

Middlesex County 50+ Softball League Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022
Time: 9:00 am to 10:40 am
Location: 1222 Green Street Iselin, NJ

ATTENDANCE

All team managers/representatives were present. Attendance sheet signed by all present

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-The **Treasurer's** Report and financial overview was given by Ed Mullen. Each attendee was given a statement sheet of the league's financial status and recommended that league fees currently remain static for 2023.

-The **Chairman** recapped the 2022 season and congratulated the league champions. He requested that all team representative review and update the official contact list to ensure all league communications reach the correct team representatives. The official contact list is posted on the league webpage. He informed all team representatives that there are several social media groups on FB that can be used to inquire about players looking for teams to play softball for the upcoming season. As requested from the head of the umpires, he reminded all in attendance that during games of play, only the team manager or his designated representative are permitted to discuss any issue that may arrive during play.

-The **Field Coordinator** report was given and indicated that there were little difficulties throughout the 2022 season with regard to field assignments. It was pointed out the field availability becomes restricted toward the end of the playing season due to the advent of the various fall sport leagues that begin in conjunction with continued league play.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations for League Board Members were announced for 2023. There were no nominations put forth.

OLD BUSINESS

Rabbit Rule- The rabbit rule was again, addressed with no vote put forth. It was determined to delay voting until the divisional alignment was confirmed. There was discussion that would limit the 'rabbit runner' to the runner who made the last out from the previous inning. There was also discussion to

limit each team to just two players that can have designated rabbit runners per game. These players would have to be identified prior to the start of the game.

Strike Zone Plate – It was voted upon that all strike zone plates be wood, vice rubber.

NEW BUSINESS

Divisional Alignment – The league will attempt to re-align to two divisions for 2023. An ‘A’ division and ‘B’ division. The tentative alignment would be as follows:

<u>A Division</u>	<u>B Division</u>
Alex Brown	Manasquan Bank
Phoenix Tube	Loud Communication
Vintage Bombers	Highwaymen
Provident Bank	Dyntek
That's-A-Buy	Drifters
Team Name TBD	Lionsgate

Some of the above team names may change due to sponsor changes. It was decided to revisit and finalize divisional alignment at the next league meeting when team composition and sponsor confirmation has been made.

Divisional Play - There was discussion on inter-division play and if two ‘Bumper’ games should be put into the schedule to allow games between ‘A’ and ‘B’ division teams. No decision was made but there was sufficient interest in creating a playing schedule that would allow some inter divisional competition.

Post season Playoff Format – A question was raised on how to conduct the playoffs. Several proposals were put forward:

- Two division playoff with the top two seeds receiving first round byes.
- Based on division standings, divide the playoffs into three divisions so that no bye’s weeks were required.

No decision was made. This issue will be address when there is confirmation on the number of teams comprising the league.

Season Duration – It was agreed and voted upon to expedite the season by the following schedule changes:

- The league will not suspend league play for the Mid-Season State Tournament

-With the 4th of July falling in mid-week for 2023, there will be no suspension of play to support this holiday.

-The league will begin play earlier in April. An official start date will be determined at a future league meeting.

Recognition for League Champions – It was agreed to recognize league champions. Individual plaques and shirts were discussed as potential recognition. It was also agreed to increase the league fees, if necessary, to accommodate recognition.

RULES DISCUSSION

Mercy Rule – The vote to maintain the current mercy rule as an option for the managers to decide passed.

Flip-Flop Rule – The vote to maintain the flip flop rule as an option for the managers to decide passed.

Catch-Up Rule – The vote to keep the catch-up rule as is, without change, passed.

Home Run Rule – No vote was taken but there was discussion on the current home run rule and there was agreement to keep it as written in the rules. If both teams were tied in the homeruns entering the last inning of play, the home team can hit a homerun in the final inning to go 1 homerun up on the visiting team.

The next league meeting was tentatively scheduled the first Saturday after the Super Bowl, based on manager availability.