

COLORADO SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Fall Managers Meeting - October 27, 2016
Denver Elks Club, 2475 W 26th Avenue, Denver, CO

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by CSSA Commissioner Stan Harbour. Board members present: Emilio Sanelli, Robin Garneau, Jim Edmundson, Mike Massong, John Miller, Jim Spaulding, Rick Reeser, Jeff Sweet and Don TeStrake.

Sanelli led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and then said some nice words about the military and those who serve.

Representatives from 46 teams and 6 Recreation Centers were present.

- 2. Introduction of Board Members and other Contributors:** Harbour introduced members of the CSSA Board in attendance, as listed above, recognized Garneau as the CSSA Treasurer, and highlighted his use of Massong as an “equipment consultant” on questions regarding bats, balls, etc. Harbour noted that it takes a lot of effort for CSSA to function, that all these people make contributions and noted his appreciation for all the efforts mentioned.

- 3. Treasurer’s Report:** Garneau reported that CSSA had started 2016 with a balance of \$9,527.39, that most all costs for 2016 have been paid and that the current balance in the account was \$8,761.82. Harbour stated that the finances for 2016 were in line with 2015 and that a donation of \$1,000 from Chevron could still come in this year. Harbour further stated that the team fee for the 2017 season would remain at \$175 per team as in the previous few years.

- 4. Review 2016 Season:** Harbour provided a quick summary of the 2016 season as follows: 1) 21 teams played in the 70’s divisions on Mondays in the regular season and all 21 played in the 70s tournament; 2) 49 teams played in the B-E divisions on Wednesdays and 43 played in the tournament; 3) Division winners and tournament results were posted on the CSSA website and distributed to Standings Secretaries and on to the managers.

- 5. Discussion Items:**

- Tournament; time limit/time of play; pace of play; start with 1-1 count. Harbour made comments about things listed here that the Board had considered regarding the tournaments. Some discussion was held with some in favor of starting with a 1-1 count, and others opposed. Richard Randall made a comment that he felt the umpires in his 70’s tournament games had done a good job.
- 11” ball for women players; John Miller lead a discussion regarding using an 11” ball when women batted, using information that he gathered by contacting 22 teams on the subject. Various attendees expressed a mixed view of the proposal with no clear full agreement. Miller and the Board members will pursue this matter further and report to the teams regarding any action for the 2017 season.

- Balls used at various locations/fields: Harbour commented that he had received questions regarding the softballs used at various locations/fields, and lead a brief discussion on the subject. Harbour commented that CSSA rules call for a .44 corr/375 compression yellow optic ball for league play.
- Rule 5.5 Pitcher's mask; Harbour commented that he had received a proposed motion to make this rule optional, but the CSSA Board had decided that this rule would not be changed. Brief discussion was held.
- 2017 Tentative Dates; Harbour advised that the dates for the 2017 season would be in line with 2016 dates, and that he would provide dates to all managers as soon as possible, likely in early January 2017.

6. Motions to be voted on: Motions to change the rules were submitted in writing and put together in the handout package given to each manager present at the meeting. Guidelines for the discussion of the motions were as follows: 1) If the person who made the motion is not present at the meeting, the motion will be automatically withdrawn, 2) Those presenting a motion have a reasonable time to do so, 3) If there is a second, there will be discussion, 4) Then, voting will take place. Discussions were held and clarifications were made on each motion, and then a vote was taken to determine if the motion "PASSED" or "FAILED". New or revised language is shown in "**bold**" type. The motions, and results were as follows:

Motion #1: Submitted by Stan Harbour/Board

Motion Title: Clarify CSSA Rules regarding Courtesy Runners from home plate.

Motion: Vote on Runners for batters

Seconded by : Mike Massong Votes FOR _____ Votes AGAINST _____

Comment on the motion: The reason that this motion is proposed is to address the issue of runners from home plate for the batter, and courtesy runners in extra innings games, since the current rules are being ignored in certain cases.

Current rule: Current rules call for the batter to "reach first base on his own." (Rule 9.1), and in the case of extra innings game, a courtesy runner may not be used until the placed runner reaches the next base (Rule 7.6).

Revised Rules: Any revision to the rules will be developed based on votes or discussion on the following questions:

1. Should courtesy runners for a batter be allowed from home plate in any division?
2. Should courtesy runners be allowed in certain divisions? If so, which ones?
3. Should courtesy runners be allowed in extra innings games? From second or third?
4. Where should the courtesy runner start from?
5. Who should be the courtesy runner? Anyone (fastest available)? Last out?

Discussion was held among attendees based on the questions above with the intent to get opinions and positions of managers. With the information generated, the Board will consider any changes, and develop language to use.

Motion #2: Submitted by Stan Harbour/Board

Motion Title: Clarify number of games an ejected player must miss after an ejection.

Motion: Make the number of games consistent in the Code of Conduct and the Rules

Seconded by : Mike Massong Votes FOR 1 game- 14; Votes for 2 games- 32;

Vote on the motion calls for a two game suspension when a player is ejected.

Comment on the motion: Currently we have a conflict between language in the Code of Conduct (SUSPENSION- two games) and the Rules (Rule 11.4- one game). Therefore, the vote will be whether to have a one game or two game suspension after a player is ejected from a game.

Current Rule: See comment above.

Motion #3: Submitted by Stan Harbour/Board

Motion Title: E Division- number of defensive players

Motion: Eliminate Rule 6.3a,2- Only E Division Managers vote on this motion.

Seconded by : Mike Massong Votes FOR- 3; Vote AGAINST- 3;

Motion FAILED due to a tie vote.

Current rule: 6.3a,2 Defensive Players E Division- For E Division, this number will be increased to 11 if both teams have sufficient players available. The 10th and 11th players are outfielders only, and shall not be used to supplement the standard infield positions (thus five outfielders).

Comment on the motion: Rule 6.3a,2 was added at the 2015 Fall Managers Meeting for the 2016 season and has created a lot of confusion, disagreements, etc. Therefore it is recommended that it be eliminated. Rule 6.3a allows teams to play with 11 on defense IF the managers agree.

Motion #4: Submitted by Tim Ryan

Motion Title: Include 70's Gold Division in Rule 4.2

Motion: Include 70's Gold Division in Rule 4.2 and drop "A" from heading- Only 70's Gold Division managers vote on this motion.

Seconded by : Chuck Kasson Votes FOR- 3; Votes AGAINST- 0; **Motion PASSED**

Current Rule and modification with strike-through and in **bold type**:

4.2 Ground Rule Double ~~A~~, B, C **and 70's Gold Divisions**- At any field where the outfield fences are located less than 285 feet from home plate, a fly ball hit over the fence will be deemed a ground rule double.

Comment on motion: Add 70's Gold Division and drop the 'A'.

Motion #5: Submitted by Larry Lindemann

Motion Title: Limit Batting Order to 18 Players

Motion: Add rule to limit batting order to 18 players per score sheet provided by CSSA

Seconded by: Kay Stinson Votes FOR- 12; Votes AGAINST- 18; **Motion FAILED**

Comment on motion: Add this to rule- **"Teams with more than 18 players may use additional players only as substitute players, thus not creating the need to use additional pages on the scoresheet by the official score keeper."**

Current Rule: 6.2a Re-Entry and Extra Players- Any player in the starting batting order may be substituted for and leave the game and return one (1) time to the batting order reassuming the position he occupied previously except

..... There will be no limit on extra players in a team's line-up and they may play defense at any time subject only to the re-entry rule and the number of players allowed by the league rules.

- 7. Board Status/Election:** Harbour referred to a sheet in the handout package with information on the CSSA Board status and election. There is one Center Rep position vacant and one nominee, Jeff Sweet, Athletics Coordinator, Evergreen Parks and Recreation. There are two player rep positions vacant and two nominees, Mike Massong (The Boys team) and Rick Reeser (Sears/The Haus Team team). Harbour recommended that the three nominees be elected by acclamation, and there was no opposition to the recommendation, so Sweet, Massong and Reeser were elected to the Board for two year terms.
- 8. OTHER:** Several items were brought up by attendees and discussion on each item was held as follows:
- Larry Haden presented information and had a handout available regarding a Winter Ball league to be held at the South Suburban bubble on Peoria, south of Arapahoe Road during January and February. There will be four teams and a draft will be held to populate the teams. Anyone interested should see Haden and/or pick up the info sheet.
 - Terry Goodrich spoke of the Spring and Fall Fun league held at Vanderbilt Park during March/April and September/October each year. Anyone interested should see Terry for information.
 - A question was raised about who was responsible for the umpires knowing the rules. Discussion was held with Harbour advising all that most umpires are hired by the Rec Centers for regular season games, and that CSSA hires umpires for the tournaments using an agency. Any issues or problems should be reported to the Rec Centers, and CSSA as appropriate.
 - An attendee raised an issue of teams having uniforms with numbers, etc. Rule 5.2 calls for "Uniforms should include visible numbers, with no two (2) identical numbers on a team".
 - Beth Yacono, Aurora Recreation Rep, spoke of an umpire school that they have each year for new umpires. Anyone interested should speak with Beth or call her at Aurora Rec.
- 9. Next CSSA Board Meeting:** Harbour stated that the date (probably in January 2017) and location of the next meeting of the CSSA Board would be determined and that he would advise the members of the Board and would publish the information on the CSSA website.
- 10. Adjournment:** Gene Tomczak motioned that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Rich Flaminni and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Minutes recorded by Stan Harbour; 10-27-16