

NJSSA Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2016

The meeting began with a moment of silence and prayer for all deceased league officials, players and for all our troops in Afghanistan and around the world.

Held on 2/11/2016 at Manny's Diner, Clark, NJ

Please review the attachment in regard to the 50+ State Tournament---I would just like to mention a few points:

1. I will try to have the State Association pay for at least half of the tournament entrance fee for NJSSA member teams.
2. We ask that you pend your calendars for July 16-17 and during the season, please ask your players to participate and also ask other team Managers about combining teams for the tournament.
3. We would like to get at least 4 teams (and hopefully more) from our 50+ League and 50+ Fall League, to participate.

The motto of our leagues is "Exercise, Fun and Camaraderie" and this is a great opportunity to enjoy all three items in our motto.

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING PROPOSED!

During the past few years there has been a diminished interest in the State 50 Plus Softball Tournament (usually held on a weekend in July/August). At one time this was a thriving event with teams entered from Morris, Union, Middlesex, Ocean, Monmouth and Mercer Counties. This was bracket play with teams competing in A, B and C Divisions based on roster strength.

The State Association met this past weekend and continued our discussions on how to rejuvenate the state tournament. For those of you who have participated in the past, we are sure you found this to be a fun experience and an opportunity to test your team's skills against other NJ competition.

There is a new proposal on the table for you to consider. USSSA New Jersey submitted a proposal to organize and manage our 2016 tournament. This is a professional group that manages softball tournaments (all age brackets, coed tournaments, male/female, fast pitch/slow pitch), baseball tournaments and other competitive sporting events.

At this time we are looking at two formats. An **A Flight** championship will be available to the top two teams from each county league. An A flight team will use its league roster BUT will be able to add **any player** from our league up to a 25 man roster. In essence this can be an all-star team from our league. Hopefully we can identify a couple of our managers who would like to be responsible for organizing each of our Morris County teams.

A **B Flight** championship will be available for additional Morris County teams. Again the basic roster can be used but additional players can be added to the team to round out the roster. A B flight team can replace any player taken by an A flight team or add other players as needed.

We are targeting the weekend of July 16 and 17th for the NJ tournament as that weekend does not conflict with any other national level travel tournaments. THE FINAL SITE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, but it should be held at a location convenient for the majority of teams participating.

Dependent on the final number of teams, there will be a 4 game guarantee, with a maximum of 6 games for the weekend. We will be following ASA rules. Championship shirts and Offensive, Defensive and Overall MVP awards will be awarded. Also under consideration are skills competitions (Home Run Derby, Throwing and Running).

The entry fee per team will approximate \$290-\$300, but this could be lower dependent on the number of teams participating. This fee includes field expenses, softballs, insurance, trophies, umpires, site director fee, management fee, sanction fee etc.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE INTEREST LEVEL IS FOR OUR MORRIS COUNTY LEAGUE. At a minimum, we want two A Flight Teams to participate and several of our remaining league teams to compete in the B bracket.

We have submitted the names of our team managers to the State Association. You may receive a follow up call shortly from Farlan Alusik to discuss the proposal further.

A copy of the USSSA proposal presented to our State Association is attached for your review. Please let us know what your level of interest will be and whether you believe your team will be interested in participating in this year's tournament under the terms outlined here.

Thank You,
Tony Ciavatta