

Minutes
27 January 2024
50+ Middlesex Country
Softball League Board Meeting

PRESENT

All team managers/representatives were present, except for the Drifters, Loud Communication and Alex Brown. Alex Brown did participate via phone. There were eight 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. Based on the league's financial standing, there was a recommendation to maintain dues at the current level. There will be no change in dues amount for 2024.

-As per our rules, a reminder was provided that 50% of the dues amount must be submitted by 1 March to meet the leagues pre-season financial obligations. The remainder will be due on 1 April.

-The **Field Coordinator** report was given by Kevin Wertz. The fields for the 2024 season will be:

-Warren Park (2),

-Phillips Park (1)

-Raritan Waterfront Park in South Amboy (2).

The option of using Municipal Fields in Edison will be our primary alternative fields. Kevin indicated that a recent field renovation in Metuchen could also be considered another alternative field. Thompson Park, Johnson's Park, and Veterans Park will remain alternative fields if needed. The fields behind Middlesex Community College will not be available for the 2024 season.

-Chairman's Report

Frank Bender briefed the league on a charitable fundraising initiative. Coupon Books that contain discounts for many of the local businesses can be purchased for the price of \$25.00 per book. For each book sold, \$12.50 will go to our League. Ed Mullen queried Frank on the tax implications. Frank indicated that he would research and provide a response to Ed. The league decided not to advertise availability of these discount books until the tax question is answered and each team finalized their rosters.

The League recognized the efforts and leadership provided by past Chair, John Mazur for the past six years John served the league. He was presented a parting gift for a job well done.

OLD BUSINESS

-A reminder of the rule changes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

-Eliminations of the Green Grass Rule

-Player playoff eligibility and roster composition. The player eligibility and roster composition changes voted for at the previous league meeting were:

1. To be eligible for playoff competition, a roster player must participate a minimum of one scheduled weekend of play (2 games).
2. The team roster freeze was changed from the 3rd week of scheduled play to the 5th week of scheduled play.

-Elimination of the Middlesex County 50+ League Website. A final discussion resulted in a vote to eliminate the site and utilize the state website administered by Dr. Bob. Pat Douglas will be looking to create a Middlesex County 50+ Facebook page to add additional content and contribution from the league managers.

NEW BUSINESS

RULES REVIEW/PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Divisional Play

The 2024 schedule will consist of the 3-division format:

Three (3) A-Division Teams

Six (6) B-Division Teams

Two (2) C-Division Teams

A-Division

Alex Brown

Phoenix Tube

Vintage Bombers

B-Division

Provident Bank

General Plumbing Supply

Loud Communication

Advanced Recycling Tech (Dyntek)

Manasquan Bank

Greenskeepers Landscaping

C-Division

Drifters

Lionsgate

Scheduling

Anthony Santorelli is aware of the divisional make-up and has been tasked to determine the feasibility of developing an equitable and balanced regular season schedule. The goal is to ensure the B-division teams have the same number of games against A division teams. Anthony will provide proposals to the league at the next league meeting.

-There would be no games scheduled between A and C Division teams.

Post-Season Playoff Schedule

A playoff format could not be determined until an equitable and balanced regular season schedule is created. The post-season playoff schedule format will be deferred to the next board meeting.

One ball/One strike count start

A very good discussion was had on the potential of starting each batter with a one ball//one strike count. This initiative was addressed to expedite the completion of games. Due to the absence of managers and the impact this decision will have, it was agreed to defer the vote on this initiative to the next league meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

-There will be no games scheduled on 4 July weekend, This holiday falls on a Thursday. There was no compelling need to use this weekend for play.

-A brief discussion on changing the start times of our games from 0900 to 0830 was heard. This decision was voted against for several reasons, the biggest reason being the wet field conditions at that time of day due to watering, morning dew, etc.

-It was agreed that that league will begin league play on 6 April, weather permitting.

-It was also recommended that each team, regardless of the designated home team, bring the field gear. By doing so, forfeits and delays could be avoided due to absences of bases or pitching screens.

-Playoff Field Assignment. In the past, the winner of the A-Division historically was given first choice of fields. It was voted to alternate this first choice between the B-Division winner and the A-Division winner. This vote passed. For 2024, the B-Division winner will be given first choice field assignment.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40.

The next league meeting will be held in the February or early March 2024 time period, based on Firehouse availability.