

# Middlesex County 50+ Softball League Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023  
Time: 9:00 am to 9:50am  
Location: 1222 Green Street Iselin, NJ

## PRESENT

All team managers/representatives were present, less one team (Provident Bank) Attendance sheet was signed by all present. There were 12 voting members in attendance.

## 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. Since the last meeting, fees for the league webpage were paid. Three teams have outstanding league fees due and they were identified. Due to the balance remaining in the league account, there would be no adjustment to league fees this year.

-The **Field Coordinator** report was given by Kevin Wertz and the main fields to be used by the league for the 2023 season will be:

- Warren Park (2),
- Phillips Park (1)
- Raritan Waterfront Park in South Amboy (2).

The possibility of utilizing Municipal Field in Edison will remain a viable alternative field in the event special events preclude the use of any of the five primary fields.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Softball Purchases.** The softballs for the coming season were purchased, delivered and distributed to the team managers. Excess softballs were also distributed evenly to all team managers. Despite the efforts of the League President, there was no interest by the other local leagues in the area to combine purchasing of softballs to reduce purchase expenses.

**Rabbit Rule.** The Rabbit Rule was passed by vote during the Feb 2023 meeting. The following verbiage was discussed and adopted by unanimous vote at the previous league meeting. The actual verbiage is below and will be incorporated into the League Rules

**Rabbit Rule.** B division teams may elect to use the Rabbit Rule for their players. Before the start of the game, both team managers or their representatives must designate and inform the umpire and the opposing manager or his designated representative of those players that will require a substitute runner exiting the batting box. The designated rabbit runner must be the player who made the last previous out. If the rabbit runner gets on base, he cannot be replaced by a designated runner. A start line will be drawn in line with the safety home plate that will designate the start spot for the rabbit runner. The rabbit runner cannot commence running until contact between the ball and bat is made. If the rabbit runner starts to run BEFORE contact is made and the ball is hit into play, the rabbit runner will be called out and the play ruled dead.

In the event a player who has not been identified to receive a rabbit runner gets injured during the course of the game that prevents him from running, a rabbit runner may be used if both managers (or their representatives) agree to it. In this scenario, the designated rabbit runner must be the last previous out made.

Regardless of where the batter hits the ball in the field of play, the rabbit runner cannot advance beyond first base. The rabbit runner, however, can advance beyond first base if there is a continuance of the play beyond the initial throw from any fielder or in the event of an errant throw.

**Strike Zone Plate.** 12 strike-zone plates were purchased by the league. Each team will be provided a new strike-zone plate prior to the start of the season. It was emphasized that the strike-plates are the property of the league, and the costs would not be passed onto the teams.

## **RULES REVIEW/PROPOSED CHANGES**

### **Article I. By-Laws**

Section C (Addition In red) The below rule was adopted during the regular season of play in 2022 but was not incorporated into the League Rule during the season.

In the event any roster player has been diagnosed with a serious medical condition after the third schedule week of league play that will prevent him from any further league participation (i.e., cancer, stroke, life threatening disease, death, etc.), the team manager will be given the option of replacing that player on the roster with a non-roster player that meets the requirements in Section A above. The replacement player must be identified and approved by the Board before officially added to the team roster. Once replaced, the stricken player is automatically ineligible for play for the remainder of season, including playoffs.

By a unanimous vote, this addition to the league rules was approved.

## Article V. Rules of Play

### Section 36 League Play

**36. (Current Rule)** League play will not be scheduled during the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

**The following addition to Section 36 was proposed:**

**The league retains the option of scheduling play during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, depending on the day of the week July 4<sup>th</sup> occurs.**

By unanimous vote this addition to Section 36 was approved.

**League Alignment.** The 2023 season will commence with 11 teams; 5 teams in the A Division and 6 teams in the B-Division

**League Schedule.** Anthony Santorelli Jr provided two options for league play. The first option (Option A) was intra-league play only. This option would result in the A-division teams playing 24 games and the B-division teams playing 30 games. Each week of scheduled play, an A-division team would receive a bye.

The second option (Option B) was a cross-over schedule using one B-division team (Loud Communication) playing each A-Division team one time, in addition to playing each B-division team three times. This option results in a 26-game schedule for the A-division teams and a 28-game schedule for the B-division teams. This option reduces the number of bye weeks for each team

By a vote of 8 for and 4 against, option B was chosen to commence league play.

**Interleague Play.** In the best interest of the league, one B-Division team, Loud Communication agreed to play scheduled games against A-Division Team. One new team has been designated to play in the A-Division, General Plumbing Supply. A discussion was initiated to spot both General Plumbing Supply and Loud Communication 5 runs when playing the top four A-Division Teams:

-Vintage Bombers  
-Phoenix

-Alex Brown  
-Provident Bank.

A single run will be automatically given in innings 2 through 6 and will not count toward the maximum 5 runs scored per inning.

By a vote of 11 for and 1 against, the decision to spot both Loud Communication and General

**Field Assignment.** Field assignment will be random among the five fields designated.  
By a vote of 11 for and 1 against, random field assignments was approved.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

**Field Assignment for the Playoffs.** A discussion was initiated to determine field assignment during the playoff schedule. The current assignment is based on regular league final standings.

- A division 1<sup>st</sup> place winner chooses first
- B division 1<sup>st</sup> place winner chooses second
- A division 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher chooses third
- B division 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher chooses 4<sup>th</sup>.

Subsequent playoff round field assignment will be based on the highest seated teams remaining having the first choice starting with the highest remaining seated A-division team.

By a vote of 11 for and 1 against, field assignments for the playoffs will remain the same as designated in 2022 and explained above.

**Home Run Limit.** A discussion was initiated to limit the number of homeruns to three per game when A-Division teams play the B-Division team (Loud Communication). After discussion a vote was held.

By a vote of 11 for and 1 against, the rule change was approved to limit the number of home runs to 3 when A-Division teams play a B-Division team.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded.  
**The meeting adjourned at 1110.**

***Bill D'Amico***

League Secretary