

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 29, 2023

1. Bases, softballs, scorebooks, umpire checks were handed out
2. Collection of checks and registrations. Commissioner Marty Marks reiterated that there were still likely checks and other registration materials that had been mailed to his old address that have been yet to be forwarded and may be forever lost. It was advised that any outstanding checks be re-issued and if the originals ever showed up, they would be destroyed and the issuer would be informed.
3. Return of field preferences and attendance was taken. All teams with the exception of the Phenomenal Boyz were represented.
4. Bat Testing Schedule. Pre-season bat testing will take place at the home of Pete Osborn (938 Summit Ave., Westfield) on April 15 from 1-3 pm. This testing session is for new bats only or for bats that do not have a 2022 sticker on it. Anyone showing up with a bat with a 2022 sticker will be turned away. Bats with 2022 stickers on them may be used in the opening games of the season until the at the field testing takes place. That schedule will be announced shortly.
5. Discussion on field permits
 - a. Where we stand at the moment. As we have been told that the construction at Linden fields could last well into June, the league is presently short on fields and does not have the 5-fields per night minimum to begin a full schedule. We continue to search for fields and have some promise of new ones coming on line.
 - b. Options if we do not get the 5 minimum fields. We could delay the start of the season. We could begin a season with the fields we have which would necessitate additional byes
 - c. Schedule to be done in 3-week increments. Changes to the schedule can be made as fields become available. In that regard, we will try to honor field preferences turned in.
 - d. There is the possibility of multiple double headers being scheduled during the season to make up for lost games.
6. Rules discussion/votes took place and the results are listed at the end of the minutes
7. Roster updates to be sent out this week
 - a. Once again, Enforcement of roster rules will be strict. Any player participating in a game without first submitting a registration/waiver and his check will be deemed an illegal player. Using an illegal player will result in a forfeit. Teams will be subject to forfeit if their sponsor's check or forfeit check is not handed in prior to Opening game.
8. Assistant Commissioner Pete Osborn to handle UCSSL business and inquiries while Commissioner is away.
9. 60+ players in need of a team:
 - a. **Mike Cooney** mikedcooney@gmail.com (908) 525-6094
 - b. **Gary Neich** gneich@comcast.net (848) 219-4420
 - c. **Robert Torres** nycbull62@yahoo.com (212) 721-6710
 - d. **Larry Costa** knickerbocker260@gmail.com (908) 403-86-91

UCSSL Rules Proposals and Votes

Original rule is in black. New proposal is in red

1- John Montefusco/John Campanella

1.2.2. The team finishing last in the regular season standings will move down to the lower division for the next season. The team finishing first in the regular season standings will move up to the higher division for the next season. If both teams agree to remain in their respective divisions for the subsequent season, the request will be granted.

Proposal: League officers will determine movement of teams based upon their perception of teams' strength.

Proposal #1 failed by a vote of 12-9

2- Bobby Debellis/John Fiore

4.2. TEAMS: Each team roster will consist of a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 22.

Proposal: Increase maximum to 23

Proposal #2 passes by a vote of 21-0

3- Frank Verducci/ John Campanella

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.

Proposal: If a player has been announced before the game as not playing due to a need to rest an injury, he may enter the game to replace an injured player if loss of that injured player would result in the team being short (fewer than 10) players.

Proposal #3 passed by a vote 16-5

4- Rich Gaul/John Fiore

4.7.5. UCSSL does not have a re-entry provision

Proposal: In case of injury, a player should be allowed to re-enter the game if the player he replaced becomes injured.

Proposal #4 passed by a vote of 12-8

5- John Fiore/Rich Gaul

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.

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

Proposal: 50's Division. Prior to the game, a manager may designate up to two uniformed players 60 or Over as those who would not be subject to Rule 4.7.1 or 4.7.4 and could enter the game at any time as a substitute and be in the lineup for fewer than 3 innings.

Proposal: 60's Division. Prior to the game, a manager may designate up to two uniformed players 70 or over who would not be subject to Rule 4.7.1 or 4.7.4 and could enter the game at any time as a substitute and be in the lineup for fewer than 3 innings

Proposal #5 passed by a vote of 13-7

6- Pete Osborn/Frank Verducci

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.

Proposal: all players present for a league game be in the batting order for the entire game for all regular season games.

Proposal #6 passed by a vote of 11-10

7- Rich Gaul/Alan Dente

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.

Proposal: keep this rule for the regular season but eliminate it for the playoffs.

Proposal #7 passed by a vote of 12-8

As a result of the passage of #6 and #7, Regular Season Games will now require that *EVERY* player present in uniform and not deemed out at the beginning of the game must be in the batting lineup for the ENTIRE GAME DURING THE REGULAR SEASON. However, in the playoffs this does not apply and the manager may choose to sit multiple players for the entire game.

8- Rich Gaul /Pat Nigro

5.1.1. On all unlighted fields game time 6:15, Forfeit time 6:30. Game will start at 6:15 if both teams have the minimum number of players to start the game.

Proposal: 1- for the first five weeks starting Opening week and through the week where 5/15 falls, all games should start at 6pm instead of 6:15pm.

This proposal failed by a vote of 14-6

If proposal #1 does not pass: all batters start with a 1-1 count with no courtesy foul.

This proposal passed by a vote of 12-9

9- Ed Kushner/Steve Barba

5.1.1. On all unlighted fields game time 6:15, Forfeit time 6:30. Game will start at 6:15 if both teams have the minimum number of players to start the game. Games scheduled on any of the lighted Linden fields (Tremley, Memorial 2, Memorial 3) will begin at 6:30pm, with a 6:40 forfeit time. Late games are scheduled to begin at 7:45 pm or as soon as possible following the early game.

Proposal: All games on all fields are to begin at 6:15 with similar forfeit times as listed in 5.1.1 above

Proposal #9 passed by a vote of 15-6

10- Ed Kushner/Steve Barba

New Rule Proposal: Base runners on 1st or 3rd base may take a starting position off the base in foul territory and then must retouch the base once the ball is put into play. These base runners must notify the umpire of this intent prior to the ball becoming live.

Proposal #10 passed by a vote of 18-3

11- Rich Gaul/Leo Diguilio

4.2.1 Over 50 Division: A team may have a maximum of 8 Out-Of-County players on the roster.

Proposal: Increase the OOC number maximum to 10 to match the 60's division

Proposal #11 passed by a vote of 6-4

12- Ed Kushner

8.3.5. A courtesy runner can be replaced by another courtesy runner at any time.

8.3.6. If a pitch is thrown with an illegal courtesy runner on base, an appeal can be made and the illegal runner is out. **8.3.7.** If a courtesy runner is on base when he is due to bat: The courtesy runner is out. The courtesy runner comes to bat. If the out is the 3rd out, he leads off in the next inning.

Clarification needed. Rules 8.3.5 and 8.3.7 contradict.

8.3.7 was removed to clarify the courtesy runner rule. 8.3.5 allowing a courtesy runner to be replaced by another courtesy runner at any time remains.

13- Marty Marks/Jack Helfrich

New rule Proposal: If a bumper game is postponed, the game will be rescheduled with the same teams designated (and home team) at the time the postponement occurred.

Rescheduling of any bumper game will not take place until all other regular season postponements are rescheduled.

Proposal #13 was passed by a vote of 19-2

14- Pete Osborn/John Fiore

Temperature Policy not yet in writing: a game time forecasted heat index maximum of 103 degrees.

Proposal: Games are to be postponed if the forecast indicates a game time “feels like” temperature of 45 degrees or below. This will factor in wind chill factor.

Proposal #14 passed by a vote of 17-4

Officers will monitor National Weather Service forecasts for GAME TIME and will announce postponements of games earlier in the afternoon when heat index maximums or wind chill minimums are predicted to be reached AT GAME TIME

15- Pete Osborn/Jack Helfrich

4.4.2. Each team will be required to submit a separate check in the amount of \$50 in addition to their sponsor's fee. This will be kept by the league only if the team forfeits a game any time after 3pm on game day. If the team does not forfeit any games the amount will be returned at the end of the season.

Proposal: The first called in forfeit as described in 4.2.2 will be forgive. However, each subsequent forfeit of any kind will result in the league cashing the \$50 forfeit check.

Proposal: A team must provide an additional \$50 forfeit check once any previous one is cashed in order to continue playing.

Proposal #15 failed by a vote of 11-9

16- Jaime Reyes/Pat Nigro

7.2. MAXIMUM HOME RUN RULE [now applies to both 50s and 60s Divisions] Fair fly balls over the fence are limited to three (3) per team per game on fenced fields. Any fair fly balls which leave the field over the limit will be ruled an out with no advancement by the base runners. If both teams have reached the limit (3) a team is allowed to go "one up" with an additional home run over the fence. A fair fly ball hit over the fence will still count against the maximum 3 per game even if it does not result in a run or runs scored as the team has reached their maximum six or six-up runs for the inning. If a fly ball is first touched by a defensive player and then goes over the fence, it shall count as a home run but not against the 3 maximum fair fly balls over the fence.

Proposal: Any ball hit over the fence beyond the maximum 3 in rule 7.2 will be considered a double with runners advancing 2 bases.

Proposal #16 failed by a vote of 20-1

18- Joe McEvoy/Rich Gaul

4.10.2. A player wishing to transfer to another team must give written notice to his manager, as well as the League Commissioner OR to the league commissioner who will provide written notification to the previous team manager. The notice must be given during the "open period" – from opening day of the current season until January 31st. If notice is given during the season the player will continue as a member of his current team for the remainder of the season. He will then become a free agent on February 1st. A player giving notice after January 31st will not be permitted to change teams for the upcoming season. Such a player will become a free agent on February 1st of the year following the upcoming season. He may remain a member of his current team or sit out the season.

Proposal: Change the date to March 1

Proposal #18 Passed by a vote of 13-8

19- Joe McEvoy/John Campanella

11.2. ['60s Division] When the “A” division teams play the “B” division teams the following will apply: The “B” division team has the option at the start of the game to get 1 additional run (5 total) in all but the first and ‘open’ inning(s) **or** add a 12th defensive player. The added run will be in addition to any other runs scored. The “B” division team has the option of being the visitors in all games regardless of schedule.

Proposals: Further options for B Teams in an A vs B matchup

- 1- “A” Team only receives 2 out per inning for duration of game ...no runs given**
- 2- B team has options of runs or additional player, plus A team has maximum of 4 runs per inning 1st thru 7thno open inning in 7th**

Proposals listed under #19 failed by votes of 19-2 and 20-1 respectively

20- UCSSL Officers/Steve Barba

10.2. Any player ejected from a game, for any reason, will be reported to the league commissioner.

Proposal: Any player ejected from a game will also serve a one-game suspension for the next played game even if it is a playoff game. Officers have the authority to amend this disciplinary action depending upon the circumstances of the infraction(s).

Proposal #20 passed by a vote of 21-0

21- Kevin Carroll

Clarification needed. Is there a “no new inning shall begin” or other such time limit at Linden fields? If not, should there be? When are lights scheduled to be turned off?

It was clarified that for now, lights are turned off manually when play is concluded for the night. There is no “drop-dead, no inning may start later than” rule at Linden fields and umpires should be reminded of this prior to the game.