

RAYBA

ROGERS AREA YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, April 20th, 2008

~Call to Order: 7:15 p.m. President Joe Carik & Vice President Noel Samlaska

~Welcome new RAYBA Board Members

~Definition of new positions and responsibilities

~Explanation and elaboration of RAYBA Board restructuring

~Fundraising: Joel Tjeerdsma

~Roger's Lions: RAYBA has an opportunity to participate in Rockin' Rogers Days. A three on three basketball contest was discussed, with more information to follow.

~Rockwoods: Rewards Card gives a 3% discount on the total bill for the card holder, and 3% of total bill goes to RAYBA. Families must sign up online to designate their points specifically to RAYBA, as there are many options for the designation of the reward points. The reward card may also be used at other area businesses.

~RAYBA Middle School League for Girls a Possibility: There is very low participation for the 6, 7 & 8th grade girls. Upcoming age groups may carry more interest. RAYBA should attempt to have at least four teams for this age group for the fall 2008 season. Communication regarding this opportunity should be sent out before school ends in June.

~1st and 2nd Grade League for Boys: Because gym space is such an issue for the boy's winter basketball season. The following suggests were made:

~ Move the 1st and 2nd grade boy's league to late fall, after football is over (after MEA in October) through early December.

~Shrink season to 6 weeks

~Have one practice, one game, and one night of a group instructional open gym. This will facilitate as much or more play time in a shorter than usual season.

~Exclude all kindergartners from play, as most of them are not ready for league level play, *or* use a cut off date of August 31st (must be six before that date) to allow the older, more mature kindergartners to participate.

~Allow 2nd grade boys to try out for the third grade teams at the 1st and 2nd grade evaluations. If they are deemed ready, they will only be allowed to play in the winter league, not both fall and winter.

~A motion was made to explore and implement these changes. All present voted in favor, and the motion was carried.

~RAYBA Website: Chris Darr (Communication/Web Master) gave the following update and recommendations:

~Steve Molander, founder of RAYBA, will be stepping down from his current position as RAYBA webmaster.

~A new hosting site would cost about \$850- \$900 annually, and options explored do not have all of the desired features, thus not enough value.

~Chris could build a new site (off an existing template), which could be completed by the end of July 2008, and would cost about \$150 annually. The site would be equal to the existing site when launched, and the enhanced components would be added over time.

~This new site could be easily enhanced by Chris to include features and functions specific to RAYBA's needs. They include:

~Access for coaches to facilitate organization and ease of communication with player's families.

~Linking registration to bring the process in house (currently out sourced to Sports Pilot). This would necessitate opening a merchant account.

~Document management would be enhanced and publication of documents for shared use would be implemented.

~A motion was made for Chris Darr to move forward with building a new site. All present were in favor, and the motion was carried.

~Travel Try Outs: Those who do are not placed on a traveling team will automatically be placed on a house team. This will be posted and clarified on the RAYBA web site to avoid any confusion which has previously occurred.

~2007 Review: Outgoing RAYBA President Joe Carik

~Boys Travel Program had a successful season. Clarification regarding unsupervised siblings and or other relatives at team practices, which is prohibited, must be made clear to parents at the commencement of the season.

~Boys and girls house program:

~Drafts and evaluations must be refined as the volume of kids is difficult to manage. The following suggestions were made:

~Break up into groups with staggered start times.

~Draft third grade three deep.

~Draft fourth and fifth grade seven deep.

~In addition to drafting top players, should the players with the most *opportunity for development* also be drafted?

~Spring Travel Tournament: Suggestions to optimize RAYBA's biggest fundraiser of the year include:

~Investing in walkie-talkies to facilitate better communication.

~Panel boxes for basket heights must be addressed and properly set before tournament begins. Locks for boxes may be imperative.

~Instructions for score boxes must be simplified, user friendly and clearly posted.

~Lights in gym must be turned off auto setting and turned up before play is commenced.

~Mark Donley will meet with the Rogers Tip off club regarding best practice and potential to share equipment, thus reducing expenditures.

~Clarify (MYAS's responsibility) who receives trophies. There was some confusion this year as to which place a team needed to finish to receive a trophy.

~Must order non-caffeinated soda such as Sprite or 7Up.

~New pizza ovens should be purchased.

~Concession will change pricing so all items are \$.50, \$1.00, \$1.50, etc. Nothing should end in \$.75 or \$1.25 to enable volunteers to make change with more ease.

~Striping of gyms at Otsego and Rogers Elementary: Gyms are refinished every summer, and new striping must be applied. In the past, the free throw lines were not marked on the side baskets. We must make sure that all baskets have the proper striping going forward.

~Basketball Camps: The following recommendations were made:

~Rogers Royal's Summer Basketball Camp should receive top billing, and any camps that are held on the same dates should not be posted on the RAYBA site.

~Other potential camps to promote include: Lynch Brothers, Camp Coz, and Timberwolves.

~Clarification that RAYBA urges it's player to enhance their skills by attending such camps, but does not endorse any camp or receive any benefits from promoting attendance.

~Strategy for posting which camps are available, and for choosing the best way to communicate potential options will be an ongoing consideration by the board.

~RAYBA Travel Program: A meeting is to be held by Curt Sagehorn and Joel Tjeerdsma to discuss a wish list for improvements. Attendees will include parents of travel players, the Roger's High School coach, and non-board member coaches. Topics will include:

~Lessons from the past, summary and discussion

~How to improve evaluations

~Coaches Review

~House coach and player development (an inherent part of the travel program)

~Give House coaches specific practice guidelines.

~Call out specific skills to focus on and standardize drills to create a uniform approach to player development.

~Train and direct house coaches, providing them with *best practice* guidelines.

~Create *Master Coaches* (past RAYBA coaches) as a resource from which to draw knowledge and experience to train and oversee the house coach development process.

~Focus on the changing bodies of the preteen age group. Help them to take their skills to the next level through more complex ball handling techniques.

Scholarships: The request for scholarships must have process and structure. The web site must make it clear that scholarship opportunities exist, and the process one must follow to pursue funding for their child. Parents must be made aware that there will be an expectation that they volunteer time to offset the cost of the scholarship.



At 9:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.