

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Prior to the meeting new bases were distributed. 50's division will now use two separate bases at first base. All managers were encouraged to also turn in old worn bases for new ones. Any manager still in need of base(s) replacement should contact Pete Osborn.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Update on team **sponsorship changes**:

Cranford VFW → Thirsty Turtle

Sonia's BCE → CoreFusion Solar

Hard Rock/Tad Pools → Angry Joe's Apparel/Tad Pools

Diversified Lighting → Deegan Roofing

Contact Lens & Vision → Angry Joe's Apparel

Registration update: we have collected more than 300 registrations in the 50's/60's divisions and more than 50 registrations in the 70's division. Most of these have come in via the online registration link. Managers are asked to continue with the registration process and encourage their players to use the online link. The link can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/YEVmrZRHf3enRixF6>

Marty Marks will continue to provide weekly updates to managers and team leaders as to where your roster stands.

Jan. 31 deadline to inform previous manager and the league commissioner that a player intends on switching teams for 2023 has passed. Any player who was on the Garwood Metal Roster (50's) in 2022 is free to participate on another team as Garwood Metal has disbanded for 2023.

Managers were reminded that it was unanimously agreed upon at the Jan. meeting that UCSSL **Rules will be strictly enforced** in 2023. This has particular application to having player registrations AND fees in before a player can participate in a practice or game. Any player participating in a game without having their registration and fee into the league first will result in a game forfeit. Teams that have not submitted their sponsor fees may not participate and forfeiture of game(s) will result.

Temperature Policy was reviewed. In 2022 the league agreed to set a game time forecasted heat index maximum of 103 degrees. While we came close on a couple of occasions in 2022, no games needed to be postponed. Managers agree to keep this maximum level at 103 degrees for the 2023 season.

While new or amended rules for 2023 will be discussed and voted upon at our March 29 meeting, a couple of rules were discussed as there seems to be confusion or disregard for them.

4.7. PLAYING TIME:- BOTH DIVISIONS:

4.7.1. Except for the manager, each player present at the start of the game must be in the batting order for a minimum of three (3) innings. The manager will inform the other manager whether he will be playing. He shall also announce which other, if any, players will not be playing that game.

4.7.2. Players DO NOT have to play a defensive position.

4.7.3. Any player entering the game after the 3rd inning must replace a starting player and be announced to the umpire and opposing manager before entering the game.

4.7.4. All substitute players must enter the game before the first pitch of the 5th inning.

4.7.5. UCSSL does not have a re-entry provision.

If a player has been announced as OUT prior to the game, he cannot participate in the game. If a uniformed player who has not been announced as OUT prior to the game and has not entered into the game by the 5th inning, the team is in violation of **rule 4.7.4** above, which will result in a forfeit.

UCSSL does not recognize “part time” players. Managers are strongly discouraged from asking a player or players to remain home instead of participating in a game.

Managers were reminded that this will be the second year where teams are required to purchase their own **uniforms**. All players in the lineup must have a team uniform on or be subject to disqualification from the game. Managers were encouraged to provide two uniforms for each player on the roster if at all possible. Uniforms do not have to be identical but they should be consistent in color. In addition to a number on the back, uniforms also must have the sponsor name, and the UCSSL logo displayed. Managers were also encouraged to carry a couple of extra uniforms with them to each game just in case a player arrives without a uniform. If you haven’t already, begin the uniform ordering process NOW. Waiting any longer could result in not having uniforms for your players on Opening Night (April 17).

Field Update. Ed Kushner reported that the three Linden fields that we use are still under construction and will not likely be ready for play in April or perhaps even in May. This will place quite a burden on scheduling our games. Accordingly, the normal field selection process we previously used during our winter meetings might have to change for this year. Officers will confer and let our managers know how we will proceed. It is possible that our March 1 meeting might not be necessary. Stand by!

Any player new to the league must mail, email, or text a copy of their **driver’s license** to Marty Marks for age and residence verification prior to Opening Day. Managers need to monitor their new players in this regard.

Last year in the 50’s division, managers voted to consider out of county players who have participated in 5 consecutive UCSSL seasons as **In-County** for roster purposes. The five years does not include the 2023 season.

There are a few **new potential players** who have contacted the league in search of a team. Contact Marty Marks if you are looking to bolster your roster. Right now, roster numbers can be anywhere from 14 to 22. It is suggested to err on the high side to avoid being shorthanded when vacations, family/business commitments and the invariable injuries occur.

The March 29 meeting will be set aside for us to consider **UCSSL rule amendments and additions/deletions**. If you have a proposal for a new or altered rule, please email it to Marty Marks prior to the March 29 meeting so it can be disbursed to managers and put on the agenda for discussion and vote.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 1 at 7 pm. This meeting might be cancelled depending upon how we decide to deal with field selection.