

22 February 2025
50+ Middlesex Country
Softball League Board Meeting

PRESENT

All team managers/representatives were present except for Provident Bank. All voting members were in attendance except for Provident Bank.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-The **Treasurer's** Report and financial overview were exempted and will be given at the next league meeting.

-The League recognized Kevin Wertz for his contribution to the League. Kevin retires and we wish him well in his future endeavors. With his retirement,, **Field Coordinator** responsibilities will initially be performed by Joe Siecinski with backup provided by Bill Damico. A volunteer is being sought as a replacement for Kevin.

-The league welcomed Paul O'Connor and his team; Damage Inc., to the league. Damage Inc.. will be in the B-Division for the 2025 season.

-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

-The Chair gave the floor to Farlan Alusik. Farlan. He requested reinstatement to the league for the 2025 season. Upon conclusions of his comments, the managers were given the opportunity to ask questions of him. When all questions were asked, Farlan was excused from the meeting. Comments from the managers were mixed and many felt he did not demonstrate remorse. He was not contrite in his words or mannerism. He read from prepared text which consisted of non-relevant comments of a personal nature.. He stated that he needed this league to help balance the personal issues with which he was dealing. The fact that he did not apologize to the very end of his comments were noted. Although no vote was taken, those managers who commented indicated a mix between accepting him back with restrictions or continuing with the current ban. The Board will make the final determination.

OLD BUSINESS

-A vote to start the 2025 season after Easter was taken and unanimously passed.

-Divisional alignment would not be finalized until a review of the revised team rosters was completed.

-Three new players contacted the Chair inquiring about playing in the league for the 2025 season. Their contact information was given to Jim Strachan for contacting.

NEW BUSINESS

-Nick Mennona informed the league that Alex Brown will not be fielding a team for the 2025 season. He cited difficulty in getting players to attend the Saturday games consistently and regularly. His players have already reached out to other team managers for roster consideration. As of this date, the league will field 11 teams for the season.

RULES DISCUSSION AND VOTES

-A vote was taken to confirm the increase in umpiring fees from \$50 to \$60. The vote unanimously passed.

-A rule change to prohibit a pitcher from pitching 'over' the pitching screen was discussed. By majority vote, the rule revision passed, prohibiting any pitcher from pitching over the pitching screen.

-A discussion to review the 5 run per inning rule was tabled in conjunction with the catch-up rule. By majority vote, both rules remain unchanged. But clarification was made. If a B-division team goes up by six runs against an A-division team due to the additional one run per inning rule (innings 2 through 6), the A-division team can score 6 runs to tie the score.

-There was discussion on the home-run limit when A-Division teams played against B-division teams. Currently, an A-Division team can hit 5 homeruns and a B-Division team can hit 3 homeruns. A proposal was made to place a limit of three home runs when an A-Division team plays a B-Division team. By majority decision, this rule change passed.

-A rule change to increase the number of games played a roster player must play to be playoff eligible, from two to four was put to vote. By majority vote, the rule passed to increase the minimum number of games played to four to be playoff eligible.

-A rule change was put for discussion to consider starting each at bat with a one ball/one strike count. After discussion, the rule change consideration was modified to start each at-bat with a one ball/one strike count when the heat index sufficiently rises to prevent heat illness. By majority vote, this rule change passed. Currently, when the heat index rises to 105F all games are cancelled due to safety reasons.

-A rule change clarification was unanimously passed that clarifies the 12-player line-up card. If a manager is playing with 12 players, there must be 12 slots in the batter order. The manager dream rule does not apply. For example, not more than one player can occupy a slot in the batting order if there are 12 players batting. The manager's dream rule only applies when a manager decides to bat more than 12 players.

-A rule change to allow a manager to 'match' an opposing manager's line-up when the opposing manager is batting 11 players or less was initiated and addressed. For example, if a manager has only 9, 10 or 11 players participating in a game, the opposing manager has the option of matching that lineup with the same number of players. He is under no obligation to have more batting positions in the line-up than the opposing manager. This rule change passed by unanimous vote.

ROUNDTABLE

-Rodney Godfrey indicated that he has commitment from enough umpires to support the league. He further identified additional umpires that would be available if needed due to unforeseen circumstances.

-Once again, the league partnered with other area leagues to purchase softballs to achieve a discounted price. A written quote was received from AD Starr. No price change on the softballs. Softballs will be ordered shortly.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40.