

## MINUTES MVUDSS BOARD MEETING 7/28/24

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Baranick (SB); R. Barnhart (RB); D. Bates (DB); J. Hansell (JH); G. Stevenson (GS)

GUESTS: J. Blakeman (JB); D. Hunt (DH) (via phone – portion of meeting); C. Yap (CY)

### 1. Action Items

- a. JH – prepared an email from the Board regarding managers needed for 2024 - 2025 Fall Season, then forwarded to SB, who, subsequently emailed it to all league players on 6/14.  
Managers: (1) John Leavitt w/asst. David Bates, (2) Mike O'Donnell w/asst. Bill Olson, (3) Chris Yap w/asst. Greg Abejon, (4) Dennis Hunt w/asst. John Prybylla, (5) Robb Braun w/asst. Ron Martel, (6) Steve Baranick w/asst. Joe Hansell. **Item closed.**
- b. SB posted, on 6/10, information on league website regarding the upcoming player draft and the start of 2024 Fall Season, on the MVUDSS Facebook group. **Item closed.**
- c. SB generated a test case 18-game schedule for the Fall 2024-2025 season. Not practical to schedule an 18 games/team season over the same timeframe as a 12 games/team season.  
Difficult to pick up players during doubleheader days and scheduling makeup games. **Item closed.**
- d. Because of c. above, this means, for the Fall 2024-2025 season, a 12-game season with a single elimination tournament. The issue of having an earlier start time, 8 am, for games in August because of the heat was raised. SB will check with Tom Lowry (BLD) to determine if BLD can accommodate. **Item remains open.**

### 2. Open items from previous meetings

#### a. Revisit SSUSA Rule Changes 1.5 Batters Box and 7.3 Batting Position

This rule change was **not** (2-3) adopted by MVUDSS at the 12/27/23 board meeting. See MVUDSS Rule 30. The item has remained open as a result of the arguments which occurred on the last day of the regular season, in which a few players were not aware that MVUDSS did not adopt the revised SSUSA rule on this element of play.

JH stated that in May of this year the SSUSA Message Board had a significant number of postings from managers/players, complaining about the new rule. On May 22, 2023, Dave Dowell posted a response to all of the complaints. JH read a portion of what Dowell wrote (his entire posting is attached) as follows: *“Last year at the National Rules Committee meetings, I was reluctantly “persuaded” this new rule was the way to go ... I won't make that same mistake again this time around ... I'm now convinced that if it's been good enough for MLB for nearly 150 years, it's good enough for us. I'll be introducing, and advocating, an easily understood return to sanity on this issue”*. By this last sentence, JH indicated that Dowell would be introducing something on this topic at the National Rules Committee Review in December, 2024. See **ATTACHMENT 1**.

There was also discussion that aspects of the newly adopted rule were poorly and confusingly written, including whether under the new rule would stepping out of the front of the batter's box result in the batter being called out. It is unclear.

JH also spoke to Jerry Smith (JS), SSUSA Director and MVUDSS player, about this issue. JS felt that the issue would be brought up at the National meeting. He thinks players are becoming more used to the new rule and, his personal guess is that he thinks the new rule won't change.

To have it part of the written record, JH offered the following information relative to different softball organizations and batter's box size.

**USSSA** – Rule 1 (the model for SSUSA's new rule)

\* 3' X 5 1/2'

\* 3' forward, 2 1/2' back from center corner of plate

**SSUSA**

\* 3' X 7'

\* 4' forward, 3' back from center corner of plate

**MLB**

\* 4' X 6'

\* 3' forward, 3' back from center corner of plate

Based on all of the above, JH recommended that the current MVUDSS batter's box rule (the old SSUSA rule) stay in effect, and that this subject be tabled until after the SSUSA Rules Committee meets in December 2024. The Board agreed, unanimously, without vote. **Item remains open.**

#### b. Teams Loading Up With Replacement Players

A rather lengthy discussion took place on this topic in the 6/2/24 Board meeting. Many of the same points which are memorialized in the minutes of the 6/2/24 Board meeting were, again, briefly discussed today. RB stated that he feels managers are taking advantage of getting a better team when they are missing a number of players both during the regular season, but particularly during the tournament. RB/DB feel there should be something done to the manner in which players are picked up, again particularly during a tournament. JH made the point that no manager, typically, knows when he will be missing players, and how many and that it's a random shot as to who/what players will be available to pick up. JH also makes the case that given the constant, and on-going, difficulty of getting managers, we don't want to create anything that will make any aspect of managing more difficult.

It was agreed that RB/DB will evaluate the elements on this issue and develop a proposal for the Board's review.

**Item remains open.**

### 3. 2024 Fall Season

#### Projected Balance:

SB projects a balance of \$639.62 assuming 6 local teams, 1 OOA team, 71 local players, and a \$50/player league fee. There was discussion about the possibility of having to purchase a new pitching screen, as at least one of the two older screens may need replacement. A new screen will run \$300 +/- . JH motioned, GS seconded, that the Board approve a \$50/player league fee for the Fall 2024-2025 season. **Motion passed 5-0. Item remains open.**

### 4. Important Dates

\*July 21, 2024 - Tryout/Rating CANCELLED --- NEW: Don Finn, Mike Katz, Guillermo Felix, Scott Vasquez

\*July 28, 2024 - Player Rating

\*August 5, 2024 - Player Draft

\*August 12, 2024 - Start of 2024 Fall Season

### 5. Player Rating

a. The Board completed the rating of local players, including draft eligible and pool players, from a draft list prepared by SB as of 7/26/24. # of draftees: 71. SB will prepare a final draft list for the managers for the upcoming 8/5/24 Draft/Board meeting. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, on 7/30/24, SB prepared a revised roster and emailed to all Managers, Assistants and Board members).

b. Taylor-made Pools (TP) – The Board thanks new co-manager Jeff Blakeman (JB) for attending today's Board meeting and assisting the Board in the rating of his TP players. The Board wishes success (but not too much) to Jeff, Fred Gershkoff, JB's co-manager, and to the rest of the TP players. JB provided the Board with a document (provided as an attachment) which detailed the TP players that were leaving, and the new players replacing them, with his best effort to slot the new players with the ratings of the departing players. He discussed all of this with the Board. There were two changes to existing players which the Board approved and which had JB's agreement, and that was changing L. Sanchez from a "2" to a "3", and Mark Aumann from a "3" to a "2". The Board also explained to JB that the ratings for the new players would be provisional, subject to change after the Board has had sufficient time to see each of the new players in action. Additionally, the Board explained to JB that since TP has three (3) players rated a "4", that if he was missing one (1) of the "4's", he could only pick up a "5" or "6". If he was missing two (2) of the 4's, he could pick up one (1) "4" and either a "5" or "6". See ATTACHMENT 2. **Item remains open.**

### 6. AED Training Course

The last training course was held on October 24, 2022; conducted by Bob Miller. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, SB communicated with Dan Olivas (Dan O), and either he, or his brother Dave Olivas (Dave O) will conduct an AED training course between games on opening day, August 12, 2024). **Item remains open.**

## 7. Equipment Responsibility

JH stated that because three Board members will not be available to handle Monday morning equipment responsibility, RB/GS will not be in the draft, and SB is exempt from this responsibility (he takes the equipment in each week), some other arrangement will have to be made. Only two Board members remain, DB/JH and this is not an equitable responsibility for just two people, as well as the difficulty in having to come in early to get equipment if have middle or late games. JH indicated he did this numerous times during the past year.

After discussion, the Board agreed, unanimously, without vote, that managers with the early games on each field would have the weekly responsibility. This will not include TP, as they have their own equipment.

Managers will be given a key in which to unlock the orange equipment bin, which is located on the back (west) side of the BLD main office entrance (facing right field of Yankee Stadium). DB will have five (5) keys made for the five managers who do not have a key. The general guideline will be that the home team will be responsible to get the equipment, except if TP is the home team, in which case the visiting team will be responsible. JH will prepare an equitably balanced (as much as possible) schedule for managers to follow. JH will also prepare, for the draft, a simple outline of what managers need to do relative to picking up equipment on game day.

(Subsequent to the Board meeting, JH prepared a sample outline of equipment responsibilities.)

**Item remains open.**

## 8. Monday League Game Ball Inventory

Although this was not an agenda item, discussion occurred around the NCS Dudley Thunder ZN 44/525 ball that had been used for the Fall 2023-2024 season and Spring 2024 season. Sentiment expressed was that while the ball “traveled” really well, it was not durable, at all. This lack of durability had been expressed by many Monday players, pitchers, and all others alike.

As part of this casual conversation, CY mentioned a new NCS Dudley 44/375, what he called “hardcore”, meaning significantly more durable than the 44/525, and, according to CY, carries as well as the 44/525, and which the Monday league has an inventory of 12 dozen. JH asked if he understood correctly that the Monday league has 12 dozen Dudley 44/375? SB answered in the affirmative. JH asked the question, when did the Board approve changing balls from the 44/525 to the 44/375? The answer given was that the latter ball carries as well as the 44/525 and is much more durable. That did not answer the question. JH repeated that the Board did not approve any change in game balls.

A discussion ensued, and the Onyx 44/375 ball was brought up. Board members who have used the ball, RB/DB/JH/GS and JB, all say the ball is excellent. The summary of all this discussion is that without formal vote, but by majority agreement, the Monday league will use Onyx 44/375. CY will order 12 dozen Onyx 44/375, and upon receipt of the balls, will “trade” SB for the 12 dozen Dudley 44/375 Monday league balls. **Item remains open.**

## 9. 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):

b. Pool/Waiting List Players (in eligibility order):

c. Injured List (IL):

7/23/24: Bill Newman (2) --- PT on knee, possible return 2025 Spring Season

7/11/24: Don Finn (1) --- ready in November

d. Miscellaneous Change

## ATTACHMENT 1

### 2024 MESSAGE BOARD

May 23  
**DaveDowell**  
Men's 70  
4353 posts

Last year at the National Rules Committee meetings, I was reluctantly "persuaded" this new rule was the way to go ... I won't make that same mistake again this time around ... I'm now convinced that if it's been good enough for MLB for nearly 150 years, COMPLAINT FREE, it's good enough for us: **STAY IN THE BATTER'S BOX, OR YOU'RE OUT** ... The long [Nate Freiman (6'-8")] and the short [Eddie Gaedel (3'-7")] of it have proven conclusively it can be done ... Does anyone know when the most recent occurrence of an MLB player being called out for hitting the ball while being out of the batter's box was? ... Nope, me either! ... I'll be introducing, and advocating, an easily understood return to sanity on this issue ... Maybe I can "count to 7" on it ...

---

**MLB Rule 6.06** • *A batter is out for illegal action when-*

*(a) He hits a ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box ....*

May 24  
**SSUSA  
Staff**  
3530 posts

Thanks to everyone who has commented ... To avoid (further?) confusion and/or unintended misunderstanding, here's what the only batter rule change was, and **what the rule will be for the remainder of this season** until the December Rules Committee sessions, where reconsideration is a possibility:

---

1. Batters must have **BOTH** feet in the batter's box at the start of the pitch ... "Lines are in" for determining in/out of the box;
  2. Batter must have their rear foot **DOWN**, on or behind the line that extends across the front edge of the home plate/strike mat, laterally to the outside edges of the batter's boxes;
  3. **ALL** other batter position restrictions (like not stepping on the strike mat while hitting a ball, etc.) remain unchanged ... That's it! ...
- 

Hopefully this helps ... Good luck everyone! ...

**\*\* THREAD CLOSED \*\***

## ATTACHMENT 2

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Jeffrey Blakeman <[jeff.w.blakeman@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.w.blakeman@gmail.com)>

Date: 7/17/24 7:42 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: Steve Baranick <[stephenbaranick@gmail.com](mailto:stephenbaranick@gmail.com)>

Cc: Fred Gershkoff <[gershkoffwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gershkoffwest@sbcglobal.net)>

Subject: Taylor Made Pools roster

Dear Steve,

As a follow up to our conversation earlier this summer I'm excited to propose our roster for the upcoming season. Fred and I will be jointly running the team - I will mainly handle league issues and be your primary contact with Fred organizing game day issues (lineups, etc.). If I'm not available Fred's decision carries equal weight to mine. I've not been involved in player ratings so I've tried my best to describe each new player and who they will be replacing on our roster so you can slot them into your system. Of the departing players only Chandler and Ludwig are willing to be on the league substitute list. I'll provide email addresses and emergency contact information for new players the first week of the season along with league fees. It is my intention to attend the managers meeting on the 28th so if the date/location changes please let me know. In the meantime don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

Taylor Made Pools returning players:

1. Roy Alberts
2. Jeff Blakeman (manager)
3. Bobby Jones
4. Leonard Sanchez
5. Mark Aumann
6. Tom Larson
7. Fred Gershkoff (coach)

New players in my ranking order:

8. Larry Kaufmann (age 77) – 70 Major plus where he plays Rover and OF with the guys leaving our team, older version of Jim Teeter, solid contributor when not injured.
9. Mike Maltinsky (68)– no tournament experience, good athlete on the smaller size, left-handed, line drive hitter, runs well, relatively new to North County league after being promoted from the recreational league. With more experience expect him to develop into a tournament player.
10. Larry Kennedy (71) – 70 AAA, line drive hitter, doesn't run well so is limited defensively and will need a pinch runner.
11. Kevin McBarron (64) – no tournament experience, in good shape but inconsistent in all aspects of play, runs well, bats left, also promoted from recreational league like Mike.
12. Mark Hiltbrand (69) – 65 AAA, backup pitcher and serviceable utility player, weak hitter, runs well.

All the new players above play in the North County league and are replacing these five players:

1. Jim Teeter – 70+ major plus. [Replaced by Larry Kaufmann (70+ major plus)]
2. Nick Basta – 70+ major plus. [Replaced by Mike Maltinsky (no tournament experience)]
3. John Woolsey – 70+ major plus. [Replaced by Larry Kennedy (70+ AAA)]
4. Don Chandler (willing to be on the league sub list) – 70+ major plus. [Replaced by Kevin McBarron (no tournament experience)]
5. Don Ludwig (willing to be on the league sub list) – 70+ major plus. [Replaced by Mark Hiltbrand (65+ AAA)]

Player Name	Age	Birthdate	Pos.	Mobile Phone	E-mail	Emergency contact
Larry Kaufmann	77	7/10/47	Utility	480-236-8706		
Mike Maltinsky	68	4/12/56	OF	310-944-1127		
Larry Kennedy	71	6/3/53	1B, C	858-472-6994		
Kevin McBarron	64	4/22/60	OF	949-690-7799		
Mark Hiltbrand	69	9/2/55	Pitcher, utility	760-940-6343		

Best regards,

Jeff Blakeman