

COLORADO SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Fall Managers Meeting - October 19, 2018
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: John Miller, Rick Reeser, Don TeStrake, Bob Schwartz, Mike Massong and Beau Bressler. Board members absent: Robin Garneau and Jeff Sweet. Representatives from 42 teams and 4 Recreation Centers were present. Harbour introduced Gene Tomczak, a veteran, who led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Harbour commented that the flag in the Elks Club meeting room had been donated by the Colorado Cougars team, an effort lead by Jerry Gamache. Harbour then asked all veterans, anyone who had served in the military, to please stand and be recognized. A large number of attendees responded.
- 2. Introduction of Board Members and other Contributors:** Harbour introduced members of the CSSA Board in attendance, as listed above, and recognized Garneau as the CSSA Treasurer, although she was unable to attend. Harbour then mentioned those who served as Standings Secretaries in 2018 by name and asked those present to stand or at least raise their hand. Harbour noted his appreciation for all the efforts mentioned.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Harbour reported that CSSA had started 2018 with a balance of \$9,891.82, that most all costs for 2018 have been paid and that the current balance in the account was approximately \$8,000. He stated that the finances for 2018 were in line with previous years, that a donation of \$1,000 from Chevron, which has been received the past few years, will NOT be received this year, due to his reallocation of those funds. He then stated that the CSSA finances were sound and that the team fee for the 2019 season would remain at \$175 per team as in previous years.
- 4. Review 2018 Season:** Harbour reviewed the 2018 season with comments as follows:

 - 1) Regular season had 16 teams in the 70's divisions, and 46 (1st half) and 47 (2nd half) in the B-E Divisions. All 16 teams in the 70's played in the tournament, and 45 B-E teams played in the Wednesday teams tournament.
 - 2) No major controversies arose during the season, with only a few minor issues; no illegal bat matters were reported.
 - 3) An optional trial use of a screen for pitcher's protection was discussed- the experiences, the reasons for the rules, etc. Harbour reported that he had received a motion for a minor change in the screen write-up, and that the Board had decided not to entertain the motion at this time for several reasons. Some comments were raised by attendees, and discussion was held.
 - 4) Harbour asked if anyone had any comments regarding the 2018 season and no one raised any issues.
- 5. Discussion Items- Solicit input from attendees- 2019 look ahead.**

 - Awards- Harbour advised the meeting that the league and tournament champs awards for 2018 were the same as the past several years, i.e. T-shirts. Harbour requested that if anyone had further suggestions or ideas to please get in touch.

- Pitcher's Protection- Harbour advised the meeting that the Board intended to continue the use of the screen for pitcher's protection on an optional, trail basis, using the same write-up (rules) as sent to all managers in June of 2018.
- Potential new teams in 2019- Harbour advised the attendees that he had heard of several potential new teams for 2019- 1) a new 70's team in Boulder; 2) a Wednesday team in Colorado Springs; and 3) a possible additional 70's team in Aurora. Related to the new teams, Harbour recognized Don McGill who spoke about the potential new 70's team in Boulder and requested some help in finding players for this team. Also, as there were some groans in the crowd when Harbour mentioned the Colorado Springs team above, he asked if anyone had any specific comments. Some attendees offered their opinion, some discussion was held, and Harbour stated that the Board would decide final action.
- 2019 Tentative Dates- Harbour stated that a full listing of final dates would be sent to all managers in early 2019, but did mention that regular scheduled games would likely start the week of April 22nd or 29th, and that the B-E Divisions tournament would probably be the week of August 19th or 26th, with the 70's tournament the week before. The week of the girls tournament (when a number of fields are not available) would be the week of June 30- July7, and that the July 4th holiday is on the Thursday of that week, so games will not be scheduled during that week.

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 Ernie Brady- Frontier Club

Motion Title: Home Run Rule

Motion: Add language for limiting home runs in all divisions

Seconded by : Mark Gembarowski Votes FOR 33; Votes AGAINST 1

MOTION PASSED

Current Rules with added language in **bold type**:

4.2, **a** Ground Rule Double- 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.

Add 4.2, b Home Run Rule (All Divisions)- There is no limit to the number of home runs that one team can hit. However, no team can hit more than 1 more home run than their opponent. If a team does hit a home run and they are already "1-up", the home run will be considered a walk- note a walk is different than a single. For example, if the team batting has a runner on third when a 1-up home run is hit, the runner does not score (unless forced

to do so). Also, the home team cannot go 1-up with a home run in the bottom of the open inning. If hit, it will be ruled a walk and runners will advance as described above. "Inside the park" home runs are excluded from this rule.

Motion #2: Submitted by Gene Tomczak- Aurora Grillers

Motion Title: Intentional Walks

Motion: Add language to Section 3, a new Section 3.8 on this subject

Seconded by : Bob Schwartz Votes FOR 1; Votes AGAINST 30

MOTION FAILED

Add a new Section 3.8 Intentional Walks- If a batter is "intentionally walked" for a second time in a game, the batter shall advance to 2nd base, and any runners on base at the time will advance accordingly. If a batter is "intentionally walked" for a third time in a game, the batter shall advance to 3rd base, and any runners on base at the time will advance accordingly.

Comment on motion: To include a rule that in the event of an "intentional walk" to an extremely good hitter more than once in a game. This rule would prevent the opposing team from not pitching to a very good hitter more than once.

Motion #3: Submitted by Gene Tomczak- Aurora Grillers

Motion Title: Courtesy Runner from Home Plate- change who can be the courtesy runner

Motion: Change who is allowed to be the courtesy runner from the "last recorded out prior to the at bat" to "any available player".

Seconded by : Ingrid Shea Votes FOR 7; Votes AGAINST 6- Managers of E & 70's Silver/Bronze teams only were allowed to vote- **MOTION PASSED**

Current Rule with revisions in **bold type**:

9.1,b Courtesy Runners from Home Plate- A courtesy runner (for a 'disadvantaged player/batter') from home plate to first base, and in an extra inning situation, will be allowed in the E Division and the 70's Bronze Division only with the following stipulations:

- Only 2 allowed per team, identified and agreed in the pre-game conference with the umpire.
- Courtesy runner ~~will be the last recorded out prior to the at bat.~~ **can be any available player.**
- Courtesy runner will start 2' behind the third base line, located such that he will not interfere with the umpire or catcher.
- Batter CAN NOT move out of the batter's box after striking the ball; if he does, then a dead-ball out is called.

Comment on motion: The reason for this request is to save time by allowing any available player to run for the disadvantaged batter. Yes, sometimes it will be one of the team's fastest runners, but not always. And who was the last recorded out and who is eligible is not always available causes major delays and arguments on the field. As long the change is available to all teams, no one should object to keep the game moving, especially in the 70's league.

Motion #4: Submitted by Steve Young- Lakewood Hawks

Motion Title: Limit the number of shallow outfielders- D and E Divisions

Motion: Add language under 3.6a to address, players defensive positions

Seconded by : Dave Schmidt Votes FOR _____ Votes AGAINST _____

D & E Divisions- Votes FOR 8; Votes AGAINST 9

70's Divisions- Votes FOR 2; Votes AGAINST 29

MOTION FAILED for both D & E, and 70's Divisions.

Current Rule with added language in **bold type**:

3.6,a 175' Line In the Outfield (ALL DIVISIONS, except 70's) **Women Batting-** If 10 or 11 players are in the field playing defense both the 10th & 11th players must take positions as outfielders behind the 175' line when women are batting. All out fielders must remain behind the 175' line and the infielders must remain in the infield until the ball is struck. If your field doesn't have a line you, the manager, must have some kind of marker (cones, flags, etc.) to show the 175' line. (70's leagues was removed in 2010)

Add a new Section 3.6,b 175' Line In the Outfield (D & E Divisions only) Men Batting- When men are batting, only one outfielder will be permitted inside the 175' line. All other outfielders must remain behind the 175' line and infielders must remain in the infield until the ball is struck. An 11th player may either play as an outfielder behind the 175' line or as an infielder in the infield until the ball is struck.

Comment on motion: With some of the older men, it seems like the outfielders are moving in so far that there isn't much of a chance to drop a hit in between the outfield and the infield. Since the upper divisions are more competitive, the proposed rule change would only apply to the D and E Divisions.

Motion #5: Submitted by Jim Freeman- Lakewood Bears/CO Cougars

Motion Title: Visible Numbers on all Jerseys

Motion: Add language regarding jerseys/numbers

Seconded by : Bob Schwartz Votes FOR 4; Votes AGAINST 29

MOTION FAILED

Current rule, with addition in **bold type**:

5.2, **a** All players on a team should properly wear uniforms that are alike in color and style. Uniforms should include visible numbers, with no two (2) identical numbers on a team.

Add new section as below,

5.2,b Jersey Number- In CSSA tournaments, players jersey numbers shall be consistently the same throughout the tournament, e.g. player Jim Smith shall always be wearing jersey #13 throughout the tournament. Penalty for player not doing so shall be disqualification for the tournament.

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 from Evergreen Parks and Recreation. There are two manager/player rep positions vacant and two nominees, Kent Gorham (Broomfield Bulls) and Ernie Brady (Frontier Club). Harbour recommended that the three nominees be elected by acclamation, and there was no opposition to the recommendation, so Sweet, Gorham and Brady 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:

- Dick Lechman made a suggestion that a committee be formed to try to generate more teams/players, and that he would lead the effort. Discussion was held.

However, there was no strong interest on the suggestion, so no further action is planned at this time.

- Jim Mieras was recognized, and he first gave a "thank-you" to the Board members and Commissioner Harbour for what they do with CSSA. He further commented on the problem with rules, interpretation of rules, etc. Some discussion was held.

9. Next CSSA Board Meeting: Harbour stated that the date (probably in January 2019) 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 Mike Massong and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Minutes recorded by Stan Harbour; 10-19-18

Approved by Board at Jan 25, 2019 Board Meeting