

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Assistant UCSSL Commissioner Marty Marks at 7:10 pm.

In attendance were UCSSL officers John Malone and Mike Rosenberg. We had at least one representative from each of the ten 60's Division teams. We had one representative from ten of twelve 50's Division teams. (Phenomenal Boyz and Sonia's BCE did not have a representative present)

A short tribute to UCSSL officer, player and sponsor Paul Brody, who passed away in Florida last week was made. A moment of silence was held in Paul's memory.

2022 OFFICERS WERE ANNOUNCED

Pete Osborn, Commissioner/Treasurer
Marty Marks, Assistant Commissioner
John Malone, Legal Advisor
Mike Rosenberg, 60's Coordinator

It was announced that with the passing of 50's Coordinator Paul Brody, we would certainly be looking to add at least one officer to our ranks in the coming year.

An update on UCSSL finances was presented. UCSSL has a healthy balance of \$23,495.62 to begin 2022. We enjoyed a surplus of \$278.54 from 2021 operations. Anyone looking to see the full financial report should contact Pete Osborn directly.

It was announced that we will be losing three 50's Division teams (Jun's Construction, Linwood Inn, and Futon World) for 2022 through team dissolution or mergers. Managers of teams dissolving or merging were encouraged to reach out to all their 2021 players to identify those who might still be seeking a new team for 2022. Those names should be provided to league officers, and we will try to assist in finding new homes for these players

We went around the room for manager/representative introductions. In the 50's division, the merger of Linwood Inn and All Pipes Plumbing would now be known as All Pipes Plumbing. The team previously known as Contact Lens & Vision would now be known as Tad Pools. In the 60's Division, the team previously known as Renda Roads would now be known as Swan Motel and Suites. The team previously known as Cranford VFW 2 would now be known as Contact Lens & Vision.

Collection of registration forms and checks, sponsor's checks, and forfeit checks (\$50) began. Managers were encouraged to continue with this process and have further checks and registration forms ready to be submitted at subsequent winter meetings.

A reminder was given for the 2022 UCSSL uniform policy. This year's registration fee was reduced from \$80 to \$55, and teams will now be responsible for procuring their own uniforms. Old uniforms may still be used. Any new uniform must have the UCSSL logo on it. That logo has been circulated but can be recirculated if needed. Managers were encouraged to move on any new uniform orders now, as supply chain issues on most any item continue, and uniforms need to be ready to go by Opening Day in April.

Managers were asked to assess their equipment needs as it pertains to bases. The 50's division will be joining the 60's Division in establishing two separated first bases for safety reasons. All 50's teams should be receiving two new bases for this purpose. If other bases or home plate mats are in need of replacement due to wear, that needs to be conveyed ASAP to UCSSL officers by all teams for the same supply chain issues mentioned above.

Managers were asked to think about allowing officers authorization to postpone games based upon our observations of field conditions and how the forecast and radar appeared in order to make definitive decisions in a timelier manner and help avoid players unnecessarily traveling to games only to have umpires decide playability at game time. Managers were also asked to consider authorizing officers to postpone games based upon the forecasted heat index at game time. Both weather-related considerations would be hashed out and voted upon at next meeting.

Managers were asked if bat testing policies should continue for 2022. There was unanimity that it should. One testing session for new, previously untested bats will be scheduled at Commissioner Pete Osborn's home on a weekend before Opening Day. We would continue at the field testing in the opening weeks of the season. Until that occurred for your particular team, bats with last year's sticker (which would actually read 2020) could be used. Pete Osborn has agreed to schedule one further testing date probably after Father's Day to accommodate those obtaining new bats mid-season. It is unfair to continually ask Pete for unscheduled testing. It was emphasized that those bats where the sticker has come off would be considered an untested bat in all circumstances. Players should be advised to place an extra piece of clear scotch or packing tape over their new sticker to prevent their sticker from coming off. Also, testing labels from other organizations will not be recognized by UCSSL. There will be no exceptions to the bat testing policy.

The Umpire Review process initiated in 2021 was discussed. Our hope was that by getting substantial feedback (both positive and negative) from our managers, that we would be able to convey same to our Umpire Assigner Keith Hoffman and then hopefully get him to regularly assign our better performing umpires and assign our less than stellar umpires to different leagues. Ultimately that did not play out as well as we had hoped as there was (and likely still is) a nationwide umpire shortage and Keith Hoffman struggled to fill umpiring slots for all the leagues. Accordingly, he was not as flexible in heeding our requests regarding umpiring assignment. Ultimately our 2021 initial umpire Review system served at least as a venting process for Managers who were either pleased or displeased with any given umpire's performance. Managers decided to continue the Umpire Review process in 2022 and will once again be led by Assistant Commissioner Marty Marks. Hopefully assigner Keith Hoffman can be more responsive to our requests in 2022.

Debate began over the potential composition of our divisions in the 60's Division. A motion was made and seconded to change the makeup to 4 A teams and 6 B teams where there would be one interdivision game and the balance being intra-division games. The motion was voted down by a 6-3 vote with one abstention. A second motion was made and seconded to change to a 4 A team/6 B team format with two interdivision games played. This was voted down by 6-4. Therefore the 2022 60's division format would remain at 5/5 with one interdivision game. Kenilworth VFW will move to the A division and Cranford VFW (Now Contact Lens & Vision) will move to the B Division.

A motion to amend the Out of County roster guidelines in the 60's Division was made and seconded. By a vote of 6-3 and one abstention, the new guideline will read as follows: *The Out of County roster maximum will be ten. Any player who has completed 5 consecutive years in UCSSL either at the 50's level, the 60's level, or a combination of the two will not be considered against the Out of County limits.*

Preliminary discussion took place on what our 50's Division makeup will be. With 12 teams the only formats that make sense are a 4-4-4 format or a 6-6 format. In order to have a 4-4-4 format, either 2021 A division 4th place finisher Phenomenal Boyz would have to remain in the A division, or a 2021 B team would need to move up to A along with Deegan Roofing, Douglas VW, and All Pipes Plumbing. In a 6-6 format, Phenomenal Boyz and two 2021 B teams would move to the A Division to join Deegan, Douglas, and All Pipes. Consideration to have a 3-division playoff in a 6-6 regular season format could also be made. Discussion and voting on this matter are likely to occur at our February meeting.

Managers were advised that the March meeting is typically reserved for debate and votes on UCSSL rule amendments and other changes. Those Managers that wish to offer such changes to UCSSL rules should first email their proposed change to Commissioner Osborn in advance of the March meeting so it can be appropriately attributed at the March meeting.

Next meetings will be Feb. 9, March 9, and April 6. This represents a change from the original schedule that needed to be amended to reflect Pandemic considerations.