

# MANAGERS' SURVEY – 2019

Managers' Survey comments in black.

Managers' Survey Review Committee comments in royal blue.

Supporting rule, or other information (relative to item) provided by Long-Range Planning committee.

Recommendations from the Survey Review Committee to the Rules Committee, or board, in red.

## What good or positive league related things did you, or your team, experience during conference play this past season?

### CONFERENCES – SCHEDULING, SESSIONS:

- I think we're making some progress in regards to adding leagues, but work remains.
- Solid teams, great sportsmanship and tremendous talent.
- I always experienced fair play in each game. So we are on target here.
- Tuesday BLACK BOB -- I think is good. We need to have all our conferences run this well.
- From a positive standpoint, I enjoyed my first two sessions in the Thursday Morning Draft League at Roe Park. Marty Peter's needs to be recognized for scheduling and running the practice sessions. Much appreciated! I met a lot of nice fellows and enjoyed getting back into playing. My goals were to have fun, improve throughout the season and not get hurt. All-in-all, I feel that I accomplished these goals but personally feel I have plenty of room for improvement. Switching teams between the first and second session was unexpected and I'd probably give it more thought and talk with my current manager before agreeing to change in the future. Thought JJ and Barry did a great job the second session and I was happy with my decision to agree to switch at the end.

### MANAGEMENT:

- I will say that KCMSSL have been very supportive of, and welcoming, R&D. I have nothing negative to state. I have nothing to suggest as improvements.
- We made some progress regarding balancing leagues and reminding everyone this is supposed to be fun!
- Overall, I am pretty happy with the league and how it is run.
- I have no problem with the way league is run. Thanks, you do a great job!
- **Based on the info to follow, this appears to be from a draft conference player. Nonetheless, very positive.** As you know, I am new to the league (SATURDAY MORNING DRAFT) and to competitive softball in general. I honestly had to think about your request for recommendations for improving league play. I could not think of an improvement to suggest. As a newbie I found that you all had already implemented measures that allowed the game to be played in a safe manner including providing opportunities for pitch runners, dual bases to avoid collisions, and by providing the atmosphere whereby one doesn't feel pressured to do more than our old bodies can contribute. I was pleasantly surprised by how the other players and especially the coaches accepted all of the participants' playing abilities by providing equal fielding and batting time for all. I personally appreciate the opportunity to play positions in which I had not signed up or may not have been fully coached or prepared. Thanks for a great season.
- Selecting best players and coaches to compete in tournaments.

### BORROWED PLAYERS:

- Other managers were cool about using borrowed players from other teams if we were short....and it seemed to happen a lot this year to our team and others.

## What do you or your players feel the KCMSSL needs to do to move forward in a positive direction relative to conference configurations; fair play; field conditions; rules; miscellaneous, etc.?

### AWARDS:

- Monday Hartman - I would like to recommend a rookie be awarded from each team instead of just the division. I know the women's division had a lot of rookies this year.
  - We feel saturating the membership with too many awards lessens their value. May be considered at some point in the future.

### BYES:

- Need to eliminate the byes, I am sure some teams will play extra games (4 in one night) if we need to fill up the league. Thursday Heritage
- Need to eliminate the byes, I am sure some teams will play extra games (4 in one night) if we need to fill up the league. We had byes two weeks in a row and with a holiday weekend in there didn't play for nearly a month in the middle of summer. Thursday – Heritage
  - Odd number of teams in a conference, or division, may force byes – no way around that. If teams are religious about informing the conference coordinator (upfront) as to the need for a bye on a given date, or dates, then the coordinator should do all he / she can to harmonize byes accordingly.
- Heritage - Way too many "NO-SHOW" teams or forfeits. Eliminate this problem or pay a penalty. Period. Some teams work hard to field a team if they are short players. While others just take a BYE and a make-up is rescheduled.
  - If a game is scheduled but a given team does not have enough players, our rules mandate a forfeit is the result.
  - The Review Committee recommend a board, or Rules committee, discussion / decision on this. The team(s) that show up are NOT looking to reschedule, or receptive to losing games from their schedule. Long-Range Planning committee did not feel a monetary penalty was the answer – which could have included the forfeiting team compensating the team that showed up. Looking for solution. There were multiple, and long, discussions on this topic, but neither the Rules Committee, nor the board, was able to come to a sensible solution. Below is a recap of some of the research:
    - Forfeits:** Osborn checked with Jeff Todd - Olathe Parks & Rec and Blue Valley Recreation Commission to see how they handle teams that forfeit. At BVRC, if a team forfeits three times, the team is kicked off the remainder of the schedule. Also, BVRC gives all managers the phone numbers of other managers so they can notify opponents if they cannot play. Jeff said if a team doesn't play two times because of other teams forfeiting to them, the team gets credit for the next session. Spletstaszer said Heritage (Johnson County Parks & Rec) used to fine teams **and it didn't work**. As for refunding money, he said the only time Johnson County will do that is for inclement weather.

### CO-ED:

- In Friday co-ed there is a guy playing who was promised pitcher position as a condition of joining and paying. No position competition. Enough said?
  - Possible miscommunication, or misunderstanding, situation (???). Without more detailed info, or otherwise, can't address properly.
- Hartman Park -- Many times when we had the last time slot we were running up against the lights turning out. At least once we (team managers) had to agree to cut game short because of lights going out at 11. There's the issue of this affecting our standing but also we are "shorted" our playing time that we have paid for. This can unequally affect the teams with some players (who pay same fee) playing less time than others.

So please move up the lights out time to be at 11:30 or midnight instead of 11. By doing this you could schedule game start times further apart and take care of many factors that cause games to start late.

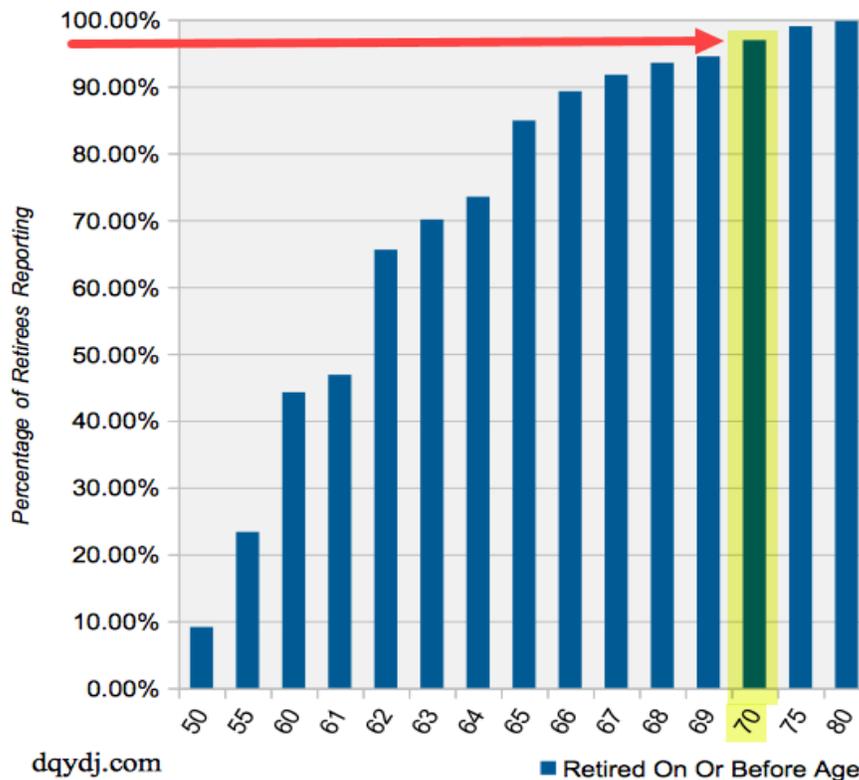
- Lee's Summit city ordinance is lights out at 11pm. The league has no control over that. As for getting shorted time paid for, LSPR charges the same amount per team / not per game nor per length of game. Suggestion is that the umpire is on top of the game times & unlimited inning times so as to not cause the games to go over.

#### CONFERENCES – SCHEDULING, SESSIONS:

- **Draft / Hybrid**
  - **General**
    - For the draft leagues, in general, I would like to have a discussion as to how to better equalize for the second session.
      - We are looking at “following the Monday night draft process at Black Bob” as the solution, going forward. This process will be presented to all other conferences.
    - That the league coordinator does not pick the teams and then the managers just pick a number that represents the team.
      - This was a 1-time incident and will not be repeated going forward.
    - Make sure all drafts are conducted in the same manner. To do like the Saturday draft that the managers sit with the coordinator and they pick pitchers, then Short Stops, then the best players are distributed to each team-starting at the highest rated players to the lowest rated players, making sure that all teams get enough outfielders.
      - We are working toward this method (maybe not 100% exactly as suggested--but definitely in this vein) for ALL DRAFT conferences
  - **70's**
    - 70+ drafts are morning leagues, with the stated assumption from certain board members (I won't mention names) is that most 70 year olds are retired, and can't see at night. I dispute these findings, many 70s do work and can see. I would like to be an EVENING 70+ draft, since I can't seem to make any 70+ competitive roster.
      - “Most” 70+ year old players are retired. As an organization, we have to attempt to satisfy the majority.

## Cumulative American Retirees by Age

2017 Federal Reserve Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking



- That there is no hybrid draft-manager choices of select 5 or less players. Monday Morning Draft is an example.
  - Last season's Monday morning Hybrid conference has been addressed by the corresponding managers and Conference Coordinator, and it will be transitioned over to a draft conference starting in 2020.
- **Thursday morning -- Roe**
  - The selection of teams for Thursday morning draft league at Roe Park needs to change. In 2019, there was little competitive balance between teams. After the first half session, more effort needs to be taken to balance the teams by moving players for the second half to help with league competitiveness.
    - Again, we are counting on the Monday night Black Bob draft conference format to be the solution.
  - I would like to see quicker updates on the standings. Thursdays at Roe were the worse. Something needs to be done with the web sites Thursday results / schedule. It was unreadable all year.
    - Agreed. Conference Coordinators should have the results posted no later than the next day barring any hold up from the web design folks.
  - Overall, the teams in the Roe Park Draft League were pretty balanced and each team had an opportunity to win. So, overall, the current way the teams are chosen seems to be working fairly well. I do feel that if there is a team that dominates from session-to-session that maybe their roster needs to be adjusted to allow fair or more balanced play between teams. (\*My reason for suggesting this is that after I agreed to move from one team to another, I found out from one of my former teammates, who questioned me why I switched, that players from the

team that won first place the first session were asked prior to me and refused to switch. Seems to me that if other team players agree to move and the dominate team refuses, the playing field is not as level as it should be.)

- This situation seems to be a 1-off as in past instances when players have been asked to move from one team to another in the second session in order to balance the teams there has been no pushback or problem. And we don't anticipate there to be any problems going forward.

- **Competitive**

- **General:**

- The Relics have been playing Sundays, Tuesday's & Thursday's for over 20 years. Our Sunday (35+) players will eventually become Thursday (50+) players. Our Thursday (50+) players will / are becoming Tuesday (65+) players. The current Tuesday (65+) players are needing a place to go.
  - If we are understanding the request correctly, we have a 65+ conference, along with a 70+ conference on Tuesday night at Black Bob. A "team" (if they are dead set on not splitting up) simply has to make the transition to some other conference, and possibly to some other night of play, as the team ages-up. One "older" team in any given conference cannot justify a conference of their own for that night.

- **Tuesday – Black Bob**

- What first comes to mind are 2 things BLACK BOB TUESDAY: 1) Quicker updates on whether games are on or canceled on the rain out lines.
  - The rainout line (913) 204-0858 and app are available and updated as quickly as possible with the latest updates. Obviously, each specific player's personal lead time need is relative to the current scenario being OK, or not.



RainoutLine.com 2017

Facility and Event Status Info

★★★★☆ 27

Everyone's situation will differ, but here is a personal experience from a board member (for Tuesday night Black Bob): Setting in car in the parking lot. All fields are dry; all fields have been marked; heavy storms are visible in the distance; checked app and called rainout line #; all games on schedule. Storms hit Black Bob; checked app and rainout line 10 minutes into storm, all still a go. 5 minutes later (15 minutes into the storm), fields are under water -- checked app and rainout line.....both report "all games cancelled". Pretty efficient.

- Move games to empty fields when possible, especially if current games are running late (extra innings). We did it a few times but other times we did not even though we had Kyle available to umpire.
  - Agree.....this has "attempted" to be done, when possible. Kyle does good job.
- Not sure if it is possible, but reduce number of byes by playing against the bye team(s) from other divisions / age groups with whatever equalizers that are appropriate.
  - Agree, if feasible. But will not match a 55+ conference bye-team, for example, with a 70+ conference bye-team, or the like.

- **Thursday - Heritage**

- I play in both the Thursday-Heritage and Tuesday-Black Bob conferences and for the life of me cannot understand why Thursday's management group, or the board of directors, does not have Thursday set up just like Tuesday. Yes, I know Tuesday has multiple age groups which

mandates multiple conferences, but the conferences share the 4 fields there, just like the Heritage divisions share those 4 fields. I've been told Mark does not want a coordinator over each Thursday division because it would cause game scheduling havoc. Well, how does Black Bob then make it work!!?? I feel a coordinator in charge of each division at Heritage would allow each division to receive the appropriate attention it deserves, instead of a single coordinator, as we have now, not being "in touch".

- Felt the games were pretty competitive for the most part....other than the gold level team that dropped down to our division with many of the same players from the gold division the year before. Heritage
  - Per Mark Spletstaszer -- Heritage has always had a lot of moving parts regarding scheduling. If each division had dedicated fields and times, they could use separate schedulers; however, because we are constantly shuffling times and fields to try to assure the early time slots are filled, I can't see where having separate schedulers would work very efficiently. That said, I would be receptive to each division having a "liaison" (reporting to me) to handle issues that come up.
- Eliminate 5 or 3 run advantage between silver teams.
  - It is our hope the numerous changes to be implemented for the player, and team, rating parameters for 2020 will assist in making this better. Moving from 4 team rating classifications to 7 should pair teams more appropriately. However, equalizers may still need to be part of the solution when playing across classification lines.
- I believe in order to better enforce any infractions that the Heritage conference should be run as two separate divisions with each division (Gold / Platinum) and (Silver / Bronze) run by separate individuals. Or have 2 day-to-day coordinators (1 for each division) and one overall coordinator. I just think that 1 coordinator is stretched too thin with the number of teams involved AND the various levels of play involved.
  - Again, as mentioned above, Mark stated he would be receptive to each division having a "liaison" (reporting to him) to handle issues that come up.
- Heritage -- It seems that often there are fields available in the early time slots not being utilized with teams waiting around to play in the late games. Is there a reason and can we get a better handle on utilizing the earlier time slots.
  - The option of implementing such adjustments works sometimes – Mark Spletstaszer states that if I have enough lead-time, I will always try to move teams from the late time slot to the early slot; however, if I only know a day or so that teams scheduled for the early slot can't play, it has been my experience that it has been very difficult for managers of the teams scheduled for the late slot to get consensus to move. I will continue to contact those managers but I can't guarantee anything. In addition, the umpires have to be contacted and sometimes reassigned.
- Heritage - Penalize teams somehow for not showing up for their games. We had way too many weeks when that happened.
  - Please reference the "Byes" section above.
- The only suggestion I have is to bring back a 3rd division on Thursday night at Heritage. With some teams' average age in mid 60s, it is not very competitive playing against late 40 and early 50 year olds.
  - Per Mark Spletstaszer -- Thursday Heritage is a 50's conference. There are other options during the week for the older players so I see no reason to "go above and

beyond" to assure they are playing against their peers. That said, the "team rating" process should allow us to group the teams in a division with other teams of similar ability regardless of age. If that gap is still too wide, I would recommend the Competition Committee meet to consider reasonable equalizers. Again, it is our hope that the numerous changes / adjustments made to the player / team rating parameters for 2020 will allow this to happen.

- The Thursday (Royal Relics) are getting killed by the younger guys. Our Thursday team has one guy under 60, three guys over 70, three guys under 65 and the rest 65 & over. Unfortunately, the Thursday team looks an awful-like the Tuesday team and they are wanting to play in an older league. The old guys really want to play at least two night a week - three day at the most. Ideally, a day in between games as that will allow a day to recoup which will allow most of us to play the entire summer. We are hoping for an older league on Thursday night (in addition to the 50+ league). We don't know why a 65+ & a 70+ league are on the same Tuesday night. Can the league consider an older league for Thursday?
  - See Mark's comments in the items directly above. Also if one team (like the Relics) are determined to continue to play Thursday-Heritage, any / all 65+, or 70+ teams on Tuesday nights (at Black Bob) may be just as determined to remain at Black Bob. A catch 22 scenario.
  - On Thursday Heritage update the standings quicker. Seamed like it was a week behind
    - The eventual posting process sometimes takes this long because of the current communication time lapses (from the umpires, to Mark, and ultimately to Karen Riffle to post on our site). I usually get images of the scorecards on Friday. When I was working full-time, I would update the standings when it didn't interfere with my work. Now that I'm retired (sort of), I will make an effort to be timelier.
- **Saturday Morning – Roe**
  - Also Saturday competitive league need to go back to playing double hitters, NOT a 90 minute game. This was mention by several players.
    - A conference coordinator, in conjunction with the conference managers, decision.
  - Cancellations not being made-up: If we pay for 8 scheduled games, we should play 8 games (period). By not doing so the league is in default of its agreement. The players have paid for 8 games, the league should follow through on making sure that 8 games are held for that session.
    - Conference coordinator, Bob Reynolds, stated if any teams (across the board) are cut short on games one session, he adjusts all team's entry fee the following session.

## EQUALIZERS:

- In regards to my earlier comments about a team with too many Gold players etc., we need to be able to use equalizers properly, and the use of equalizers needs to be evaluated as a season moves along. This is true for teams that are lacking in skills to compete and not just those who manipulate the system to "qualify" better players.
  - From our rule book:  
EQUALIZERS: Conferences sometimes have sizable disparities between teams within a division. To make games more competitive, the competition committee, the conference coordinator working with team managers, or the Board of Directors can institute "equalizers" for teams that otherwise would lose most games by at least five runs.

Agree. It's a simple matter of the conference coordinator putting in the time to evaluate the ongoing "in-season" run differentials between the various teams.....and implementing appropriately. The tool to do this is available to all coordinators.

- Consider making the Spring Division Winner either move up to Gold for second session or have to spot other Silver teams in their division, one run, or more, per game (equalizers)....Thursday Heritage.
  - Per Mark, this has been implemented in the past – when feasible / applicable. There have been occasions when the talent gap for a team (if moved up) still does not fairly match with the teams in the next, upper, division. Or this may not be done if moving a team up creates an uneven number of teams in both divisions (i.e., the one being moved to, and the one the team moved from). In those instances, the team is allowed to stay where they were, but we then agree that equalizers should be considered / implemented. Generally, I'm not in favor of equalizers when more than 1 division is offered on a given night; however, I'm not opposed to exploring equalizers for Thursday Heritage depending on the gap in the team ratings for a particular division.
- Runs differential in the 70's league need to be eliminated. We would give a team 5 runs and they would beat us by 10 runs.
  - Equalizers are set by the conference coordinator, in harmony with any requested input from the Ratings / Competition Committee.....and should be based on past data. No matter what is in place any given team is going to win, or lose, by 10 or more runs on any given day, for any given game. Again, historical data is the guiding factor.

#### **FIELD / FACILITY CONDITIONS:**

- **Heritage Park:**
  - The level of play Thursday night at Heritage does not correspond with the field conditions. Some of the hardest hit balls in senior softball happen there and the lighting is terrible. And it's a good thing we had a wet spring / summer, otherwise the outfields would have had their usual huge cracks. I know there have been talks in the past about alternative playing locations; these discussions need to be resurrected.
  - The lighting at Heritage leave a lot to be desired. Outfields have trouble seeing the ball once it is in the air. Lobby for better lights.
  - \$850 to play on those fields at Heritage...they need to be upgraded if they are going to continue to charge that. Bad lights. Poor warning tracks on some fields and some dangerous fences on a couple fields. We do appreciate they did not play soccer on the fields this year, the outfields were on the best shape in late summer we have seen in several years.
    - This addressed the three items above: Johnson County has informed us they are in the midst of overall 6-year upgrade plan for all their complexes – which we are told includes lighting, fencing, etc. As to alternative options, it is our understanding the vast majority of the Thursday teams are locked-in to playing on Thursdays. Black Bob is not available to us on Thursdays (although we do have a standing request with the city of Olathe to let us know if Black Bob does ever become available to us). We are open to exploring any other options anyone would like to present to us.
- **Independence:**
  - For the most part, field conditions are fine. The fields at the Independence complex are a little small, but it is what it is, but if we're going to have to settle for undersized fields, we shouldn't be paying premium prices. This, of course, was a major reason the Wednesday league moved to Hartman for the second session.
    - The KCMSSL has no option / authority in changing field dimensions. We do, however, do our best to provide teams as many viable options as possible. We will do whatever we can, if made aware, to do what we can to accommodate any / all teams.

- Because the fields are so small at Independence, the parks department really needs to keep the weeds and grasses beyond the fences mowed so we don't lose so many balls and / or have to battle the thicket and cockleburs just to find balls after HR and foul balls!
  - Paul LaVine & Randy Rowe (Monday night coordinators) and the new Tuesday night draft conference coordinator(s) have been asked to talk to the City of Independence's Parks department about this.
- **Roe Park:**
  - The outfield at Roe Park needs to be cut lower than it was for most of 2019. An inch lower would help.
    - This has been addressed with the City of Overland Park on more than one occasion. They are steadfast in their stance to retain the height of the grass "as is" – due to their claim relative to diseases affecting shorter-cut grass, and other views on the health of the grass.
  - Saturday ROE COMPETITIVE sometimes the batters boxes are not level stepping in or out of holes.
    - We requested the wooden batter's box inserts be installed (even offered to pay the expense), but we were told "no" by the city of Overland Park. The various conference coordinators for Roe have been asked to address (with the city) "filling" the holes in a more efficient, or long-lasting, manner.
  - The field conditions at Roe Park in general were okay. Not great but okay. It would help if the outfield grass was a little shorter and some of the more obvious holes or low spots were repaired. There was only one game that I questioned play since there was 3 – 5 inches of standing water in Left Field that made play treacherous. However, due to the amount of rain this year and the number of cancellations, I can understand why the decision to play the game in those conditions was made.
    - Part of this item was already discussed above. However, whether or not to play any given game due to rain, or standing water, is a conference coordinator / manager game-time decision.
  - Roe Park was terrible. Much better at Black Bob. Overland Park can spend a little of their budget to improve the outfield condition.
    - If this is in reference to the height of the outfield grass, we (as an organization) have already addressed this multiple times with the City of Overland Park. They are NOT going to change on that. However, if there is some other issue here, not being specified, please let us know.

#### **FOUL LANGUAGE:**

- **Thursday morning - Roe** - The foul language rule needs to be more aggressively enforced. My wife and often our grandchildren 3 – 10 years old came to watch their Papa play. Every game, foul language in conversations or during play could be heard or overheard. Mostly the "F" word. To me, that should at least warrant a warning if not an ejection for flagrant violators. (Note: Pitcher and shortstop on Gray team were the most obvious offenders from week-to-week and game-to-game.)
  - The actual conference was not noted with this item, but the Rules Committee believes the umpires should be the ones to enforce this. The committee also recommends this be on the managers' meeting agenda, and managers be encouraged to help control it. Also, there is a fan who loudly and repeatedly yells derogative comments at players during the Tuesday Draft Conference in Independence. The committee recommends that conference coordinator address this issue with the team manager and the player involved. The woman either will have to leave the ballpark, or be respectful of everyone there.

#### **HEALTH / SAFETY:**

- I do not have a prostate, removed due to cancer in 2001. Plus, I take Lasix. When I have to go, I HAVE to go. The restrooms at Roe Park are not reachable for a person with a heart condition (me) in one

innings time. OP needs to consider the elderly and put in a porta potty by the equipment shed! In my view, not doing so is discrimination against the elderly and is 'not' making reasonable accommodations for elderly and handicapped.

- Sorry, but this has already been discussed with the city of Overland Park ([more than once](#)), and they are not receptive to adding porta-potties for us at the fields.
- Can we set some kind of temperature range so that the Parks & Rec. automatically provide water if the temperature is at a certain degree. We are adults and bring our own, but double headers and people coming straight from work, or water containers being knocked over, can cause a need for water to be there
  - This is something the conference coordinators can discuss with the various corresponding Parks departments. We, as KCMSSL management, do not feel it's feasible for us to religiously provide filled water coolers at each park, nor keep track of them, as would be required. Hartman Park (Lee's Summit) and Heritage Park (Olathe) both provide their own water coolers for us, but they are the only ones (as far as we know). And then there are a few managers who provide water coolers for their team / players.

#### **LENGTH OF GAMES:**

- We often arrive and wait nearly an hour after scheduled time before we start play. Often the last inning of 5 run limit starts 10 min. before next game time. So the unlimited inning runs into the start time of next game. If this gets repeated in one or more of next games, the game that's supposed to start at 9:45 sometimes doesn't start until 10:15. Not sure what can be done, but need to work in some kind of 'cushion' in the schedule so that each team's game starts on at the designated time. Maybe allow a longer space of time between games. This would give time for teams to warm-up. Officials would get a short break (which they need for mental clarity, not to mention getting to the bathroom & back is a hike. (As an official, I would not want to work under such conditions: rushing to take care of my needs b/c the next team is waiting for me to start game.) Or move up the time at which the last 5 run inning must start.
  - First, based on what's being reported, the open inning seems to be starting when designated (by rule). We have attempted (for years) to implement a variety of different things in an attempt to shorten innings, shorten games, speed up the pace of the games to shorten how long teams are at the park every night, etc., etc., etc. No matter what we've attempted, every suggestion has either been shot down before ever being given a chance, or tried and soundly rejected by our membership. We feel we have run out of options.

In response to how this item was presented, however, we have suggested your conference (coordinator and managers) entertain allowing an additional 15 minutes between the 1<sup>st</sup> set of double-headers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> set.....but yet, start the 2<sup>nd</sup> set early if the 1<sup>st</sup> set finishes before the 2<sup>nd</sup> set is scheduled to start --- i.e., 6:15 / 7:15 and then 8:30 / 9:30, but if the 7:15 game ends at 8:20, the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of teams be "ready to play".

#### **MANAGEMENT:**

- I was removed as a draft manager from the Green team on Monday nights and I still don't know the reason why. Which is the second time this has happened.
  - This matter was reported as being discussed with the parties involved on multiple occasions already this season. If more in-depth attention is required (beyond what has transpired to date), we suggest a formal Sportsmanship Report be completed.....please go to our website, click on "Forms and Downloads" dropdown and follow the instructions to complete the report.

#### **MATS (Home Plate):**

- It would help a lot if the mats could be outlined in white or maybe reflective tape. The red side on a red field is very difficult to see.

- We attempted to satisfy a previous request “to paint the mats red” in an effort for all to see the mat better, but that (obviously) has not satisfied ALL. However, neither the Rules Committee, nor the board, felt the above idea be implemented.

## PLAYER SKILL RATINGS:

- The 'hybrid' division at Heritage Thurs night. We had to play against gold teams that were allowed to drop down due to the quasi rating system and it was NOT FUN. Many teams mine included had no chance against these hybrid gold teams. I won't be back without changes.
  - We plan for the changes being made to the overall player skill rating, team rating, etc. process, starting in 2020, to help in this area.
- Heritage - [REDACTED] dropped down to silver by using the rating system and guidelines to their advantage. That system is ok but it is being overly relied upon and I don't feel that my input is being heard. Sure there are good and bad teams in any division. Going back to three divisions, I know, makes the divisions small and still uneven. Mark does the best he can. So here is what I think -- send the ones who dropped down, back up, and recognize that the rating are a guideline. I could give you ten thousand examples but it would not matter. Those 3 or 4 teams crushed the normal silver teams like mine, Rocky's etc.
- In my opinion, this is the one area that is in need of lots of improvement. The basic idea of "fair play" is on the managers more than anyone else, and the managers need to do a MUCH better job of making sure their players are properly rated. More importantly, the managers should not pursue the lowering of player ratings with the sole purpose of sidestepping the rules and being able to bring on players to make their teams better. The most obvious issue that directly affected my teams was the Wednesday league that started in Independence in the spring and moved to Hartman Park in the fall . . . The reality is, we ([REDACTED]) were the only team that was actually a Bronze-Silver team. Every team, other than ours, had more than the 3 allowed "gold" players on the field pretty much every week. While a couple teams were close to being Bronze-Silver teams, a couple of the others clearly manipulated ratings in order to field the team they wanted, regardless of the fact that this was supposed to be a Bronze-Silver league. As an example, in one particular double-header, we hit 1 HR that barely cleared the 300' fences at Hartman Park, while the team we played had 6 different guys hit a HR and 5 of those 6 were well into, or over, the tree line beyond the fence! Additionally, the great majority of their players played defense at what I consider to be "gold level!" I'm not trying to whine too much, but if we really want to address fairness, this needs to be a point of focus when communicating with the managers going forward.
- The only way for the player ratings to actually be effective is if managers have some integrity and are honest about their own players. We may need to consider developing an easier way to appeal player ratings on other teams IF the managers will not police themselves. Or maybe a team evaluation and rating system needs to be part of it. I'm not sure how it might work, but I've seen the player rating system abused on numerous occasions, including some of which I've been asked to evaluate but did not know well enough UNTIL after it was too late!
  - Response to three items listed above: Everyone being fair, or playing fair, would be a wonderful solution. Our player rating appeal process is still the BEST way to address / correct any player's overall skill rating. We did make a change (about half way through the 2019 season) relative to this appeal process. Not only was the 25-person rating appeal committee asked to provide appeal feedback, but all players in the conference (against whom the appealed player played) are now being asked for appeal rating feedback. That did provide better results, and we will continue with that going forward. This being said, when players are asked to provide appeal rating feedback on someone they know, feedback needs to be provided. Otherwise, no matter how good the overall system is, it will not work. If someone is not part of the solution (by not appealing someone needing to be appealed, or providing appeal rating feedback when requested) then they are part of the problem, and the problem, or concern, will never get fixed.

- Fair play in the Saturday morning competitive league seems to be disappearing as teams are adding gold players on a week to week basis. Two teams in particular are adding "Kids" players which seem to harm the competitiveness of the league. The problem with a number of the gold players, is that they are gone for tournaments several weeks out of the year. The number of gold players on each team should be restricted further.
  - The same criteria qualifying a team to be rated Silver applies to Saturday morning competitive conference as it does for all other conferences. So, it's hard to validate unfair play, an imbalance, or non-competitiveness, amongst the overall Saturday morning competitive conference when there was only a 4 game difference between the top and bottom team in this past season's standings.

WES WEDDLE COMPETITIVE CONFERENCE			
	WON	LOST	GB
CSI/AUSTINS	9	5	
KC SPORTS CLUB	9	5	
FREEMON STARS	7	7	2
RELICS	6	8	2
CONROY'S	6	8	3
TIME TRAVELERS	5	9	4

- Regarding the league divisions and player ratings, the Relics got placed into the Silver Division on Thursday because of a Player rating-rounding off error which has been corrected. We got placed there because we had four Silver rated players. What that meant was the Relics had 4-Silver players and 12-Bronze players. We had to play teams that had 3-Gold players and 13-Silver players. Not only was there a huge age differential but also a huge rating difference! In the future, perhaps a team rating would be more appropriate where you can take a team's 10 highest rated players and divide a league into two divisions.
  - Great minds must think alike...LOL The 2020 player and team rating changes / updates do include a "team average" rating (relative to suggested placement of teams within a conference). The 2020 changes also restrict a manager from being able to "bottom-load" his / her roster with players who will never actually be utilized – which would bring a team's rating average down if the manager attempted to implement such actions in an effort to circumvent the system.
- Monday-Black Bob, only suggest the players that come over from Heritage in middle of season be re-evaluated as to skills set. Too many were way better than they were rated.
  - This is something the draft conference coordinators have accepted as their responsibility to get done. This has been passed along to Dave Hendrikse (conference coordinator), but Barry Gordon (overall draft conference director) has made this one of his goals to address going forward. The plan is adjust such players' ratings to a draft conference level of play. And if any one of those players, or any other player's rating is believed to be incorrect, it will be their responsibility to appeal their rating(s). Again, we are either part of the problem, or part of the solution.

## RULES:

- **Borrowed / Substitute Players:**
  - The rules allow teams to borrow players to a certain degree, but only two players, up to 10, playing catcher and RF, and batting last . . . Every aspect of this provision is crossed way too often, without the consent of knowledge of the opposing team.
    - NOTE: From our KCMSSL Rule Book:
    - B. BORROWING PLAYERS.

- 1. Short-handed teams may borrow league members to fill in as long as the player's age-adjusted rating is equal to or lower than the team's division rating. Example: A Silver team can borrow only Silver or Bronze players but no Gold or Platinum players.

Rule, as shown above is in place. Managers need to abide.

On the other hand, if this item is in reference to "Draft" play, see the adopted draft rule from the board's February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting below:

Draft rules: Gordon gave an overview of the proposed changes. One change prohibits borrowing players who have not paid to play in that specific Draft conference. The other changes involve where players borrowed from an opponent will play defensively. In those games, the second borrowed player will play in the infield. Gordon moved to adopt the changes. Hendrikse seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

- Here is my stated opinion -- silver teams should not be allowed to have ANY gold rated players. Not a one. No borrowing. That's my stance. And the abandonment of that is what has created the situation.
  - Overall we feel the Player Rating system is working – with a maximum of 3 players from the next “upper” skill rating being allowed on any given team. That being the case, if anyone feels someone is being improperly allowed to play on a given team – because he / she is improperly rated, we strongly encouraged you to appeal the player, or players, in question. Go to our website, click on “Forms and Downloads” dropdown, find the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Player Appeal form and step through the completion process. The player skill rating process will not correct player ratings unless someone initiates the process. We are either part of the solution (by engaging).....OR, part of the problem (by setting back and doing nothing).
- Don't allow players on a Gold Team roster to also be on a Silver Team roster on the same night. Even if we are allowed to have three Gold Rated Players on our roster, it should be the player's decision of they want to play Gold or Silver, but not both. If they are a Gold rated player on a Gold Team Roster, they should not be allowed to sub for a Silver Team or be included on the Silver Team Roster as well. By doing that the manager has no limitations on what position they can play or where they bat in the line-up without a run differential as they would for a borrowed player playing somewhere other than 1st, catch or Right (Thursday – Heritage).
  - Per the Rules Committee, and approved by the board: Members may not be rostered on two teams in the same age-level conference. Example, a player in a 50+ conference cannot have the same player on a gold division roster and a silver division roster at the same time - even if those divisions play separate schedules. Right now our database is not set to oversee this.....not sure if it ever will. Until it can be, we will need to police this ourselves.
- That each team have at least 6 or more subs on their roster already designated to play on their team as substitutes when needed. These players are on the roster and are not ringers from other leagues. This is what I have done for 3 years that is why my roster gets up to 20 players in most cases as there is usually 4 or more players on the rosters that are from other teams (like my Time Travelers team on Sat substitutes for the Time Travelers team on Tues and visa-versa), another way I get substitutes is that the 70's league on Tuesday about 6-8 of them use to play for me when it was only a 65 league and I have asked them to play for me after their earlier games. Also, need to figure which leagues substitutions may come from.
  - Each manager can have the approved number of players on their roster. If some of those players want to be designated as “subs” that’s their and their manager’s choice and decision. If all current rules are followed / enforced, there shouldn’t be any “ringers” allowed -- to be able to be pulled onto a given team. In other words, a Silver team is only allowed to add a Silver or Bronze rated player to their roster as a substitute --- in essence, no ringer. If it’s felt the player is Gold or higher -- i.e., not rated properly, then it’s the manager’s responsibility, or anyone else’s, to appeal that player’s rating.

Currently, short-handed teams may borrow league members to fill in as long as the player's age-adjusted rating is equal to or lower than the team's rating. Example: A High Silver team can borrow Silver or Bronze players but no Gold or Platinum players.

- For the draft leagues I would like to see the rules regarding subs and borrowed players to be a little more definitive and the rules followed.
  - The following Draft rules changes were approved at the board's Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting: One change prohibits borrowing players who have not paid to play in that specific Draft conference. The other changes involve where players borrowed from an opponent will play defensively. In those games, the second borrowed player will play in the infield. Gordon moved to adopt the changes. Hendrikse seconded. Motion passed 14-0.
  - Also adopted was the rule that if borrowed players come from a bye team the first borrowed player will catch, the second borrowed player will play right field, and a third borrowed player will play right-center field. If this sequence is not followed, the borrowing team must give two runs per player to the opponent for out-of-position players. These runs cannot be waived.
- **Courtesy Foul:**
  - To not have a courtesy foul. Have zero-zero count like tourneys. Get 3 strikes and last strike if a foul is an out.
  - I personally hate the use of the courtesy foul rule. Whether league or tournaments, this is a hitter's game, and the pitcher doesn't get an "extra" ball, so why should the batter get an extra strike? Additionally, one of the points of emphasis always seems to be on speeding up games. Getting rid of the courtesy foul rule would serve to keep games moving.
    - NOTE – From KCMSSL Rule Book:
      - D. STARTING COUNT.
        - 1. A batter will have one ball and one strike upon entering the batter's box. When the count reaches two strikes, however that occurs, the batter will be allowed one courtesy foul ball and be declared out on the second. Note: Foul tips, defined as balls fouled backward that do not go higher than the batter's head, are dead balls. Whether or not caught, the foul tip is dead ball. That batter would be out ONLY if he has used his courtesy foul.
- Review committee did not feel there was an over-whelming number of courtesy fouls hit – to support the thought that this is slowing down the game. The 1-and-1 count (with the courtesy foul) was implemented to speed up the game, and our membership's voice to make that happen is louder than the one to eliminate the courtesy foul. SSUSA (nationally) has even revised their rule for 2020 to move ALL their tournament venues, for all ages, to the 1-and-1 count.....due to what they perceive as a valued change. So the committee recommends we retain our rule as is.
- **Equalizers:**
  - The "equalizer". Have we considered giving out equalizer runs at a rate of a maximum of one per inning, but then limiting the number total number of runs allowed per inning to be 5 -- including the equalizer run.
  - Because of time limit, Runs should have been given starting with the second inning. If we played only 5 innings, the team would end up just receiving 4 runs total.
    - Here is the current rule from our Rule Book:
      - .....Acceptable equalizers: an 11th defensive player (only available for teams that normally play with 10 defenders); three runs given at the start of the game; five runs given at the start of the game; or a combination of awarded runs (three or five) and an extra defender.

As a result of the 7 team rating classifications for 2020, a motion was made at the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting to add the option of giving two runs as an acceptable equalizer.

Motion passed 14-0.

The Rules Committee recommended, and the board passed, 2-run equalizers be given one per inning in the second, and third; three-run equalizers be given in the second, third and fourth innings of the game; and five run equalizers be given one per inning in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings of the game. Runs will be awarded only if the innings are played. Motion passed 14-0.

It was also moved that we have a one-year trial period making equalizers mandatory.

That motion passed 12-0-3.

- Suggest no more playing to the lowest level, if we are playing a bronze team they either get the extra player, the extra runs or home run limit but not all
  - Rules Committee suggested no change to this rule. Board agreed.
- **Flip-Flop:**
  - To extend the 7 run rule for flip flop to all games.
  - Increase run total for flip-flop rule to at least 15 overall, not lesser number at start of inning rule. That was goofy. It meant we were too often in the field for three straight innings (two at the end of one game and to start the next game). It also meant we might only get to bat twice or three times in a game.
    - Rules Committee suggested no change to this rule. The intent of this rule was to help keep games on time, and changings to a 15-run flip-flop would balloon some game lengths. Board agreed.
- **Jerseys:**
  - We need to be the organization we claim we are, and not just bunch of individuals showing up for daily or weekly pick-up games – because that is what some of our teams look like on a weekly basis. I've heard talk, in the past, about management enforcing our dress code, but that's all I see it's been, TALK. I have no problem with teams having multiple shirts and maybe not all players having the same colored shirts as a result, but to have ½ the team, week after week, wearing whatever the hell they pull out of the closet only lends me to believe they are week-to-week players and not really on the team's official roster. I don't think we should need to get into weekly cross-examination, or validation of rosters, because that will only lead to bad relationships, confrontations, etc. But at the same time, our honest managers / teams should not be exploited by the less-than-honorable ones in our organization. SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE.
  - Heritage - managers who are constantly adding / deleting players—most notably—[REDACTED]—do not consistently field a team with its members wearing the same shirts. I understand that sometimes a player will not have his jersey for whatever reason. That to me is excusable and the manager should not be held accountable or the team penalized. However, if this occurrence is a constant on-going practice I think the manager / team should be held accountable and penalized. I think the Conference Coordinator should make it known that this infraction will no longer be tolerated and that it will be enforced. It makes it very difficult to verify who the players are and if they are on the team roster. 1 warning. The next time a forfeit. Problem is, our rule book does not state a penalty.
  - Another pet peeve of mine is the uniform rule. Shirts are supposed to match AT LEAST in color, but there are many teams who have multiple jerseys on during any given night. I believe this is indicative of players being used who are not actually on the roster of the team they are playing for.
    - The previous three items are relative to the KCMSSL Dress Code rule. This is our current rule:

- o Each team will provide team jerseys with numbers a minimum of six inches tall on the back of the jersey with no identical numbers. Should two players end up with the same number for a game, their manager is obligated to notify the opposing manager and the scorekeeper. Borrowed players must wear their own team jersey

The majority of the board feels the team jersey provided / worn by all players does NOT need to be the exact same color, or design of team jersey, but does need to be indicative of the same team. The problem, to this point, has been there has been no enforcement / penalty if the rule is not followed. As the saying goes, no sense in having a rule if it's not enforced. And if not enforced, it needs to be removed. The board majority felt Wes Weddle believed in, and followed this rule, and at this time at least, even though it is a 30 year old rule, it is not yet time to remove it.



*The KC Metro 50-plus 70s team gather for a photograph during tournament play last year in Orlando, Fla. President Wes Weddle is second from left in the front row.*



1996 Topeka Senior Open - Gold  
Back (L to R): Ed Scherer, Lee Goodpasture, Charlie Hammond, Larry Pifer, Frank Machle (sp?), Bill Tobler, Frank Hauser  
Kneeling (L to R): Richard Skinner, Wes Weddle, Galen Freeman, Ed Lane, Eugene Payton

So, at the Feb. 1, 2020 board meeting, it was moved that if a player is not in his team's uniform (or the substitute team's uniform - if a sub), the team will give one run per out-of-uniform player to the opposing team. The motion passed 11-3.

- **Runners:**

- I received feedback from a couple of guys both commenting on abuse of the courtesy runner by some managers. The main complaint was subbing a faster runner from home plate when the batter was obviously capable of running for himself. There is a "select " group of manager's that are repeat

offenders. In my opinion there should be limits on courtesy runners (except for the last inning) for all League's below the 70 age group.

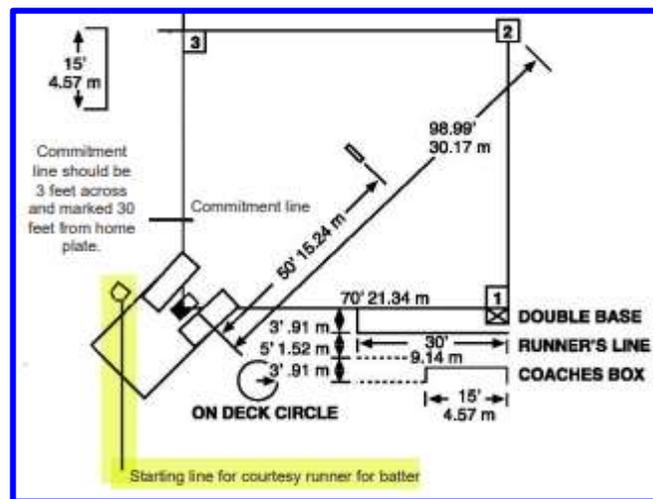
o Note: From our Rule Book:

o R. Base Running:

o c. Before the game, teams may designate one player who may have a courtesy runner from home, and announce this player to the umpire and opposing manager. If another player gets injured during the game, he may have a runner from home with the opposing manager's approval. The courtesy runner may be different for each at bat

o The Rules Committee recommended, and the board approved competitive teams to designate, before the game, two batters who need runners from home (instead of the current one batter.)

- The runner from the plate line is so inconsistent. A couple umpires asked us which plate that should even be using to scratch it on the field. Can we have Parks and Rec chalk that line when they mark the fields? We know it will go away to some degree, but it should be able to last 3 games enough to be a better guide.



- o Review committee agrees there should be consistency (i.e., the rules should be known and followed by our umpires, as well as our managers / players. If a review of the rule, with the umpire, is needed prior to the game (as to where the line needs to be), then the manager should have that meeting. If umpire is uncooperative, the coordinator needs to be contacted so he / she can get with the Parks' contact.
- There are rules to penalize a runner who runs into a defensive player but don't see any rule about a defensive player, most often at second base, that interfere with the runner when they stand completely, with both feet, on the base when a runner is coming in on a close play. These players need to be warned that this isn't safe play for them or the runner. In flagrant cases, the defensive player needs to be called for interference since they are impeding or blocking the runner from getting to the base without making contact with them. I know from my own experience that I had to go into second awkwardly multiple times to avoid making contact with the defensive player who was standing in the middle of the base.
  - o No change recommended. Umpires should be knowledgeable about what is offensive, and defensive, player interference and enforce accordingly.
- Not that either of these things are a big deal, but one thing we experienced was teams, players and/or umpires randomly allowing runners to stand off the bag at first or third, under the guise of protecting themselves from a line-drive hit by the batter. The reality is, it makes no real difference safety wise. They are the same distance from the batter, AND it actually does provide some benefits to the offensive players unnecessarily, by altering what should be a reasonable consideration for both

the batter and the runner. The rule says, a runner must be ON the base when the ball is struck by the bat. It needs to be enforced and the inconsistent "option" eliminated.

- The Rules Committee recommended against using it, largely because SSUSA and ASA / USA softball do not have the rule spelled out in their book, and there are many situations that could arise involving such a play. We would have to write up a section to deal with those. The Rules Committee consensus was that runners at third should be on the base but in foul territory (except for their foot), and runners at first already can use the orange safety base. The Board agreed.

- I would like to recommend, for the Draft conferences, that base runners be allowed to run "through", or past second and third bases without being subjected to being tagged out.
  - The review committee does NOT recommend this. Safety is our biggest concern.

- **Miscellaneous Rules Items:**

- No problem with a ball off an outfielder's glove going over the fence being a four base error, and not counting against the home-run total, but we just don't see any reason to have to run all the way around the bases on that play in a league game (If we are trying to cut-out bits & pieces of game time.

- NOTE: From our Rule Book

- G. HOME RUNS. For Platinum and Gold conferences, the over-the-fence home run limit is six per team per game. For Silver and Women's conferences, the limit is three per game. For Bronze conferences, the limit is one per game. In all competitive conferences, excess home runs will be outs. Batters and runners need not touch the next base on home runs or four-base awards.

This rule is already in place. Do not feel the need for any further action, unless it's a simple matter of umpire education.

- Thursday morning – Roe - Smoking should not be allowed on the field or on the benches. What was with the guy with the pipe? I gather he is a longtime player in the league but he needs to be told to knock it off.
  - We are not aware of which parks, in general, may prohibit smoking. The Review committee agrees there should not be any smoking on the field, in the dugout areas, or even in the bleachers. So, we recommended any desired smoking be done in an as-much-as-possible "removed location" from all other park participants. The Rules Committee stated SSUSA currently doesn't allow smoking on the field or in the dugout. The committee agrees it would be good to add this to our rule book, and recommended the wording say any smoking must be done away from the dugout or bleacher area. This could be added to Article V, Playing Rules, as a new section E. The board agreed.
- We think it is grossly unfair to have players who are on Gold teams also on the Roster of Silver Division teams. It goes against the concept of having like skilled players competing against each other. A silver rated player on a Silver Roster also on a Gold Roster should not be a problem.

Thursday – Heritage

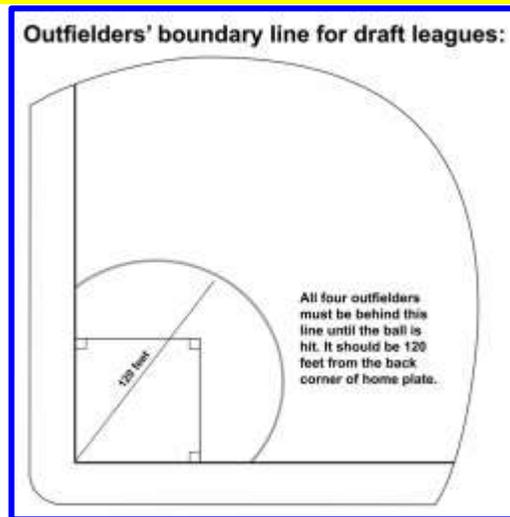
- NOTE: From our KCMSSL Rule Book:

- B. BORROWING PLAYERS.

- 1. Short-handed teams may borrow league members to fill in as long as the player's age-adjusted rating is equal to or lower than the team's division rating. Example: A Silver team can borrow only Silver or Bronze players but no Gold or Platinum players.

It is the KCMSSL's intent to disallow a manager from being able to "add back to their roster" any player they have dropped during a given session. This system-driven process will help discourage managers from substituting one Gold player for another (for a given set of games) and then simply adding the original player back onto the roster immediately afterwards. This restriction will be implemented in our database, but may not be done by the start of the 2020 season.

- Rules Committee recommended, and it passed: Player only be allowed to be on one roster per “conference” (not one roster per division) within a conference. A player qualifying for multiple conferences at the same venue / field location would still be allowed to be on multiple rosters. **NOTE: Enforcing this will NOT be something controllable by Leaguesheets. It would need to be policed manually.**
- We could add a flag to the pitchers screen that is 12 foot high--to even out the height calls
  - The review committee does NOT recommend this. The Rules Committee did not act on this either.
- I would like to see some restriction on runners--we had way too many hitters get doubles, then are replaced by the fastest player on the team. If they can run to 2nd with no problems, why need a runner.
  - The review committee does NOT recommend this. Rules committee did not act on this item either.
- Yes, the 120-foot rule -- not known and not enforced. My stated view -- 120 foot arc should be drawn on all fields on which we play and enforced for ALL divisions, not just draft (not enforced anyway).
  - NOTE: From KCMSSL Rule Book:
  - 12. Outfield playing depth rule: The outfield grass (Roe Park) starts about 120 feet from home plate. None of the four outfielders may cross this line until the ball is hit. The 120-foot rule also will be used at all other draft conference ball parks. (See diagram below.)



- Since the grass is so tall at Roe Park, it was suggested “orange spray paint” be purchased and sprayed down the foul lines (and maybe an arc sprayed in the center field area) at the current 120’ mark. This rule will be applicable for draft, not for any competitive conferences.
- I was a little surprised to find out the rules were apparently changed last year to allow women to play in men's leagues. Part of me doesn't care, however, I have concerns about a woman getting hurt playing with the men AND with the question of whether or not a man would be allowed to play on a women's team . . . I'm opposed to any of it!
  - The board, at their November – 2019 meeting, reversed their previously passed rule (allowing KCMSSL women to play in “any” men’s conference they wished), to the SSUSA rule that says women can play on a men’s team as long as they are age-eligible for that team.
  - However, the Rules Committee recommended allowing 40+ women to play in 50+ men’s Draft conferences. So, after discussion at the Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting, it was moved to allow 40+ women to play on men’s 50+ draft conferences. Motion passed 9-2-3.
- The rule that applies to the 50-minute call to announce "last 5-run inning" or "open inning" needs to revert back to the rule that was used prior to 2019; that decision was made when the 3rd out of the home team batting was recorded. I understand the change was made in an attempt to reduce game times, but in half a

dozen times or more games I participated in, the team that was ahead significantly delayed taking the field so that the open inning could be declared before the first pitch to the visiting team. In these instances, it was generally when the home team was ahead and the visiting team's bottom half of the batting order was due up. The umpires did nothing to address the delay and in some instances the umpires delayed the start of the inning so they could call "open inning" to get the game over with. To me the issue is about sportsmanship versus an attempt to reduce game times.

- NOTE: From our 2019 Rule Book –

- F. Game Length.

- 3. With 10 minutes playing time remaining, and the game has not reached the sixth inning, the current inning will be completed, and the next inning will be the final, unlimited-run inning. (Note: If time expires before the first pitch of an inning, that inning will be the unlimited-run inning.)

This is a catch-22 either way we go. Players will strike out, on purpose, to make the 3<sup>rd</sup> out in the prior inning (just so they can get another inning in prior to the open inning). And pitchers are going to purposely delay making the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch in the next inning (in an attempt to run out the clock so "that" inning becomes the open inning. The purpose in the rule change was an attempt to speed up the game – which, it seems, every player is in favor of. So, as an organization, and Rules committee, we can flip-flop back-and-forth from one year to the next relative to making this change. We therefore recommend the current rule stay as is.

- There seems to be a disparity among umpires as to what constitutes an infield fly. Some umpires would only call infield fly when an infielder is directly under the ball and stationary. When I umpired non-senior softball games the rule was whether an infielder could catch the ball with ordinary effort; the key was if the infielder turned his back to home it was not ordinary effort. Not sure what the senior softball rule is, so I may be way off base.

- NOTE (from SSUSA Rule Book):

- 1.41 • INFIELD FLY

- A fair fly ball (not including a line drive) that can be caught by any fielder with ordinary effort when first and second bases or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two outs. Any fielder can catch an infield fly.

This has always been, and we feel always will be, a judgement call. Therefore, the review committee is not recommending any change.

- Suggest we change our rule relative to the result of a batted ball hitting the pitching screen. I feel no ball hitting the screen should be counted against the batter as anything.

- NOTE: From our KCMSSL Rule book.

- H. PITCHING SCREEN.

- 4. Any batted ball striking any portion of the screen as observed by the umpire will be declared a dead ball and foul ball. A batter can use up his courtesy found by hitting the screen but cannot foul out by hitting it. Thrown balls are in play

Review committee does not propose any change.

## SPORTSMANSHIP:

- The unsportsmanlike conduct. I ended up feeling like I was the one being interrogated, and I have complained about this team more than once. Wasn't seen as a valid deal, but it was the worst I have ever seen. No I will not file a report, because remember what happened in 2014? I was called on the carpet and dismissed, when I was the one who was physically shoved. Of all the gall, I was accused of that which I was reporting. And as I understand it, the vote was unanimous.
  - Sportsmanship committee reports this player's most recent concern was addressed back when it occurred.

## UMPIRING:

- First, I want to say how I believe the umpires do a pretty good job overall. There are some that are lacking, but overall, they do a good job. My one major concern is with 2 or 3 particular umpires at Black Bob on Tuesday nights. (I'm sure they ump other nights and / or on other fields, but that is where I see them!) The 2 or 3 in question completely ignore the timing rules and it doesn't seem to get any better when I try to talk to them. I've got no problem with announcing the unlimited inning IF time expires prior to the team coming up to bat in the top of an inning, IF that is the rule, but we've had the unlimited inning get announced 5, 7 or even 10 minutes early, and their excuses can be "the first game went long" to "rain might be moving in." Unfortunately, they don't really seem to care what the rule says, they just want to speed things up, get their paycheck and go home. The umps really need to be asked to follow the actual rules in place.
- Our team's biggest complaint was the referees (umpires). We know that Lee's Summit hires them and assigns their fields, it still doesn't make sense that Donna seemed to officiate more Gold division games than silver. I told my team to be honest, I don't know the numbers, but we don't think it was evenly split. Donna by far is the best umpire. With that being said the others can't compare to her, but some shouldn't even be there.
- Why do we continue to pay Lee's Summit when a few games an umpire wasn't even there, other times they were late because of speeding tickets etc. don't they have a backup person? In our opinion they need to try and hire qualified people, and they won't change it if we just continue to pay fees without any complaints. Our problem is with Lee's Summit Parks and Rec. we took a survey and we would play in Belton again if we needed to let Lee's Summit know they are not cutting it.
- Only negative might be that umpires were sometimes late or hard to get (Thursday Heritage).
- On whole, the umpiring was better this year, but there are still a few umpires that refuse to hustle and make all calls on the bases from behind the plate. I have umpired softball for roughly 20 years and there is a direct correlation between missed calls and umpires that refuse to get out into the field to make calls.
- Monday Hartman - As I commented last year, all umpires should have alarms / beepers that Donna McGuire uses when she does her games so everyone knows when 50 minutes is up. Connected with this, few umpires announce game start time. This should be announced by every umpire before every game.
- Heritage -- Better umpires. I know we're senior league and not going to get the best umps. But at least have umpires that act like they want to be there and will hustle.
- Better umpires on Thursday - Heritage.
- Saturday at Roe--Only ask that we get officials that will move from home plate, it may have been the worst umpiring I have seen in all my years of playing. I know it is for fun, but no fun when an umpires call and a bad one takes away a victory as we-the stars had 3 of them this year, They are being paid-can we at least get them to move so they can see
- "Ball call" I would like to propose we dump the illegal, flat, high or any other term and just say "BALL". After the pitch we can identify why. It's short, concise, and consistent throughout all leagues, umpires and you are not halfway through your swing and committed by the "illegal" gets called.
  - [No recommended changes from the review committee – other than encouraging the umpire to make the “illegal” call quick enough so the batter is not in the middle of his / her swing.](#)

## What needs to be added?

- Nothing keep charging forward.

## What needs to be eliminated?

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