

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

REGION ONE	REGION TWO	REGION THREE	REGION FOUR	REGION FIVE
Bob Jacques	Tom Bussey	John Reedy	Sam Scott	Pete Lewis
Don Angle	Darryl Watson	Steve Gibson	Joe Lewis	Bill Picht
	Paul Rogers	Bob Holly	Kevin Richmond	Rick Bowlby

### Minutes of the April 15, 2026 NCSSA Board Meeting Held at Big League Dreams, Manteca

**Bill Picht called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM**

**Directors Present:** Bill Picht, Don Angle, Darryl Watson, Paul Rogers, Sam Scott, Joe Lewis, Kevin Richmond, John Reedy, Steve Gibson, Bob Holly, Rick Bowlby, Tom Bussey, and Bob Jacques.

**Directors Absent:** Pete Lewis

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rick Bowlby presented the Treasurer's Report as of April 15, 2026. Income received since the prior report totaled \$6,810.56 consisting primarily of team registration fees. Expenses over the same period totaled \$3,287.56 resulting in net income of \$3,523.00 and an account balance of \$21,876.37. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

#### **Scheduling Concerns:**

- 1) **4-Game Brackets** – Some teams are complaining about a schedule that has a team playing the first two games on Day 1 and the last 2 games on Day 2. This only involves the Thursday/Friday tournaments. It was noted that pursuant to NCSSA Rule #7, teams must play a minimum of 5 games per tournament unless (1) the number of games to be played, if less than 5, is noted on the tournament flyer and (2) it is agreed to by all affected managers. John Reedy stated that for the 4-game tournaments where he is the tournament director (Manteca BLD) it is noted on the flyer that teams at BLD will play in 4-game brackets and that all games will be 7 innings. It was then pointed out that the Board needs to update the "2019 NCSSA Required Team Bracketing/Schedule" that is posted on the website as the current version does not include a 4-game bracket. Reedy will update the "2019 NCSSA Required Team Bracketing/Schedule" to include the 4-game bracket and have it posted on the website.

- 2) **Team playing their third game versus opponent playing their first game** – Some teams are complaining about a schedule that has a team playing their third game of the day against a team that is playing their first game of the day. It was pointed out that the Board has looked into this issue numerous times and there is no acceptable alternative to this situation. The time slots for each bracket are determined based on distance to the ball field using team zip codes. A decision would have to be made to “scrap” the team zip code methodology that has been in place for many years and use some other method of determining the bracket time slots. No motion was made on the issue; it was decided not to make any changes to the process at this time. The question was asked whether an exception could be made in those instances where the team playing their 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the day is considerably older than their opponent who is playing their first game of the day (ex: 75/3<sup>rd</sup> game vs 65/ 1<sup>st</sup> game). The majority of Board Members felt it would require too much coordination and effort on the part of the Tournament Director (TD) to administer. Since the brackets are required to be established using team zip code, the TD would have to contact the other team managers in the bracket and get their approval to do something different, and all managers would have to agree.
  
- 3) **Teams playing the late games on both days** – Similar to 2) above, the Board has looked into this issue numerous times and has found no acceptable alternative. The only way to prevent one team from having to play the late games on both days is to have an additional field available (very rarely if ever an option) or make 1 or 2 teams have a 2-game break between games rather than a 1-game break. The Board has found that no teams (or few, if any) want a 2-game break. It was pointed out that although a team has to play the late games on both days, which is a disadvantage, that team also has the advantage of playing their first game each day against a team that is playing their 3<sup>rd</sup> game of day. No motion was made on this item.

**Ranking Committee:** Darryl Watson, Chair of the Ranking Committee, reported that the committee is updating its policies and procedures for administering the team rankings. As a part of that process, the committee is planning on implementing a formal appeal process that would allow teams to request a change in their team ranking. A standardized form is being developed that would have to be completed and submitted by the team manager, not a player. Also, the committee will not make decisions based on phone calls, emails, or in-person discussions regarding the rankings.

**Eligibility for Thursday/Friday Tournaments:** It was clarified that any team can play in Thursday/Friday tournaments regardless of which Group their team is in. For example, teams in Groups 1 – 3 could play in these tournaments as long as there are a sufficient number of teams from those groups to form a bracket.

**NCSSA Website Issues:** The Board has received concerns from managers and players regarding the website. Some find it hard to navigate, some can’t find what they are looking for, and some say that they can’t find the website at all or that they are directed by the search engine to other

organizations like SSUSA Softball. Don Angle will contact our webmaster to discuss the issues and see if changes/improvements are needed and will report back.

**Potential Safety Issues Regarding the Heat:** The question was asked whether the Board should implement a policy stating that the Board may cancel a tournament due to “excessive” heat. Some of the discussion revolved around *...what level of heat is excessive?...players are able to determine for themselves whether or not they want to or are able to play...it should be the tournament director’s call, etc.* No motion was made on the item, therefore it remains the TD’s call (or the local parks & rec) whether or not to cancel a tournament due to the heat.

**Exemption from SSUSA for a Pitcher Wearing a Glove on His Pitching Hand:** SSUSA rule 6.9 prohibits a player from wearing a glove on their pitching hand. A particular player has received an exemption to this rule from SSUSA based on a note from his doctor. He obtained a letter from SSUSA confirming the exemption which he carries in his ball bag to show directors at SSUSA tournaments. The player is now inquiring as to whether he can wear the glove on his pitching hand in NCSSA tournaments. It was decided that the player must submit to Board President Bill Picht, copies of the same documentation that was provided to SSUSA for a determination. If approved, Bill Picht will write a similar exemption letter that the player can carry with him for NCSSA tournaments. If the player fails to submit the documentation or, the request is not approved, the player will not be allowed to wear a glove on his pitching hand.

**Region Consolidation:** Bill Picht has assembled a subcommittee to look at a potential restructuring of the NCSSA Board which is currently made up of five regions with 3 representatives from each region. It is felt by some that this may not be the most effective org. structure given the current number of teams, tournament locations, and other considerations.

**Next NCSSA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15 at 11:00 AM at Manteca Big League Dreams.**

Meeting adjourned by Bill Picht at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Darryl Watson, Secretary

4/27/2026