

Sun and Fun Senior Softball League Meeting Minutes

Del Webb 9:00am

October 31, 2008

The Meeting was called to Order at 9:07am

Roll Call: All Members of the Operating Committee were present. All communities were represented by their Park Reps. New Park Reps for 2008-2009: John West (Spruce Creek), John Graffeo (Legacy) and John Betts (Water Oak)

The Minutes from the Meeting held on October 7, 2008 were approved as published without correction.

The Treasurer's report was approved as published with a current balance of \$627.96. The league has no outstanding debts.

Dues for the 2008-2009 Season were collected from all communities prior to the beginning of the meeting. All communities have paid for their teams. This income totaled \$540 and is not included in the balance given in the Treasurer's Report.

President's Comments

Dave expressed the league's gratitude to Pam and Paul Malashevitz for their work on the website. A motion was made from the floor by John West (Spruce Creek) that the league give a gift of \$100 to help defray the cost of maintaining the website. The motion was seconded by Jim Spaulding (Lakes at Leesburg) and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Requests for Non-Resident Players

Lakes at Leesburg requested the addition of Don Smith to augment their current roster of 11 men.

Sunlake requested the use of an additional player from Harbor Hills since Bob Burns who was approved at the October 7th meeting will not be playing with them this year.

Both requests were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rules

Home Plate Reminder

1. Put outs at home plate can be achieved by touching any portion of the strike mat.
2. SSUSA has defined home plate as 19x34½ inches and communities should try to achieve those measurements. The league recognizes and accepts the fact that due to the expense not all communities will be able to comply. Teams are expected to accept the plate and mat of the home teams.

Rescheduling of Games Reminder (League Rule 1)

1. Dave discussed the fact that games should be postponed only for inclement weather.
2. Games should not be postponed due to lack of players.
3. Whether the weather is too cold, or the field is unplayable due to precipitation is a determination to be made by the home team. Failure of the visiting team to appear for a game is a forfeit.
4. In the event of inclement weather games will be automatically postponed to the next available make-up date.

Bats (Playing Rule 5)

Following the presentation of a Mizuno Original Techfire Orange Crush and a lively discussion about its legality, Phil Massie (Royal Highlands) made the moved that Playing Rule 5.1 be changed to include the following clarifying points:

- a. Legal bats for the 2008-2009 season must be listed by ASA on its approved bat list as published on July 3, 2008.
- b. Any bat listed on the ASA non-approved bat list published on July 3, 2008 is illegal and cannot be used in league games.
- c. If a bat does not appear on either the ASA approved bat list or the ASA non-approved bat list as published on July 3, 2008, it is illegal and cannot be used in league games.
- d. The list will not be modified during the season.

The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Legal Bat Responsibility

Dave reminded the managers that it was their responsibility (not the umpires) to police the bats that their team uses, and that all bats must bear a legible ownership label.

The Spirit of the Game

Dave discussed the evolution of the league that is in part driven by the league's decisions about legal bats and balls. He asked all present to remember that we are engaged in an endeavor which does not measure success by the simple yardstick of wins and losses.

In particular, while the league requires standardization of attire for play tolerance must be shown for those communities who use players from lower divisions when they are shorthanded. Players being called up to play on a temporary basis may use the sponsor's uniforms that they wear in their own divisions.

Dave also discussed the need for players to recognize that umpires, like the players themselves, do make errors. He urged all to be supportive of our umpires and treat them with respect. The outcome of games is more frequently determined by player errors than by an erroneous call. A survey of the communities was taken to determine how many of their umpires attended JB Barner's clinics during the summer. (Clerbrook 0, Continental 3, Del Webb 9, Hawthorne 3, Holiday Travel 1, Lakes at Leesburg 0, Legacy 2, Pennbrooke 0, Plantation 12, Royal Highlands 0, Spruce Creek 0, Stonecrest 6 SummerGlen 3, Sunlake 3 and Water Oak 3.)

Division Chairmen

Dave introduced the Division Chairmen for this season . . . Rick Smith (Stonecrest - Div 1), Jim Milligan (Sunlake - Div 2), Richard Bohn (Spruce Creek - Div 3), Jim Spaulding (Lakes at Leesburg - Div 4) and Bill Gardiner (Water Oak - Div 5).

The Executive Board Meeting was recessed at 9:42 to allow time for the Divisional Breakout Meetings.

Divisional Breakout Meetings

Exchange of rosters.

Presentation of waivers and contracts.

Receipt of reporting guidelines for the website.

The Executive Board resumed its meeting at 10:03am.

Questions and Answers about Rules.

The following issues were raised following the divisional breakout meetings.

Leaving the Base Early

It was affirmed that umpires shall call an out if a base runner leaves the base to which he is entitled before the ball is struck, reaches home plate or hits the ground. The call shall be a judgment call and is not to be based on a fixed number of steps that the player takes if he leaves the base.

Cover Placed on Knobs of Bats

For safety reasons the common cover which loosely fits on the knob of a bat is illegal. Cones that are on the handle (abutting the knob) are legal.

Home Runs

The issue of whether the league accepts the SSUSA "hit and sit" rule for home runs was raised.

By unanimous opinion, the league decided to continue its historical practice of batters "circling the bases" on home runs thereby clearly rejecting the "hit and sit" rule.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19am.

Respectfully submitted,

pm

Secretary/Treasurer

11-01-2008