

Sun and Fun Senior Softball League Meeting Minutes

Water Oak 3:30pm

March 2, 2010

Call to Order Dave Sparrow called the meeting to order at 3:34pm.

Roll Call Present: All Officers. Three Division Reps. All Communities. See Appendix 1

Approval of Minutes The Secretary asked if there were any corrections, additions or changes to the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on October 27, 2009 as published on the website. There were none.

Treasurer's Report

Paul reported income there has been no income since the January 1, 2010. The only expense has been \$30 for balls for the All Star Games. The current balance is: \$973.01. (Reminder: the Treasurer's Report is available on the website).

Mike VanNostrand moved acceptance of the Minutes of the Meeting held on October 27, 2009 as published, and of the Treasurer's Report. Jim Milligan seconded the motion. The both reports were accepted without objection.

President's Comments

o **The Winter Weather**

Dave complemented all of the communities for their efforts to make-up the many postponements that we have had this season, and noted that the League will understand if today's postponements cannot be made up before the end of the season. He encouraged all communities to make up as many games as possible.

o **The Role of the Executive Board**

Dave noted that the three officers exist to serve the league, and the League is, in fact, the Executive Board which is composed of the 15 Park Reps. The officers are employees who are elected by the EB to execute the rules of the league.

Dave reminded the Reps that they are representatives of the whole league, not just the division(s) that they represent. We are by our own definition (Article 3 Section D of our Constitution) a league of communities, not of teams.

He urged all to take their responsibility seriously when considering their vote on issues that will be presented to them for a decision.

OLD BUSINESS

All Star Game

Dave thanked Larry Reinker (Royal Highlands) for the excellent job that they did hosting the 2010 All Star Games. Larry thanked the league for the opportunity and expressed satisfaction with the event.

Hawthorne was reminded that they have the right of first refusal for the 2011 Games. Gary Butler indicated that Hawthorne intends to host the games, and will seek guidance from previous hosts.

Dave reported that Legacy and Pennbrooke are next in line to host the All Star Games (Appendix 2).

Year End Tournament

Dan Bird (Del Webb) reported that plans are moving along smoothly for the tournament. One team (Water Oak, Division 4) will not participate, and he is yet to hear from Bob Bistor (Holiday Travel Division 5). Dan asked Dave Harrod (HT Park Rep) to speak to Mgr. Bistor to be certain that he has all of the information that he needs to meet the March 5th deadline.

Water Oak (Division 2) Request to Add Players

Dave Sparrow reported that in accordance with his authority, he had made a decision to allow WO to add former Division 1 players (Mike Eschbach and Ron Kullman) on February 21 on a temporary basis. Dave explained that he had done so to prevent the team from folding, and that the decision to allow them to play was being presented to the EB for consideration. Dave advised that if no motion was presented by a member of the EB, his ruling would expire and Eschbach and Kullman would be removed from the roster.

The EB raised the following primary issues:

- Water Oak had voluntarily placed these men on the “will not play” list for 2009-2010.
- Having done so, they should keep their word.
- No help is available from the current WO rosters: Without them WO Division 2 has only 9 player. WO Division 3 is not in a position to help having only 11½ players. WO Division 4 has 12 players who are playing on the appropriate WO team.

Following lengthy discussion, Jim Spaulding (LL) moved that “Mike Eschbach and Ron Kullman be permitted to play for the WO D2 team for the remainder of the season.” Gary Butler of Hawthorne seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a roll call vote of 13-2.

Plantation and Del Webb cast the negative votes.

NEW BUSINESS

SSUSA Rule Changes for 2010

The Secretary reported on rule changes that might impact the league this fall. The EB was asked to consider them before the March 30th meeting. At this time, the changes were presented for information only. See Appendix 3 for the changes.

League Head of Umpires

Dave expressed appreciation for the work that JB Barner has done running clinics for our umpires. In order to better standardize the implementation of our rules in all of our communities, Dave asked the EB to consider the possibility of appointing a Head Umpire who would visit each community to meet with the umpires and help them understand the S&F Rules.

Dave asked the Reps to consider who, what, how and whether this is a course worth pursuing.

The Park Reps should be prepared for discussion on March 30th.

Summer League

The Park Reps were asked to come to the Meeting on the 30th prepared to inform the league how many teams that will be participating in summer play.

2010-2011 League Schedule Make-Up Dates

The Park Reps were asked to come to the Meeting on the 30th prepared to discuss the pros and cons of including make-up dates in the schedule next season.

20th Anniversary Celebration

The League began Play on January 7, 1992 with six teams. In the spring of 2011, we will complete our 20th season of play. A committee will be formed at the next EB Meeting. Dave asked Mike Dineen (Continental) to speak with Bob McShinsky who has indicated that he would be willing to help formulate an appropriate event to commemorate 20 years of play.

Website Backup

Dave asked the Park Reps to seek members of their clubs who might be willing to learn the website operation. The league is vulnerable to a communication breakdown without adequate backup.

The EB recessed for 10 minutes at 4:23pm

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Illegal Bat

Rich Gyger (Stonecrest) alleged that an illegal bat was being used by a player at Pennbrooke.

The EB discussed:

- that the league does not have the equipment to adequately test bats.
- that our league rules state: “Each Manager is responsible for policing the bats on his own team”.
- that all Freak 98s manufactured by Miken have a serial number that is on the barrel of the bat.

Following discussion, Mike VanNostrand (Plantation) moved “Unless there is a readable serial number visible on the barrel of the bat, the following bat is illegal: the Miken Freak 98”. The motion was seconded by Rich Gyger. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. Les Moore (Pennbrooke) told the EB that he will speak to the owner of the bat in question.

Discussion – Permitting Use of “Hot” Balls and Bats

Vice President Hal Dod presented a proposition that Division 1 be permitted to use the Miken Ultra II Legacy and the Miken Ultra II Maxload, and the Trump Stote ball if chosen by the home team. He restated his position from the Operating Committee meeting that the purpose was to provide more Home Runs. Further he added that it would help reduce the use of illegal bats.

Members of the EB provided the following reasons in support of the proposition:

- o the cost of the bats are under \$200
- o players who have left the league might return
- o the games would be more exciting for the fans
- o players that once hit more than 20 HRs per season and now hit 5-10, would be able to hit HRs as they did in the past.

Members of the EB provided the following reasons in opposition to the proposition:

- o high scores and home runs do not make a good game
- o the importance of defense will again disappear from our league
- o why encourage the need to spend more money on bats to be competitive
- o safety issues concerning the speed of the ball off of the bat
- o some teams and/or players might leave the league
- o most league fields are less that 250 feet . . . too small to contain the number of HRs
- o with more runs, we will return to games that exceed 90 minutes.

Other points raised during the discussion:

- o Division 5 needs the bat not Division 1
- o Use of both the bats and the Stote would destroy the game. The Diamond Flyer currently in use should be used to control the bats.
- o Home teams should not be allowed to define which ball to use. The same ball should be used in all parks.
- o Changes in league rules regarding bats should be applied to all divisions. Changes should not be made to please a select group of players in D1.

Dave Sparrow ended the discussion. The issue will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Dave indicated that the last time the issue of “hot” balls and bats was decided, that he had cast the tie breaking vote and that he expected the EB to make the decision this time.

(Secretary’s note: As reflected in the league’s minutes, exceptions to the use of the ASA Approved Bat List and the use of the Trump Stote were rejected in 2008. See Minutes from April 1 and October 7, 2008 for discussion.)

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

pm
Secretary/Treasurer

Appendix 1

Community Representatives in Attendance

Clerbrook - Curt Shaffer
Continental - Mike Dineen
Del Webb - Dan Bird
Hawthorne - Gary Butler
Holiday Travel - Dave Harrod
Lakes at Leesburg - Jim Spaulding
Legacy - John Graffeo
Pennbrooke - Les Moore
Plantation - Mike VanNostrand
Royal Highlands - Larry Reinker
Spruce Creek - John West
Stonecrest - Rich Gyger
Summer Glen - Al Cleveland
Sunlake - Jim Milligan
Water Oak – Bob Holbert for John Betts

Officers & Division Reps

Dave Sparrow, President
Hal Dod, Vice President
Paul Malashevitz, Sec-Treas.

Division Representatives

D1 - Rick Smith
D2 - Jim Milligan
D3 - **ABSENT** - Paul Carfagna
D4 - Jim Spaulding
D5 – **ABSENT** - Mark Skigen

Appendix 2

All Star Game Rotating Schedule

1. Holiday Travel 2007
2. Water Oak 2008
3. Spruce Creek 2009
4. Royal Highlands 2010
5. Hawthorne 2011
6. Legacy
7. Pennbrooke
8. Stonecrest
9. Continental
10. SummerGlen
11. Del Webb
12. Clerbrook
13. Sunlake
14. Lakes at Leesburg
15. Plantation

1.5 BATTER'S BOX

The batter's box is the 3-foot by 7-foot area to which the batter is restricted. The lines are considered as being within the batter's box. **Prior to the pitch, he may touch the lines.**

(Secretary's Note: This is a clarification, not a rule change. If the EB does not act, this revision of the rule will be in effect for the league).

6.17 PITCHER'S MANDATED MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Pitchers shall wear minimum protective safety equipment while pitching, comprised of suitable head gear and shin guards.

Pitchers may elect to not wear the mandated safety equipment by signing the back of the Official Game Card over their position in the lineup, for each game they pitch under such an election. By that signature, the Pitcher acknowledges and affirms:

6.17 (1) Release (Injury to Player)

By electing not to wear the mandated safety equipment, the Pitcher waives any and all claims, individually, and by his or her heirs, and holds harmless Senior Softball World Championships, Inc., its Board of Directors, Senior Softball USA, LLC, any municipal or park facility employees, their agents or employees and Tournament Directors and sponsors from and against any and all loss liability, charges and expenses (including attorney's fees) and caused of action of whatever character which may arise for injury that may have been reasonably prevented by the mandated safety equipment during participation in SSWCI events;

6.17 (2) Player Responsibility for Procuring Insurance

The Pitcher is fully aware that SSWCI and SSUSA do not carry, or provide, any medical insurance for any participants and that all players are solely responsible for procuring their own insurance;

6.17 (3) Assumption of Inherent Risk

The Pitcher recognizes that he or she assume all risks involved arising from participation in this Tournament as a pitcher electing not to wear the mandated safety equipment, and knowingly undertakes the inherent risks of the sport; and 6.17 (4) Softball Skills The Pitcher is familiar with the skills required to participate as a Pitcher in an event sponsored by SSWCI and SSUSA (including batting, fielding, running and throwing) and has satisfied himself or herself that they are proficient in these skills.

(Secretary's Note: This is new. If the EB does not act, this revision of the rule might be in effect for the league. All SSUSA rules are aimed at tournament play, yet we use them for league play. This rule should be discussed and a decision might be necessary).

6.18 INTENTIONALLY HITTING UP THE MIDDLE AT THE PITCHER

Any batted ball intentionally hit up the middle at the pitcher, regardless of whether or not striking the Pitcher, shall result in a dead ball out. The batter will be ejected from the game and may be subject to an additional penalty in the form of a suspension. The determination of "intentional" is a judgment call by the umpire; is not subject to appeal and shall not be presumptive merely in the case of a batted ball striking the pitcher.

EFFECT: The determination of intent will be based upon the totality of the facts and circumstances present during the game, including previous statements and actions by Players, Managers and others prior to the incident which results in the umpire's judgment of intent or lack thereof.

(Secretary's Note: This is new. If the EB does not act, this revision of the rule might be in effect for the league.)