USA Softball of CT (01110)2024 Annual Meeting Dec. 7, 2024 Agenda

Rail 99 Tavern

1 Wall St. Cromwell, CT 06416

Call to Order at 10:08 by President Pat Patusky

Moment of silence for remembrance of Pearl Harbor and all members of the softball community over the past year.

Secretary’s report and Treasurer’s report: Brad

* Minutes we accepted and financial report handout was available (see attached document)

Commissioner’s report: Hank

* We are the National Governing Body of Softball and still the best softball organization in the USA.
* We use Quickbooks, we also have a Newsletter in place, please submit articles or information to our Newsletters. We need players and umpires to submit their stories to add to our Newsletter.
* National news of interest: Field rental costs and softballs costs have risen across the country, not just CT Sportsplex. At the rate of double and triple the cost from just a few years ago.
* Safe Sport certifications are required by USA softball which is a legal requirement that is currently difficult to administer. Safe Sport Handbook will go to all adults involved in our JO programs. Anyone that officiates a child 17 years old and younger needs to back ground checked and safe sport certified, any new umpire, the state will reimburse you your cost for the back ground check.
* We need to do a better job with tournaments publicity. We will send our 2025 Tournaments schedules to CT Convention and Sports Bureau.
* We need a new JO Commissioner. The HPP program has teams at the U15 and U18 levels.
* In the process to nominate the Brakettes and Kip Tremblay into the National H of F. Questions for the Hall of Fame banquet Committee, do we want to go back to Whitney Farms? Or Aqua Turf which may have better options for entertaining. HOF Banquet was successful, FP attendance was down, SP attendance was outstanding.
* Scorebooks and rule books have been ordered for 2025. To lower our cost, we need sponsors for our scorebooks as some other states do.
* Membership Improvement Committee report from the National Council meeting. Hank and CT were “evaluated this past year. See that CT has the same “issues” that are occurring across the country. (see attached document)
* East of the river, we do not have any District Commissioners nor umpire associations.

Umpire’s report: Stan and Brad

* We need to submit National Umpire Schools applications by June 1 for the next year. Umpire registration fee will remain $45 for 2025. You can register umpires now for 2025. Background checks and Safe Sport certs should be completed by Jan 31. For 2025 only, new umpires will get a shirt and hat or a “starter package” at no cost to them. Also, all umpires will be reimbursed for their background check and Safe Sport when completed for 2025.
* Charcoal Gray pants will replace heather gray pants as the default uniform beginning in 2026 in state and National tournaments.
* 2025 new rules presentation. (see attached document)
* The “Tony Roberto Jr” award will be presented to an umpire(s) at the umpires meeting in February. Any nominees for this award should go to Cliff LaRose or Brad Sanchez.
* We set a date for state umpire’s meeting in Feb. 15 at 10 am at Rail 99
* New Business: Hank
* We need to educate our P. and R. directors of our Free insurance coverage for adult teams and leagues. CPRA convention report. (See Insurance handout)
* OKC and Chris Drumm and ASA Properties now have T shirts and other apparel available to local associations at a cost of about $5 per shirt.
* A report of other associations national tournaments is now available.
* Connecticut Slow Pitch is in search for a Player Representative, to help improve how we register our teams for State and National Tournaments.

New Business Cont,

* Two Positions were up for elections on the council, President Pat Patusky and Secretary Brad Sanchez a vote was taken and unanimously passed. (these positions are a two-year term)
* Introduced New tournament Director’s Randy Talyor Jr. and Bob Sobilisky, Dave Reno offered his services to help them be successful. We no longer use sports engine and sign up for all money transfer apps. (Venmo, etc.)
* Made a motion to add to the By-Laws and forgo the thirty days which carried, added Adult Commissioner and added a change to 5.02. (see attached document)
* Hank announced that Dave Reno will be the Adult Commissioner. Dave added that he will not run tournaments other than the Early Bird in the spring and Turkey Trot in the fall. Some of his responsibilities will be team registration and umpire training.
* Adult Commissioner’s report: Dave
* Registered 691 Slow pitch teams, 200+ Fast pitch teams.
* We do not have enough of umpires in the state, so in late February I’m running a slow pitch clinic at the Sportsplex, No. Branford. It will be held on Monday’s only for four weeks. Video, on field mechanics, rules, signals, etc. Cost TBD and possibly a shirt and/or ball bag will be given to the graduating umpires.
* Steve Kolitz will run a Fast pitch clinic in the Danbury area date/time TBA.

Marketing: Hank

* The national portal will be updated soon. National will have Google Drive Docs available soon for our use. Hank will need help using these. Review of how we use National Logos.
* Two teams from Connecticut went to Nationals and were not signed off to go, and one team from Connecticut went to Nationals and didn’t register in Connecticut.
* We ordered 200 printed rulebooks and 800 scorebooks for 2025. They will arrive sometime in January.
* There were no code changes that apply to the things we do in CT.
* Umpires meeting is scheduled for February 15th 2025. Location will be at 99 Rail Tavern, 1 Wall Street Cromwell, Ct. 06416.

Motion was made to adjourn and carried, Adjournment: 12:13

Respectfully Submitted: Brad Sanchez, secretary