

MINUTES MVUDSS BOARD MEETING 12/23/15

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Baranick (SB); M. Feeney (MF); J. Hansell (JH); T. Jadwin (TJ); B. Kapeller (BK); R. Schemp (RS)

1. New SSUSA Rules

SSUSA passed a number of rule changes which became effective on 12/4/15. The Board reviewed each of those rule changes and whether to adopt for MVUDSS league. Any rule changes below adopted by the Board, will become effective with our next league games commencing 1/4/16.

a. Rule 1.37 – Intentionally Dropped Fly Ball

This rule has been clarified to simply identify that once the “fly” ball hits the ground, it is a “DEAD” ball. JH motioned, and TJ seconded that this rule be adopted by MVUDSS league. **Motion passed 6-0.**

b. Rule 5.5 (2) – Flip-Flop Rule

This rule has been modified to make the flip-flop rule mandatory for ALL tournament games, including seeding and bracket games. MVUDSS league considers league games to be the equivalent of seeding games, but because of tie breaker issues is concerned about adopting this rule. JH motioned and RS seconded that this rule change be adopted by MVUDSS league. **Motion failed 0-6.**

c. Rule 6.16 – Wind or Sun Affecting Both Pitchers

The existing rule was modified to allow batters (at the discretion of the umpire/field director), who are affected by the sun, to move the pitcher, up to six (6) feet to the left or right of the pitching rubber as chosen by the hitter. This shall be done on a full-inning basis only. JH motioned and BK seconded that MVUDSS league adopt this rule. **Motion passed 5-1 (SB)**

Discussion took place, both pro and con, as to whether the pitching screen should be required to be moved given the passage of the immediate above rule. JH motioned and MF seconded that the pitching screen must be moved in a corresponding distance in the direction the batter moves the pitcher, such that the integrity of the pitcher's safety and not having a “second” defensive player (i.e. the screen) is maintained. **Motion passed 5-1 (TJ)**

JH motioned and TJ seconded that the pitcher be permitted one (1) warm-up pitch to the first batter requesting that the pitcher move. This will be for one batter only, irrespective of the number of innings that the batter sun rule stays in effect, and irrespective of whether it's a right or left-handed batter. **Motion passed 6-0.**

d. Rule 8.4(7) - Four-Base Award

This rule was clarified to allow batter and all runners to “hit and sit” on a four-base award. JH motioned and RS seconded that MVUDSS league adopt this rule change. **Motion passed 5-1(BK)**

2. Rescheduling Rainouts

JH cited his concern about playing doubleheaders, particularly when all 8 league teams are scheduled to play on the same day. He stated that it's difficult enough to get players for one game, let alone having to try to get multiple players for multiple games. Asking multiple players to play up to four games in a day; asking players to play multiple games before they even play their own team's games is just not right. Picking up fewer players so that players are not sitting on the bench, as was suggested by some, is not the answer as that means those players that are picked up will play more innings because of fewer available substitutions. We canceled all games for the Worlds when the "kids" were playing because of the disparate impact it would have had on their Monday teams if they would have had to try to pick up players. JH feels that rainouts are no different in terms of the potential disparate impact it can have on a team to try to be competitive. There are sentiments (BK), on the opposite side of this who feel that such circumstances can, at any point in time, impact any team. There is also the sentiment to not lose the playing of games for any reasons, partly because of the impact it may have on standings depending upon "who has/has not played who," etc.

TJ motioned and JH seconded that in the case of doubleheaders (and only in the case of doubleheaders) a team can pick up a player one (1) rating level higher than the rating level of the missing player, but ONLY to get that team to ten (10) players. **Motion passed 4-2 (SB/BK.)**

SB motioned and RS seconded that there will be no more doubleheaders for the remainder of the current (Fall 2015) season. If there are rainouts, the current season will be extended (which, in turn, will extend the start/end of the Spring 2016 season.) Additionally, there will be doubleheaders for the Spring 2016 season, but none will be scheduled involving doubleheaders for all eight teams.

Motion passed 4-2 (TJ/BK.)

3. Player Ratings

Richard Patton – new player recently moved from Georgia. Plays tournament ball. Is 57.
Bats/throws right.

Board member ratings of Patton as follows: SB as 2/3; RS as 2; JH as 2; BK as 4; TJ as 2;

MF did not observe. Consensus is that Patton will be rated a 2 and placed in the pool until an opening occurs.

Larry Row – plays for Gusto 65 major. Bat/throws right. Plays OF. Good hitter/runner/fielder.
Is 69/70.

None of the Board members, other than SB/JH, know his play level. Board members deferred to SB/JH, both of whom see Row as a 3. He will go into the pool. He is not a candidate for placement on a team.

4. Hank Alonzo

Alonzo's manager, MF, had a conversation with Alonzo on the previous day. In that conversation, Alonzo indicated to MF that he was going to be undergoing some serious dental surgery that would require his leaving his Monday league team. MF said that Alonzo thought he might be able to come back to the Monday league some time in March 2016, and would come back as a pool player. There was some sentiment discussed (RS/BK/TJ/SB) that Alonzo's situation should be treated in the same fashion as Bill McPhillip's recent resignation from the league. JH pointed out that McPhillips did not have a medical reason for quitting, and that Alonzo's reason for quitting was, as stated, certainly medical in nature and that the two situations should not be treated in the same fashion. MF concurred with this. As a result, Alonzo is considered to have left the league due to medical issues.

As a result of this, team Boys In Blue has an opening for a one (1) rated player. With our policy of being able to place a new player on a team with an opening based on a one up/down criterial, Richard Patton, as a two (2) rated player will be placed on the Boys In Blue, replacing Alonzo. SB and MF will contact Patton. If Patton is missing from a subsequent game, MF can replace him with a one (1) rated player.

5. Wounded Warrior Tournament

BK stated that he has secured a date of 2/24/16 (Wed) at BLD for our Wounded Warrior Tournament. Wednesday, March 23, will serve as a back-up "rain date."

SB stated that he needs to send Marv Ruddell information as to what we want included on our WWT flyers. BK will pass out these flyers to team participants in the Top Gun SSUSA tournament in Menifee in January 2016.

SB will be in charge of the WWT prize donation list.

Consensus was to again have the HR derby as part of the day's activities. Will consider keeping Derby fee at \$20. RS suggested that maybe we look at a \$25 fee for the HR Derby, and as part of that, each participant receives a HR Derby T-shirt.

MF brought up a possible alternative charity for veterans. This would be an organization called 4 Paws 4 Patriots, a local Temecula organization (501 3(c)) that provides service dogs for veterans. He has been in contact with Timothy LeBlanc/John Banks(?) to discuss the organization. MF would like the Board to review the organization's website, and then possibly to have a representative meet with the Board in a few weeks. Although all Board members commended this organization for their service, there is concern about the positive benefit of the WWP "brand" and what that means in terms of attracting participants to our tournament. The general thought was that there was probably not enough time to consider making such a change for the upcoming tournament.