

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 Board Meeting Held at Manteca Council Chambers

Bill Picht called the meeting to order at 9:05 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

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2024 Board Meeting as written. The motion was approved by all present.

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. There was a discussion regarding the team fees for the 2025 season and the consensus was that team fees should remain the same unless SSUSA significantly increases their registration fees for the coming year. NCSSA collects SSUSA teams 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. Rick Bowlby will contact SSUSA to get some indication of their fees for 2025 and based on that info, the Board can decide if we need to increase our fees or not. A proposal was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as written. The motion was approved by all present.

Proposed Rule Changes for SSUSA/NCSSA:

1. Gary Tryhorn presented the 2025 rule changes for SSUSA:
 - 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.

- B. **Foul Tip:** 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.”
- C. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Rule clarification; if the unsportsmanlike conduct occurs between games, the offending manager/player(s) can still be ejected/suspended. The offense does not have to occur during a game in order to result in a penalty.
- 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.
- E. **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). In addition, approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer.
- F. **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”.
- 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. Bats must have all required markings. Labeling on bats cannot be worn off and bats must be free of cracks. Spider cracks which sometimes occur when bats are well broken in, usually represent cracks in the paint and not the structure of the bat itself (umpire’s judgement).

2. Proposed NCSSA Rule Changes:

- A. **NCSSA Board Run Tournaments:** A proposal was made that the Board rather than individual tournament directors run all NCSSA tournaments. Under this proposal, the Board would be responsible for providing concessions, water, obtaining ball fields, umpires, etc. Resulting profits would be used to help grow the association. There was not much support for this proposal as the majority of board members hold the opinion that the Board should not be in the business of running tournaments. It was noted that this proposal would require a change to our current by-laws. The decision was made to table the proposal until the January board meeting.

Hall of Fame: HOF Presentations will occur at today's General Meeting. Don Angle, Chair of the HOF Committee is unable to attend so Joe Lewis will read each inductee's bio and John Reedy will hand out the jackets and plaques.

Zip Codes: Pete Lewis reported that he had received several questions and complaints regarding the use of zip codes for creating the tournament brackets. He explained that it takes him approximately 15 minutes per team to calculate each team's zip code. This is performed using a software program that was developed by an outside consultant. Pete will continue to use the current process per our NCSSA rules.

Conflicting Dates with some SSUSA and NCSSA Tournaments: John Reedy reported that there were some conflicting dates with certain SSUSA and NCSSA tournaments, the SSUSA Northern California Cup being a primary example. John posed the question to the board as to whether or not he should proceed with planned tournaments that may conflict with SSUSA. John received approval from the board to go forward with his planned tournaments rather than cancel them, however, the Board will continue to coordinate with SSUSA to try and avoid scheduling conflicts as much as possible.

Next Meeting: Now that Gary Tryhorn is stepping down after 25 years on the Board, Tommy Bussey is taking the lead in determining the date and location for the January 2025 board meeting (meetings were formally held at Gary Tryhorn's home). Other board members will be looking into alternative locations for hosting the board meetings going forward.

Meeting was adjourned by Bill Picht at 9:55 AM

Respectfully submitted by Darryl Watson, Secretary

12/11/24