

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

| REGION ONE | REGION TWO | REGION THREE | REGION FOUR | REGION FIVE |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Bob Jacques | Tom Bussey | John Reedy | Gary Tryhorn | Bill Picht |
| Paul Enriquez | Darryl Watson | Darryl Cabral | Joe Lewis | Pete Lewis |
| Don Angle | Paul Rogers | Bob Holly | Sam Scott | Rick Bowlby |

Minutes of the December 7, 2024 NCSSA Annual Meeting Held at Manteca Council Chambers

Bill Picht called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM

Directors Present: Tom Bussey, Darryl Watson, Paul Rogers, John Reedy, Bob Holly, Bill Picht, Pete Lewis, Rick Bowlby, Gary Tryhorn, Joe Lewis, Sam Scott, Bob Jacques, Paul Enriquez

Directors Absent: Don Angle and Darryl Cabral

Welcome: Bill Picht welcomed the members to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Bowlby presented the Treasurer's report summarizing the 2024 season. The beginning balance as of 1/1/24 was \$19,719.14. The ending balance as of 12/7/24 was \$19,983.78, representing an increase for the year of \$264.64. Regarding team fees for the 2025 season the Board wants team fees to remain the same as last season unless SSUSA significantly increases their registration fees for the coming year. NCSSA collects SSUSA team fees in addition to NCSSA fees as part of our registration process and sends the SSUSA portion to them. Therefore, if SSUSA increases their team fees for 2025 and there is not a corresponding increase in the amount collected by NCSSA, NCSSA would have to absorb the increased costs. We should have more information regarding SSUSA 2025 registration fees in a few weeks.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony: A total of four individuals were inducted into the NCSSA Hall of Fame for 2024:

- Steve Gibson
- Dave Conley
- Sam Scott
- Gary Simmons

Board member Joe Lewis read the bio of each inductee and John Reedy made the award presentations.

Selection of Regional Reps for 2025: The members separated into groups, by region. Each group elected three representatives and designated one representative as the primary. The election results were as follows (new board members are highlighted in red):

- Region 1: Bob Jacques (Primary); Paul Enriquez; Don Angle
- Region 2: Tommy Bussey (Primary); Darryl Watson; Paul; Rogers
- Region 3: John Reedy (Primary); Bob Holly; **Steve Gibson**

- Region 4: Sam Scott (Primary); Joe Lewis; **Kevin Richmond**
- Region 5: Pete Lewis (Primary); Bill Picht; Rick Bowlby

In Region 4, Kevin Richmond replaces Gary Tryhorn who is stepping down after 25 years on the Board.

Tournament Scheduling: Gary Tryhorn reported that John Reedy will be replacing him as Chair of the Tournament Scheduling Committee for 2025. Tournament directors have submitted their requests for 2025 tournament dates. The tournament schedule cannot be finalized, however, until all of the T.D.'s have received verification from their local parks and rec agencies that their requests for ball fields have been approved. The official schedule should be finalized and posted on the website by January 15.

It is becoming more and more difficult to obtain playing facilities for senior softball. Gary noted that we have not been able to get a single weekend at Manteca Big League Dreams (BLD) for 2025. We used to get several weekends a year from BLD but now we are only able to get weekday dates (Thursdays & Fridays). BLD earns more money from hosting girls fast pitch tournaments and other groups rather than senior tournaments. The same situation exists in Pleasanton. They have made it extremely difficult to have senior tournaments there by increasing the field costs, insurance costs, no longer performing field maintenance between games, etc. A suggestion was made to survey team managers and see if they are willing to pay higher tournament fees to obtain more locations for our tournaments. No motion was made regarding this suggestion.

Rosters: Pete Lewis reported that there are no changes planned for rosters. The registration fee should remain the same. No fee will be charged for roster changes. Team zip codes will continue to be used for bracketing. A software program developed by an outside consultant is used to calculate the team zip codes and that will continue for 2025.

SSUSA Rule Changes for 2025: Gary Tryhorn described each of the SSUSA rule changes for 2025. The membership was asked to vote on each SSUSA rule change as to whether or not NCSSA should adopt the same changes:

- A. **Batter's Box:** SSUSA clarified the rule change they implemented in 2024 regarding the batter's box. 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 (even though the batter is still within the batter's box). The batter will be called out, regardless of whether the ball lands fair or foul. The batter is not called out unless he/she makes contact with the ball. All other SSUSA rules regarding the batter's box remain unchanged. **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA rule change passed.**

- B. **Foul Tip:** Technical Clarification -Wording was added to the Foul Tip definition, SSUSA rule 1.29 to make it easier to understand. A sentence was added stating "A foul tip cannot be caught for an out. Note: Other balls (including one that goes over the batter's head) can be caught for an out." They also changed section 7.4.C (Strike Called by the Umpire) by removing the phrase "...and the batter is out if it is the final strike" ...from the EFFECT sentence, which now reads "The ball is dead." **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA technical clarification passed.**

- C. **70+ Teams Allowed to carry up to three (3) 69-year-old players:** Teams in the men's 70+ age division may draw up to three underage players all of whom must be 69 years old. *This was a 2024 rule change.* **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA rule change passed.**
- D. **Uniform Rule Regarding Numbers:** No symbols or fractions will be allowed (ex: 4 ½, 3.5, etc.). In addition, teams cannot have players with both 03 and 3; 05 and 5; 00 and 0. These would be considered the same number and therefore, a violation of the uniform rule. **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA rule change passed.**
- E. **Clarification of "use" of an altered bat:** SSUSA rule 3.4(6) describes the penalty for using an altered bat or softball. A technical correction was made to change the term "use" of an altered bat to "possessing" an altered bat. A player is now in violation of the rule by merely possessing an altered bat in his/her bat bag or in the dugout. The bat does not have to be used, for a player to be in violation of the altered equipment rule. If you bring it into the ballpark, that is considered "possession". **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA technical correction passed.**
- F. **Altered Equipment/Bat Warmers: Bat Warmers are no longer allowed.** Artificially warming or cooling balls, bats, etc. is considered as altering the equipment. Using bat warmers is now considered as altering the characteristics/performance of the bat. It is okay to lay the bats in the sun without the use of a bat warmer (warming the bat "naturally rather than artificially). **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA rule change failed.**
- G. **Official Bats:** SSUSA is expanding the definition of bats that are not legal to include bats with visible cracks and those previously marked as not legal for use because of excessive wear and tear or failed field compression testing. **Vote: Motion to adopt SSUSA rule change passed.**

Proposed NCSSA Rule Changes for 2025: In addition to the rule changes listed above, the following NCSSA rule changes were proposed by our members for 2025:

- A. **ONYX Softball:** A motion was made to add the Onyx Softball to the list of approved softballs for NCSSA tournaments (Rule 26). **Motion passed.**
- B. **Use of Extra Defensive Player:** A motion was made to allow teams in the 50, 55 and 60 age groups to play with the extra defensive player (same as the older age groups). **Motion failed.**

New Business: A suggestion was made to hold the Hall of Fame presentations at a different location where more managers and players are in attendance, rather than at the Annual Meeting. It was decided to place this item on the agenda for the January 2025 Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Bill Picht at 12:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Darryl Watson, Secretary

12/13/24