

Sun and Fun Senior Softball League Meeting Agenda

Recreation Plantation 1:00pm

March 8, 2007

The Meeting was Called to Order at 1:03 pm.

Roll Call: All regular members of the executive board were present with the following exceptions: Bob Sny attended as the representative from Royal Highlands and Joe Wilson attended as the representative from Sunlake. All Division Chairmen and Officers were present. League Chairman, Bob Falzone was absent.

The Minutes as Published from the January 16, 2007 Meeting were approved

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported total expenditures of 154.54, and total income of \$60.00 since October 28th, 2006. The league's current balance is 936.21.

Old Business

Attendance at Executive Board Meetings

Dave Sparrow spoke of the necessity for having all communities represented at Executive Board Meeting. If a Park Rep cannot attend, an alternate should attend. Alternates have the right to vote.

All Star Game

Bob McShinsky reported that the event at Holiday Travel was a success.

The most significant suggestion for improvement was to avoid the Daytona 500 Race Weekend.

The Executive Board **voted unanimously** to hold an All Star Game next year.

Water Oak offer to host the games was accepted. Spruce Creek expressed an interest in hosting the event in the future.

Retention of Rosters, Contracts, and Waivers

At the conclusion of the season: All contracts will be returned to the Park Reps. Liability waivers will be retained for the entire league by Vice President Arnie Lumbers.

At the start of next season: the contracts will be given to the appropriate Division Rep for each player. Arnie will retain the waivers, and receive waivers that are signed by new league members.

Good Sportsmanship

Dave Sparrow emphasized the need for good sportsmanship as critical to the continuing success of the league. He advised the Executive Board of the suspension of a Pennbrooke Manager for 1 game as a result of a confrontation that had occurred during and after a game against Spruce Creek.

Rick Fetty, PE, voiced his displeasure on the way that notification of the suspension was handled. He was not notified, and Park Rep should have been the first point of contact. Dave Sparrow apologized for his failure to notify Rick.

Residency Requirement Reminder

The President reminded all Park Reps that players (with the exception of the residents of Sister Communities) must have their residence in the community for which they play. Renters do qualify as participants.

New Business

Suggestion Program

In order to continue the improvement of the league Arnie Lumbers put forth a Suggestion Program, which had been unanimously recommended by the Operations Committee. By roll call vote the program was accepted. The vote was 14-0 with 1 abstention (Plantation). The program which is appended to these minutes will be added to the document section of the website in order to make it available to all league members.

Tournament

Del Webb reported that two teams will not be participating in this year's tournament (Pennbrooke and Recreation Plantation in Division 1). Hosting the Tournament this year are: Del Webb - Division 1; Stonecrest - Division 2; Legacy - Division 3; Pennbrooke - Division 4; Spruce Creek - Division 5. All championship games will be played at Del Webb. Tournament brackets will be posted on the website before the end of the week.

Rule Changes

With one exception, the following were Unanimously Recommended by the Operations Committee at its Feb 26th meeting.

By unanimous roll call vote the first sentence of the Playing Rules was changed.

From: The official rules to be used by this League are the ones laid out specifically for "Senior Slow Pitch" in the current Senior Softball USA Rule Book combined with the following "Playing Rules".

To: "The official rules to be used by this League are the ones laid out specifically for "Senior Slow Pitch" in the 2005-2006 Senior Softball USA Rule Book combined with the following Sun & Fun Playing Rules. When a conflict exists between the two, the Sun & Fun rules take precedence and can only be amended per Article V paragraph A Item #7 or Article VIII paragraph F of the Sun & Fun Constitution and By-Laws.

By unanimous roll call vote Playing Rule 5.1 was changed.

From: "Starting in November 2005, the ASA rules on bats will be in effect."

To: "The official bats used in this League will be those specified on the ASA Approved Bat List at the beginning of each season, which will not be modified during a season."

By unanimous roll call vote Playing Rule 6.4 was added.

When extra innings are required to break a tie, then each team starts each extra inning with a runner at 2nd base. It will always be the last batter in the previous inning that completed his turn at bat, and a courtesy runner cannot replace him until he safely attains 3rd base. If he originally had a courtesy runner from home plate, then that same courtesy runner must start at 2nd base, and like any other courtesy runner, he cannot be replaced.

By unanimous vote Playing Rule 8.0 Pitching was deleted. See SSUSA Rule 11.4c and 11.11

By unanimous vote League Rule 1.2 was amended by adding after the 1st sentence:

Add: "However, the decision to postpone a game, because of inclement weather, should not be made before the morning of the game."

By unanimous vote League Rule 2.8 was changed:

From: "Member Communities with teams in more than one Division may move players up with permission of the Division Representative. The President must also approve moving players down."

To: "Once the Rosters have been approved, then Member Communities with teams in more than one Division may move players up, for the remainder of the season, with permission from the Division Representative. The President must also approve moving players laterally or down, for the remainder of the season."

The following rule change was recommended by a majority of the operations committee.

Add League Rule 2.9

"Once the Rosters have been approved, then Member Communities with teams in more than one Division may move players up, on a temporary basis, with permission from the Division Representative, to the extent that the team shall have no more than 11 players. Except that a 12th player may be moved up if he pitches at least 4 innings during the game."

Primary arguments against were: the spirit of Sun & Fun is that you can play with nine men; smaller communities with one or two teams would be disadvantaged.

By roll call vote the motion was defeated 11-4. Voting in favor: Plantation, Recreation Plantation, Stonecrest and Sunlake.

The following motion was made from the floor by Plantation and seconded by Water Oak.

Add League Rule 2.9

"Once the Rosters have been approved, then Member Communities with teams in more than one Division may move players up, on a temporary basis, with permission from the Division Representative, to the extent that the team shall have no more than 11 players."

The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

By unanimous vote League Rule 3.1 was changed.

From: "It is a home team responsibility to provide one or more umpires for each game. Umpires cannot be on the roster of either team."

To: "It is a home team responsibility to provide the umpires for each game who are not on the roster of either team. The League recommends that at least two umpires be utilized when ever possible."

By unanimous vote League Rule 8.1 was changed by appending:

“It is the responsibility of the visiting team to provide their game report to the home team immediately following the game.”

League Age Requirements

By majority vote the operations committee (at its meeting on 02-26-07) reported the following issue for the consideration by the executive board.

It has been recommended to the OC that the league preclude anyone under the age of 55 from playing. The OC recommends that the current rule (which allows each team to have 2 players between the age of 50 and 55 on their roster) should remain unchanged.

The following motion was made from the floor by Plantation: “Participants in the Sun & Fun League must have reached their 55th birthday before they are eligible to play in league games.” Charlie Johnson seconded the motion.

Mike VanNostrand cited the issue of safety caused by having men under the age of 55 participating on the same field with men over 75. Arguments against included: it would hurt small communities and age is not the only factor in determining levels of skill within a division.

The motion was defeated by a roll call vote of 14-1. Voting in favor: Plantation

Improving Umpiring

There was considerable discussion regarding ways to improve umpiring. It was the consensus (no vote) that the following steps would be beneficial. Holding a pre-season umpiring clinic at one site for all league umpires to be conducted by an experienced umpire from within Sun & Fun. The clinic could include an invitation to all managers. Additional clinics could/should be held during the season for umpires. The clinics could be paid for by a small payment for each participant from each community to cover the cost of refreshments.

President Sparrow asked Charlie Johnson of Continental to consider accepting the responsibility for the program. Charlie asked for some time to consider his decision.

Divisional Realignment

President Sparrow informed the league that he will rely heavily on the input of the Division Chairmen for input on realignment of divisions for next year. The goal will be to place teams an appropriate division where they can be competitive. He welcomed ideas from the Executive Board. Realignment will be proposed for approval at the April 5th meeting.

Other New Business

A motion was made from the floor by Del Webb that the award for divisional championship plaques be increased from \$40 to \$50 per team. Spruce Creek seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 15-0.

Stonecrest requested placement of a new team from their community in Division 5 for next season.

At this time, Continental Country Club will not request the addition of a second team.

Harbor Hills position is still uncertain.

Rumor has it that Summer Glen may have an interest in joining the league.

Mike Van Nostrand (Plantation Park Rep) accused Del Webb Division 1 of using illegal bats, and taking the bats into the dugout between at bats to hide them. Paul Malashevitz, Park Rep from Del Webb, asserted that the bats were not illegal nor tampered with in any way, and that they did not leave the field once the game started. Further, he asserted that they were stored legally on the field in bat warmers. Plantation provided no evidence to support its allegations, and did not make any allegations or lodge a protest during the game.

A suggestion was made that the starting times for games played in January and February be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:21pm.

Next Meeting: April 5th, Water Oak 1:00pm

Appendix A

SUN & FUN SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE SUGGESTION PROGRAM

With a focus on maintaining our stated objective¹, this procedure is intended to enable the membership of the Sun & Fun Senior Softball League to bring forward any new ideas that could benefit the League by making it a more fun, competitive or safe experience.

A member can submit a suggestion for consideration by presenting it to the President². It must be in writing (preferably email) and include the name of the member, contact information, a detailed description of what is being suggested and an explanation of how it would benefit the league. Should the member indicate that he wishes to remain anonymous, the President will respect that request.

The President will either include the suggestion on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Operations Committee³, or return it with an explanation or request for further information.

The Operations Committee will evaluate it and either make a recommendation to the Executive Board⁴, at their next regularly scheduled meeting, or return it to the member with an explanation or request for further information.

After discussion, the Executive Board will be asked to vote. The results of the vote will be published in the Minutes of the meeting and posted on the League website.

Each Community Representative has the responsibility to communicate this process to all League members in his community. It will also be posted on the League website.

(1) Article II of the Constitution and By-Laws:

OBJECTIVE:

The goal of this organization is to provide an opportunity for players living in adult communities to participate in a competitive, fun softball league dedicated to good sportsmanship, exercise and camaraderie with fellow senior athletes.

(2) The President is Dave Sparrow - dpsparrow@wateroak.cc

(3) The Operations Committee is a Standing Committee made up of the 3 elected Officers, plus the 5 Division Representatives and 1 Division Director.

(4) The Executive Board is the Governing Body of the League and is made up of 1 Community Representative from each Member Community.