

Marion Senior Softball Association Meeting Minutes 3/12/26

Marion Senior Softball Association met on 3/12/26 at the Marion County Board of DD located at 2387 Harding Highway East in Marion Ohio.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by the President Max Gerber.

Present

Max Gerber
Gene Smithberger
Steve Romshe
Bill Finnegan
Buddy Lyles
Roger Smith
Sam Grisham
Mike Winders
Don Bentley
Ed Slone
Jerry Fagan
Marty Alves

Absent

Keith Thrush
Steve Zonneville
Will Ogden

Review of minutes from the last meeting

There was a review of the last meeting minutes by Max Gerber, and they were accepted without any changes.

There was no motion made to accept and no vote was counted.

Financial report

The financial report was given by Roger Smith. There is currently \$7,912.31 in the account. We have two of the sponsors paid and \$1,995.00 in players dues paid. Softballs were purchased at the cost of \$750.06 and payment to keep the website for 2 years was renewed at \$481.70.

Bill Finnegan motioned to accept the report and Don Bentley 2nd with all in favor and no objection.

Old Business

Advertisement and banners

Mx asked who contacted sponsors for banners and sponsorship. He was trying to figure out who was out and who was in. Mike Winders reported that Homeless to home is out and no other sponsors were mentioned as being out. Those who got sponsors in the past will again reach out their respective sponsor and will let get a response back on who is going to renew. Max said he would contact Shawn Miracle to see what his status is.

Subs and sub fees

There was discussion brought up by Max about subs being able to play and not having to pay a fee. Some of those subs are playing every week and do not pay any fees for it. He wanted to know what the board thought about only having subs who have to pay a fee. Discussion lead to looking at the rules we currently have as we have some discussion about subs. If we need to adjust it and make changes that indicate for someone to be a sub they will have to pay the league fees as any other player. This will ensure all players are paying the league fees.

Discussion then lead to who would Buddy be selecting the subs from. Sam mentioned that Buddy did a great job with the subs and handling it for two separate parks due to no lights last year. Buddy ensured subs were available at both parks with some help from some of the coaches. There was discussion about

the subs in the past coming from the middle of the draft and the reason for that group. Then the discussion went to what happens if someone is not known and should have been drafted earlier but was not and was drafted in a lower rating and they subbed and could change the outcome of the game. For example, a top-rated ball player went in the 6th pick and was a sub. They sub for a team who is missing a lower picked player, that gives the pickup team an advantage over the other team. This discussion lead to multiple variables and scenarios. Sam, Jerry, and Gene all suggested we go to a three separate bracket of players, A, B, and C. Then the discussion went to what if a team is missing an A player and the only sub available is a C player. How is that fair to the team that needs a sub. Sam stated there can be a multitude of “what if’s” and we go over this issue year after year with no agreements on what is the best way. We need to make a decision, put it in the rules, enforce the rules and not have to address this issue every year for hours. Marty Alves spoke and stated we should take the draft picks 6-9 and that would be our 4 subs to use. Ed agreed and stated those players in that pick area would not hurt or give an advantage to teams. Buddy and Ed then added that with those picks and if we see that someone got drafted in those picks that should have been picked earlier but no one knew them, we would review that by 7/1/26 and make the needed changes to ensure no team is given an advantage or disadvantage over another team because of a sub. Gene and Sam both stated that Buddy is the person who gets teams subs if needed. He is in charge and should be allowed to do what he is assigned to do. Coaches are to notify their subs and submit names to Buddy prior to game day so he knows who to contact for subs. Ed then asked if we have it in our rules how many subs a team can pick up. If not, we need to do that to alleviate concerns of a team only showing up with three or four players and picking up 7 players to have a game. After a long discussion it was decided since each team identifies 4 subs then four would be the most a team could pick up to field a team to take the field. The rules indicate that a team can start a game with 9 players and end with 8 due to an injury and it still be an official game. So if a team shows up with less than 5 players, that team would have to forfeit the game as they would only be allowed to pick up four subs, and that would not allow them the number of players to take the field to play. Should both teams decide to go ahead and allow subs to field a team, the two teams could then have a scrimmage. Mike Winders advised the board that if a forfeit occurs, the umpire is not paid for a full game. He wanted to ensure that everyone understood that. Mike Winders made a motion to accept the subs from 6-9 and Don Bently seconded it. All were in favor, that no more than four subs can be picked up by a team. If the team does not have the number required to take the field, the team will forfeit the game.

Note the current rules adopted and accepted by MSSA Board states, “Eligibility – Players who are drafted 5-8 in the draft are eligible to be subs for the league and will be contacted by a league commissioner if they are needed.”

Lights

Max brought up concerns about adjustment of the lights. Sam reported that parks and recreation should have a contract with the vendor who installed them. In most contracts there is a clause such as warranty, modifications, etc... there may be something in the contract that indicates the vendor will come back and adjust the lights. The same vendor did parking lot lights at the CB and came back and adjusted those lights when aske to do so at a later time. Max stated he would get in touch with parks and recreation to see if they can get the lights adjusted.

Clay for low spots

Max asked if Don Bently would talk to Smith’s Materials about getting some more clay. Don stated he would contact them to see what he could get so we have it for the field.

New Business

Park Workday

The field pre will occur on Saturday, April 11, 2026, starting at 9am. Rain date will be the following Saturday, April 18/2026 at the same time.

Meeting with Parks and Recreation

Their board appears to be on board with us taking over the ballpark. Parks and recreation still wants some control over allowing others to use the ballfield. Parks and recreation will have a signed user agreement with anyone else about the use of the ballfield and be responsible for ensuring it is maintained.

It is ok to put in a shed for us to store riding tractors and stuff inside of to care for the ball diamond. Max spoke to the Senior Center about us falling under their umbrella if we do get control of the park. This will help us as far as not having the 501C3. The senior center is ok with us if we are able to take over the ballfield.

50 league

Max asked if we could drop the age to 49 for the Tuesday, 50 league. This would assist us with getting closer to being able to have three games on that night instead of two as in the past. From the interest he has heard about, there are several players that will not be 50 this year but are 49 and they seem to really be interested in playing in Marion. At this point this will bring in 10 new players.

Mike Winders motioned to drop the 50 age to 49 for the Tuesday league and Bill Finnegan seconded the motion. All were in favor with no objection.

League signup deadline

Max wants to move the deadline for 2027 and forward to March 1st. This will allow us to have a better grasp on how many players, how many teams we have, and if there are players not signed up, time to reach out to them to see what their status is. It will also allow us a little more recruitment time to see if we can get players to fill a team. We have always waited until April, and then we are rushing and missing players, having players on wrong league for the draft and this earlier deadline just gives us more time to make sure everything is right. There was no vote on this but all members appeared to agree.

League fees

Max brought up we need to also keep the league fees the same, regardless of how many nights you play. Currently we give a discount for multiple league nights, and it is getting more and more difficult to ensure players are paying the correct fees and it gets confusing. All appeared to agree with him on that with no further discussion but no vote was held.

Draft Dates

The Monday 70 league draft is scheduled for April 6, 2026, at 5pm at 2387 Harding Highway East.

The Tuesday 50 league draft is scheduled for April 7, 2026, at 5pm at 2387 Harding Highway East.

The Thursday 60 league draft is scheduled for April 9, 2026, at 5pm at 2387 Harding Highway East.

Umpires

Mike stated that on Tuesday he has an umpire but they may need another umpire to work with her. Each would only be paid \$20/game for a total of \$40. He will do most of them but is asking if Sam or others can help him out so he is not doing every Tuesday. Sam stated he would be willing to help out but since he lives an hour away and still works, he would prefer not to do it all the time, particularly if there are three games. Mike then stated he needs some help with registration of the leagues as the Ohio ASA website is no longer available. They have moved it to USASoftball.com.

Rule modification

Ed brought up the rule for section 51, substitute runners. Currently it reads "*In the 1st inning the coach would assign a courtesy runner and subsequent innings the last capable batter from the previous inning would be the courtesy runner*".

Bill Finnegan made a motion to add the word "WILLING &" between last and capable.

So the rule would read, "*In the 1st inning the coach would assign a courtesy runner and subsequent innings the last willing & capable batter from the previous inning would be the courtesy runner*".

Buddy Lyles second and all were in favor with no objection.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date, as we typically do not meet during the season unless there is an issue that requires the board to address.

There were no other items to discuss, and Bill Finnegan made a motion to adjourn, Sam Grisham seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.