

Marion Senior Softball Association Meeting Minutes 3/12/25

Marion Senior Softball Association met on 3/12/25 at the Marion County Board of DD located at 2387 Harding Highway East in Marion Ohio.

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

Present

Max Gerber
Gene Smithberger
Steve Romshe
Bill Finnegan
Buddy Lyles
Roger Smith
Sam Grisham
Mike Winders

Absent

Don Bentley
Ed Slone
Jerry Fagan
Keith Thrush
Steve Zonneville

Review of minutes from the last meeting

There was a review of the last meeting minutes by Sam Grisham, and they were accepted without any changes. Motion by Buddy Lyles to accept the minutes and 2nd by Mike Winders with all in favor.

Financial report

The financial report was given by Roger Smith. There is currently \$4859.22 in the account with no \$994.82 paid for the league softballs. We have most of the sponsors paid with some indicating the checks have been mailed. Two of the players who are sponsors typically will pay when the league starts.

Long time player Dennis Burns wife passed, and we will send a \$25 donation to him or a charity of his choice. Steve Romshe reminded us that we need to ensure we remain consistent in charitable donations, so we are not just selecting who we make the donations to. If we do it for one, we need to be mindful to do it for others as well.

Buddy Lyles motioned to accept the report and Sam Grisham 2nd with all in favor.

Old Business

Sponsor screens

Max brought in a sponsor screen we discussed at the past meeting to generate revenue for the league. He reported he did notice the price flexibility due to the economy. When he was initially looking at it and creating it, the cost was more than he had to actually pay for the finished product. It could also go up a few dollars depending on when we get the order in. Those sponsors wishing to have a banner for the outfield fence, need to send him a logo so that he can create the screenprint on the computer to submit it to the company, Banners on the Cheap. This way they will be here when the season kicks off.

Clay for low spots

Max passed around a sample bag of the clay he had spoken about at the last meeting for the field to assist in better drainage and absorption. Max stated the cost to do the entire infield is in the thousands of dollars. But it would be better for the bases, pitcher's mound, and batters box where low spots are predominantly at. We could get several bags at a lower cost and fill in where needed. Most fields have a 3" layer of the clay on their fields and that is a lot of clay at a cost we cannot absorb at this time. He will take the bag to Kenny Bollinger at parks and recreation to make sure we are ok to add it to the areas he brought up.

Shirt material

Max had a card with a sample of the different types of shirt material with the cost for the shirts. We should be able to get the shirts for no more than \$20. The card shows all of the color options and materials

used. If a team does not go with a multi color pattern, the shirt would be \$17.50, name is \$2.50 so that would be the \$20 cost for that shirt. When we have our draft, we need to remind the coaches the total cost for shirts cannot be over \$20. Any additional cost will be the responsibility of the coaches.

New Business

League numbers

Monday 65 league- we have 60 players. If there are 12 on a team that would be 5 teams.

Tuesday 50 league- we have 51 players. This means there would be 1 team with 12 players and 3 teams with 13 players.

Thursday 60 league- we have 65 players. This means there would be 5 teams with 13 players.

Umpires

Mike Winders reported that he has spoken to umpires, and he feels we will have enough umpires for each night. The umpires from last year are not able to start but may be able to come in later if needed.

Max explained to the board that he had applied for a grant through the Rotary club, but we did not get it. The grant was to cover the cost for lights and other updates to the field. When he spoke to them about what he needed to get the grant, they told him to reapply, so that was a positive.

Sponsor Fees

Buddy Lyles asked what we are doing if we end up with more sponsors than we have teams. He suggested that we need to make sure we contact that sponsor and let them know we don't have enough teams and ask if they want a refund or not. He stated that he honestly believes they will just say to keep it as most sponsors are only doing the sponsorship to ensure everyone gets a chance to play. He is a sponsor and if he is not needed for a team, he makes the donation to MSSA to be able to do the league. One other option would be to see if that sponsor would be willing to allow MSSA to use the sponsor money for a tournament during the season.

65 league night Monday

The resolution to change the 65-league night to 70 league in 2026 was passed by all members with a 9 yes and 2 no votes. In 2026 all players who have previously been eligible to have played in 65 league night will be eligible to play on that night.

****Rule discussion****

Sam Grisham mentioned in the rules, 2 (A)- it indicates the first four rounds of the draft are outfielders only. This was modified to read, "The coaches will decide before the draft how they are doing the draft for that specific league night. Each coach will be reminded to ensure they draft key positions that not all players can play, such as a pitcher, infielder, outfielder. " A vote of all present was conducted with all in favor and passed.

Balls

We have ordered the balls, X-Rock, 44/375 ASA balls.

Draft

The 2025 draft will occur on April 3 (60's), 7 (65's), and 8 (50's), 2025 at 5pm at the Marion County Board of DD, located at 2387 Harding Highway East. Coaches are being asked to attend the next meeting on April 2, 2025, to discuss any concerns with rules or the draft.

****Coaches for 2025 season****

We have two coaches so far for 50 league and need two more.

We have five coaches so far for 60 league.

We have four coaches so far for 65 league and need one more.

Hall of Fame

Gene Smithberger asked an update on hall of fame. Where are we? Sam Grisham the chair for the committee, reported that he has asked for names from all in the room and others not present and he may get a name, but no forms that we had previously agreed on to complete. Sam continued that he has a committee and needs each of those members to be more involved to help out with fundraisers and obtaining names. Sam stated he has some names, but those names are mainly the ones that he recommended to be inducted, Ed Slone gave him some names but that is where it ended. Then the debate on what to present to the player inducted came up, hats, shirts, jacket, etc... Sam reported that hats will cost \$22 a piece, shirts and jackets are between \$25-45 dollars apiece. The money that has been raised so far will not sustain the purchase of those items. Sam did present the idea of a challenge coin that would have the players name on it, year inducted and on the other side that he can have made by LOBO Graphics at a lot less cost. Then get the plate for the hall of fame wall at the park. Buddy asked if the committee would be the final decision, and it was explained that all players could submit a name.

The names would be on the website for all MSSA players to cast a vote for a player. Those numbers would be tallied up. The board would meet and review the names submitted and the committee would then vote, and a player would require 4 yes votes of the five members of the committee to be elected for the hall of fame. Those not selected would remain eligible for the next voting period.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 2, 2025, at 4pm at the Marion County Board of DD. Coaches are to be asked to attend this meeting.

There were no other items to discuss, and Steve Romshe made a motion to adjourn, Buddy Lyles seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.