

COLORADO SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
DRAFT -- Fall Managers Meeting - October 18, 2024 -- DRAFT
Denver Elks Club, 2475 W 26th Avenue, Denver, CO

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by CSSA Commissioner Stan Harbour.
Board members present: Jim Mieras, Terry Goodrich and Frank Yost
Board members absent: Mary Harteker, Paul Lewandowski, Joe Zaba and Carter Akerfelds

Attendees representing 35 teams were present. No Rec Center Reps were present
Harbour recognized Gene Tomczak, a veteran, to lead the group with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and afterwards asked that all veterans remain standing to be recognized. Harbour stated that Tomczak was retiring as manager of the Aurora Grillers 70s team, and then gave a special thanks to him for his presence at the Managers meetings, leading the pledge for many years, AND for being a great manager and Standings Secretary for many years.

- 2. Introduction of Board Members and other Contributors:** Harbour introduced members of the CSSA Board in attendance, as listed above and thanked all for their time and efforts serving on the Board. Harbour then asked those who had served as Standings Secretaries during the 2024 season to be recognized, and mentioned Mark Gembarowski who handles the CSSA website work, recording scores, updating information, etc. Harbour noted his appreciation for all the efforts mentioned which helps him operate the CSSA league. Harbour also thanked all players and Rec Center Reps who all contribute to the success of the league.

- 3. Treasurer's Report / Financial Status 2024:** Harbour summarized the current status of the organization's finances, advising that the most recent budget estimate shows a net positive of approximately \$2,000 for the year, mainly due to the increase in the team fee from \$225 to \$275 for the 2024 season. Also, a couple of the expenses- softball order, tournament field rental and champs shirts- were slightly less than originally estimated. The past few years actually had a negative for those years. Bottom line is that the organization's current finances are in decent shape.

Harbour also mentioned the note that had sent to all managers regarding donations to CSSA, specifically the option of using a QCD- Qualified Charitable Distribution- from an investment account (IRA).

- 4. Review 2024 Season:** Harbour reviewed the 2024 season and commented on a few items as follows: 1) Purpose of the league; 2) BATS- This continues to be a problem with some players using non-approved bats; Managers are encouraged to work with their players, inform all of the CSSA bat rule; 3) Competition in games, especially in the B-1/B-2 and the 70's Gold divisions- The Board has tried as best it can to set up all divisions that creates competitive games; 4) Aggressive play- There were several incidents of overly aggressive play by some players, one bad incident at the tournament with a physical altercation. Managers need to address this issue with players.

Some discussion was held on several of these items.

- 5. Discussion Items- 2025 Season –** Harbour stated that the Board will begin planning the 2025 season with a meeting in late January/early February 2025. Main issues will be the matters described above in the review of the 2024 season. Follow-up discussions on all of this will be done at the Spring Managers Meeting.

- 6. Motions to be voted on:** Harbour explained for the past couple of years the Board now reviews any motion submitted for a rule change and decides whether to have the managers vote on the motion. There was one motion submitted (see below*) and the Board decided that the motion would be discussed, but not voted on at the meeting.

Harbour then reviewed several rules where suggestions and comments have been received, and that were

discussed at the Board meeting on Sept 13, 2024, and the decisions that were decided/agreed as follows:

- Rule 9.1,b- Courtesy Runner from Home Plate (CRFHP)- It was agreed on the following: 1) Leave existing listed divisions as is; 2) Limit the CRFHP to only going to first base, no further; 3) Keep the provision that the CRFHP shall be the last out; 4) Leave the provision as is on the batter being called out if he leaves the batter's box.
- Rule 3.6- 175' Line In the Outfield (ALL DIVISIONS)- It was agreed on the following: 1) Keep the current provision that this rule is for 'women' batters only; 2) Change the rule such that the 11th defensive player (when used) does NOT have to be behind the 175' line, but the other four outfielders do.
- Code of Conduct- Regarding the penalty (suspension) for a player who is ejected from a game. Current rule states that a player ejected from a game will not play any further on the day of ejection, plus a "one game" suspension for the next scheduled games. It was agreed that the penalty (suspension) would be changed to two games for the next scheduled games.

These changes will be incorporated in the CSSA 2025 Rules and provided to all prior to the 2025 season.

***Submitted Motion-** Herold Schulz motion on Rule 6.3a; 11th Defensive Player in E Division- Refer to sheet in the handout, which read as follows:

"Motion Title: DEFENSIVE PLAYERS/EQUALIZATION, Section 6.31: Motion- "E Division teams traditionally play 11 defensive players. If a team from the 'D' Division is placed into the 'E' Division during the resetting of divisions process or at tournament play they may elect to play with fewer than 11 defensive players. However, the 'E' Division team can still elect to play with 11 defensive players."

"REASON/JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE: " 'D' Division teams are stronger than the 'E' Division teams. Look at the records for the last 2 seasons. It is not right that they can dictate how many defensive players the 'ER' team can use when they are moved down."

Schulz explained his motion and his thinking regarding his proposed change.

Discussion was held with various opinions expressed. However, Harbour stated that per the decision made by the Board as mentioned above, the current rule will not be changed.

7. Board of Directors Status/Election: Harbour referred to a sheet in the handout package with information on the CSSA Board status and election. There is one Rec Center Rep positions vacant and one nominee, Joe Zaba, Sports Coordinator at Golden Parks & Recreation. There are two Manager/Player Rep positions vacant and two nominees, Terry Goodrich(The Boys teams, 70's & C-1) and Frank Yost (Boulder Blues 50s). Harbour recommended that the three nominees be elected by acclamation and attendees agreed, so Zaba, Goodrich and Yost were elected to the Board for two year terms.

8. OTHER: Harbour opened the meeting to any "Other" issues that attendees wanted to raise: Several items were brought up as follows:

- Harbour commented that he had raised an issue at the September Board meeting that the Board, and the teams/managers should be thinking about CSSA without him as Commissioner. A few casual comments were made but no serious discussion occurred.
- Roy Burcham (RockStars) commented about a problem of teams not wanting to come to Castle Rock to play games. A brief discussion was held. Harbour stated that the same issues arise with some teams not wanting to go to Greeley and Longmont as well, and that as long as we have teams scattered over a broad geographic spread, then this problem will continue.
- John Parisi (Diamonds) commented that he did not care for the Tattoo softballs that CSSA provides to the teams saying that they were low quality, mush, etc. A few attendees agreed but there was no broad problems with the balls expressed.
- Rich Urbanowski (Lakewood Bears) asked about the dates for the season. Harbour advised that he and the Board usually try to decide on the dates for the season in January and will provide them to everyone as soon as available.

- Frank Yost (Boulder Blues 50s) commented about his experience participating in the CSSA league, that he has played and managed for 5 years and stated that he had really enjoyed his time. (This relates to Harbour's earlier comments about the purpose of the league.)
- Pat Hughes (Lakewood Golden Eagles) questioned the need for umpires, referring to issues such as cost, quality of the ump's, ump's not showing up on time, etc. Harbour stated that the umpires during the regular season games are provided by the Rec Centers and by CSSA for the tournaments, and that any issues or problems should be addressed with the providers.
- Rick Reeser (Greeley Dinosaurs) suggested that the tournaments be moved somewhere other than Schaefer. A brief discussion was held. Harbour stated that in deciding where to have the tournaments, the Board considers several things- locations available to meet our needs, cost, and a location that is reasonable for all participants.

9. Next CSSA Board Meeting: Harbour stated that the date (probably in late January or early February, 2025) and location of the next meeting of the CSSA Board would be determined and that he would advise the members of the Board and would publish the information on the CSSA website. The Spring Managers Meeting will likely be scheduled for early March 2025.

10. Adjournment: Jim Mieras motioned that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Ray Childs and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Minutes recorded by Stan Harbour; 10-18-24

Minutes will be approved by CSSA Board at the Jan/Feb 2025 Board meeting.