

MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Monday, January 29th, 2025
Marion County Board of DD Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order at 4:00 PM by President Max Gerber.

II. ATTENDANCE

Commissioners in attendance were: Don Bentley, Ed Slone, Buddy Lyles, Steve Romshe, Jerry Fagan, Roger Smith, Mike Winders, Steve Zonneville, Sam Grisham, Max Gerber and Gene Smithberger.

Absences: Bill Finnegan, Keith Thrush

Guests: Marty Alves, Dominic Foti, Larry Webster, Tom Shirk, Scott Roper

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Buddy Lyles moved to accept the minutes of the 12/23/24 meeting and Ed Slone seconded with a modification of late fees for existing players Existing players late fee is \$5.00 and new players is \$10. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Roger Smith reported \$405.58 in the memorial fund, \$1,000 in the Hall of Fame fund and \$2,638.46 in the General Fund for a total of \$4044.04 in the MSSA Checking Acct. as of 02/10/2025.

Don Bentley moved to accept the financial report and Sam Grisham seconded. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Max discussed the research he did on finding softballs for the league. The league must use USA rated softballs for liability reasons. He discussed the composite cover balls vs leather covered balls. After discussion we agreed to go with the composite cover ball (TrumpX-Rock 12" .44-375). These new balls are better and cheaper than what was purchased in the past. Mike made a motion to purchase 15 dozen balls for \$924.84 and that we sell our existing stock of balls to Marv Moseley for the church league he runs. Don Bentley seconded and the motion passed.

Max opened for discussion for reducing the age to be able to use senior bats to 58. He said some players that play in the 50 and 60 leagues have to buy 2 bats which are over \$200. Sam made a motion to reduce the age for using senior bats to 58 and Mike seconded. Motion passed – 6 yes and 4 no. (Rule 4B)

Max opened for discussion to change the 65 league to a 70 league. Gene said this would be a way to help maintain older players. We have 6 players eligible this year to join the 65 league and Jerry Fagan said he knows of 3 players that will move to the 65 league this year. Gene said we would grandfather in those that are in the 65 league. Ed Slone made a motion to change the 65 league to a 70 league in 2026 and that anyone who has previously played in 65 league would be grandfathered in and any eligible player that is unable to play in 2025 would still be eligible in 2026. Buddy Lyles seconded. Motion passed 9 yes 2 no.

Rule 1A and 5D

VI. New Business

Sam made a motion that 58 years old are eligible for the 60 league and Ed seconded – Motion passed

Ed made a motion that 63 years old are eligible for the 65 league and Sam seconded – Motion passed

Max made a suggestion that we have defibrillator training for coaches and commissioners. Mike and Roger said it very easy to use and it talks to you and tells you what to do.

Shirt costs in 2024 were excessive and we discussed what the league will pay for a shirt and any extra costs would be picked up by the team. Scott Roper suggested that instead of a championship shirt could we get something different – maybe an insulated cup.

Max shared pricing he got from Central Monogram in Bucyrus - S-XL would be \$16 and XXL and above would be \$17.50. Extra charges for 2 colors (\$1.50), Names (\$2.50), MSSA Logo –(\$?) Max will discuss with Central Monogram that we also need 8” numbers not 6”.

Ed made a motion that the league pays up to \$20 for each player’s shirt. Don seconded and the motion passed.

Max discussed an option to help the league financially. He suggested we offer to put up a 4’ x 8’ mesh banner for sponsors. The cost is \$100 to purchase and he suggested the following

costs for sponsors. Team Sponsor - \$400, Fence Banner - \$300, Both Team and Fence Banner - \$600

Steve Z. made a motion to adopt the fees for sponsors and Don seconded. Motion passed.

We also discussed which sponsors that need to be contacted and which sponsors have agreed to pay this year. Ed will contact Perkins, Gene will contact Josh Daniels and Harbolt Electric,

Don will contact Knights of Columbus and General Machine, Mike will contact Fisher Excavating, Max will contact Alves Landscaping and ASAP Rescue. Steve Romshe will contact any remaining sponsors using a list Max will send to him.

Max said he is stepping down as the 50's commissioner and Marty Alves agreed to replace Max. Ed made a motion and Don seconded that Marty be voted in as the 50 league commissioner. Motion passed.

We discussed the work that different individuals do to help the league. Buddy mentioned all that Dan Smith does and that we should reward him. Dan wants to play in all 3 leagues this year so Mike made a motion that Dan Smith would not have to pay fees this year to play. Jerry seconded and the motion passed.

Mike stated that every coach should have a copy of the MSSA rules. Steve Z will make copies for all the coaches.

Tabled Item:

Do we want double headers for the 65 league in 2025?

Do we need to make more defibrillator keys?

Max stated that he would like 3 tournaments this year if possible – June, July, and August.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Sam was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 PM and Buddy seconded. Motion passed.

Max set up the next meeting on Wednesday March 12th at 4:00 PM at the same location.

Minutes by Steve Zonneville