

COLORADO SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes- January 29, 2016
Highlands Recreation Center, 2880 Osceola, Denver, CO

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner Stan Harbour. Board members present: Stan Harbour, Jim Edmundson, Rick Reeser, Mike Massong, Don TeStrake, John Miller and Emilio Sanelli.
Board members absent: Jim Spaulding, Jeff Sweet and Robin Garneau
- 2. Introduction of Guests:** There were no guests present.
- 3. Welcome New Board Members/Confirm Board Listing:** Harbour welcomed new Board members Don TeStrake and John Miller, elected for a first term at the 2015 Fall Managers Meeting, as well as Jim Edmundson who was elected for a second term. Jim Spaulding, who was unable to attend the meeting, was also elected for a second term in one of the Rec Center Rep positions. With these Board members elected at the Fall meeting, all Board positions are filled for the 2015-2016 year.
- 4. Approval of Minutes, Sept. 25, 2015 Board and Oct. 30, 2015 Managers Meetings:** Massong motioned that the minutes of both meetings be approved, seconded by Edmundson, and approved unanimously.
- 5. Treasurer's Report/Financial Status/Budget/Team Fees/etc.:** Harbour referred a Financial Summary spreadsheet in the handout which showed the numbers for 2010 through 2015, and specifically to the column for the 2015 financial numbers, which showed a net gain of \$2,286.02 for 2015, due mainly to two \$1,000 donations, obtained as Volunteer Grants from Chevron Corp. for Harbour's hours spent working for CSSA. Balance at the start of the year is \$9,527.39. Some discussion was held on a couple of specific numbers, which Harbour reported the following: 1) Team fees will remain at \$175 per team as discussed and agreed in previous Board meetings; 2) Harbour has ordered the softballs for the year, using the same procedure as last year of piggy-backing on the order Foothills Rec Centers; balls have not been received and no invoice has been received. Once the invoice is received, Harbour will determine the appropriate "break even" charge for a set of 14 balls that teams will receive at the Feb. 26 Managers meeting. Total cost for softballs in 2016 will be more than 2015 due to ordering a significantly larger number of balls, 60 dozen instead of 35. Harbour also noted that he would be ordering scorebooks this year, which is normally done every other year.
- 6. Review Fall Managers Meeting- plus/minus:**
Harbour asked for any comments regarding the Fall meeting in October, anything good or bad from the meeting. There were brief comments the time spent during the meeting on the discussion regarding pitcher's protection. General feeling was that the time spent was alright on such a serious matter.
- 7. 2016 Plans:**
 - Rule changes: 1) Harbour advised that he would make the changes to the 2016 RULES resulting from motions passed at the Fall Managers Meeting, and send to Board members for review. Once completed, the 2016 RULES will be posted to the website, as well as included in the handout package at the Spring meeting.

Harbour raised the issue of “pitcher’s protection” which was a serious discussion at the Fall managers Meeting in October. All Board members present participated in a extensive discussion, which resulted in a motion by Resser to REQUIRE pitchers to wear protective masks. Motion was seconded by Miller and approved unanimously. It was agreed that Harbour would develop language to put in the CSSA 2016 Rules, along the lines of language in the SSUSA Rule 6.17, and send to Board members for review and comment. Revision to the Waiver of Liability form will also be done. Final wording will be agreed and included in the 2016 Rules revision that will be provided to managers at the Spring Managers Meeting on February 26th.

- Important Dates- Sheet in the meeting handout showed the dates for the 2016 season; these had been sent to Board members earlier and agreed. Noted dates- Regular season games will start the week on April 18th for the 70’s Divisions, and April 27th for the B-E Divisions. 70’s Divisions must start a week earlier due to them missing three Mondays during the season, i.e. May 30th (Memorial Day holiday), June 27 (fields not available) and July 4 (holiday). The off-Wednesday between the first and second half will be June 15, 70’s tournament will be Aug 15 & 17, and the B-E Divisions tournament will be Aug 22-25. Harbour also noted that there would be no games schedule the week of June 27 due to fields not being available because of the girl’s tournament in the area. A copy of the Important Dates will be sent to all managers with the notice of the Spring Managers Meeting.
- New Teams- Harbour advised that he had heard of a few potential new teams, as well as a few who have said they may not play in 2016. Since it is still early and this information is not firm, no further discussion was held.
- 2015 Tournament & Venue- Harbour noted that the plan is to return to Schaeffer complex in Lakewood for the B-E Divisions tournament, and have the 70’s tournament at Broomfield, using the same format and schedules as in 2015. Brief discussion was held and all agreed with the plan.
- SSUSA Insurance / Directors and Officers (D&O) Insurance- Harbour referred to what was done in 2015 regarding insurance, i.e. General Liability insurance through SSUSA, and Directors and Officers Insurance through Colorado Non Profit Insurance Agency, and recommended that the same be done for the 2016 season. Brief discussion was held and all present agreed on this plan.
- USSSA Approved Bats- Harbour led a discussion on the current situation of new bats, balls and how they relate. There was agreement that CSSA stay with the current specifications, i.e. softballs will be .44 cor and 375 compression, approved bats are per Rule 5.4 (USSSA approved bats, ASA approved bats, including the new “ASA Only” bats).
- 8. Spring Managers Meeting content/assignments:** Harbour stated that the handout package for the managers at the Spring Managers Meeting will be the same as previous years. Discussion was held regarding the Spring meeting and it was agreed that the following matters would be highlighted: 1) Pitcher’s protection- see above

information and new rule added by the Board; 2) All Rules changes; 3) Guidance on Make-up games; and 4) Coordination of teams rosters, i.e. teams needing players and those with extra players. Harbour will contact Board members via e-mail prior to the meeting to organize assignments for the meeting.

9. Miscellaneous- Discuss/Update Items:

- Harbour advised that the order for softballs had been placed and the delivery should be before the meeting on February 26th. Harbour will also order scorebooks (done every two years) to be handed out at the meeting.
- Harbour advised the attendees of several suggestions that he had received recently- roster shortages/excesses, hot bats for weak hitters, etc.
- Harbour requested that Board members be thinking about several “succession” items, i.e. potential meeting places for the Board meetings and the Managers meetings, website administrator and even the Commissioner position. Brief discussion was held.

10. OTHER:

- TeStrake raised a question about “Make-up games”. A brief discussion was held in which Harbour referred to the motions on the subject at the Fall managers Meeting, and his feeling that it would be impossible to include language in the rules that covers all situations. It was agreed that this subject would be addressed, and stressed at the Spring meeting.
- Sanelli advised the attendees that CSSA was founded in 1982, with 4 teams from Lakewood and 4 from North Jeffco. Discussion ensued and Harbour commented that it might be a good idea to develop a “CSSA History” section on the website. Harbour will work with those who have been involved with CSSA over the years and see if something can be developed.

11. Assign Jan/Feb/March Timeline Duties: Harbour reviewed the master list and determined that all action items have been taken care of, or are in progress.

12. Next Meetings:

- The Spring Managers Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2016, at 10:00AM at the Denver Elks Club.
- The next Board meeting after the Managers meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, March 24 or Friday, March 25 at the Highlands Recreation Center. The meeting will be one or two days after the deadline for Team Registration forms being submitted (March 23rd). At this meeting, teams will be placed in divisions for the first half of the 2016 season. Harbour will work with Board members to decide the exact date of this meeting.

13. Adjournment: Massong motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Edmundson. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Minutes recorded by Stan Harbour; 1-29-16