

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 5, 2017

The following is a summary of our league meeting of April 5, 2017

33 were in attendance with all 22 teams represented.

Managers were reminded that a registration/waiver form must be signed prior to a player engaging in any team/league activity, and all registration materials must be received before a player participates in league games.

Managers were also reminded that "preliminary" rosters are due by league rule "before the scheduling meeting that is held in early April." These are needed so teams can be informed as to what registration materials have not been received, and so a thorough check can be made on things such as too many OOC players on rosters, and so a list of 70+ players eligible to use senior bats can be created.

Final rosters are due on or before May 15, following four full weeks of league play. This should be more than enough time to finalize rosters and gather all completed registration materials.

The few outstanding sponsor checks are due ASAP.

Softballs -- each team received 2 dozen Tattoo 52/300 softballs at the March meeting and will receive two more Tattoo softballs tonight. These 26 balls will cover each team's games through their first two playoff games, as usual.

Bats -- officers will create a schedule for bat testing based on the location of fields as selected later this evening. Officers will be testing as many teams as possible on each of these nights early in the season.

Bats not tested on the designated date for their team will need to be made available at a later time/place.

The deadline for the completion of 2017 testing will be determined by officers, after which only those bats with a label may be used in UCSSL games.

Bats that pass the test will receive a RED pre-printed (with "UCSSL 2017") "tamper evident" label.

Senior bats will also be tested and will need to meet the same slightly less stringent compression threshold as last year to pass. These will receive a SILVER "UCSSL 70+ 2017" label.

Please understand that it is possible that ASA approved bats can develop a very low level of compression due to extensive use; these bats will fail the compression test -- which is unfortunate -- but these bats do present a **safety** concern which is the primary reason for the bat testing program.

We expect to complete bat testing no later than the first week of May, before final rosters are due.

The link to the ASA website's "Non-Approved Bat List" will again be emailed to managers, who are encouraged to print a copy of this list to put together with the team's UCSSL Rules and ASA Rule Book.

Pitcher protection (another **safety** concern) -- pitchers are again encouraged to wear a protective mask in all UCSSL games. To that end, UCSSL agreed beginning last season to reimburse pitchers (one per team) for the purchase of a mask, up to a maximum of \$40. The mask will remain the property of the league, held by that team.

Please understand that many leagues require the use of pitchers' protective gear or have mandated the use of a protective screen in front of pitchers. It is possible that one of these may eventually (perhaps before long) become an ASA requirement.

For now, we believe we have taken sufficient **safety** measures through bat testing, the use of the ball deemed safest by ASA, and the recommendation that pitchers wear a protective mask.

Another **safety** measure we instituted a few years ago is UCSSL Rule **2.6 BATTER'S BOX:**

[If not already drawn] Before play begins the umpire will draw two batters boxes 3'x7' at the positions as specified in the ASA rule book. These lines will be redrawn if they become indistinguishable during the game. Any batter completely stepping outside these lines *and making contact with* a pitched ball shall be called out.

The expectation is that with the increased fees paid to umpires this season and the cooperation we have been promised by the new ASA District Commissioner, this rule will be emphasized and enforced by our umpires in 2017.

We also expect the umpire assigner to be responsive to our requests for assigning outstanding umpires more frequently and not assigning umpires we find to be deficient.

League awards banquet TBD, probably a Friday in early October.

Some reminders and notifications:

1. Items you received recently (or will receive soon) via email:

2017 UCSSL Rules (make special note of our new rules), 2017 Managers/Officers Listing, 2017 Schedules for both 50s and 60s, 2017 Field Permits, and links to ASA Approved and Non-approved bat lists.

2. Game day reminders:

Home team supplies bases, strike mat, pays umpire \$45 cash; each team supplies a new ball.

Speed-up rule is in effect the first two weeks on unlighted fields – no infield, only two warm-up pitches after first inning.

Paying umpires if a delayed rainout -- pay them \$10 "show up" fee if umpire must call the game before a pitch has been thrown.

Do not play games on fields that are closed. The county has final word on their fields, Ed Kushner has the final word on Linden fields. I will coordinate with them, and emails will be sent as soon as a determination has been made on rainouts. The county website is not always updated and early morning times usually are merely the previous day's final status.

Managers will likely be given access to The Arbiter, our online umpire assignment software, where you can see updated info. on the umpire assigned to your game. You may be needed to advise your ump in the event of a postponement.

3. Items you should bring and be giving to us, if you have not already done so:

Your sponsor's fee, remaining player registration forms and fees (please be sure that checks are payable to UCSSL, or are endorsed to UCSSL), your preliminary 2017 roster. (Any of these items you did not bring to the meeting will need to be delivered -- email or otherwise -- to my home prior to the start of the season.) Players may not participate without a signed waiver form! Rosters should be emailed as an attachment.

4. Items you will be getting at tonight's meeting:

A check for umpire fees in the amount of \$585.00 to pay for 12 regular season home games plus one playoff home game. Note that the fee has increased to \$45 per game this year. Two more softballs, an ASA Rule Book and a scorebook.

Shirts may be available Good Friday, April 14.

Managers selected fields for their home games.
"Let's play ball and have fun!"