

MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Wednesday, Sunday November 21st, 2021
Steve Zonneville's House

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order at 2:00 PM by President, Gene Smithberger.

II. ATTENDANCE

Commissioners in attendance were: Steve Zonneville, Bill Finnegan, Steve Romshe, Don Bentley, Ed Slone, Buddy Lyles, Mike Winders, Keith Thrush, Jeff Crummel, Roger Smith and Gene Smithberger.

Excused Absences: None

Guests: None

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Steve Romshe moved to accept the minutes of the May 10th 2021 meeting and Jeff Crummel seconded. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Roger Smith reported \$4,458 in the treasury as of 11/21/21. Roger stated that some bills still need to be paid such as the championship shirts. Roger provided a handout listing all the income and expenses for the 2021 season and summarized the top 5 expenses at the end of the report. After expenses the concession stand made \$598.08 for the year.

Bill Finnegan moved to accept the financial report and Mike Winders seconded. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Don Bentley commented that the infield still needs work and that Al Fever who has played in our league in the past would do the work for us. Increasing the infield size to 25 feet from the bases and also leveling the grass area so there is no hump between the infield and outfield is what needs to be done. Don will contact Al to see if he can still do the work. Travis? previously did some work but never completed it. Also Mike Winders said that someone took our Spike

Drag that is used to prepare the field. Jeff Crummel is going to check with Northmor schools to see if they have one we can purchase.

Steve Zonneville commented on the scoreboard and asked if the commissioners still want to replace the large scoreboard in Center Field. We decided to replace the scoreboard and will use league funds to purchase. Steve Romshe is willing to donate half the cost of the new scoreboard which is estimated to be approximately \$3,500. Steve Zonneville will research available options and costs. Mike Winders has a salesman's name that sells scoreboards and will provide to Steve as an option. In the last meeting Rick Schondel stated that Travis is an electrician and he would hook up the electric if we purchased one.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Gene read a note from Karen Winders and asked that it be added to the meeting minutes.

Gene discussed Player and Sponsor fees. We discussed raising player fees \$5.00 a league and keeping sponsor fees at \$400.00. Mike Winders commented that the Worthington league fees are \$60.00. Roger Smith mentioned that the shirt costs are also increasing. Steve Zonneville made a motion to increase player fees to \$30 for 1 league, \$55 for 2 leagues and \$80 for 3 leagues. Ed Slone seconded and the motion passed.

Gene discussed the need for additional coaches and that it is tough to get coaches. One coach is needed for the 60 and 65 leagues. Ed Slone said Randy Smith will coach if he plays for the 60 league.

Buddy mentioned that some coaches don't like to draft and could another player draft for that coach. It was agreed that another player could draft for a coach.

Gene discussed a plan for the MSSA website if the commissioners agreed. His neighbor Darren could give the web site a tune up and then turn it over to Barb Allen for maintenance. Go Daddy charges \$8 a month and it was suggested to Roger that a Visa debit card be obtained from the credit union and be used to pay for the monthly fee. It was agreed that Gene will contact Barb and his neighbor to proceed.

Gene discussed expanding the 55 and over league to a 50 and over league.

Gene provided some statistics that 48 of our 110 players are 70 years or older and 20 of them don't play on the 65 league. The average age for players is 67 years old.

After discussion Mike Winders made a motion that the 55 and older league be expanded to a 50 and over league. Eligible players must be 50 in the calendar year of play. Ed Slone seconded and the motion passed.

Tabled Item - Steve Zonneville discussed going to a lower COR and Compression ball to reduce the number of over the fence home runs. Maybe try them in the 50 and over league. Mike Winders will check to see if we can get a .400 COR and 300 lb softball. The existing balls we use are .44 COR – 375 lb.

Tabled Item - Gene said that he is waiting for a quote to increase the height of the outfield fences. Note - He received the quote for \$13,500 on 11/22/21. Ed Slone stated we need to fix the holes in the center field fence.

Gene started a discussion on Ejection and Reinstatement. Some ideas were that the 1st offense be a warning and the 2nd offence results in ejection. Some other thoughts were to ignore protests but penalize abuse such as profanity or personal attack. Buddy asked if the ejected player leave the playing field as stated in USA Section 8, B – Pg 51 of 2019 rules. Ed suggested that anyone that gets ejected has the right to an appeal by an appeal committee of the commissioners. After discussion Don Bentley made a motion for section 1B that a player has a right to a written request to appeal the decision to the league president within 48 hours. An appeal committee will review the request. Ed Slone seconded and the motion passed. It was suggested that Gene, Buddy and Mike serve as this committee.

Steve Zonneville discussed the pitching screen rule of being completely behind the screen after the pitch and we should be more flexible. After discussion it was decided that the rule will stay as is. Steve also brought up a suggestion from Doug Virden that the pitching screen be located halfway between the pitcher and home plate so that all pitches that clear the screen would not be flat and that the pitcher would be protected. After discussion it was felt that it would result that many more batters would hit the screen and that wasn't desirable. After further discussion about the pitchers safety, Don Bentley made a motion that we add to the rules in Section 3E – 8 the following – The commission highly recommends that a pitcher use the pitching screen or face protection at the players' discretion. Buddy Lyles seconded and the motion passed.

Ed Slone discussed section 5I concerning Partially Disabled Players and made a motion that we eliminate the word permanent and replace the word **current** and also that each request would be made **on an annual basis**. Jeff Crummel seconded and the motion passed.

Rule 5B was also discussed that it wasn't fair to receive an out when enough players didn't show up. Mike Winders made a motion to **eliminate the last paragraph in section 5B** under borrowing players. Keith Thrush seconded and the motion passed.

Tabled Item - Buddy started a discussion on the draft and provided statistics on the inconsistencies in some of the teams. After discussion it was determined certain coaches don't draft well. Buddy asked how we can fix this. Some suggestions were that players need to be ranked by ability and that stats per player would really help, that the league should provide a person to draft for their teams were the coach doesn't draft well or doesn't want to draft. Mike suggested a pre-draft screening for new players coming into the league. Some other factors in inconsistencies in teams are the players history of being absent from games which skews the teams ability. Buddy suggested that the rating of players needs oversight and that all coaches have full knowledge of players before going into the draft. It was also suggested that the top 20 players in a league only be available for the 1st 4 or 5 rounds of the draft to prevent inequities. Steve Romshe discussed that some coaches are much better players than other coaches and that the coach need to rank and draft himself during the draft process for his team and also that coaches are required to rate their players at the end of the season.

Tabled Item – Ed Slone discussed the substitution rule and that there were some games where not enough subs were available especially near the end of the season. He suggested that players 6 – 9 in the draft of the team not playing be used as eligible subs and that each league would have its own sub pool. Gene suggested we use dedicated subs and then move to the players 6 – 9 be used if there are not enough dedicated subs. Buddy provided a statistics of players that were utilized throughout the season. 96 subs were used in the regular season and 52 subs were used during the tournaments.

Gene discussed that in 2021 we only had 2 rainouts but it felt that the season started too late and ended too late. Gene suggested that we start the 2022 season on May 9th and that the draft occur on April 18th.

Roger checked on changing banks due to service fees if we had 2 accounts. A different bank required a tax exemption form and he decided to stay with Park National and just keep one account.

It was decided that the League Commissioners contact each coach in their respective league and ask them to rate each player including dependability well before the next draft and that all coaches have this information available.

Ed Slone made a motion that woman in any league be able to use senior bats. Steve Zonneville seconded and the motion passed.

Buddy asked why we refrigerate the softballs and Mike Winders said that the balls are kept in the scorekeepers area and are very hot compared to the ambient temperature and he does this to get their temperature down to ambient quickly before a game. They are only put in the refrigerator when he arrives at the field.

Ed Slone suggested that we have available the duties of each commissioner documented. Steve Romshe sent a copy of the original duties of the league to Steve Zonneville and they are included at the end of the minutes. The duties need updated.

Ed Slone asked if the city can't get the field ready before a game can the league prepare the field. The league commissioner would tell Gene if the field is unplayable.

Tabled Item - Mike Winders mentioned that Karen is still scorekeeping but is resigning from running the concession stand. Steve Romshe sent a copy of a spreadsheet showing how teams not playing would man the concession stand although this would not account for purchasing the needed supplies each week. Mike also stated that Ed and Sandy may not be able to help in 2022.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Keith Thrush was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM and Steve Zonneville seconded. Motion passed.

Gene stated that our next meeting would be January 23rd at 2 PM at Steve Zonneville's house.

Minutes submitted by Steve Zonneville.

Duties

President – Gene Smithberger

- Schedule & Preside over meetings
- Contact new players & collect fees
- Notify MSSA webmaster of cancellations
- Update Information Line as needed
- Oversee Selection Committee

Vice President – Bill Finnegan

- Assume president's duties as required
- Serve as member of all committees
- Compile player names & evaluations
- Maintain player data base & emails
- Coordinate post draft player selections

Secretary – Steve Zonneville

- Keeps MSSA records & information
- Maintains parliamentary procedures
- Help schedule meetings
- Write meeting agenda & take minutes
- Distribute meeting minutes
- Maintain MSSA rules.

Treasurer – Roger Smith

- Pay bills for league & tournament play
- Pay ASA fee for both leagues
- Distribute scorebooks, rule books and roster to coaches
- Work with Reps to collect Player fees
- Oversee Scholarship fee

Facilities Director – Mike Winders

- Maintain concession/Scorers Bldg
- Purchase concession supplies
- Maintain record for concession monies
- Maintain field for league & tournaments
- ~~Coordinate with the Parks Dept to decide when to cancel games & notify Pres~~
- Notify league coordinator of cancellation

Personnel Director – Mike Winders

- Verify Umpire Credentials
- Schedule Umpire & Scorekeeper classes

Schedule Umpires, Scorekeepers and Announcers for games

Maintain MSSA website

Furnish all game results to Marion Star

Furnish all game results for Website

Furnish all game results to WMRN

Keep Player Liability Forms

50+ League Coordinator – Ed Slone

Coordinate all league activities

Ensure current players are contacted

Find new coaches when needed

Work with coaches for sponsors

Oversee collection of 55+ Player Fees

Create a 55+ league schedule

Distribute any schedule revisions

Set up 55+ Playoff tournament

Apply for scholarships if needed

Validate bats for league use

Decide due to field conditions when to cancel 50 league games & notify Pres

60+ League Coordinator – Jeff Crummel

Coordinate all league activities

Ensure current players are contacted

Find new coaches when needed

Work with coaches for sponsors

Oversee collection of 60+ Player Fees

Create a 60+ league schedule

Distribute any schedule revisions

Set up 60+ Playoff tournament

Apply for scholarships if needed

Validate bats for league use

Decide due to field conditions when to cancel 60 league games & notify Pres

65+ League Coordinator – Don Bentley

Coordinate all league activities

Ensure current players are contacted

Find new coaches when needed

Work with coaches for sponsors

Oversee collection of 65+ Player Fees

Create a 65+ league schedule

Distribute any schedule revisions

Set up 65+ Playoff tournament

Apply for scholarships if needed

Validate bats for league use

Decide due to field conditions when to cancel 65 league games & notify Pres

Public Relations Director – Steve Romshe

MSSA Promotion Director

Publicize MSSA in a variety of ways

Take team pictures and edit them

Contact other leagues to find players

Furnish MSSA website with pictures

Procurement & Equipment – Mike Winders

Provide all Physical Equipment

Purchase softballs for both leagues

Monitor list of legal bats

Have Rule Books printed & distributed

Arrange for league & playoff awards

Buy scorebooks for two leagues

Provide game results forms to scorers

Furnish Coordinators with bat stickers

Tournament Director – Keith Thrush

Tournaments Director

Contact point for any other Ohio teams

Help coordinate MWA tournament

Popcorn Festival Tournament Director

Any other tournaments

Purchase Tournament awards

Note from Karen Winders

To: Members of Marion Senior Softball

I want to thank you for the gift card to Steve Dakota Grill. This league is so unique with many players coming together to play the sport of softball. You are truly amazing with the way you have helped me with the concession stand and while I am scorekeeping. When I have needed help and support you were there. Thank you for stepping up to the plate, I couldn't have done it without you.

Sincerely, Karen