

Sun and Fun Senior Softball League Meeting Minutes

Plantation 9:00am

October 5, 2007

The Meeting was called to Order at 9:07am

Roll Call

All officers were present, and all communities were represented. Curt Shaffer substituted for Allan Cramer (Clerbrook). Gary Butler represented Hawthorne. Don Barrows substituted for Dave Harrod (Holiday Travel) Bob Sny substituted for Phil Massie (Royal Highlands). Also present were Caesar Perez (Legacy) and Division Director Bob Falzone (Del Webb) who are the new Park Reps from their communities. Present also were Division 1 Chairman Rick Smith, Division 2 Chairman John Martucci and Division 4 Chairman Ron Tucker.

The Minutes from April 5, 2007 Meeting were approved as published.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the League has a balance of \$421.22 and that a financial report is now available on the website. The report was approved.

Old Business

President Sparrow reported that the All Star Games will be played at Water Oak on February 23, 2008.

New Business

Constitutional Revisions: Vice President Lumbers presented a series of clarifications to the constitution. The primary issues addressed were the duties of the Vice President and the Treasurer. After discussion, the proposed changes were approved unanimously.

Rule Changes:

Runners - Playing Rule 4.1 "A runner will be called out for leaving the base, or stepping over the runners line at home plate, before the bat has hit the ball. Should more than one runner leave early, only the lead runner will be called out."

By Roll Call vote, the Executive Board voted unanimously to eliminate PR 4.1.

Consequence: The league will rely on the judgment of umpires in the application of ASA Rule 8 Section 7 Subsection R: "A runner is out (Slow Pitch Only) when the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which he is legally entitled until a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground, or reaches home plate."

Ball - Playing Rule 5.3

5.3. The official ball used in this League will be the 12-Inch, 44 Core, 375 Compression, Optic Yellow, Diamond softball.

5.3.1 For the year 2007-2008, on a one year trial basis: Divisions 1 and 2 shall use the 12 inch, Senior Softball, Slow Pitch, Optic Yellow, .375 compression, 44 core, Baden Lexum ball.

By Roll Call Vote a motion to use the Trump Stote 375 44core ball in all 5 divisions did not obtain the majority needed for passage. Voting in Favor: Clerbrook, Continental, Del Webb, Holiday Travel, Legacy, Sunlake and Water Oak. Voting Against: Hawthorne, Lakes at Leesburg, Pennbrooke, Plantation, Recreation Plantation, Royal Highlands and Stonecrest. Abstaining: Spruce Creek.

A motion was made to modify Rule 5.3.1 to read: "For the year 2007-2008, on a one year trial basis: Divisions 1 and 2 shall use the 12 inch, Senior Softball, Slow Pitch, Optic Yellow, Trump Stote ball: 'Designed for Senior Softball .44 COR 375psi AK-SS-375'".

By Roll Call Vote, the motion passed by a vote of 11-2 -2. Voting against: Stonecrest, Plantation. Abstaining: Spruce Creek and Lakes at Leesburg.

Illegal Bats - Playing Rule 5.5 "If a player is using an illegal bat, both managers will be notified immediately and the player in violation will be ejected from the game. If no one admits ownership, the opposing manager will confiscate the bat, and the manager of the team responsible for the infraction will be held responsible. Both managers must notify the Division Representative within 12 hours. In case of appeal, the Division Representative will notify the Operations Committee, who will convene and decide the appeal within 24 hours. The penalties that will be assessed are:

5.5.1. First offense – Player suspended for 14 games.

- 5.5.2. Second offense – Player and Manager suspended for 28 games.
- 5.5.3. Third offense – Lifetime suspension for player and manager.

By Roll Call Vote a motion to change PR 5.3 was passed by a vote of 10-5. Voting against: Continental, Del Webb, Hawthorne, Legacy and Stonecrest. Rule 5.5.1, 5.5.2, and 5.5.3 shall read as follows:

5.5.1 First offense - Player suspended for 14 games. If the player does not own the bat, the owner shall also be suspended for 14 games. If no one claims ownership, the manager shall be suspended for 14 games.

5.5.2 Second Offense by the Player, Owner or Manager - The Player, the Owner (if other than the player) and the Manager will each be suspended for 28 games. The team shall forfeit the game in which the bat was used.

5.5.3 Third Offense - Lifetime suspension for the Player, the Owner and the Manager.

Motions from the Floor re: Playing Rule 5

The following three motions were made from the floor and approved by Roll Call Votes to be added to PR5.

1. All bats to be used in a game must remain on the bat rack throughout the game whether the bat rack is inside or outside of the dugout. No bats may be used unless it comes from and is returned to the bat rack. The vote was 14-1. Opposed: Continental

2. All bats must bear a label that identifies the owner. If the bat is a team bat, that information must appear. The vote was 15-0.

3. Bat warmers are legal if hung in the area adjacent to the bat rack. The vote was 14-0-1. Abstention: Hawthorne.

Protests - Revision of LR7 By unanimous roll call vote, LR7 was revised to read as follows:

7.1 Only managers or acting managers may consult the umpire over rule interpretations. Protests will not be considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of the umpire. There are three types of protests:

A. Misinterpretation of a playing rule --- must be made before the next pitch or, if on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the playing field.

B. Illegal substitute – must be made while they are in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.

C. Ineligible player – can be made any time during or after the game. Eligibility is the decision of the protest committee.

7.2 The official scorekeeper will make a notation in the scorebook when it is determined that a protest is being filed, with careful attention to all pertinent facts and details.

7.3 Managers from both teams should contact their Division Representative as soon as possible and he will attempt to settle the dispute.

7.4 When the Division Representative is not able to settle the dispute, the manager must file a written appeal, preferably by email, to the Chairman of the Protest Committee.

7.5 There is a \$20 fee for filing a protest. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be waived.

7.6 Should a member of the Protest Committee also be a member of either team involved in a Protest, the Chairman of the Protest Committee will appoint a replacement.

League Rule 14 Division Alignment

14.1 When a Community drops a team, it must be the lowest Division team they have.

14.2 Division 1 teams will receive 1 point for winning the League Championship or ½ point for a tie.

When a team achieves two or more points in consecutive years, they must enter two equal teams in Division I the following year. If the Community has only one team, adjustments will be made.

By a unanimous roll call vote, the Executive Board eliminated LR14.

President's Discussions

1. **Waivers for Umpires:** The EB discussed the advisability of having liability waivers signed by umpires. No action was taken. Item to be placed on the agenda for the October 26th meeting.

2. **Umpiring Clinics** were discussed. As a consequence of medical problems at Royal Highlands, there remains some confusion as to what would be taught, and who would conduct the clinic, which is scheduled to be held on October 24th at 10:00am. The President strongly urged all communities to be represented at the clinic at Stonecrest on October 9th at 2:00pm. Stonecrest has invited all umpires and managers to participate. No refreshments will be served. No fee charged. The clinic will be run by JB Barner. Contact Joe Safreed.

3. **SSUSA 2007 Rule Book.** Enough copies were available to provide one to each member community at a cost of \$7.00

4. **Rostering Issues:** The President spoke about the necessity of each community being responsible for making sure that players are placed on rosters in appropriate divisions. Royal Highlands inquired whether lateral moves within a division are acceptable. The President responded that players cannot be placed on more than one roster, and that lateral moves are not acceptable in order to avoid "unfairly loading" a team.

5. **Jewelry** The President discussed the use of extreme caution in the wearing of jewelry during games. Wedding rings were included in the discussion.

6. **Flares and Cones:** The President reported that a new rule in the SSUSA 2007 Rule Book makes flares and cones on bat handles legal if they are "manufactured". Neoprene caps remain illegal.

Sister Communities

Prior to the Discussion of Sister Communities, the President announced that Recreation Plantation will only field one team this fall and has withdrawn its request for a "Sister". RP requested placement of its team in Division 3.

The President also reported that Summer Glen is still interested in joining the league. No Summer Glen representative was present at the meeting.

The President reported that Sunlake has withdrawn its request for a sister. In order to be able to field 2 teams, Sunlake has requested movement of its Division 2 team to Division 3 for the fall season. The following communities requested help in filling their rosters.

1. **Clerbrook** requested permission to place non-resident players Mike Donovan and Brad Floor (both of Highland Lakes) on their roster for the fall season. By a Roll Call Vote of 14-1, permission was granted. Opposed: Plantation.

2. **Lakes at Leesburg** requested permission to place non-resident players Carl Perry and Dave Boram (both of Fox Run) on their roster for the fall season. By a Roll Call Vote of 15-0, permission was granted.

3. **Water Oak** requested permission to add two non-resident players from Blue Parrot to their roster. Burt Belanger will be used in Division 3, and Bob Ramsey will be used in Division 5. By a Roll Call Vote of 15-0, permission was granted.

4. **Legacy** indicated that it will need assistance to complete its roster, and was granted permission to present its application for non-resident players at the October 26th meeting.

Divisional Alignment

Following the requests granted above, a motion was made from the floor by Plantation and seconded by Stonecrest that "The league shall consist of 5 divisions. Each division shall have 8 teams. Assignment to divisions will be based on placing the 'best' teams in the highest divisions until each division is filled".

Following lengthy discussion, the Executive Board rejected the motion by a Roll Call Vote of 9 - 6. Voting in favor: Hawthorne, Legacy, Plantation, Spruce Creek, Stonecrest, Water Oak
Voting against: Clerbrook, Continental, Del Webb, Holiday Travel, Lakes at Leesburg, Pennbrooke, Recreation Plantation, Royal Highlands, Sunlake.

After more discussion, the following motion (by Royal Highlands, seconded by Lakes at Leesburg) was made: "The Executive Board requests and grants full authority to the President to make a final determination of the Divisional Alignment as quickly as is practical after the President has had the time to assess the current situation." The motion was passed by a vote of 14-1. Voting against: Plantation.

The President indicated that he would comply as quickly as possible.

Election of League Officers for 2007-2008

John Martucci reported that only Dave Sparrow had indicated a desire to serve as President. Nominations were requested from the floor. None were offered. Dave Sparrow was elected unanimously.

John Martucci reported that Bob Cofone had withdrawn his name from consideration. Only Arnie Lumbers indicated a desire to serve as Vice President. Nominations were requested from the floor. None were offered. Arnie Lumbers was elected unanimously.

John Martucci reported that only Paul Malashevitz had indicated a desire to serve as Secretary / Treasurer. Nominations were requested from the floor. None were offered. Paul Malashevitz was elected unanimously.

October 26th Meeting will be held at Spruce Creek at 12:00pm

Arnie Lumbers distributed a handout (Appendix A) describing the documents that will be required at the Oct 26th Meeting.

Paul Malashevitz distributed a sheet (Appendix B) detailing the information necessary for the league "Contact Sheet", and a reminder that dues (\$15) per team are required to be paid at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
pm
10-06-07

Appendix A

Community Representatives:

Here is a list of documents that your Team Managers will need to bring to our League Meeting at Spruce Creek on October 26th at 12:00 noon. The forms are available on our website at www.ssoftball.org. I suggest that they write the name of the recipient on the top right hand corner of each document, to avoid some of the confusion in handing them out at the meeting.

Player Contracts – One copy from each member of their team, to be given to their respective Division Representative. It is recommended that the Manager also keep a copy for backup. Since the player must copy his driver's license onto the form, it works better when a color copier is used. Otherwise, it usually will not be legible. If done properly, these contracts can be used year after year for as long as the player continues to play in the League. At the end of each season, the Division Representative will return the contracts to the Community Representative for distribution back to the Managers so that they can be used again the following year.

Waivers – One copy from each member of their team, to be given to the Vice President. It is recommended that the Community Representative also keep a copy for backup. The waiver will stay on file for as long as the player is a member of the League. If the player already has a waiver on file with the League, it is not necessary to do it again. Prior to this meeting the Vice President will provide each Community Representative an alphabetical listing of all waivers currently on file for his community. If a player's name is not on the list, it could mean that it was either not legible, on the wrong form, gone missing, or the player is new to the League. In these cases it will be necessary to provide a new one to the Vice President.

Note 1: No waivers are currently on file for any Division-2 team.

Note 2: All of the LE players and most of HT used the wrong form, as did one player from both CCC and PE.

Note 3: In Division-5, most of SC and a few from some other teams are not legible.

Rosters – Division-1 = 9 copies, Division-2, 4 & 5 = 11 copies and Division-3 = 13 copies. Which equates to one for each Manager in their Division, one for their Division Representative, one for the Vice President, one for our Website Administrator and another one for his Assistant.

Appendix B

To All Park Reps:

Contact List

In order for me to be able to help you keep in touch with each other, I am planning to do a complete revision of the contact sheet for the 2007-2008 season.

With your cooperation, I should be able to provide you with a valid list on October 26th. Please send the following information from your community to me promptly.

For every Park Rep, Manager and Assistant Manager:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Home phone
4. Street address
5. Cell phone (optional)
6. Name of team sponsor

You can email the information to either:

info@sfSoftball.org or papama@lightningspeed.net

Team Dues

Team dues are expected to be paid at the October 26th meeting.

The cost for each team is \$15.

You may pay by cash or check. If you choose to pay by check, please make it payable to Paul Malashevitz. Since the league does not have its own checking account, do not make it payable to Sun & Fun. Receipts will be provided.

Website

A set of guidelines for game reporting will be provided to each manager at the October 26th meeting.

pm

10-05-07