

MINUTES MVUDSS BOARD MEETING 7-19-19

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Baranick (SB); R. Barnhart (RB); J. Hansell (JH); T. Jadwin (TJ); G. Stevenson (GS);
R. Schemp (RS)

GUEST: J. Buss (JB)

1. 2019 Fall Season

a. Assignments

- (1) Umpires – RB spoke to Brian Wright, who is interested in umpiring for the Monday league starting in the 2019 Fall season. RB will put Wright in contact with SB.

BLD Labor Day availability – RB confirmed with BLD that Labor Day (Monday, 9/2) will be available for Monday league play. There is a 2-day tournament scheduled for Saturday, 8/31 and Sunday, 9/1.

The only thing which could impact the Monday league playing on 9/2 would be a delay, of some sort, of the 2-day tournament, causing BLD to utilize Monday, 9/2 for the tournament.

BLD Sports Director – RB informed the Board that Paul Alberson was appointed as the new BLD Sports Director, replacing Tom Lowry.

- (2) T-shirts for BKMT4 for 5 division champions – TJ indicated that T-shirts would cost approx. \$10/player. A minimum of 12 players on winning team would cost approx. \$600, which would be an expense against donation sent to the charity. Discussion occurred on, possibly, adding the cost of the shirts to the team tournament fee. That idea was rejected by unanimous agreement of the Board. RB will speak to Carlos at Elite Sports to see if he would be able to provide a more acceptable price for T-shirts. RB will ask for pricing for 72 shirts. **This remains an open item.**

TJ will contact Adrian Williams (AW) at BLD about whether he would permit, at no cost, some type of “banner” at BLD “advertising” the Monday league. **This remains an open item.**

- (3) Game scheduling options – Prior to the end of the 2019 Spring season, SB had Monday league managers poll their players on two possible options to consider for scheduling games going forward. In addition to those two options, identified below as Options 1 and 2, RS and SB offered additional possible options for Board consideration, which are shown below as Options 3 and 4.

Option 1 - 14 games, 13 weeks, 1 dh, 12 sh, 0 byes (current format)

Option 2 - 14 games, 12 weeks, 5 dh, 4 sh, 3 byes

Option 3 - 14 games, 12 weeks, 3 dh, 8 sh, 1 bye (RS)

Option 4 - 14 games, 12 weeks, 2 dh, 10 sh, 0 byes (SB)

In the poll of players, 46 players responded with 27 favoring Option 1 and 19 favoring Option 2. 25 players did not respond.

The Board spent considerable time discussing each option. For fall 2019, the season would end on December 16 for Option 1; and for the remaining three options, the season would end on December 9. Difficulty in picking up players was cited relative to those options with multiple double headers.

JH motioned and TJ seconded that the Monday league remain with the existing league schedule (Option 1). **Motion passed 6-0.**

- (4) Possible unavailable playing dates at BLD – SB spoke to AW regarding possible dates between August 26 and December 16, which might not be available for play. AW indicated that November 11, Veteran's Day will not be available. Doesn't impact the Monday league as we are “dark” due to Phoenix Winter Worlds.
- (5) On June 17, SB posted a notice on the SSUSA Message Board about the start of the 2019 Fall season. SB indicated, a lot of “views”, but no “replies”.
- (6) SB contacted Managing Editor, Kim Harris, of the Valley News about posting an article regarding the 2019 Fall season. An article appeared on June 21. SB received a couple of calls in response, but no new Monday player candidates.

(7) League financials – SB indicated that the Monday league had a surplus of \$398.35 at the end of Spring 2019 season. SB prepared a very preliminary financial for the 2019 Fall season. Assuming 8 teams, 72 players, 2 double headers, and \$45/player, we would have a surplus of \$502.37 at the end of the 2019 Fall season. As of this Board meeting, there are only 63 players committed to playing the 2019 Fall season. RS indicated that we do not need to budget Rock BP balls. Without vote, but by unanimous agreement, the Board directed SB to add budget \$ for pitching screen repair (he will use figures from last year), and \$200 for AED battery replacement. SB to check the AED to verify the battery expiration date.

(Subsequent to Board meeting, SB verified the battery expiration date to be 8/14/19 and updated the budget)

Until teams and number of players become more clear, we will not yet be able to prepare a more exact budget for the 2019 Fall season. JH reminded the Board that a motion and vote need to take place to approve the fall season player fee. **This remains an open item.**

b. Discussion Items/Announcements

- (1) The player draft is scheduled for Monday, 8/19 and Wednesday, 8/21. The 2019 Fall season will start on Monday, 8/26. There are 65 committed players, with 3 “maybes”: Hansell/M. Morrison/Kurianski. Cooly Smith, originally playing, has been moved to the pool. SB updated regarding the following players: P. McDowell – not returning; R. Waite – remaining in player pool; J. Renwick – to player pool; R. Kurianski – will decide prior to the draft; B. Bennett – not returning.
- (2) H. Alberts (HA) – SB advised the Board, that HA has sat out the requisite period of time according to league policy (remainder of season plus next full season), and wants to return to the league as a player. The Board has no issue with this.
- (3) Managers – As of this Board meeting, H. Alberts, A. Bullington, J. Buss, and E. Rushing have committed to managing for 2019-2020. We need two more managers. GS will speak to J. Roach about possibly managing. JH to write an e-mail to all players on this topic, to be sent over the signature of SB, Board President.
(Subsequent to Board meeting, SB sent the e-mail.)
- (4) Cutoff Date for Allowing New Players to the League into the Player Pool
JH motioned and GS seconded, that a new player coming into the league and desiring to be a pool player, must get rated by the Board and placed on a team or in the pool at least 4 weeks prior to the end of a season. **Motion passed 6-0.** SB will add this to the appropriate section in the Monday league rules.
The Board agreed, unanimously, without vote, that a known player coming back into the league as a pool player or as a replacement player, or a new player coming into the league who is properly rated by the Board, can come into the league as a replacement player without restriction of the 4-week criteria cited above. In the case of the player coming in as a replacement player, there must be an opening on a team appropriate to the rating of the known/new player.
(Subsequent to Board meeting, the league rule impacted by this addition was updated.)
- (5) Double Base Rule - SSUSA 8.4(1)
JH indicated to the Board that because of confusion and inconsistent interpretation of the above rule, he sent an e-mail to Rick Seifman, VP of Umpires for SSUSA, asking for clarification. The sentence in question needing clarification is: *“The defending player has **only** the white base, in fair territory, to make the putout; his touch of **only** the bag in foul territory will not result in an out.”* JH highlighted the words only, because they are contradictory. The phrase preceding the semi-colon states, unequivocally, that the defender can only use the white bag to make a putout. The phrase after the semi-colon says the defender's touch of only the “orange” bag will not result in an out. Reading into it, the latter suggests that if a portion of the foot is on the orange and the white bag, the batter-runner would be out. But, that contradicts the first portion of the sentence where the defender can only touch the white bag to make an out. Seifman wrote to JH saying the intent is to allow the defender to use all of the white or a portion of the white and orange bags. He agreed that the rule needs to be clarified. JH will prepare a clarification of this rule for inclusion in the Monday league rules. (Subsequent to Board meeting, the rule was clarified and added to the league rules.)

2. League Players

By general consensus of the Board, it was agreed to leave Keith Benjamin in the player pool.

3. Board Rating of Players – Local Teams – Draft Selection Process

The Board rated all local team and pool players. This spreadsheet is used by managers as a tool during the draft. TJ motioned and RS seconded that the Board rating of players be the final and determinative rating and not the position (rating) taken in the draft. After discussion, TJ rescinded this motion.

RS motioned and TJ seconded that each player have two (2) separate ratings: the rating set by the Board and the rating based on the player's draft selection. The draft rating of a player will be determinative when a manager has to replace that player for a given game. The Board rating will be determinative when a manager from another team picks up a player. **Motion passed 4-2 (SB/JH).**

The general consensus of the Board is that this revised draft selection process is more reflective of the true value/skill of a player, and is more equitable in terms of giving players greater chances of being picked up as replacement players. JH reiterated what he has stated on this issue for a number of years. JH believes that the value a manager places on a player, by virtue of where he selects a player in the draft, should be the sole determinative criteria for a rating. JH also stated that a) this revised rule will be confusing to managers, b) other than providing these Board ratings to managers during the draft process, and Board ratings for players on out-of-area teams, players have not been given Board ratings of players, and c) it's not the Board's responsibility or obligation to establish a rating system that allows for players to be able to be picked up more often. And, in concert with the previous item c), he believes that as many players will be "hurt" under this new rating system as will be helped in terms of being able to be picked up for more games.

SB to look at all communications (league rules, policies) which may be impacted by this revised rating system. (Subsequent to Board meeting, the league rules and policies impacted by this change were revised.)

Without vote, but by unanimous agreement, the Board agreed that with the revised rating system, when a permanent player leaves the league, his replacement is based upon the departing player's draft position, as described in our existing policy.

4. Public Urination – League Player

The Board received reliable information from multiple sources that a Monday league player urinated in one of the dugouts on Monday, July 8, during the single-elimination tournament. Without vote, but by unanimous agreement of the Board, anyone (player/fan) caught or admitting to such an act will be immediately and permanently removed from the league. The Board discussed that such an act puts the league in jeopardy of being banned from BLD. JH will draft an e-mail to all league players over SB's signature.

(Subsequent to Board meeting, JH prepared and SB sent the e-mail.)

5. Umpire Refreshers - JH

(1) Lineup cards

JH indicated that umpires need to enforce the league rule regarding managers having to complete lineup cards. These cards are done for two primary reasons:

- a) to be able to determine if a batter has batted out of order;
- b) to include substitutes on the official lineup card in the event a player has to leave the lineup.

This requirement also needs to be reiterated to the managers, including the out-of-area managers.

(2) 75-minute game time requirement

This requirement is inconsistently being applied by umpires. The Board discussed the fact that we expect umpires to follow the 75-minute rule, but not rigidly so. RS suggested that we have the umpires use 77 minutes as done in SSUSA tournaments. Without vote, there was unanimous agreement by the Board to do this. RB suggested that the umpires use the electronic scoreboards at BLD, which has a clock. While this is a good idea, and we should make some attempt to do this, there is a practical side of utilizing these scoreboards. That is the relative unavailability of personnel at BLD in the early a.m. to be able to access items like this. It was also suggested that we purchase two clock/timers with alarms for each of the two BLD fields utilized. Without vote, but unanimously by the Board, SB was given the approval to purchase two of these items

(Subsequent to Board meeting, SB purchased two umpire countdown timers.)

(3) Pitching Screen

The location of the pitching screen relative to the pitching rubber is being inconsistently applied, or not applied at all, by umpires. JH doesn't believe that umpires are checking the pitching screen location prior to the start of a game, and believes that this should be a requirement for them to check both before and during the game.

SB to speak to umpires about these issues.

6. Out-of-Area Players – Board Ratings

(1) Sammy's Cafe (SC)

In the June 14, 2019 Board meeting, the Board agreed that SC would have to reduce its roster to 12 players for the upcoming fall 2019 season and that the reduction could not be to have manager Dan Gutierrez (DG) simply manage and not play. SB was to contact. SB had not yet contacted DG. SB prepared a simple spreadsheet showing SC's record during the 6+ years it has participated in the Monday league. What is most evident is the team's performance during the last 4 years (8 seasons) where it finished first or tied for first in 5 out of the 8 seasons. During that time, the team won 70% of its games.

The Board reiterated the issues that have been surrounding SC during the last number of years:

- a) players not wanting to play SC because of the difficulty in being competitive against them;
- b) the fact that there is an “imbalance” ratings-wise for the team, up and down the roster;
- c) that the team, originally, was to be made up of players from the Ontario/Rancho Cucamonga area, but that's not currently the case;
- d) that they have 14 players on their roster, etc.

The Board rated the existing 14-player roster.

PLAYER	SC RATING 2018-19	BOARD 2018-19 RATING	BOARD 2019-20 RATING
IANNONE	1	1	1
MCKENNEY	1	1	1
HALLDORSON	2	2	1
KLUCK	2	3	3
GUNNS	3	2	2
HERNANDEZ	3	3	3
HILL	3	2	2
BENEDICT	4	3	3
MANGIAPANE	4	3	3
KATOSTA	5	5	5
SWICK	5	4	4
GUTIERREZ	6	5	5
IAVARONE	6	6	6
PATTERSON	6	4	4

SB motioned and JH seconded, that for competitive and league parity purposes, SC has to reduce their 14-player roster to 12 players for the 2019 Fall season. The reduction must include one of the three (3) Board-rated “1's” and the second person cannot be DG. Should they so choose, players dropped can enter the Monday league draft. **Motion passed 6-0.**

JH will speak to DG on this issue. (JH spoke to DG on 7/22/19. JH provided the Board with an overview of that discussion, and a compromise proposal offered by DG. The proposal is as follows:

Two Options:

- I. Two "1's" go to the field to play with SC. One "1" remains home. The three "1's" alternate on this cycle. (Belief is that DG would be less likely to do this.)
- II. All three "1's" go to the field, but only 2 of the 3 play in SC's games.

In the 7/22/19 discussion JH had with DG, no detail was discussed relative to the above. In subsequent e-mails to the Board, JH offered "conditions" that would apply for II above.

They are:

- a) If a "1" from SC's game is injured during a game, the third "1" cannot replace the injured "1."
- b) The third "1" cannot courtesy run in the game he is sitting out.
- c) The third "1" cannot be a substitute for one of the other two "1's" during a game.
- d) The third "1" may be used as a coach for the game he is sitting out.

With either of the two options, the expectation is that DG would notify SB about the availability of the third "1" to be picked up by another team.

The above options were "discussed" with Board members via phone conversations, and/or e-mails. The result was that 4 Board members were OK with the proposal, and two (TJ/RS) were not.

SB spoke to DG on 7/25 and JH spoke to DG on 7/26 regarding the above. DG requested that JH provide him of the discussions between the two on 7/22 and 7/26. DG indicated to JH that he had spoken to approximately one-half of his roster, and committed to get back to JH within 2 weeks or less as to whether SC would be returning to the Monday league.

In the event SC drops out of the league, SB indicated that with 7 teams we have the option of either:

- a) a 12-game season with a double-elimination tournament (12 weeks/2 double headers), or
- b) an 18-game season with no tournament (15 weeks/3 double headers).

(2) North County (NC)

The Board rated the existing 10-player roster. NC can have 12 players on their roster.

PLAYER	NC RATING 2018-19	BOARD 2018-19 RATING	BOARD 2019-20 RATING
KARR	1	1	1
AUMANN	2	2	1
TEETER	2	2	2
FEARN – STITCH	3	3	3
BASTA	3	3	3
WOOLSEY	3	2	2
CHANDLER	4	3	3
JONES	4	2	2
MILO	5	4	4
PEREZ	5	4	4

This leaves NC with: two “1’s”, three “2’s”, three “3’s”, two “4’s”, and 0 “5’s”/”6’s”.

NC manager Don Chandler (DC) expressed a desire to add Al Underwood (“2”) and John Gullatta (“3”) to fill their two openings. However, based on the ratings of their existing players, they will not be able to do so, and will only be able to add “5”- or “6”-rated players. Underwood and Gullatta will therefore go into the Monday league draft.

SB will speak to DC about what ratings his team will be able to add for the 2019 Fall season.

(SB spoke to DC on 7/23. After discussion of Board player ratings for NC players, DC understood that he would not be able to add Al Underwood or John Gullatta to the NC roster. He knows that based on his current roster and ratings, that with the two roster openings he has, he can pick up some combination of “5” or “6” rated players. SB received a text message from DC on 7/26 that Lyle Wood, who previously was going to leave the NC roster, will not be leaving the roster. The board needs to address this issue.)