

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Baranick (SB); R. Barnhart (RB); J. Hansell (JH); E. Rushing (ER) – via mobile phone; G. Stevenson (GS)

1. Action Items

- a. RB - Get approval from Tom Lowry/BLD to make up Monday rainouts on following Wednesday. - Done, 12/9/22
 SB - Email managers, umpires, players --- Done, 12/9/22.
 Player reception to playing on Wednesdays has received some negative response. Every attempt will be made to play games without playing on Wednesdays, but that day remains an option if necessary. **Item closed.**
- b. SB - Purchased 12 doz. Rocks from SSUSA at \$80/doz. + 0% tax + \$0 S/H + 4% credit card fee.
 Balls were ordered on 12/12/22, received on 12/18/22, and have been utilized in the few games that weather has permitted play since the purchase.
Note: 1 doz. sold to Ed Rushing
 6 doz. to MVUDSS, 5 doz. plus credit card fee to BKMT6 games/HR derby.
Item closed.
- c. JH – Revised the Pool Player Policy and prepared an email regarding the revisions which was sent to all players on 12/28/22 and 1/5/23. SB posted revisions to league website. **Item closed.**
- d. JH – Revised the Player Discipline Policy/Procedure and prepared an email regarding the revisions, which was sent to all players on 12/28/23. SB posted revisions to league website. **Item closed.**

2. 2022 Fall Season

- a. Projected Balance:
 \$321.61 - from 12/9/2022 meeting
 - \$50.00 - added 1 session (field) to final playing date of the season
 \$271.61
- b. 2023 liability insurance paid to SSUSA; Certificate of Liability Insurance emailed to Tom Lowry/BLD on 1/5/23.
Item closed.
- c. Ed Rushing replaced Mike Graves as AED Program Manager. ER indicated that he has checked the AED, that it's in proper working order, and that he's maintaining a log of dates of review. **Item closed.**

3. 2023 Spring Season

Based on the items/factors in 3. a.-d. below, SB prepared a draft schedule for an 8-game season, with a playoff involving all teams in a single-elimination to get to a 4 team double-elimination “final”. Weather (rain/wind), normal “dark” days for major SSUSA tournaments, and a significant number of unavailable days because BLD commitments (2/20, 5/29, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 7/3, 7/17, 7/24) make it impractical to have anything other than a shortened season with some sort of playoff. RB offered the concern that we attempt to offer, as reasonably as possible, a season/playoff where all teams get to play the approximate same number of games. As a result, he suggested that with the 8-game “season”, we look at holding a double-elimination playoff. SB will look at putting together an 8-game Spring 2023 season schedule followed by a double-elimination. He will present it to the Board for review, at which time the Board will determine whether under the circumstances/existing conditions a single or double-elimination playoff would be most suitable.

Although items 3. a.-d. below are being left in the minutes, nothing in those items have been approved or agreed to, and are included only for reference.

JH will modify Rule 22. Tournament, to give Board flexibility to hold single or double-elimination tournaments.
Item remains open.

- a. Scheduled to start on February 27, 2023 at the earliest.
- b. Schedule requires Board approval.
- c. League fee requires Board approval.
- d. Projected Balance: \$213.84 (based on \$35 league fee) - 1 round with SE/DE playoffs

4. Modification to Rule 7. Late Roster Arrival

JH stated that he needs more time to review before discussion.

Item remains open.

5. Bob Kapeller Memorial Tournament 2023 (BKMT6)

- a. We have 20 teams committed and have reached our capacity.
- b. Without vote, but with unanimous consensus, the Board approved the division alignments/schedule for 20 teams. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, there is a modification of participating teams which will necessitate a realignment of the divisions/schedule, thus requiring Board approval.)
- c. Estimated Net Profit: \$3,076.69 + donations (based on 20 teams)
- d. So far, received 3 tournament fees. Deadline on the flyer is February 12, 2023.
- e. Games scheduled for Wednesday, 2/22/23 with backup 3/1/23. Field rental is \$35/game with umpires being paid \$30/game. SB will verify a \$5 gate fee with Tom Lowry/BLD. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, SB confirmed that the gate fee will be \$8. BLD does not consider the BKMT a small tournament, therefore the larger gate fee.)

6. SSUSA National Rules Committee, January 8-10, 2023

SB identified the 3 (6. a.-c.) SSUSA rule changes coming out of their year end national rules committee meeting. Language below, in red font, is directly from their rules committee meeting.

a. 2. End commitment line 'follies'

We received multiple suggestions about ending the gamesmanship between base runner and defender that occasionally occurs at/near the commitment line to draw a tag on the "wrong side of the line." Motion was made to amend Rulebook §8.8 to read:

"A commitment line thirty feet from the scoring line or scoring plate will be used. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner is committed to advancing to the scoring line or scoring plate.

EFFECT: Tag of a runner by a defensive player will not be allowed **once both of the runner's feet have crossed the commitment line**. If a defender tags a runner after this happens, the runner will be called safe....

MOTION PASSED: 11-0

JH motioned, and RB seconded, that the Board approve the adoption of the revised SSUSA Commitment Line rule as stated above. **The motion failed 0-5.**

Not knowing if/when SSUSA was going to deal with the Commitment Line rule issue, the Board approved its own Commitment Line rule and communicated the rule to all players, managers and umpires via email on 11/10/22. The revised SSUSA rule does not go far enough to clarify application of the rule and the Board believes its rule is more appropriate. **Item closed.**

b. 9. Make safety bag plays safer

RECOMMENDATION: If a throw or play pulls the fielder into foul territory, allow him to touch the safety base to put out the batter-runner.

MOTION to adopt ASA/USA rule: "On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, the defense and the batter-runner may use either the white or contrasting color portion of the base. On an errant throw pulling the defense off the white portion of the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or contrasting color portion." And separately, the rule says: "When the defensive player uses the foul portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory when the throw is coming from the foul side of the base, and if hit by the thrown ball, it is not interference. If intentional interference is ruled, the runner is out." **MOTION PASSED 11-0**

RB indicated that SSUSA Regional Director, Jerry Smith, clarified that the intent of the modification of the safety bag element of batter/runner rule provision is to prevent collisions. While SB/JH/ER understood that aspect of the revision, and while they do not want to minimize/trivialize safety issues/concerns, they do not believe that the defense should, in any way, benefit from errant throws/errors, and that is what this revision does. After much discussion, it was agreed that JH would attempt to draft language that is more realistic in its application. Until such time as that occurs and the Board, again, addresses this issue, MVUDSS will not utilize this clarification of the safety bag rule. **Item remains open.**

c. **12. Simplify legal bat rules**

RECOMMENDATION: Simplify the language surrounding approved bats and set a firm date for grandfathered bats. **Suggested Change:** As of November 1, 2023, bats must be marked with the SSUSA/NTS logo. Older bats must be marked SSUSA approved (or have SSUSA logo), with 1.21 BPF or less.

MOTION APPROVED 9-0 (2 abstaining.)

Without vote, but with unanimous consensus, the Board accepts and will follow, this revised rule.

This will not be incorporated in MVUDSS rules.

Item closed.

7. Open items from previous meetings

- a. GS - update Player Finder to include local players having byes. Although this should not happen based on regular scheduling and “normal” weather, this did occur this season. GS will look at a way to identify a bye team by using a different time (other than the normal 3 time slots) and/or another numerical designation, such as a “4”, representing a 4th time slot.

Item remains open.

- b. Ball bag needs repair.- dented handle is not repairable. Will continue to use until has to be replaced.

Item closed.

8. Roster Changes - REDACT this agenda item only IF NO CHANGES from last board meeting. (Changes, if any, identified in red below.)

- a. Roster Openings (in roster opening order):

~~8/15/22: Mike Morrison dropped out of pool, moved/moving to Missouri~~

~~8/22/22: Hank Alberts (6) dropped out --- Sons of Arthritis (C) missing a 6 --- 9/26/22 Don Kingwill (5) added~~

9/4/22: Matt Smith (5) dropped out --- Sons of Arthritis (C) missing a 5

9/26/22: Mike Trusty (5) dropped out--- Greyhounds (G) missing a 5

10/3/22: Andy Bullington (2) to pool --- Gold Standard (D) missing a 2--- 11/28/22: Robb Braun (3) added

10/31/22: Bill Gillette (2) dropped out --- Red Raiders (E) missing a 2--- 11/28/22: Harold Halldorson (2) added

~~12/19/22: Frank Camou (3) dropped out Blue Bolts (B) missing a 3 -12/27/22: Nate Randolph (3) added~~

~~12/27/22: Nate Randolph (3) dropped out of pool~~

~~1/9/23: Ray Sikes (2) dropped out Roadrunners (F) missing a 2 --- 1/9/23: Ernie Regalado (4) added~~

~~1/12/23: Ernie Regalado (4) dropped out of pool~~

8/8/22: --- Blue Bolts (B) missing a 6

8/8/22: --- Roadrunners (F) missing a 6

8/8/22: --- Gold Standard (D) missing a 6

8/8/22: --- Greyhounds (G) missing a 6

8/8/22: --- Red Raiders (E) missing a 6

- b. Waiting List Players (in eligibility order):

7/10/22: Mike Graves (4, drafted as a 4) --- will call when ready to play

8/8/22: Harold Halldorson (1, drafted as a 2) --- will call when ready to play

10/31/22: Terry Shinn (1) --- will call when ready to play