

MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Monday, April 24th, 2023
TRI-Rivers Multi Purpose Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order at 6:08 PM by President, Gene Smithberger.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

Absences: Buddy Lyles, Sam Grisham

Guests: Larry Kelly

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Steve Zonneville moved to accept the minutes of the 03/20/23 meeting and Don Bentley seconded. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Roger Smith reported \$8899.50 in the treasury as of 04/24/2023. Roger made out 2 checks for USA Team Sanction Fees for \$420 and umpire license fees for \$135. Bill Finnegan moved to accept the financial report and Ed Slone seconded. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Larry Kelly reviewed the 70 and over league and that it will start May 10th.
Larry is going to send an email to all 70 and over players that have email.

The league is not for batting practice

Larry expects to have \$240 from the players so the city can be paid for the field rental.

The city required a \$15 fee per session to reserve the field through August.

Larry passed out the following:

Suggested rules for the Wednesday morning 70 league

1. Batting Practice will start at 9 am
2. The games will start at 9:45 am – earlier if done with batting practice
3. Each team will bat through their lineup each inning (Clearing the bases after 3 outs)

4. There will be no walks
5. This is a fun league so no arguing
6. The team at bat will supply an umpire, unless there are 3 teams then the team that is sitting will supply umpires.
7. The shallow play outfield line will be used
8. The teams will be set (picked) by a couple of acting managers while batting practice is going on.
9. All other MSSA rules will apply
10. You may pay a one time \$12 feed, then you will be able to play any or all of the 16 Wednesdays. Please pay Larry Kelly or Roger Smith on or before your first time playing.
11. If the temperature is below 55 degrees at 8 AM or if it is raining we will not play.

Note: If most of the players decide during the season to change any of the format, we shall do so.

Don stated that the new MSSA sign will be installed 04/25/23.

Also the 6' x 32' mesh for the backstop was ordered for \$139 and will be installed by league players. Don also stated he was approved by the city to hire a weed sprayer company.

Don said the scoreboard cover was removed and the protective netting was installed.

Mike Winders said he has the scoreboard control box.

Don painted the trim, sign wall and other areas of the press box and Ed and Sandy Slone scraped and painted the dugout areas.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Gene stated that the 130 player draft went well this year and also wanted to thank all the commissioners and those that help. Most people don't realize all the work that is involved to keep the league running stable and smoothly. Gene said we have 6 rookie coaches this year.

Gene stated we need to discuss the Player Misconduct draft presented by Buddy Lyles at the last meeting. The umpire needs to be aware of the rules and enforce them. Mike Winders said the USA rulebook is on the web and that the section about player misconduct from the USA rules also be added. After a few modifications Steve Romshe made a motion to add the Player Misconduct Rules to our MSSA rules and Keith Thrush seconded. Motion passed.

Gene wanted to discuss the wording in Rule 1A since for the last several or more years we have actually drafted 58 year olds into the 60 league and 63 year olds into the 65 league to make sure we had enough players for each league. Gene asked the question should we change the 60 league to the 58 league and the 65 league to the 63 league. Gene said it is very hard to try and figure out the league make ups without knowing at least a week before the draft who is eligible to play. After some discussion we re-affirmed that we will keep the Rule 1A as is except that we would review the age limits each year. Jerry said it would be hard to recruit if we change the age limit each year. Bill Finnegan made a motion to add the word annually to Rule 1A and Mike Winders seconded. Motion passed.

Gene stated that Buddy Lyles wouldn't be able to prep the fields as he did last year and asked for suggestions. Don Bentley said he would mow once per week and the city usually mows on Wednesday or sometimes Thursday. Jeff Crummel said he would drag the fields each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday weather permitting. Thank you Don and Jeff. Mike Winders said Dan Smith would also be willing to help.

Steve Romshe offered to email the league rosters and schedules to all players after he receives the new player email addresses from Gene.

Gene stated that we still need 3 sponsor fees. Ron's Tree Service, Ralphies and Ohio Neck and Back. Also Roger stated that 35 roster positions still need paid. Overall the pay in advance made it much easier this year for Bill and Roger and Gene.

Gene said coaches in the 50 and 60 leagues need to provide 2 subs from their teams to help fill the gaps for in the weeks that they are not playing. Gene and Jerry will be subs for the 50 league and Gene will sub for the other leagues also.

Gene asked about the concession stand and Roger said he will coordinate that and that Ed and Sandy would take care of Mondays and Roger would take care of Tuesdays and Thursdays with possible assistance from Connie Baker, Cindi Bentley and Dan Smith.

Keith Thrush and Gene discussed the All league tournament and Keith suggested that we have the tournament mid July. Gene said that the commissioners would have one team with a pick from each of the leagues.

Ed Slone made a motion that we change the wording in Rule 5I and that we should allow someone with a temporary injury such as a hamstring pull to have a temporary runner. Jerry Fagan seconded and the motion passed.

Ed Slone found an error on Rule 5B that teams can play with a minimum of 9 players if no subs are available.

Gene brought up that the 65 league coaches didn't like the new rule that required the pitcher to use the pitching screen or wear a face mask. After some lengthy discussion Steve Romshe made a motion to revert back to making the use of the pitching screen or facemask optional. Jerry Fagan seconded and 7 Yes votes and 3 No votes. Motion passed.

Gene stated that it was a struggle to get coaches this year and every year and suggested a committee to help find and train coaches for next year. Gene suggested that the league commissioners work together to obtain and maintain coaches and get feedback from ex coaches and current coaches as to their concerns and why some don't want to coach. Mike suggested we have a coach's clinic and a draft clinic. Ed stated one incentive is that coaches don't have to pay league fees for the league that they coach. Steve Romshe suggested that maybe a mid season dinner for coaches paid by the league might be appropriate not only to thank them but to get their feedback.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Keith Thrush was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM and Ed Slone seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes by Steve Zonnevylle