

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League's

# Extra Innings



## Attention!

### Managers' meeting set for March 9

Our annual managers' meeting is set for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9, in the Crest and Pinnacle rooms at Tomahawk Ridge Community Center.

President Randy Rowe and other board members will discuss plans for 2019, including costs, payment deadlines, rule changes and our registration process.

We plan to provide AED training. Conference coordinators will pass out rule books and meet with managers. League polo shirts will be for sale.

All managers should attend or send a team representative. All league members are welcome. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

Tomahawk Ridge is at 11902 Lowell Avenue between Antioch Road and Metcalf Avenue, on the south side of 119th Street in Overland Park.

[www.kcseniorsoftball.org](http://www.kcseniorsoftball.org)

Also look for us on Facebook

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Hall of Honor: Nick Weddle (left photo) accepts on behalf of his grandfather, Wes Weddle. (Above) Diamonds player Lee Tenold gives Jim Cunningham's award to his daughter, Leslie, and her husband, Marty Dujakovich. (Below) John Mondici accepts on behalf of Chuck Bua.

## Special award presentations highlight December meeting

This off-season, as the league prepared to launch its 30th season, the Board of Directors deemed it appropriate to thank key people who helped the league reach this important milestone.



The new Hall of Honor award recognizes members who have made a "compelling contribution" to the league "through instruction, leadership, promotion, sportsmanship and service."

The highest honor awarded by the league, it also is the most difficult to attain. Each year, the league's awards com-

mittee will craft a nominee list to submit to the Board of Directors. The board and a representative from each league conference then will vote. A nominee must be named on 75 percent of the ballots to be chosen.

This December, the board unveiled the initial class: Wes Weddle, our former president who founded the league in 1990; Jim Cunningham, who spearheaded efforts to form the women's division; and Chuck Bua, whose artistic

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# Wes Weddle, rookie, other honors handed out

*Continued from Page 1.*

skills and salesmanship helped grow the league. Bua had moved to Long Island to be closer to family after suffering a severe stroke. He died earlier this year. Weddle died in 2013. Cunningham died in 2018.

Board President Randy Rowe instituted a new honor, the Presidential Recognition Award, for significant contributions toward growing league membership.

Four people received the inaugural award: Karen Riffle for her professional maintenance of the league's website, Bill Nees for launching the 70+ Hybrid Draft Conference on Monday mornings, Dave "Bear" Barragan for launching the 50+ Men's Conference in Independence on Wednesday nights, and Susan Scholler for launching the Co-Ed Conference on Friday nights in Lee's Summit.

In addition to those honors, Board Member Barry Gordon and his awards committee created the Ambassador Award to honor members who have participated in the league at least 20 years. Committee members spent many hours sleuthing through membership records, photographs and players' memories to determine honorees. They confirmed 108 names. (See page 3.)

In what has been an annual tradition for several years now, the league also honored players from its various conferences for being rookies of the year or Wes Weddle Spirit of the Game winners. The honorees:



Terry Cloutier accepts his Wes Weddle Spirit of the Game Award from KCMSSL Board Members Mark Spletstazer (left) and Barry Gordon, the Awards Committee chairman.

**MONDAYS: 70+ Hybrid Draft Roe Park** - Wes Weddle: Rich Talavera; Rookie: Ray Harre. **50+ Draft, Black Bob Park** - Wes Weddle: Mike Fleming; Rookie: Brian McNichols. **40+ Women's Gold** - Wes Weddle: Kathy Kochersperger; Rookie: Beth Anne Tiffin. **40+ Women's Silver** - Wes Weddle: Frank Mar Jr.; Rookie: Jennifer Sexton.

**TUESDAYS: 50+ Draft, Independence** - Wes Weddle: Bob Zaner; Rookie: Larry Lewis. **Black Bob 55+ Gold** - Wes Weddle: Jay Thomas; Rookie: Gary Jaklevich. **60+ Gold** - Wes Weddle: Terry Cloutier; Rookie: Phil Loomis. **65+ Gold** - Wes Weddle: Chuck Tipton. (No rookie.) **65+ Silver** - Wes Weddle: Greg Bakian, Rick Monley; Rookie: Bruce Goodman.

**WEDNESDAYS: 40+ Gold Hart-**

**man** - No candidates; **60+ Silver Independence** - Wes Weddle: Herb Nease; Rookie: Billy Green.

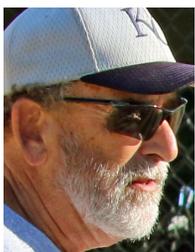
**THURSDAYS: 60+ Draft Roe Park** - Wes Weddle: Dick Skinner; Rookie: Reza Derakhshanian; **Heritage Park 50+ Bronze** - Wes Weddle: Bob Zimmerman; Rookie: Michael Riggs. **50+ Silver** - Wes Weddle: Norm Comstock; (No Rookie). **50+ Gold** - Wes Weddle: Rich Chancellor; Rookie: Jeff White.

**FRIDAYS: Hartman 50+/40+ Co-Ed** - Wes Weddle: Jan Horn. (No Rookie.)

**SATURDAYS: Roe Park 60+ Silver** - Wes Weddle: Mick Fletcher; Rookie: Dayle Phillips. **60+ Draft** - Wes Weddle: Bubba McGuire; Rookie: Mark Boyle.

**SUNDAYS: 35+ Black Bob** - No candidates.

## Presidential Recognition awards



Bill Nees



Karen Riffle



Bear Barragan



Susan Scholler



Platinum	Platinum	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Bronze
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

# Player skill ratings commence

For almost 30 years, the KCMSSL has relied on team managers' fairness and sportsmanship when choosing a conference's division for league play. As an organization, we attempted to monitor this, but with membership nearing 1,000, it has become humanly impossible. Combine that with players' ages ranging as much as 20+ years within some divisions, and our board saw the need to implement an automated system to control parity.

In the winter of 2017, a 16-person Player Skill Rating committee (split for men and women) evaluated every active player by utilizing pro baseball's five-tool rating process: batting average, power, defense, arm strength, and speed. Each player was compared against all others

in his or her peer age group. Each player received an overall rating, which was attached to his or her database record. This base rating will age-adjust if the player joins conferences younger than his age group. Such age adjustments are pre-set in our system and automatically will accompany a player when a manager adds him to an online roster.

As players age, and their abilities naturally diminish, their peer group's abilities should diminish proportionately. For this reason, each player's base rating will remain constant as he ages. The rating will not change unless appealed by the player, or another party, as initially inaccurate or because one's overall health, a surgery, etc., has caused the player's ability to decline. Someone wishing to ap-

peal should visit our website and click on the "Forms and Downloads" heading to access and complete the rating appeal form. The Player Skill Rating Committee will evaluate and rule on each appeal.

Since only three next upper-level players will be allowed on any given team, a minor number of players may be prevented from playing on their previous team. Some teams may opt to, or be required to, move up a division level if they wish to retain some/all of last year's players, while other teams may find they can move down to a lower division. Bottom-line, it is our goal to have teams properly slotted into their most-appropriate division, which subsequently will create better parity amongst the teams in that division.

## *20-year veterans receive Ambassador jackets*

In December, the KCMSSL honored more than 100 people with Ambassador jackets embroidered with their names and uniform numbers:

Terry Ahern, David Aldrich, Dennis All, Dominic Allegro, Sam Allison, Greg Bakian, Ted Barclay, Jack Basore, Glenn Bennett, Clint Berger, Dave Bertholf, Charlie Bondi, Ronnie Branan, John Brodrick, Bob Brown, Terryll Brown, Chuck Bua, Tim Burkindine, Ron Buzick, Marvin Caldwell, Clayton Chamberlain, Dennis Clauder, Vernon Coates, John DeArmond, John Dehan Sr., Ray Dickerson, Denny Disney, Bob Dona, Warren Dew, Jack Dufoe, Tom Duke, Jim Emmons, Bill Fain, Fred Fleming, John Gerstle, Roger Gramly, Raymond Graves, Larry Green, Wayne "Red" Grimes, Grover Harris, Terry Hazelrigg, Dave Heard,



Don Hicks, Gary L. Hicks, Michael Hooper, Mike Iverson, Cliff Jackson, Phil Jacobs, Terry Jensen, Bill Johnson, Gary Johnson, Don Kassel, Terry Kirch, Bill Klein, Bill Klinkenberg, Larry Kretschmer, Larry Krull, Ron R. Kuhn, Will Levin, John Lofflin, Chuck Main, Ray Mais, Frank Mar Jr., Noreen Maxwell, Sonny Maynard, Bubba McGuire, Walt McKenzie, Duncan Meiklejohn, John Mondri, Dave

Murrill, Herb Nelson, Louis Nunnally, Earl "Nick" Nicoli, Martin Owens, Jack Pickert, Tommy "Little Dog" Ponds, Steve Rogers, Wayne Ryherd, Steve Schaum, Denny Schemmel, John Schweer, Jody Sheehan, Roger Shoemaker, Dave Shumway, Dick Skinner, Bob Steiert, Ken Stinson, Ken Stock, Chuck Stout, Roy Stuerzl, John Swarts, Rich "Tarzan" Talavera, Steve Tuttle, Bob Uphoff, Duane Vann, Mark VanAuken, Ken Vokac, Larry Walters, Cleo Washington, Dave Welsh, Don White, Jim White, Joe "Big Dog" Whitmore, Doug Wilson, Sid Wilson, Ken Winters, John Worrel, Jerry Ziegler.

(Picture: Rich Talavera admires his new jacket received during the league's membership meeting in December.)

## *In memory of our departed members....*

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League lost seven former or current members in 2018, including two men who helped launch the league with founder Wes Weddle in 1990.

**Don Magee**, 76, died Jan. 2. Don played softball for more than 40 years, including on the Kansas City 60s, Kansas City 65s, Midwest Silver Jox, AAA Linen and Antiques. A U.S. Army and Air Force veteran, he served two tours in Vietnam. The Leavenworth resident enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, gardening and woodworking.

**Ted Wright**, 71, died April 8, three days after his birthday. Best known as the longtime manager of General Admission and Field Force, he also served on the league's Competition Committee. Earlier in life, he enlisted in the Army National Guard and served in Vietnam. He lived in Overland Park.



**Jim Cunningham**, 85, died June 17. A longtime manager of the Diamonds, he played on Good Timers, Dingers, Heartland Hitters and a variety of draft teams. Jim served as treasurer on the Board of Directors, helped found the league's Women's Conference in 2002 and routinely volunteered at



Members of the Women's 40+ Conference bow their heads in prayer to honor Jim Cunningham before the start of their All-Star game in July at Hartman Park. Cunningham, who died in June, was a longtime league member and manager who pushed to get the women's division started in 2002.

the league's annual All-Star games and picnic. He was elected posthumously in 2018 as a charter member of the league's Hall of Honor. A Kansas City resident, he served in the U.S. Army and loved sports, especially the Kansas City Royals and the University of Kansas basketball team.

**Bob Steen**, 85, died June 25. One of the league's founding fathers, he was drafted into the U.S. Army before later being drafted by Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers. An injury ended his baseball career but he never lost his love of the game. He helped found the Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League, served a year on the Board of Directors and played into his 70s. His teams



included Lucky's, Antiques, Timeless Ballplayers, AAA Linen and Knapheide.



**Mike Hooper**, 78, died Nov. 23. One of the league's founding fathers, Mike served eight years on the Board of Directors. His many teams included Conroy's, Time Machine, Cass County, Deja Blue, Baggerly Excavating, ROC, Don Bosco, BOPS, Fireballs, Blue Heat, Insurance Analyst, Kna-

pheide, Ranch House Saloon, McGuires, Young Guys and Black Sox. His passion for the sport inspired him to collect donated equipment that he delivered to less fortunate children in Mexico and Costa Rica. Mike loved to travel and enjoyed scuba diving, reading on the beach, and making lifelong friendships.

**Duane Robison**, 78, died Nov. 13. A longtime secondary school educator, he played on Wheatland Antiques and American Patriots. He lived in Lyndon, Kansas.

**Victor Swyden**, 69, died Dec. 9. He played on the Black Sox draft team. Vic loved baseball, which he played into his 60s. The Kansas City resident was a CPA who ran his own tax business. He also was active in Scouting and Rotary Club.

# Hear ye, hear ye. Read all about it!

## *Players 75+ receive lifetime memberships*

This year for the first time, players age 75 and older can purchase a lifetime KCMSSL membership. That means each player buys only one more \$20 membership -- and then keeps playing year after year without renewing annually. The lifetime membership deal will continue in the future, so anyone turning 75 next year, or joining the league at age 75 or older in the future, can look forward to the same offer.

## *Monday 60+ conference launches*

A new Monday 60+ competitive conference will kick off in 2019 with four teams expected to start the double-header season at the Independence Athletic Complex. Game times will be 7 and 8 p.m. If interested in joining,

please contact Bear Barragan at 816-349-2787 or Randy Rowe at 816-718-3221.

## *Tuesday 60+ Silver/Gold teams needed*

The Tuesday night Black Bob conference is looking for one or two teams to fill out a 60 Silver/Gold league. If your team is up for a challenge, give Bobby Gregg a call at 816-331-9143.

## *70+ division joins Black Bob's Tuesday lineup*

The Tuesday night lineup at Black Bob Park gains a fourth division this year. A new 70+ group joins the returning 55+, 60+ and 65+ divisions.

Thanks to Olathe Parks and Recreation, the four 70+ teams will play at 5:30 and 6:30 every week -- NO LATE GAMES. Inquiries about this division should be directed to Barry Gordon at [barrygordo@aol.com](mailto:barrygordo@aol.com) or 913-827



7722.

There will be a four- or five-team 55+ Gold conference. Contact Rocky Osborn ([rosborn4040@gmail.com](mailto:rosborn4040@gmail.com); 913-237 1526) for information.

The 60+ Silver/Gold conference is directed by Bobby Gregg ([bob\\_gregg@live.com](mailto:bob_gregg@live.com); 816-331 9143).

There will be a five-team 65+ Gold/Silver division coordinated by Barry Gordon ([barygordo@aol.com](mailto:barygordo@aol.com); 913-827 7722).

## *Communications Committee spreads the word*

The Communication Committee is studying ways to spur our members to regularly check what is happening on the KCMSSL website, [kc-seniorsoftball.org](http://kc-seniorsoftball.org). The league recently launched a message board on the page that everyone can read. Only members, however, may post items.

The Communication Committee also is trying to rekindle interest in the KCMSSL's Facebook page. Committee member John Mondy launched a new version of the page and has been posting to it regularly.

## *Membership grows nearly 9 percent*

The league ended 2018 with 929 members, which meant that the KCMSSL had one of its largest one-year growth spurts in recent memory.

The tally was nearly 9 percent higher than the 2017 membership of 855.

Since 2012, membership is up 270 players overall, or almost 41 percent.

If you haven't done so already this year, please remember to pay your dues. We encourage online payment at [Leaguesheets.com](http://Leaguesheets.com), which houses our membership database.



## Directors expand size of board

The Board of Directors has considered for several years the need to enlarge the 12-person board so that more volunteers can share the workload of running the league and its activities.

In November, the board voted to expand to 15 directors over the next two years. The 13th board member actually had arrived early -- in January 2018, after the December 2017 membership vote for directors resulted in a tie for the fourth (and final) position being elected.

In December, a record 402 members cast ballots in a nine-candidate race. Normally, four positions would have been filled. But with the expansion of the board, five people were elected: Donna McGuire, Steve Krull, Tim Burkindine, John Mondy and Dave "Bear" Barragan.

The board thanks the other candidates who professed a willingness to serve the

### *The KCMSSL Board of Directors (Year denotes when term expires)*

Randy Rowe	(2019)
Clint Berger	(2019)
Bob Reynolds	(2019)
Larry Hightower	(2019)
Bobby Gregg	(2020)
Susan Scholler	(2020)
Barry Gordon	(2020)
Mark Spletstaszer	(2020)
Rocky Osborn	(2020)
Donna McGuire	(2021)
Steve Krull	(2021)
Tim Burkindine	(2021)
John Mondy	(2021)
Dave "Bear" Barragan	(2021)

greater softball community: Jeff Harlan, Dave Hendrikse, Erik Klein and Ann Willkett

Treasurer Clint Berger also announced the league's charitable contributions for the year: \$500 each to Special Olympics, the Dream Factory, Operation Breakthrough, Ronald McDonald House and KC Rescue Mission.

## *What to do if unsporting issues arise*

It is the responsibility of the Sportsmanship and Protest Committee to oversee and respond to issues of protests, sportsmanship, and grievances that occur within the KCMSSL.

Following are the procedures to be followed for each situation:

**PROTESTS** – Go to the KCMSSL website and download and completely fill out the league protest form (which also is available in the back of the rule book). The form must be submitted to the committee chairman within 72 hours after the completion of the protested game. Email, deliver, or mail the form to Tim Burkindine.

**SPORTSMANSHIP** – Go to the KCMSSL website to download or fill out the sportsmanship form. Mail or E-mail the completed form to Burkindine. Once the form has been received the following steps will be taken: (1) the complaint will be sent to the conference coordinator for a preliminary investigation to determine the severity of the charge. If it can be handled at the conference level, it will be, and resolution will be shared with the committee and the individuals involved. If the issue cannot be resolved, the complaint will move to step two. (2) The conference coordinator will share the results of his investigation with the Sportsmanship and Protest Committee, which will convene a panel comprised of the committee and two managers from the conference in question to further investigate the complaint. This group will make a recommendation to resolve the matter in question and submit it to the Board of Directors for a final decision.

**GRIEVANCES** – A grievance may be filed by any member of the organiza-

*Continued on page 7.*



## Women launch 18th season

The women's 40+ conference, which embarks on its 18th season this year, will play again at Hartman Park in Lee's Summit. Gold and Silver conferences again are planned. The league hopes to have a men's Antiques team in each division.

Additional teams are welcome. If you know someone interested in establishing a new team or joining one of the current teams, please notify one of the conference coordinators: Susan Scholler, Ann Willkett or Bill Klinkenberg.

# All-Star games, picnic set for July

The league has planned its annual All-Star games and picnic for July 20 at Hartman Park in Lee's Summit. Mark your calendars so that you don't miss the fun, fellowship and free food. We have a women's game, a co-ed game and five or more men's games. Players from all conferences participate. These pictures show some of last year's fun.



## *How to file grievances, protests, etc.*

*Continued from Page 6.*

tion. To do so, members should contact Steve Krull or any member of the Board of Directors to air his/her grievance. A time and place for this meeting will be set and the concerned party or parties will be invited to meet and voice their concerns.

All pertinent facts and issues should be

delivered at the meeting. The members chosen to hear the grievance will consider facts presented, discuss how to resolve the grievance and make their recommendation to the Board of Directors for its approval.

The Board of Directors will determine a resolution.



# Opportunities abound in Draft Conferences

## Monday mornings at Roe Park

The Hybrid Draft conference for players 70 and older will return this year with a new lower price. Two seven-inning games will start at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Mondays. All players sign up using the draft league form in this newsletter and posted on the league website at [kcseniorsoftball.org](http://kcseniorsoftball.org).

Managers can recruit up to five players. The balance of the team will come from a draft held after the March 15 registration deadline. If you would like to manage a team, please contact Bill Nees ASAP at 913-522-9160 or [bill-skiks@hotmail.com](mailto:bill-skiks@hotmail.com).

## Mondays at Black Bob

Coming off of two sessions that saw the conference champions not crowned until the last night of play, the 50+ Monday night draft conference once again will play at Black Bob Park (north of 151st Street between Black Bob and Pflumm) in Olathe starting April 15.

We again expect, at a minimum, a strong four-team conference for all ability levels with game times at 6:30/7:30 p.m. and 8:30/9:30 p.m. The cost for the first 10-week, double-header session will be \$50 if received before March 15 and \$55 thereafter. As a bonus, returning players who pay conference fees and league dues by March 15 will be entered into a drawing for a conference fee reimbursement. For more information, contact Dave Hendrikse, conference coordinator, at 816-728-2457 or [dhendrikse@rosemann.com](mailto:dhendrikse@rosemann.com) or Barry Gordon at [barrygordo@aol.com](mailto:barrygordo@aol.com).

## Tuesdays at Independence

The Tuesday night 50+ draft conference will play at 7 and 8 p.m. at the In-



dependence Athletic Complex, 17450 East Salisbury Road, about one-half mile east of Missouri 291 in Independence.

We plan to start April 16. The cost is \$45 for a 10-week session, but the fee is only \$40 if paid by March 15.

The draft leagues are for players to get started in the senior league or for players who just like to play softball. This 50+ Draft league has players of all ages, from 50 into the 80s. We enjoy competing in two hard-fought softball games each night, followed by some comradeship with hotdogs and peanuts.

## Thursdays at Roe Park

This men's 60+ draft conference plays double-headers starting at 9:30 a.m. with the season opening on April 18.

We were fortunate to expand to a six-team conference in 2018, which allowed teams to play 10 double-headers in each of the two sessions. Previously, a bye week in the schedule limited teams to eight double-headers per session. Even with the expansion, we had players on a waiting list, so we encourage early registration to ensure a slot.

Special recognition goes to Marty Peters who helped coordinate the league and also managed a team. Kudos to others who stepped up and managed teams during all or part of the year. These include Jim Blaufuss, Jimmy Jones, Walt

McKenzie, Terry Nichols, Steve Odegard, Aaron Presler, and John Swarts.

If a managerial vacancy occurs, we would need another manager. If you're interested, please call Larry Hightower at 573-230-3688 or email him at [lwlightower17@gmail.com](mailto:lwlightower17@gmail.com).

## Saturdays at Roe Park

On Saturday mornings, a 60+ Competitive Conference and a 60+ Draft Conference both play at Roe Park at 104th and Roe Avenue in Overland Park. The conferences play one 15-week schedule from mid-April to September. No games are scheduled on holiday weekends, the league's All-Star Saturday, and a couple of tournament weekends. The cost is \$25 or only \$20 if paid by March 15.

Competitive teams play a nine-inning game starting at 9 a.m. The Draft teams play a seven-inning game at 10:30 a.m. We expect six teams in the competitive conference and four in the Draft conference. Players range from age 60 to men in their 70s and 80s. If you haven't played softball in awhile, give the Draft conference a try.





KC METRO SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

http://kcseniorsoftball.org/

DRAFT CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION

PLEASE CHECK EACH CONFERENCE YOU WILL BE JOINING



10 Week Schedule Beginning Mid-April 2019 (unless noted otherwise)

MONDAY Morning (Two 7-Inning Games)
70+ / Starting - April 15
9:30 and 10:30 A.M.
Roe Park 104th & Roe Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66207
Coordinator - Bill Nees
\$31.00

MONDAY Evening (Two 7-Inning Games)
50+ / Starting - April 15
6:30 & 7:30 P.M., or 8:30 & 9:30 P.M.
Black Bob Park - 14500 W. 151st St.
Olathe, KS 66062
Coordinator - Dave Hendrikse
\$55.00 (\$50 if you pay by 3/15)

TUESDAY Night (Two 7-Inning Games)
50+ / Starting - April 16
7:00 and 8:00 P.M.
Independence Athletic Center
17450 E. Salisbury Rd.,
Independence, MO 64056
Coordinator - Bob Reynolds
\$45.00 (\$40 if you pay by 3/15)

THURSDAY Morning (Two 7-Inning Games)
60+ / Starting - April 18
9:30 and 10:30 A.M.
Roe Park - 104th & Roe Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66207
Coordinator - Larry Hightower
\$40.00

SATURDAY Morning (One 7-Inning Game)
60+ / 15 Week Schedule
Starting -- April 20 / 10:30 A.M.
Roe Park - 104th & Roe Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66207
Coordinator - Bob Reynolds
\$25.00 (\$20 if you pay by 3/15)

PLUS \$20.00 membership dues (if not already paid on-line or through your team).

Total Draft and membership dues: . Make check payable to KCMSSL.

Please return this form to the appropriate conference coordinator below. And if you are new to the KCMSSL, please either register online https://leaguesheets.com/league/6, or complete the KC Metro Membership Application form (on our website) http://kcseniorsoftball.org/?attachment\_id=2053.

PLAYER REGISTRATION
Name: Age: Birth Date:
Telephone(s): Home: Work: Cell:
E.C.I. (Emergency Contact Information: Provide contact person's name and ph. #)
Physical Street Address:
City: ST: Zip:
Email Address: Years playing softball:
T-shirt size (Check one): S M L XL XXL XXXL Years in KCMSSL:
If you are new to the KCMSSL, please skill-rate yourself. KCMSSL's Player Skill Rating is based on a 10-to-1 scale (with 10 being best) comparing my Power; Batting Avg.; Arm Strength; Speed; & Defense relative to my peer age group. Please calculate your own Player Skill Rating (on the 10-to-1 scale):
Power Batting Avg. Arm Strength Speed Defense (Add these 5 skill rating figures together, then divide the sum by 5. The resulting single number is your 10-to-1 player skill rating.) My calculated player skill rating is
My best position is: 1: 2: 3:
Yes or No: I am willing to manage a team: I might consider helping manage:

Larry Hightower
220 W. 124th
Kansas City, MO 64145
573-230-3688
lwhightower17@gmail.com

Bob Reynolds
12103 West 56th Street
Shawnee, KS 66216
913-961-7562
psychobob@everestkc.net

Dave Hendrikse
14171 S. Alden Ct.
Olathe, KS 66062
816-728-2457
dhendrikse@rosemann.com

Bill Nees
9047 Sunray Dr.
Lenexa, KS 66227
913-522-9160
billskiks@hotmail.com

# Matrix shows fees, deadlines for each conference division

The matrix that starts on this page shows each conference affiliated with the Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League. It helps managers know when to turn in money and also shows players the opportunities that exist. The league is adding several opportunities this year, including a 60+ men's division on Mondays and a 70+ division on Tuesdays.

**All players must register and pay their annual dues. In addition, all players new to the league must register online or complete form A-1 found on the league website.**

**Dues are \$20 for men who play on**



**40+ or older teams, \$15 for women and \$10 for associate members younger than 40 who play on 35+ teams.**

## Check out rule changes set for 2019

Two key rule changes are being implemented this year to help keep games on schedule.

The first change affects when the open-run inning will be declared. Starting this year, if time expires before the first pitch of an inning, that inning becomes the open inning. (If it expires **during** an inning, the next inning will be "open," as in the past.)

Second, the flip-flop rule previously kicked in when the visitors were at least 10 runs ahead. This year, it will be used when the visitors are at least **seven** runs ahead.

Other changes:

1. The definition of "ineligible player" now includes any non-league member.
2. All 50+ competitive (non-draft) teams still may have two underage players, but they must be turning either 48 or

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Sunday, April 14	Monday, April 15	Monday, April 15	Monday, April 15	Monday, April 15
Men's 35+, 9-inning games starting at 5 p.m.	Men's 70+ Hybrid Draft, double-headers, starting 9:30 a.m.	<b>NEW:</b> Men's 60+ double-headers, starting at 7 p.m.	Women's 40+ 7-inning games, starting at 6:45 p.m.	Men's 50+ Draft, double-headers, starting at 6:30 p.m.
Black Bob Park, Olathe	Roe Park, Overland Park	Independence Athletics Complex	Hartman Park, Lee's Summit	Black Bob Park, Olathe
Cost: \$500 per team for 10-week season.	See registration info on page 9.	Cost: \$525 per team for 10-week season.	Cost: \$275 per team for 10-week season.	See registration info on page 9.
<b>\$100 due March 9;</b> \$400 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.		<b>\$100 due March 9;</b> \$425 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	<b>\$100 due March 9;</b> \$175 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	
Send checks to: Randy Rowe, 420 S.W. Seagull St., Lee's Summit, MO, 64082, 816-718-3221	Send checks to: Bill Nees, 8044 Cottonwood, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-522-9160	Send checks to: Randy Rowe, 420 S.W. Seagull St., Lee's Summit, MO, 64082, 816-718-3221	Send checks to: Susan Scholler, 9002 W. 101st Terr., Overland Park, KS 66212, 913-579-8568	Send checks to: Dave Hendrikse, 14171 S. Alden Ct., Olathe, KS 66062, 816-728-2457

## Borrowed player rules tweaked

*Continued from page 10.*

49 this year. (No 47-year-olds.)

3. An entire section has been added to the rule book to deal with the new player skill ratings and how they impact teams. Please read the rule book, which is posted on the league website, [kcseniorsoftball.org](http://kcseniorsoftball.org), and also read the player rating article on page 3.

4. The home run limit for bronze teams is now one per game. (Previously, it was three, the same as the silver division.) Excess home runs are out.

5. Our borrowed player rules have been tweaked. Now, a team may borrow up to two league members whose player ratings are equal to or lower than the team's rating. One exception: Silver women's teams cannot borrow any players from Gold teams. Also, in Draft conferences, the second borrowed player now can play defense at first base or in right field. For full details, please see the rule book.

## Message board returns

The league's message board has returned after a years-long hiatus caused by the switch to a new website. To read posted comments, go to our home page at <http://kcseniorsoftball.org> and click the "message board" link.

To post a thread, log into your record first and click the "message board" link just right of your name. Click the "post a message" button.

Enter a subject name for your post or select a topic heading from the "topic" drop down box window. Type in the "message" window. Once satisfied with your message, click the "post" button and you are done. If you would like to cancel what you have done to that point, simply click the "cancel" button. Feel

free to review threads already posted while logged in so you can respond/comment accordingly, if you wish.

Non-KCMSSL members do not have posting privileges but can view

all posts. Members have viewing access as well as posting privileges.

The board will monitor the use of each topic heading. If one is not being utilized frequently, we will remove it. If you would like a

new topic added to the list, simply post a thread requesting it or contact a board member.

Posts will be monitored. Those with abusive, slanderous or vulgar language will be removed. Any member repeatedly abusing the privilege of using the board will be banned from posting or commenting.



Tuesday, April 16	Tuesday, April 16	Tuesday, April 16	Tuesday, April 16	Tuesday, April 16
Men's 50+ Draft, double-headers, starting at 7 p.m.	Men's 55+ Gold teams, double-headers, 7-inning games, 6:30 p.m. start	Men's 60+ Gold/Silver, double-headers, 6:30 p.m. start	Men's 65+ Gold/Silver, double-headers, 6:30 p.m. start	<b>NEW:</b> Men's 70+, 7-inning double-headers starting at 5:30 p.m.
Independence Athletics Complex	Black Bob Park, Olathe	Black Bob Park, Olathe	Black Bob Park, Olathe	Black Bob Park, Olathe
See registration info on page 9.	Cost: TBD.	Cost: TBD.	Cost: \$635 per team for 16-week season.	Cost: \$700 per team for 18-week season.
	<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$Balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$Balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL..	<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$535 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$600 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.
Send checks to: Bob Reynolds, 12103 W. 56th St., Shawnee, KS, 66216, 913-961-7562	Send checks to: Rocky Osborn, 12800 El Monte St., Leawood, KS, 66209 913-681-8410	Send checks to: Bob Gregg, 7906 E. 163rd Terr., Belton, MO 64012 816-331-9143	Send checks to: Barry Gordon, 11621 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Condo K, Leawood, KS 66211 913-827-7722	Send checks to: Barry Gordon, 11621 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Condo K, Leawood, KS 66211 913-827-7722

### Turning 65? Here's Medicare help

Again this year, complementary Medicare classes will be available to league members and their spouses.

The classes taught by former board member Larry Green address Medicare eligibility and enrollment, Medicare Parts A and B, the Part D drug benefit, Medicare supplements and Medicare Advantage plans. They are held at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park.

Classes will be taught quarterly through the year. Check the league website for dates and other details, or send Larry an email at [alegreen2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alegreen2@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 913-221-7475.

If you are about to turn 65 or retire, these classes will help you make informed choices. Larry is a retired 39-year veteran of the health insurance industry specializing in regulatory compliance.

## KCMSSL keeps expanding, year by year



Last year, the league added a Co-Ed division, a men's 50+ Silver/Bronze division and a men's 70+ Hybrid Draft. This year, there are plans for new men's conferences in the 50+, 60+ and 70+ age groups. (See matrix for details.)

These pictures show play in the first season of the 70+ Hybrid Draft Conference.



#### Wednesday, April 17

Men's 50+ silver double-headers, 7 p.m. start
Independence Athletics Complex
Cost: \$565 per team for 10-week season.
<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$465 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.
Send checks to: Randy Rowe, 420 S.W. Seagull St., Lee's Summit, MO, 64082, 816-718-3221

#### Wednesday, April 17

Men's 40+ Gold double-headers, 6:30 p.m. start
Hartman Park, Lee's Summit
Cost: \$275 per team for 9-week season.
<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$175 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.
Send checks to: Randy Rowe, 420 S.W. Seagull St., Lee's Summit, MO, 64082, 816-718-3221

#### Wednesday, April 17

Men's 50+ Gold double-headers, 6:30 p.m. start
Hartman Park, Lee's Summit
Cost: \$275 per team for 9-week season.
<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$175 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.
Send checks to: Randy Rowe, 420 S.W. Seagull St., Lee's Summit, MO, 64082, 816-718-3221

#### Thursday, April 18

Men's 60+ draft conference, starting at 9:30 a.m.
Roe Park, Overland Park
See registration info on page 9.
Send checks to: Larry Hightower, 220 W. 124th, Kansas City, MO, 64145, 816-442-5103

#### Thursday, April 18

<b>NEW:</b> Men's 50+ Gold double-headers, starting at 6:30 p.m.
Little Blue Trace, Knobtown
Cost: TBD
<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$Balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.
Send checks to: Randy Rowe, 420 S.W. Seagull St., Lee's Summit, MO, 64082, 816-718-3221

# Co-Ed Conference returns on Fridays

Our new Co-Ed division launched last year with four teams playing on Friday nights at Hartman Park in Lee's Summit.

This year, we hope to grow the Co-Ed Conference and start play in mid-April, the same time the league's other conferences launch each year. That will allow us to play two sessions this year, instead of the one session played in 2018.

We expect to return to Hartman Park but have a back-up location reserved in case Hartman is not available for the first few weeks.

The conference is open to women age 40 and older, and men age 50 and older. Players must



be league members and have paid their membership dues.

Interested managers and players should contact Susan Scholler, the conference coordinator, at [Sscholler@mamtc.com](mailto:Sscholler@mamtc.com).



Thursday, April 18	Friday, April 19	Saturday, April 20	Saturday, April 20
Men's 50+ Gold, Silver, Bronze double-headers, 6:30 p.m. start	Co-ed (Men's 50+, Women's 40+), double-headers, 6:30 p.m. start	Men's 60+ competitive, 9-inning game, 9 a.m. start	Men's 60+ Draft conference, 7-inning game, 10:30 a.m. start
Heritage Park, Olathe	Hartman Park, Lee's Summit	Roe Park, Overland Park	Roe Park, Overland Park
Cost: \$845 per team for 10-week season.	Cost: \$275 per team for 9-week season.	Cost: \$300 per team for 15-week season.	See registration info on page 9.
<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$745 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$175 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	<b>\$100 due March 10;</b> \$200 balance due by April 6 to KCMSSL.	
Send checks to: Mark Spletstaszer, 23280 W. 124th Place, Olathe, KS, 66061, 913-961-4084	Send checks to: Susan Scholler, 9002 W. 101st Terr., Overland Park, KS 66212 913-579-8568	Send checks to: Bob Reynolds, 12103 W. 56th St., Shawnee, KS, 66216, 913-961-7562	Send checks to: Bob Reynolds, 12103 W. 56th St., Shawnee, KS, 66216, 913-961-7562

**Rainout line info**

**Black Bob Park**  
913-971-6254

**Hartman Park**  
816-969-1516  
(Press 3)

**Heritage Park**  
913-686-6030  
(Press 7)

**Independence**  
816-325-7999

**Roe Park**  
913-895-5020

**Little Blue Trace**  
816-545-4272

# Tournament season approaching

Local teams have five KC-area tournaments, two in Tulsa, one in Arkansas and one in Columbia, Mo., available to them in 2019 that are sponsored either by the league or Senior Softball-USA, the national organization with which the KCMSSL is affiliated.

Two of the tournaments -- the pre-season league tournament in April and the Wes Weddle tournament in July -- benefit the KC Metro Senior Softball League. The Board of Directors appreciates your support of those events.

## Pre-season tourney info

The pre-season tournament is set for April 13-14 at Black Bob Park in Olathe. The cost is \$275. Teams will play at least three games each. To register, contact league President Randy Rowe at rrr5850@aol.com or call him at 816-718-3221. This event may fill up, so be sure to register and pay early.

## Tournament dates

**April 4-7:** Cow Town Classic, Mid-America Sports Complex, Shawnee.

**April 13-14:** Pre-season league tournament at Black Bob Park.

**May 2-5:** Oil City Classic, Tulsa.

**May 30-31, June 1, 2:** first weekend of Missouri Open, Columbia.

**June 8-9:** second Missouri Open weekend, 50s division, Columbia.

**June 20-23:** Sooner State Championships, Tulsa.

**July 9-14:** Midwest Championships, Rogers, Ark.

**July 25-28:** Wes Weddle, Mid-America Sports Complex, Shawnee.

**Aug. 8-11:** KC Classic, Frank White fields at Longview.

**Aug. 22-25:** Monarch's, Mid-America Sports Complex, Shawnee.

See SSUSA website for details on their tournaments: <https://seniorsoftball.com>.



## 2018 Wes Weddle tournament



## *KC teams fare well at World Masters*

Kansas City's long history of quality showings at the SSUSA/LVSSA World Master's Championships in Las Vegas continued in 2018.

Though no KC team earned a world championship this time, four teams finished in the top five of their divisions. Sixteen KC-area teams participated in the event, which drew 622 teams overall.

Men's 40 Major: **Midwest Elite tied for ninth** out of 65 teams (5-2 record).

Women's 40 Major: Above the Law (2-3); Dudley/Greenspace (1-4).

Men's 50 Major: **KC Classics finished fourth** in a 52-team bracket (6-3

record); B&B Drywall (2-3); KC Monarchs (0-5).

Men's 50 AAA: **KC Vintage placed fourth** in a 69-team field (5-4 record); KC Elite (5-2).

Men's 55 Major: KC Classics (3-2).

Men's 55 AAA: KC Renegades (1-4); KC Monarchs (0-5).

Men's 60 AAA: **Big Daddy's finished fourth** in a 43-team bracket (5-3 record); KC Monarchs (0-5)

Men's 65 AAA: **KC Kids tied for fifth** in a 27-team division (5-2 record).

Men's 65 AA: R&D Leverage (2-3).

Men's 80 AAA: Antiques (3-5).