

Sun and Fun Senior Softball League Meeting Minutes

Water Oak 3:00pm

March 6, 2009

Call to Order Dave Sparrow called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.

Roll Call All communities present. All Officers present. Division Reps present except for Division 1.
See Appendix 1

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on October 31, 2008.

The minutes (as published) were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Paul reported all transactions since January 1st and that our balance is 962.96. The Treasurer's report was accepted with no questions. (Reminder: the Treasurer's Report is available on the website).

Website Report

Paul thanked all of the Park Reps for the excellent manner in which game reports have been handled this season. Since the website began counting in July of 2005, there have been over 55,000 visits (only one visit per person per day is recorded).

President's Comments

1. All Star Game Participation Report
 - a. Dave complimented and thanked Spruce Creek for hosting the 3rd annual games.
 - b. All teams from all divisions except Stonecrest Division 1 participated.
 - c. Donn Huntington reported that the reason that ST D1 did not participate was that their best players were not available. . . .not as a protest to the balls and bats used by the league.
 - d. The President restated the purpose of the games, indicated that refusing to participate is not appropriate, and encouraged all teams to send players.
2. Postponements and Rescheduling
 - a. Managers were reminded that games postponed by inclement weather are automatically scheduled for the next available date.
 - b. The schedule is official when it appears on the website.
 - c. Games should not be postponed prior to game day.
3. Managers and Rule Changes
 - a. Managers were reminded that they cannot change rules by agreement with each other.
 - b. Managers should never ask their counterparts for exceptions or changes to any rule.

Old Business

All Star Game

- o Park Rep John West reported that Spruce Creek was pleased with the experience of hosting the All Star Games; the spirit of the players was wonderful; that those players who participated seemed to enjoy the camaraderie; and that the Concession Stand had a good day.
- o The following communities expressed an interest in hosting the 2010 All Star Games: Continental, Pennbrooke, Legacy, Royal Highlands, Hawthorne and SummerGlen. At its next meeting the Operating Committee will explore how the site should be chosen.

Umpiring and Rules (See Appendix 2)

- o Concern was expressed over the lack of uniformity in the league's umpiring. The concern was in two areas: inconsistent training and incorrect application of the rules.
- o Dave indicated that it might be necessary to have mandatory attendance for all league umpires at a single clinic before the season begins, and that the Operating Committee would consider the issue.

- o The following rules were identified as being inconsistently and/or inaccurately applied this season.
 - a. Foul Tip
 - b. Leaving the Base
 - c. Extra Innings
 - d. Blood Rule
 - e. Postponements and ReScheduling
 - f. Use of Subs (the 11th player rule)
 - g. Bats

New Business

Tournament

Park Rep Ron Pike (Del Webb) reported on the preparations for the tournament

- o Monday to Wednesday Host Sites are: D1 - Water Oak; D2 - Spruce Creek; D3 - Del Webb; D4 - Pennbrooke; D5 - Holiday Travel. Championships at DW on Thursday.
- o Two teams will not participate: D1 Pennbrooke and D5 Spruce Creek due to lack of players.
- o All entry fees have been received.
- o Programs have been scaled back for economic reasons

Dave asked all Park Reps to remind their managers to encourage their players to support the concession stands at the host sites.

Summer League

The following communities expressed preliminary interest in the 2009 Summer League with the understanding that no more than five D1 players may be in the lineup at any time:

Continental-Pennbrooke (1 combined team); Del Webb (1 or 2 teams); Hawthorne (hopefully 1); Legacy (1 team); Plantation (1 team); Spruce Creek (1 team); Stonecrest (1 or 2 teams); SummerGlen (hopefully 1); Water Oak (1 team)

Next EB Meeting at Continental Country Club at 1:00pm on Tuesday, March 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

pm
Secretary/Treasurer

Community Representatives in Attendance

Clerbrook - Curt Shaffer
Continental - Gene Underwood
Del Webb - Ron Pike
Hawthorne - Gary Butler
Holiday Travel - Dave Harrod
Lakes at Leesburg - Jim Spaulding
Legacy - Andy Lucchini for John Graffeo
Pennbrooke - Rick Fetty
Plantation - Mike VanNostrand
Royal Highlands - Larry Reinker
Spruce Creek - John West
Stonecrest - Don Huntington
Summer Glen - Hal Dod
Sunlake - Jim Milligan
Water Oak - John Betts

Officers & Division Reps

Dave Sparrow, President
John Martucci, Vice President
Paul Malashevitz, Sec-Treas.

Division Representatives

D1 - Rick Smith (absent)
D2 - Jim Milligan
D3 - Richard Bohn
D4 - Jim Spaulding
D5 - Bill Gardiner

Sun & Fun Rules Clarifications

If a rule is documented in the Sun & Fun League or Playing rules, it prevails BUT if the Sun & Fun rules are silent, the SSUSA rules applies for playing rules and the ASA rules applies for bats. If SSUSA is silent on a playing rule, the ASA rule applies.

It is the responsibility of the Sun & Fun Park Rep to insure that these umpires receive training and information on Sun & Fun rules.

Areas in which Sun & Fun Rules have not been appropriately understood/applied this season.

Foul Tip

From SSUSA Rules: Section 7 (Playing Rules)

1.28 FOUL TIP [not an out]

A batted ball which goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head, to the catcher's hand(s) or glove and is legally caught by the catcher. NOTE: Any batted ball that goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head to any part of the catcher's body or equipment other than the hand(s) or glove is a foul ball and dead.

From the Sun & Fun Meeting on March 7, 2008

Foul Ball Rule Clarifications: A fly ball caught in foul territory (Rule 6.27D) with less than 2 outs with runners on base is not a dead ball. The ball remains alive and runners on base may advance at the risk of being put out.

*** A foul tip is not a foul ball unless the ball rises to a height above the batter's head** (this is in addition to Rule 6.28, and is different from the ASA rule for the same fact pattern.)

Leaving the Base

Sun & Fun Playing Rule 4.1: A running start to the runners line at home plate is not allowed. The burden will be on the umpires to enforce the ASA Rule 8 Section 7 Subsection R rule which states that **a runner is out if he leaves the base to which he is legally entitled before the ball either hits the ground, reaches the plate or is struck by the bat.**

ASA Rule 8.7.R: A runner is out when the runner fails to keep contact with the base or runner's line until a pitch is batted, touches the ground, or reaches home plate.

Please note S&F does not use any definition that refers to a "relaxed step or steps".

Extra Innings

Sun & Fun Playing Rule 6.4: 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.

Blood Rule

From SSUSA Playing Rule 4.9: A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

- A. Stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
- B. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary.
- C. Returning to game (See 4.4(4)).

4.4 SHORT-HANDED RULE

This rule may be used with the following requirements:

1. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed in 9.3(1) and (2) above, that team may continue a game with one less player than it started with, whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. NOTE: Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to bat less than nine (or ten 70+, 75+ and 80+). A forfeit will be recorded.
2. If the player leaving the game is a runner, he shall be declared out.
3. When the player who has left the game because of an ejection is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat.
4. The player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup. EXCEPTION: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return even after missing a turn at bat.

Make-Up Games

League Rule 1.2

Makeup games caused by inclement weather will automatically be rescheduled for the next available open date. However, the decision to postpone a game, because of inclement weather, should not be made before the morning of the game. Exceptions need approval of the Division Representative. All games will be made up before the end of the season unless otherwise approved by the President. Regular scheduled games will have priority over make up games for starting times.

League Rule 1.4

Rescheduled games are officially scheduled after they appear on the web site.

Players Temporarily Called Up from Lower Division

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**.

Bats

From the minutes of the October 7, 2008 Sun & Fun League Meeting Minutes

Phil Massie discussed ASA's current intent to require re-certification of all bats as of January 1, 2009. A copy of the ASA Banned bat list (July 3, 2008) was distributed to all Park Reps.

A motion from the floor was made by Stonecrest to abandon the use of the ASA Standards by the S&F League for the coming season and allow the use of the Miken Freak. The motion was seconded by Plantation. Following debate: the motion was defeated by a roll call vote of 12-3. Voting in favor: Plantation, Stonecrest and SummerGlen. The remaining 12 community reps voted against the motion.

A motion was made from the floor by Royal Highlands that we accept the ASA's Banned Bat List dated July 3, 2008 as published on the ASA website for the 2008-2009 season. The motion was seconded by Pennbrooke. The motion was passed by voice vote.

To be placed on OC Agenda and for Decision at March 31st EB Meeting

Sun & Fun Playing Rule 5.1: 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.

5.1.1 Legal bats for the 2008-2009 season must be listed by the ASA on its approved bat list as published on 7/3/08

5.1.2 Any bat listed on the ASA non-approved bat list published on July 3, 2008 is illegal and cannot be used in league games.

5.1.3 **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.