

MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Tuesday, November 26th, 2019
Tri Rivers – Room 104 - 6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order by the President, Gene Smithberger at 6:05 PM.

II. ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance were: Commissioners – Gene Smithberger, Ed Slone, Mike Winders, Rick Beck, Roger Smith, Keith Thrush, Larry Kelly, Bill Finnegan, Steve Zonneville, Steve Romshe and John Klenzman. Guest player – Buddy Lyles.

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Keith Thrush moved to accept the minutes of the July 28th meeting and Bill Finnegan seconded. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer, Roger Smith, reported \$3757.53 in the bank and passed out and reviewed the details of the financial report. Mike Winders moved to accept the treasurer's report and Steve Romshe seconded. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Larry Kelly is still working with the sign company to add the 65 league to the sign.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested that we should add the meeting minutes to the MSSA website for all players to view. This will be done starting with these minutes.

Gene discussed that all commissioners were all in their 60's or 70's and we need to encourage the 55 league members to become a commissioner so we can have better representation.

Mike Winders made a motion to keep player and sponsor fees the same for 2020 as they were in 2019. Roger Smith seconded and the motion passed.

Steve Zonneville brought up having a screen to protect the pitchers like what used during practice. After discussion it was decided not to use one.

Keith Thrush discussed trying to schedule and get enough teams for the Popcorn tournament has been a struggle. After discussion Keith made a motion to stop having the league sponsor the Popcorn tournament. John Klenzman seconded and the motion passed.

We discussed adopting the Base Running Rule Worthington Senior Softball adopted several years ago to protect a runner on 1st and 3rd Base in the Over 65, 70 and 75 leagues. "A runner on 1st Base with a Left Hand Hitter and a runner on 3rd Base with a Right Hand Hitter up, can step back into Foul Territory away from the base as a way to protect themselves from a line drive. After a pitched ball is stroke, BASE RUNNER MUST TOUCH HIS BASE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO EITHER 2ND OR HOME. This is a Base Runners option, not a requirement." After discussion we decided to do nothing with this at this time.

Ed Slone brought up that we need to make a rule to document how pickup players are chosen during a tournament game and also to amend the pickup player rule to state that a manager can pick up to 9, 10 or 11 players. **This item was tabled.**

Suggestion Box Items:

The suggestion box had quite a few suggestions and the majority of the meeting was spent discussing them. Larry Kelly typed up a list and handed them out. Since we would like players to attend the meeting and voice their input some items were tabled until more players could attend the meeting.

1. Player Pickups is still the biggest complaint.

Suggestions are: Pick up to 10 players not 11, Give 2 runs per picked up players, Play with 9 players, Rate players A, B, C, D and pick up the quality of player you've lost.

This item was tabled.

2. A given player can run only 1 or 2 times in a game or a player can only be substituted for a runner only once in a game. This a USA rule and our MSSA rule modifies that and states "the manager may use a runner for an individual player only once in a game" but a player can request a runner anytime. We agreed that players need to tell a coach he wants a runner before he goes to bat and that the coach should be prepared to supply a courtesy

runner. In addition a courtesy runner needs to stay on the base until the substitution is made. **This item was tabled.**

3. Do we need to have a league tie breaker rule?

After discussion of multiple options, Steve Romshe made a motion – To determine position in the league at the end of the season in case of a tie use the following criteria.

- a. Head to head competition where equalizer runs are included and if tied then
- b. Run differential head to head where equalizer runs are included and if tied
- c. Flip of a coin.

Ed Slone seconded and the motion passed. **Need to update MSSA rules**

4. 70 foot bases were discussed. Gene stated that an average of 2 double plays occur during 2019 games which is an increase over 1.5 when the bases were at 65 feet. The bases were increased to keep consistent with USA rules. After discussion it was agreed to keep the bases at 70 ft.

5. Should we change the 0-0 count back to 1-1 with a free foul to speed up the game?

Larry Kelly made a motion to go back to 1-1 count with a free foul. Mike Winders seconded the motion. Motion passed with 2 opposed. **Need to update MSSA rules**

6. Should a flip of a coin be used to determine the home team for the league play off games. Steve Zonneville made a motion that the flip of a coin will determine the home team for the playoff games. John Klenzman seconded and the motion passed. **Need to update MSSA rules**

7. Only one championship shirt if a team wins the league and the tournament. This item was already implemented in 2019.

8. Do away with the 3rd game - This item was tabled.

9. Do away with double headers - This item was tabled.

10. Cut back the number of games - This item was tabled.

Discussion about maybe having a game at Garfield simultaneously while at Bigford, or having 3 games while the daylight is longer (May – July) and then switching to 2 games per night, or lengthen the summer season and/or some teams would have buy weeks.

11. Go to 5 outfielders in the 65 league. Discussion revolved around how hard it is to get

pickup players or we would need larger team rosters or if both teams could field 12 players it would be ok. After discussion it was agreed to keep the present rules of 11 players on the field at one time.

12. Allow senior bats in the over 60 league or anyone 70 and over to use senior bats in any league. Gene stated that forty 70 year old players are in the 60 league. Also discussed the Modern Woodman tournament and other senior tournaments which allow senior bats for all players. Ed Slone made a motion – Anyone who is 70 years old by May 1st is eligible to use a senior bat in the 55 and 60 league. Larry Kelly seconded. Motion passed with 1 vote opposed. **Need to update MSSA rules**

13. No intentional walks – After discussion of this item Steve Romshe made a motion to eliminate intentional walks. There was no second so the rule will stay as is.

14. Allow 3 home runs with an out after that, not a base hit or 1 homerun in the 65, 2 homeruns in the 60 and 3 in the 55 with an out after that. After discussion it was agreed to leave the rule as is.

15. Do we need a time limit on games when we play 3 games? It was agreed that the 3rd game sometimes starts too late. We reviewed some options such as starting games at 6:00 PM with a 10 minute grace period for the 1st game if some players are late and saying announcements and the pledge of allegiance 5 minutes before the start of the 1st game and changing the starting count back to 1 and 1.

Steve Romshe made a motion to start the league games at 6 PM with a grace period until 6:10 PM and saying the pledge of allegiance at 5:55 PM. John Klensman seconded and the motion passed. **Need to update MSSA rules**

Note – Coaches need to have line up in before the game and a home team player will lead the pledge of allegiance to help the scorekeeper.

16. Teams should be set up like Worthington 70 league teams, where you freeze a certain number of players then draft to fill out the roster. Just a thought that it creates team continuity. After discussion it was agreed to keep the draft process as is.

The next meeting to be scheduled at a future date

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Larry Kelly moved to adjourn and John Klenzman seconded. Motion passed to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Meeting Minutes by Steve Zonneville