

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 1, 2020

I. Collection of outstanding registration forms, player fees, sponsor fees, forfeit checks

Many items were turned in and are being sorted now. You will be informed by email what deficiencies your team still might have. The season begins July 6 (Monday). If those deficiencies are not corrected by then, your team will be in a FORFEIT situation.

II. Discussion of virus mitigation protocols: pre-game, game, and post-game. As discussed, this is the most crucial element of the meeting. Failure to comply could result in loss of field permits this year and beyond and more importantly could jeopardize the health of our players and their families. We do not know who might be observing our games to ensure compliance. Assume that it is happening!

- a. 6' social distancing at all times! Pre-game, During game, Post-game
- b. Face coverings **REQUIRED** for all players, coaches and fans in the immediate area who are not on the playing field. Catchers and umpires are strongly advised to wear a face covering. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Failure to comply will result in EJECTION from the game and area and possible team forfeit. **Managers are STRONGLY ADVISED to have with them some extra (fresh) masks for those players who do not have them as there will be no exceptions made for this requirement.**
- c. Equipment sharing pertains particularly to bats. Understandably this is a difficult item to patrol and enforce. All players should have their own bats. Players that have more than one bat should be encouraged to bring them and designate the extra(s) for a player without. On-deck batters should retrieve just used bat by the barrel of the bat and return to backstop fence
- d. Handshakes and "high-fives" are not allowed for obvious reasons. Sportsmanship should still prevail in all other manners
- e. Anti-virus wipes and hand sanitizer recommended for wiping down of softballs and bats regularly during the game
- f. Team coolers for beverages **prohibited** for during AND after game. This will necessarily alter the way some teams provide post-game refreshments. Players should bring their own beverages in their own coolers
- g. If a player has symptoms or confirmed virus
 - Symptomatic players should stay home, even with the mildest of symptoms.
 - Team Manager and then Commissioner should be advised ASAP if a player tests positive for Covid
 - Player will not be allowed back on field for a minimum of 14 days and not without signed medical clearance
 - Player's team and opposing team will be notified of the situation without disclosing the player name to protect privacy
 - League Commissioner and officers will make a determination of what protocols will be put in place for the teammates and opponents who might have been in contact with the infected player. This could also involve team(s) being required to skip games (without penalty of forfeit)

III. UCSSL Covid-19 Waiver form Forms have been provided. All players are required to sign **on the same form** before they play in their first practice or game. As not all players will all be present for first practice or game, the manager is required to have the form with him until all players on the roster have signed. At some point the forms will be collected for our league records. Some of you have already misinterpreted this have already submitted individual player's signatures on individual forms. Once again: One form per team signed by all players.

IV. Results from emailed managers' survey

a. Regular season games/playoffs

- Seven 50's and five 60's teams voted for 11 game/full playoffs. A handful wanted longer regular season. Two teams did not respond at all. Therefore, we will be going with the 11-game regular season and full best of three semi-final final playoff series.
- Possible third place playoff game or series will be instituted if time and fields are available.

b. Double Headers

- Nine of eleven 50's and four of seven 60's in favor to various extents
- Will likely be used to get to playoffs quicker and/or allow for rainout makeups.
- Will not be used to extend number of regular season games beyond 11

c. Player pickups

- Almost every team was in favor of allowing those players on the roster of the four non-participating teams to join teams participating for the abbreviated 2020 season

V. **Presentation of 2020 schedule** 50's and 60's schedules were disbursed. On the 50's schedule the August 4 game between Jun's construction and Phenomenal Boyz has been moved from Rahway river Park 1 to Warinanco Park #2. That change will be reflected on an updated schedule on the league web site

VI. **First Base issue (50's)** 50's division will remain with the double white/orange first base for 2020. 60's Division will continue with the two separated bases at first. Any team that had requested and still requires bases/mats should immediately contact Gary Wiese at YourTops (908) 272-0011

VII. **Disbursement of Umpire Fee checks, score books and rule books** each team was given a check for \$350 which will cover payment for 7 games. The per game fee for umpires is now \$50 paid by the home team. Because of the 11 game regular season, some teams will have 6 home games and others will have 5. Once playoffs arrive, some teams will need to receive extra funds to compensate umpires.

VIII. **Roster Submissions** Preliminary rosters are due in the appropriate format (provided Word or EXCEL document) and should be emailed to Commissioner Pete Osborn (UCSSL938@comcast.net) **BEFORE your team is allowed to take the field.** Handwritten rosters are not acceptable. Teams without appropriate and complete rosters will be in a forfeit situation.

Players can still be added to your roster providing they have signed both the player registration AND the Covid-19 Waiver form and submitted their \$80 check made out to UCSSL. They will be reflected in your Final roster which is due in the same format on or before July 14. **If you have not emailed your preliminary roster as of yet, to make it easier for you Pete Osborn can send you a copy of your team's roster from last year and you can simply amend that. Let him know if he can help in that regard

IX. Bat Testing

a. Cancelled for 2020

b. New bats with ASA/USA certification to be allowed

Bats with ASA/USA certification marks but appear on their "Non-approved" bat list will not be allowed. That list will be provided to managers by email.

X. **Minimum regular season games to qualify for playoffs** will be 3 games. If for some reason the number of regular season games played drops to eight because of rainouts, that minimum will be two games

XI. 2020 divisions

50's A Division: Deegan Roofing, Douglas VFW (formally Roselle Legion), Linwood, Jun's Construction (formally JoeMax)

50's B Division: Phenomenal Boyz, Contact Lens & Vision, Riverside Inn, Suspenders,

50's C Division: Cranford VFW, Advanced Financial, Tamar Jewelers (formally Bad Brains), Garwood Metal

60's A Division: Liberty Lighting, Renda roads, Kenilworth VFW, American Legion

60's B Division: Awnings Galore, Avengers, DeBellis Associates, Yogi's boys

It is intended that the formulation of next year's 2021 divisions will be based upon the finish of the **2019** season, unless something glaring presents itself in this abbreviated 2020 season

XII. Reporting of Scores and Highlights

a. Paul Brody (50's) paulbrody@gmail.com

b. Marty Marks (60's) martinmarks62@msn.com

As always we request that someone (does not necessarily need to be the manager) email in their scores and brief highlights of their game no later than Friday of the week the games were played. The scores are necessary to keep up to date standings and both standings and highlights are submitted and printed to local newspapers, our web site and our Facebook page.