Board as soon as possible (the baseball side of the Executive Board) so they could start making the arrangements for the separation by the end of the 2017 – 2018 season. At this time Mr. Schiller turned the floor over to MR. Benhart to begin the discussion. Ms. Osborne questioned "tabled what"? And Mr. Schiller replied "the splitting of the association", and she replied "oh that". Mr. Benhart responded it was brought at our last Executive Board Meeting to separate the baseball and softball into two originations, and I thought we were going to have an Executive Board meeting prior to this. Mr. Kenny stated that we had a meeting on November 19, 2017 at

Mr. Benhart's home and Mr. Benhart, Mr. Davis, Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Kenny and Ms. Osborne were present. Mr. Schiller, (Association President), Mr. Cale and Mr. Landin were not present due to personal obligations so a meeting was conducted by Mr. Benhart. A Discussion among this group was conducted according to a document provide to the Executive Board by Mr. Benhart. And it states that Mike (?) continued to discuss with the reasoning for wanting the split. The document also stated that Mr. Bill Goodwin gave insight on how the one group covering the two sports came about when slow pitch became fast pitch. After a lengthy discussion by all members present as to the pros and cons of splitting the association the Baseball side of the Executive Boards reasons for the split was that the general meetings are to long, including Board Meeting because discussion of two sports are needed and these are two spate sports, as stated at this Executive Board meeting it's also a waste of time. The Softball side of the Executive Board reasoning to remain together as one is there is strength in numbers and we are stronger as one and as in all other sports there is a male sport and female sport one in the same as Basketball, Volleyball and ect. Once again Mr. Kenny made a motion that the association split and that Baseball be one separate inanity and Softball another inanity with separate names. A vote was held by the Executive Board and the motion passed by a 4 to 3 vote and the motion carried.

Mr. Kenny advised the Executive Board that he had researched the East Coast Umpires Association and found it is not a licensed corporation with the State of Florida and questioned why. It was explained that a pass president failed to renew the corporation license and that it has never been renewed. Mr. Kenny made a notion that the Association move forward with obtaining a CPA to file the needed paper work to re license The East Coast Umpires Association and that the Association Treasury to cover the \$300. 00 fee for filing for the East Coast Umpire's Association corporate fees. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made and seconded approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM.

Submitted by: ECUA Secretary, Stan Cale.

LETTER OF EXPLANATION. Emailed to the ECUA membership, 12-7-17

A decision was made to make East Coast Umpires Association into two groups.

East Coast Umpires (formerly Palm Beach Umpires Association) was only a baseball group in the 80s. When high school softball changed to Fast Pitch, SOFTBALL did not have enough umpires with experience to get behind the plate. It was at that time Softball recruited baseball umpires to do the plate on Fast Pitch softball. The group was merged in 1992 and has been together ever since. Recently, the argument was given to keep the two sports under one group because there is strength in numbers; although no good explanation to what that means was given. East Coast has approximately 160 members; with an average of 100-baseball and 60-softball. 14 members for 2017 HS season did both sports.

Training is separate. Softball classroom training and field sessions are separate from Baseball. Those who choose to do both must attend both training sessions to achieve state credit. This will continue. There are no major benefits for most of the group to be combined. One benefit are for those who do both sports but there are other dual sports that happen simultaneously (football and volleyball for example) and they must pay fees to each group. Another advantage for these officials is the efficiency of time by having some training sessions on the same night (Classroom Sessions; Softball training, General meeting then Baseball training). If anything, those who have done both baseball and softball have received a 'perk' of paying one association fee but able to get nearly double the games.

Each individual sport will now have their own General Meetings and those meetings will address issues for just one sport. The new baseball group does not plan to have as many General/classroom meetings once the season starts; and field training still being at the forefront before the season.

In summary, after weighing Pros and Cons, it was determined that the original reason to merge the two groups together is no longer valid. Although East Coast Umpires Association currently serves both baseball and softball, each group is independent of the other, with a very small percentage of the members doing both sports. Our belief is individual associations will make each group run more efficiently. Starting for the 2018-19 season, East Coast Umpires Association will continue as the sole provider of Softball umpires for Palm Beach County. A new group will be created to serve as the sole provider of Baseball umpires for Palm Beach County.

During the November 6, 2017 ECUA board meeting, with five of the seven members present, a motion was presented by Randy Benhart, VP, to create a new group for baseball and softball remain as ECUA. Steve Schiller stated he was blindsided by this yet many issues are first heard when brought up at a board meeting. A request was made to have a special board meeting to give time for discussion (not try to do before a General Meeting) and most in attendance were made to believe that would happen. A few days after the November 6 meeting, Randy called Secretary Stan Cale to ask about setting up the special board meeting. After Stan spoke with Steve he wrote to the board explaining that those of us who thought a special board meeting would be set were mistaken. Randy called for an emergency board meeting as a follow-up to the November board meeting. All members were invited. Steve, Stan, and Marty replied they were not available. The meeting was originally scheduled for November 15, but changed to November 19th and all board

members were notified of each date. (Marty was out of the country, Stan did not reply to the November 19 meeting, and Steve stated he wasn't available). The meeting was held on Nov 19 at the home of the vice president. Four of the seven members were in attendance (According to ECUA By-Laws four members represent a quorum of the board). During that meeting, a motion was made to create a new association for baseball. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously 4-0. The issue was again brought up in the December 4, 2017 board meeting with all seven members present. The motion was brought to a vote, passing 4 yes, 2 no, (NOTE: the president only votes if there is a tie and a tie breaker/deciding vote is needed).

Some misinformation about the process to be sanctioned with the State has also been given. According to JUSTIN HARRISON, FHSAA's Associate Executive Director for Athletic Services, since we are simply creating individual groups for the two different sports, there is nothing special the FHSAA needs to do to sanction each group. Each group must simply supply the FHSAA with their tax ID number and Executive Board members. Any two groups/sports or multiple groups/sports could be under one umbrella. Some counties do that with all sports under one umbrella and they only have to register once with the state of Florida/Sun Biz, covering all - a \$150 yearly fee. A small pro...combining the two different sports of baseball and softball.

THE CONCERN FROM THE MEMBERSHIP WAS WHY IT WASN'T PRESENTED TO THEM FIRST.

The members elected the board...those board members in favor of this have one and only ONE objective - to make our association the very best it can be - volunteers who have nothing to personally gain but sacrifice their time for the members.

There is one FACT that each member must understand...**NEVER** was it 'thought' to purposely leave members out of the discussion...not one of us ever said, 'we can't tell the members' or the like. **Honestly**, we thought it was a great decision and really didn't think we would get any push back except maybe from those who do both sports.

There are many time constraints we face to get this up and running for the 2018-2019 season. We are committed to make this a smooth transition and will continue to serve East Coast Umpires Association throughout the remaining 2017-18 season.

Football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball...all DIFFERENT sports and by next season all will be different associations.

Randy Benhart	Vice President
Mike Davis	Treasurer
Bill Goodwin	Member at Large
Tedd Kenny	Member at Large