

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20, 2021

The following is a summary of league actions/decisions for the 2021 UCSSL season through January 20, 2021

League officers for 2021 are:

Pete Osborn	Commissioner/Treasurer
Marty Marks	Assistant Commissioner
Rich Grossberg	Director of Operations
Paul Brody	Coordinator of 50+ Division
Mike Rosenberg	Coordinator of 60+ Division
John Malone	Advisor

Teams/Managers in 2021:

Changes from last year:

- Mike McKenna -- Jun's Contracting
- Tim Mulhall -- Linwood Inn
- Frank Mastrocola -- Advanced Financial
- John Tropeano -- Bayway (new 50+ team)
- Leo DiGuilio -- Linwood Inn #2 (new 60+ team)

Financial

2020 Final Report: nearly \$11,000 surplus for the year, due to the abbreviated season and the number of players who are credited for the 2021 season after paying for 2020 but sitting out the year.

Reducing player fees was discussed by officers at their annual meeting in November. It was decided that a one-year reduction to \$55 for those players who paid in full last season was warranted, while those who did not play last season but had their payment deposited are already covered to play in 2021. Those who did not register in 2020 will pay the customary \$80 this year, and the standard cost for those playing in both the 50+ and 60+ Divisions will now be \$80 for each team.

Sponsor fees will remain at \$525 in 2021.

Managers will again be advised to purchase only that number of shirts that are needed for players that don't already have two or more of the same team color and sponsor.

We will continue the requirement that each team must put up an amount equal to the current umpire fee of \$50 in addition to their sponsor's fee -- to be used to pay the umpire in the event of an unexpected forfeit after 3 PM on game day.

Marty will be coordinating our umpire review process in 2021.

Registration/waiver forms were emailed in mid December. Please have players return them to the team manager so you can check them for accuracy, legibility, and completeness, as well as updating team roster information where there are changes in address, etc. There is a more specific reference to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, among other changes to the form this year, so only the 2021 registration/waiver form is valid for the upcoming season. As always, players should be encouraged to include their email addresses if they are interested in receiving regular league updates and announcements.

Sponsor letter were also emailed to managers in December. Sponsor fees are due by the beginning of the season.

League banquet/awards night recap for 2020

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our annual end-of-season celebration this past season. Awards will be distributed when we are able to meet in person again.

Players

If you are seeking new players, let the commissioner know so he can direct inquiries to those teams most in need.

Reminder: If you are aware of any players who expect to transfer to your team from another league team this season, they must inform both the commissioner and their 2020 team manager by January 31.

We are planning to institute a 70+ Division this year. Games will likely be played Thursday mornings in Rahway River Park.

NJSSA, in existence at least as long as our own UCSSL, has disbanded. At this time, it is uncertain as to the future of the various state tournaments. Weekly highlights and standings, league schedules and other UCSSL (as well as other counties') information will continue to be available on the NJSS website: <http://njseniorsoftball.com/>, which will continue to be updated regularly. Visit/contribute to our Facebook page: Union County Senior Softball League.

Rules

The temporary rule modifications that were instituted in 2020 for that abbreviated season will no longer be in effect.

Officers strongly believe that team/player registration can and should be able to be accomplished much more easily and efficiently than has been the case for some teams in recent seasons. While we will continue with the usual May 15th deadline (Rule 4.4.1.), the following rules have been strengthened and become more specific for 2021 --

4.4.3. Any player found to have participated in a game without having first submitted his signed registration form with league fee to his manager will be deemed an illegal player and the team will be subjected to forfeit(s) for the game(s) in which that player participated. Registration forms and fees must be in the hands of the Commissioner within 48 hours after the player participated in a game in order for that player to be deemed a legal participant in that game.

4.4.4. No team may legally participate in a game without having properly submitted their preliminary and final rosters to the Commissioner by the proscribed dates. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of game(s).

Managers recently voted to amend Rule 4.2.3 -- previously pertaining only to players aged 70 and over -- to classify any player, now 68 or older, playing at least the most recent 5 consecutive years in the UCSSL to be considered a Union County resident, regardless of his current residence.

Fields

Getting much better county fields last year was outstanding. We are hopeful we can reserve the same set of fields this year. We will also now need an additional county field on Mondays and Wednesdays, as we will have five 60+ games for the first time in league history.

Equipment

We were unable to do bat testing in 2020 due to health concerns. We are hopeful we will again be able to test at fields, as was done in previous years. Bats with 2019 stickers can be used until a cutoff date TBD in late April or very early May, after testing has taken place at the field for every team.

Please hold on to your 2020 USA Softball "Official Rules of Softball," as hardcopies are no longer being printed.

Please also hold on to any leftover softballs from last season.

Teams/Divisions in 2021

By league rule, the following is the alignment of teams in the 50+ Division:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
Deegan Roofing	Linwood Inn	Suspenders
Jun's Contracting	Riverside Inn	Garwood Metal
Douglas VW	Contact Lens	Linda's Driftwood
Phenomenal Boyz	Tamar Jewelers	A J Jersey
	Cranford VFW	
	Advanced Financial	
	Bayway	

As originally planned for 2020, the 50+ Division regular season will consist of 20 games per team in the 4-7-4 alignment. B teams will play each A and each C team one time, and play the teams in their own division twice. A and C teams will not face each other, and will play each team in their own division 4 times plus one mid-season bumper game.

The following is the alignment of teams in the 60+ Division, which has grown to 10 teams:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Renda Roads	Kenilworth VFW
American Legion	Awnings Galore
Liberty Lighting	Avengers
Cranford VFW 2	Yogi's Boys
Linwood Inn #2	DeBellis Associates

Each team will play 4 games against each team in their own division and one game against each team in the other division, for a 21-game regular season schedule.

We expect the 2021 season to begin on Monday, April 19, depending on local and state health protocols.

Thursday, August 5, is the deadline to complete regular season games.