

MINUTES MVUDSS BOARD MEETING 12/27/23

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Baranick (SB); R. Barnhart (RB); J. Hansell (JH); E. Rushing (ER); G. Stevenson (GS)
GUEST: C. Yap (CY) – mid-way into meeting

1. Action Items

a. SB -

SB updated the Pool Player Policy removing “A pool player is to be available for ALL teams ...” **Item closed.**

b. ER -

(1) ER contacted Tom Lowry (TL) re. securing a locked and temperature-controlled space at BLD to house the AED and allowing us access to it on Mondays. ER received the OK from TL. After the single-elimination tournament on 12/18/23, JH delivered the AED to TL and reviewed the storage location with him. It is in a large, bolt locked, supply/office at the southwestern most part of the administration building. This location also serves as the work area for employee, Esther. JH asked if TL would provide MVUDSS with a key to the office. He declined. **Item closed.**

(2) ER spoke to Dan Olivas (DO) about accepting the AED Program Manager/AED Unit Manager positions. DO accepted. **Item closed.**

c. RB -

(1) RB spoke to TL regarding BLD retrieving “lost” MVUDSS softballs, who indicated that he's spoken to his maintenance staff. JH indicated to SB that to assist in identifying MVUDSS softballs, that some type of designation (MVUDSS, Monday, etc.) be written on all MVUDSS softballs in a dark marker color. SB agreed to start doing so. **Item closed.**

(2) SB stated that he did not see the 2/21/24 date for BKMT7 on the BLD website schedule. RB indicated that BLD doesn't show weekday dates, only weekends. RB will confirm the date with TL. **Item remains open.**

(3) No decision has been made to have a Toys for Tots tournament in December 2024. M Ruddell scheduled his comparable tournament on December 14/15, 2024. There is also an NCS tournament scheduled for December 4/5/6 which limits available dates. RB will check with TL to see if December 5/6, 2024 is available. **Item remains open.**

d. GS -

Website domain name and registration - SB has \$ in the budget for the league's website domain name. GS will confirm to SB the actual amount, and SB will adjust the projected balance, as necessary.

Item remains open.

2. Open items from previous meetings

JH to contact SSUSA; re. Insurance/Certificate of Liability - 2024

JH reiterated what he indicated to the Board in the 11/12/23 Board Meeting.

JH sent an email on 10/10/23 to Stephanie Hopkins (SH) at SSUSA regarding insurance. JH gave information relative to 7 teams, instead of 9, for 2024. JH received an email from SH, same day, indicating that she will no longer be handling insurance or “softballs” and that she would forward JH email information to Amal (female) who will be handling insurance going forward.

JH informed the Board of the following emails from/to SSUSA on this topic:

12/14/23 - Email from Jeremy Briggs, SSUSA, with an attached invoice for 9 teams @ \$405

12/15/23 - Email to Briggs, cc SH – will they send new invoice, 7 teams @ \$315, or should JH just modify the existing invoice? No response.

12/17/23 - Because nJH received no response, and because JH had been having some outgoing email issues, JH sent another email to Briggs, with cc to SH, and also sent identical email via second email account as precaution. JH verified that both emails were sent. No response.

12/26/23 – JH sent an email to SH detailing what to do and asking her how to proceed.

(12/28-29 – Subsequent to the Board meeting, emails between JH & SH in which SH revealed some staffing issues which resulted in JH's emails not being received/acknowledged. SH also revealed that she had a check in the amount of \$360 which had been credited to the MVUDSS account. JH told SH that this is not MVUDSS check, as MVUDSS had not submitted a check for payment for 2024. JH/SH agreed that SH would look into this upon her return to the office after the holidays, and get back to JH.) **Item remains open.**

3. 2023 Fall Season

Projected Balance:

\$307.00 - from 11/12/23 meeting
- 0.04 - add'l cost of freezer mug for new manager
- \$25.00 - umpire gift card
+\$114.90 - award savings (shirts instead of duffel bags)

\$396.86

4. 2024 Spring Season

- a. SB handed out a copy of the Spring 2024 season and explained the various reasons why more games for a regular season is not practical. SB proposed that the Spring season be a 12-game season with a season-ending single-elimination tournament. JH motioned and GS seconded that the Spring 2024 season be 12 games with a season-ending single-elimination tournament. **Motion passed 5-0.**

There was discussion regarding possibly holding the single-elimination over two days, but there are practical reasons, such as additional cost, which does not make this a viable option.

(Subsequent to the Board meeting, SB posted the Spring 2024 season schedule on the league website.)

Item closed.

- b. NCS softballs – Discussion centered around whether the NCS softball that was used for the Fall 2023 season was sound in that many softballs that were used during the closing weeks of the season were cut, scuffed, and marred. SB explained that the balls are sound but because we have been losing so many softballs we had to recycle many of them for more use than would be typical. SB indicated that for the Spring season, he had budgeted to purchase one case of softballs (72) for \$360, which is reflected in the original Spring season balance of \$532.62 shown in 4.c below. SB also indicated that he will be purchasing another case of softballs for the BKMT, the cost of which will be covered by tournament team fees, but added that the used and any new softballs come back to the league for league use. The Board agreed that it's better to have more softballs than fewer and to have enough softballs that can hold up to league use. The Board also acknowledged that any new softballs that are not used in the Spring season, and serviceable used softballs would be carried over to the subsequent season. JH motioned and ER seconded that the league purchase 3 cases of NCS Dudley 44/525 softballs for the Spring 2024 season and for the BKMT. **Motion passed 5-0.**

The projected Spring 2024 balance of \$532.62, will be reduced, accordingly, by \$360. **Item remains open.**

- c. Projected Balance:

\$532.62 includes purchase of a new defibrillator for approx. \$1,500. **Item remains open.**

- d. Defibrillator (AED)

The league AED was purchased in the Fall 2015. The battery and pads have been replaced, but the discussion centered around the fact that it was time to purchase a new AED. JH indicated that while he, clearly, understood the importance of having an AED available, particularly around a large group of seniors, given the inconsistency in maintaining the AED and attendant “service” records over the last few years, he would rather not have an AED available, and rely on 911, than have an AED whose pads, batteries, etc. might not work in a time of need/crisis. JH's position on this, is, in no way, a reflection on the newly AED Program Manager identified in 1.b. (2) above. JH motioned and RB seconded that the league purchase a new AED for approximately \$1,500.

Motion passed 4-1 (JH). ER to speak to DO to see if DO can seek discount pricing before a unit is purchased.

(Subsequent to the Board meeting, ER informed the Board that DO is having his brother, who is fire-fighter/trainer look into AED options, discount pricing, etc.). **Item remains open.**

e. \$60/player league fee - JH motioned and ER seconded that the Board approve, for the Spring 2024 season, a league fee of \$60/player subject to adjustment pending the purchase price of a new AED.

Motion passed 5-0. Item remains open.

f. RB will be the new umpire scheduler replacing SB.

Umpires - Paul Pena, John Benedict, Don Finn. **Item closed.**

g. Jack Buss (4) and Paul Pena (3) will be added to the player pool in the spring. Buss rating: RB/ER/GS, all of whom have seen Buss play recently rate as “4”. Pena rating: RB/GS-2, SB/JH/ER – 3.

(Subsequent to the Board meeting, SB corrected the Pool Player listing on the league website to reflect these changes). **Item closed.**

h. Replacement required for manager Hank Alberts/Balls on Base (F).

Possibilities: Robb Braun, Herb Younker who have previously managed in our league. ER will speak to these two individuals. (Subsequent to the Board meeting ER spoke to Robb Braun, who agreed to manage the team for the Spring 2024 season. The Board expresses its thanks to Robb for stepping up). **Item closed.**

5. Player re-rating

By unanimous consensus, without formal vote, the Board re-rated pool player Tom Olsen from a “1” to a “2”.

(Subsequent to the Board meeting, SB corrected the Pool Player listing on the league website to reflect this change).

Item closed.

6. 2024 SSUSA Rules - See ATTACHMENT 1

a. Rule 1.5 Batter's Box and 7.3 Batting Position

JH motioned, and GS seconded, that the changed SSUSA Rules 1.5 and 7.3 as identified on ATTACHMENT 1 be adopted by MVUDSS. **Motion failed (SB/SB) 2-3.**

(Subsequent to the Board meeting – Since the changes to these SSUSA rules will result in the SSUSA Rule Book being revised to reflect these changes, MVUDSS will copy the existing SSUSA Rules 1.5 and 7.3 and incorporate into MVUDSS rules. SB to copy the appropriate sections into the MVUDSS rules).

(Subsequent to the Board meeting, SB made the appropriate changes to the Rules on the league website.)

Item is closed.

b. Rule 3.4(6) Penalty For Using An Altered Bat or Softball

By unanimous consensus, without formal vote, the Board agreed to adopt the SSUSA rule change as identified on ATTACHMENT 1. **Item closed.**

7. Proposed Additions to 2024 MVUDSS Rules

a. Rule 2. Altered Bats – JH motioned and SB seconded that the Board approve the proposed added language, as shown on ATTACHMENT 2, to MVUDSS existing Rule 2. **Motion passed 5-0.**

SB to incorporate the approved language into the existing Rule onto the league website. **Item remains open.**

b. Rule 7. Late Roster Arrival – JH motioned, and ER seconded, that the Board approve the proposed added language, as shown on ATTACHMENT 2, to MVUDSS existing Rule 7., as new item c. **Motion passed 5-0.**

SB to incorporate the approved language into existing Rule onto the league website. **Item remains open.**

8. A. Underwood (AU) – Alleged Altered (Illegal) Bat Used In SSUSA Tournament

The Board, in detail, reviewed all of the factors relating to AU's alleged use of an illegal bat in an SSUSA tournament in Phoenix. The Board rendered a final decision as to AU's status in the MVUDSS league and, as this is a personnel matter, the reporting of the results of that decision will remain confidential.

9. TaylorMade Pool Roster

DC contacted SB and informed SB that he was replacing both AU “4” and Bob Miller (BM) “6” as they not playing next season. DC requested that he be allowed to add one “2” and one “3”, since his roster is missing two “3's”. SB told DC that he could not add a “2”. SB had to leave the Board meeting when this item was discussed. SB did indicate, in writing, that he believes DC can add two “3's”. The Board did, briefly, discuss this and has concerns whether DC can add two “3's” given TP's roster make-up and the manner in which replacement players are added to out-of-area teams. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, on 12/27/23, SB spoke to DC who informed him that he would be adding Mark Aumann (MA) as a “3”. MA was, previously, on the TP/NC roster as a “3”. DC also indicated that he had, not yet, decided to replace BM.) **Item remains open.**

10. Bob Kapeller Memorial Tournament (BKMT7) - 2024

As of this meeting, 9 teams.

Item remains open.

11. 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):

8/7/23: ~~Robbie Baptista (1), Ed Carroll (6), Herb Younker (6), Greg Cole (6)~~

9/11/23: ~~Jerry Smith (5)~~

10/10/23: ~~Tom Larson (3)~~

10/23/23: Tom Olsen (1), ~~Chip Harkey (2)~~

10/30/23: John Benedict (3)

11/12/23: Rawlin Dean (2)

11/27/23: Frank Camou (2)

c. Injured List (IL):

7/30/23: Bill Newman (2) --- not available until 2024 Spring season

8/2/23: Bill Ward (4) --- knee injury, will let SB know when ready to play

d. Miscellaneous Changes:

8/11/23: Leonard Sanchez (2) replaced Mark Aumann (3) on TP; Aumann -> pool

8/15/23: Greg Cole (6) replaced Juan Guerrero (6) on The A-Team

9/18/23: Roy Alberts (1) replaced Tom Larson (3) on TP

10/16/23: Tom Larson (3) replaced Randy Reynolds (3) on Greyhounds; Randy moved to San Diego

11/6/23: Robbie Baptista (1) replaced Terry Shin (1) on Balls on Base; Shinn -> pool

11/6/23: Herb Younker (6) replaced Dennis McCoy (6) on Balls on Base

11/10/23: Chip Harkey (2) replaced Rod Prather (3) on The A-Team

11/12/23: Jerry Smith (5) replaced Brian Allen (4) on Blue Bolts

11/12/23: Dave English (4) -> pool

12/11/23: Paul Pena (3 ?) -> pool

12/11/23: Jack Buss (3?) -> pool

ATTACHMENT 1

RULES COMMITTEE WORKING & VOTING SESSION – December 7, 2023

§1.5 • BATTERS BOX and §7.3 • BATTING POSITION – There were multiple proposals presented by both public and committee membership regarding changes to the batters box and batter position rules. For the sake of consistency across all venues where SSUSA plays, the committee adopted, generally, the USSSA Rule 1, section 5, as follows:

“The batter must take an initial position with his back foot no further forward than a line defining the front edge of home plate. The batter will be called out if he hits the ball when the back foot is completely further forward than the line defining the front edge of home plate. NOTE: All other illegally batted ball infractions regarding the side and rear lines of the batter’s box, along with stepping on home plate, remain in effect.” • PASSED: 12-0-0

§1.21 • EQUALIZER –

§3.4(6) • PENALTY FOR USING AN ALTERED BAT OR SOFTBALL – Section was amended as follows:

A. Penalty for using an altered bat – If a bat is suspected of being altered to enhance performance, a tournament official will determine if the bat will be allowed to be used in play or will request that it be voluntarily surrendered by the owner for inspection. If the player refuses to immediately surrender the bat to tournament officials, the player will be suspended for ~~ten years~~ **life**, ~~the manager for one year~~, and the team will forfeit all games played in the current tournament. If the player voluntarily surrenders the bat and it is found to be altered to enhance performance, the player will be suspended for ~~five~~ **ten years** and ~~the manager for one year~~. **TEAM SANCTIONS: If the player refuses to surrender the bat, or if the bat is found to be altered to enhance performance, the team will forfeit all previously earned current season Tournament of Champions bids and is declared ineligible to participate in the current season SSUSA World Championships and Tournament of Champions.** The bat, if surrendered by the owner, will be held and forwarded for testing through the National SSUSA office at the conclusion of the tournament... •

PASSED: 11-1-0

§3.8 • UNIFORMS •

§4.2(2) • ADDING / RELEASING ROSTER PLAYERS – failed

§4.4 and §4.5 • SHORT-HANDED RULE and A.D.A. RULE – failed

5.1 B. • GAME TIME – failed

§5.2 • HOME TEAM –

§6.2 • PITCH COUNT – failed

§13.2(4) B. • AGE ELIGIBILITY AND GROUPING –

§13.4(1) • EASTERN & WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

§15.5(2) • FORFEIT IN TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

§15.6 • UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT –

§16 • INTERNATIONAL CO-ED PROVISIONS

• TECHNICAL CORRECTION – §4.2(2) • ADDING & RELEASING PLAYERS TO QUALIFIED ROSTERS

• CHAIRWOMAN RETENTION –

ATTACHMENT 2

PROPOSED ALTERED BAT RULE – ADD TO RULE 2

2...

The MVUDSS Board (Board) categorically states that the use of an altered bat by a MVUDSS player is unacceptable behavior and profoundly contrary to the fairness, good sportsmanship, and concern for player safety expected of all MVUDSS players.

The Board acknowledges that a MVUDSS player using an altered bat (rolled, shaved, or changed/doctored in some other fashion) does so to gain an advantage in hitting performance, while simultaneously exposing other players to potential harm. The Board lacks the technical knowledge and financial resources to independently determine if a MVUDSS player has used an altered bat in games.

If a MVUDSS player is found to have used an altered bat in an SSUSA-sanctioned tournament, and SSUSA takes disciplinary action, the Board will presume, until convinced otherwise, that the player used such a bat in MVUDSS games.

The Board recognizes that SSUSA has the means to detect altered bats and will use this information to decide if disciplinary action is warranted against the MVUDSS player. At its sole discretion, the Board will consider and weigh any disciplinary action imposed by SSUSA using SSUSA Rule 3.4(6) as a guideline to determine the extent, if any, of discipline against the MVUDSS player. The Board reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to follow, impose a greater, lesser, or no penalty based on the SSUSA guideline.

7. Late Roster Arrival:

- a. If a team is playing with all roster players, a late arrival roster player must be added to the bottom of the batting order. In such a situation, the late arrival roster player may be added to the game at any time.
- b. If a team is playing with pickup players, a late arrival roster player must replace the pickup player substituting for him, and will assume the batting order position of the pickup player leaving the game. In such a situation, the late arrival roster player may be added to the game at any time. Reminder: All teams may “pick up” players until they reach 12.
- c. If a team picks up a player who, subsequently, is unable to start the game, the manager may pick up another, appropriately rated, player to start the game in his place. At such time as the original pickup player is able to join the game, he may do so, at any time, and replace “his replacement” in the game/batting order.
- ~~e~~d. When known, pickup players must be identified on the lineup card prior to the start of the game. If the game has started, and a player is picked up based on the applicable criteria in Rule 8, the pickup player's name will not be required to be added to the lineup card.