**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**Jan. 18 and Feb. 1, 2020**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 18, 2020, in Overland Park. Present were Randy Rowe, Susan Scholler, Donna McGuire, Tim Burkindine, Clint Berger, Dave Hendrikse, Barry Gordon, Bobby Gregg, Rocky Osborn, Jeff Harlan, John Mondi, Mark Splettstaszer, Steve Krull, Ann Willkett and Bob Zimmerman. (Note: Second half of meeting took place Feb. 1.)

President Rowe called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He welcomed the new board members.

Rowe suspended regular meeting protocols to conduct the annual vote for executive officers. (Note: Gregg tallied each vote taken by paper ballots. Vote totals were not announced.)

President: Splettstaszer nominated Rowe. Scholler seconded. Mondi nominated Clint Berger. Burkindine seconded. After each candidate summarized his qualifications, both left the room. After the other board members discussed the candidates, they returned. Rowe was elected. (The same protocol was followed for the following elections.)

Vice president: Osborn nominated Burkindine. Krull seconded. Scholler nominated McGuire. Rowe seconded. Burkindine was elected.

Membership secretary: Burkindine nominated Berger. Harlan seconded. No other nominees. Berger elected.

(Note: Mondi left the meeting about 9:30 a.m.)

Secretary: Krull nominated Scholler. Burkindine seconded. Berger nominated McGuire. Gordon seconded. McGuire elected.

Treasurer: (Tabled. See minutes for resumption of suspended meeting toward end of this document.)

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Burkindine moved to approve the minutes of the November 2019 board meeting. Gregg seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**Treasurer’s report:** Put aside at this time.

**Membership/dues report:** We have 151 members paid so far, Berger said. Plus a few more dues payments were handed in at the meeting.

**Rules/regulations report:** McGuire discussed complaints involving an umpire. She also showed the design for a new umpire flip coin (SSUSA logo on one side, KCMSSL player on other) that she give her tournament umpires and also sell to help fund umpire travel to World Masters.

**Advertising/promotions report:** Tabled.

**Ratings/competition report:** Deferred to new business.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Black Bob Tuesday forfeits:** Osborn checked with 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 distributed manager phone numbers so they can notify opponents if they cannot play. If a team doesn’t play twice because of other teams forfeiting, the team gets credit for the next session. Splettstaszer said Heritage (Johnson County Parks & Rec) used to fine teams but it didn’t work. As for refunding money, the only time Johnson County will do that is for inclement weather, he said.

**Comets indoor soccer event on Feb. 23.** Berger has an email blast ready that Karen Riffle and Debbie Brown have approved. Senior players will play a couple of innings before the soccer game using an indoor “rag” ball.

**Competitive conference updates:**

**Monday night women:** Willkett said she expects one or two new teams. Scholler said maybe one new team first session. Rowe said this year at Hartman, the costs are either $40 per hour per field or $85 per day per field, plus $25 per field for lights. Plus pay for umpires, $27 per game. Managers don’t know yet that the fees are going up from last year’s price.

**Wednesday nights at Hartman:** Harlan said he is looking at $650 per team for 20 games for the silver/bronze conference. Independence is $760 per team. Harlan has five teams on Wednesday night at this point. If we get a sixth team, we would need three fields. In Independence, that would be $1,150 per team for 10 weeks. (Rowe said it will be cheaper at Hartman because daily field costs will be shared with the new Wednesday morning Draft Conference.) Last year, Lee’s Summit charged $237 per team. A 55+ gold conference also wants to play at Hartman, Krull said. Rowe asked Harlan to figure up costs if two five-team divisions played at Hartman on Wednesday nights. The Wednesday morning Draft league will pay for one field ($85 per day) and the night conferences would pay for the other field or fields.

**Tuesday Black Bob 55+:** Osborn said we may have a new team. Right now, we have five confirmed 55s. One team is on the fence as to whether stay 55+ or go 60+. Gregg said if he doesn’t get another 60+, there is no 60+ division.

(Secretary’s note: Mondi returned at 11:54 a.m.)

**Tuesday Black Bob 70+ and 65+:** Gordon said he expects the same four 70+ teams as last year. We had five 65+ teams last year. As of now, the same five are expected, though one is shaky. The number of teams also depends on whether there is a 60+ division. If not, other teams may join the 65+.

**Thursdays at Heritage:** Splettstaszer needs to confirm this but he expects the cost to be $82 per night per team. At least two teams are not coming back.

**Friday Co-Ed:** Scholler said she usually has three solid teams and one thrown together as a fourth team. She would like to see a firm team fill that fourth spot but Friday nights are bad for many people.

**Saturday:** Gordon (speaking for Bob Reynolds) said that as far as he knew, the same six teams will be playing. Gordon will be liaison between the conference and the board.

**Sunday at Black Bob:** Rowe said John Ross is going to coordinate the 35+ Conference. Eric Klein said he expects the same six teams to return.

**Monday in Independence:** Rowe said he expects four teams.

**Draft conferences update:** Gordon said we will have a sixth draft conference this year, a 65+ Draft on Wednesday mornings at Hartman. There are four teams. Gregg will run it. Gordon has three full sets of shirts from what we ordered last year and never used. If all current Draft leagues have same number of teams, he may have to order another set of shirts or two. Other draft conferences expect the same number of teams as last year.

**Northland on Wednesdays update:** Rowe said a women’s group, 35+, plans to play using USA Softball rules at Happy Rock. Paul LaVine also is trying to establish a 50+ or 60+ men’s league at Happy Rock and split the costs. The men’s division would be part of our organization.

**Manager survey:** Berger has updated the document and sent it to board members. Once rules changes are approved, he will update the document.

**AED/Lightning detectors:** Rowe said Reynolds kept his AED and detector. Rowe has others in the shed. One lightning detector is broken but might be fixable.

**Bylaws update:** Burkindine noted that the bylaws we took to annual meeting passed. They need to be posted to the website.

**Dave Barragan update:** Rowe said Wells Fargo won’t cooperate with the police investigation. Burkindine reported that Kansas law enforcement could go after him but the prosecutors said the amounts were too low to spend the effort. Rowe said individual players can press charges if they wish. The league has done all it can. Krull made a motion to issue a lifetime playing suspension for Barragan. Scholler seconded. After discussion, the motion passed 12-1-2.

**30th anniversary:** Gordon noted that we approved giving T-shirts to all the members to celebrate our 30th anniversary. However, there are about 400 members whose shirt sizes we don’t know. So Gordon recommended we give ball caps and visors instead. The cost for the 1,000 T-shirts was estimated at about $6,100. The hats and visors would be $6,500. Last year, we had 817 men, 162 women. He plans to add 10 hats and 10 visors to be safe for this year. Gordon made a motion that we abandon the previously approved shirts as our 30th anniversary gift to membership and replace them with hats for men and visors for women. Splettstaszer seconded. Motion passed 15-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Rules changes for 2020:** McGuire noted that the recommendations went out via email. She asked what items board members wanted to pull for discussion and separate voting. Board members requested to pull items 3, 5, and 4b. Burkindine moved to approve items 1, 2, 4a, 6, 7, 8, 9. Hendrikse seconded. Motion passed 15-0. Those items are**: 1. Lightning policy**: Add to rule book under Article V, Playing Rules, a new Section D that would be titled “Lightning policy.” Add the wording: The League follows individual Parks & Recreation guidelines for when to stop or cancel games for lightning and other dangerous weather. In locations without an on-site Parks official, the Conference Coordinator will stop all games for a 15-minute delay whenever a lightning strike occurs within 8 miles of the playing fields. If a second strike occurs, the games will be canceled. **2.** **Pitcher protection rule:** Under Article VI, Section H, Pitching Screen: Add wording that says all teams must use the screen. Add that it is recommended that pitchers wear a mask, shin guards and a chest protector. **4A. Equalizers:** (listed under Article I, Definitions, on page 4): Change the clauses that say a three- or five-run equalizer should be awarded at the start of the game to say instead: ““three runs given one per inning in the second, third and fourth innings of the game; or five runs 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.” **6.** **Playing in two divisions on same night:** The committee recommends bringing back the rule that prohibited players from doing this while still allowing players to be on two teams of **different age** classifications on the same night, such as at Black Bob. The old wording under Article VI.B. was, “Members may play on only one team in a conference, that is, one team per day.” The committee recommends saying: “Members may not be rostered on two teams in the same age-level conference. Example, a 50+ conference would not allow a player to be on a gold division roster and a silver division roster even if those divisions play separate schedules.” **7. Courtesy runners:** Allow competitive teams to designate before the game two batters who need runners from home (instead of the current one batter.) **8. Smoking:** SSUSA currently doesn’t allow smoking on the field or in the dugout. The committee recommends adding to our rule book that 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. **9. Borrowed player/substitute player definition**: Add a definition explaining the difference: A borrowed player is a player from another KCMSSL team that is filling in under borrowed player rules that start on page X. A substitute player is a player on his team’s roster but who is not in the starting lineup (batting order). Note: Some teams carry substitute players on their roster to use when “regular” players are absent. These players are not borrowed players.

Pulled items considered individually:

**Item 3:** Recommendation to revert to 20-person roster limits: After discussion, Berger moved to set maximum roster size at 20. Gregg seconded. Motion passed 14-0-1.

**Item 4b:** Whether need to make equalizer mandatory. McGuire spoke in favor of keeping flexibility. Berger said if the equalizer is not mandatory, if one team takes it and the next one doesn’t, you don’t know if the rating system is working. Splettstaszer said making it mandatory takes some of the spirit out of the game, that managers should have right to go toe-to-toe with stronger teams. Storm has never taken equalizers, he said. McGuire suggested a one-year trial as a compromise. Burkindine said we may need to do it for a year if the ratings system hinges on that. Burkindine called the question (to stop discussion only). Stopping discussion approved 15-0. Gordon moved that we have a one-year trial period making equalizers mandatory (teams cannot waive them). Harlan seconded. Motion passed 12-0-3.

Splettstaszer and Hendrikse needed to leave, so Rowe suspended the meeting at 1:30 p.m. He scheduled the meeting to resume at 9 a.m. Feb. 1, 2020.

**RESUMPTION OF MEETING.**

All board members were present except Krull when the meeting resumed at 9 a.m. Feb. 1.

**Item 5**: Allowing women on men’s team. We currently allow women to play on men’s teams if they fit the age and ratings criteria. The rules committee recommended also allowing 40+ women to play in 50+ men’s Draft conferences. After discussion, Scholler moved to allow 40+ women to play on men’s 50+ draft conferences. Seconded by Hendrikse. Motion passed 9-2-3.

**Additional rules:**

**Uniform problems:** Berger suggested penalizing teams runs when players are out of uniform. After discussion, Splettstaszer moved that if a player is not in his team’s uniform (or the substitute’s uniform if a sub), that team gives one run per out-of-uniform player to the opposing team. Seconded by Gregg. Motion passed 11-3.

**Ratings:** Berger explained we are replacing the color designation for players with a 10 to 1 rating scale. This accompanies a new way of rating teams proposed by Berger. A team will be rated based on the average of the players’ ratings. Parameters have been set for each classification. If the team’s average falls in that range, that is the team classification, unless you have four or more players rated higher than your team rating. Then you get bumped up. Berger had proposed moving from our Platinum/Gold/Silver/Bronze system to a six-classification system. After discussion about the six-classification system, Berger said that seven would work nicely. After more discussion, Berger moved to adopt a seven classification rating system using the rules as submitted via email. (See new rule book.) Harlan seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**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.

**Equalizer options:** Berger made a motion to add the option of giving two runs as an acceptable equalizer. Burkindine seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**CPR training:** Berger asked if we were going to use Mike Woolery again to give a CPR presentation at the managers’ meeting. Splettstaszer said he will ask if Woolery can do it.

**Conference coordinators:** Rowe announced coordinators for each conference: Sunday at Black Bob, John Ross; Monday at Hartman, Susan Scholler and Ann Willkett; Monday at Black Bob, Dave Hendrikse; Monday at Roe Park, Ray Harre; Monday at Independence, Randy Rowe and Paul LaVine; Tuesday at Independence, Tom Reynolds; Tuesday Black Bob 55+, Rocky Osborn; Tuesday Black Bob 60+, Bobby Gregg; Tuesday Black Bob 65+, Barry Gordon; Tuesday Black Bob 70+, Barry Gordon and Bobby Gregg; Wednesday Draft at Hartman, Bobby Gregg; Wednesday night at Hartman, Jeff Harlan; Thursday morning at Roe, Ray Marre; Thursday at Heritage, Mark Splettstaszer and John Lofflin; Friday at Hartman, Susan Scholler; Saturday at Roe, Bob Reynolds.

**Tuesday night 60+ conference at Black Bob:** Gregg said Osborn has a new team for that division the team wants to use two players (brothers) who are underage. One is 59, the other is 58. Splettstaszer has a 60+ team but if he has to move to 65+, he would have some underage players as well. After discussion, Burkindine moved to call the question (stop discussion). Rowe seconded. Motion passed 14-0. Osborn made a motion that two underage players, aged 58 or 59, be allowed in 60+ conferences. Splettstaszer seconded. Osborn withdrew his original motion and replaced it with a motion to allow two players on an existing 55+ team that are 58 or 59 to move with the team when it moves to the 60+ division. Scholler seconded. Motion failed 3-11.

**Draft conference fees:** McGuire asked whether the Saturday draft fee of $20 was enough to cover costs. Berger said Saturday still has money left over from previous years.

**Appropriate working capital:** Osborn asked what the appropriate amount is to carry as our balance. Is $40,000 enough? Berger said he didn’t know what the highest monthly bills would be without looking at previous years of expenses.

**Treasurer:** Rowe said he had a volunteer, Gregg, willing to serve as treasurer. Burkindine nominated Gregg. Splettstaszer seconded. Gregg selected without opposition.

**Wednesday night at Hartman:** Berger said rated the five teams planning to play silver/bronze there; three would be considered low gold and two high silvers. The KC Vintage roster from last year would come up as low gold also for this year, he said. He doesn’t have the other two rosters, Monarchs and Big Daddy 60+, to see how they would be classified. Rowe explained that gold would have its own division and there would be some cross-over play. We can get enough field space for both conferences, he said.

**Rowe set committees chairs** for 2020. By-laws, Burkindine and Scholler; long-range planning, Burkindine, Scholler and Mondi; Membership/dues, Berger and Gregg; Competition/player ratings, Berger and Splettstaszer; Sportsmanship/protests, Burkindine and Harlan; Rules/regulations, McGuire and Willkett; Advertising/promotions, Mondi and Hendrikse; Awards, Gordon, Gregg and Zimmerman; website, Karen Riffle and Mondi; New members/welcoming, Berger, Harlan and Gordon; All-Star games, Gregg, Willkett and Osborn; Equipment and safety, Osborn and Rowe.

Row set the next board meeting for 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23. (Note: Later moved to Saturday Feb. 22 because of Comets game.)

**Motion to adjourn**: McGuire moved to adjourn. Scholler seconded. Motion passed 14-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Board members and years terms expire:

**2022** **2020** **2021**

Clint Berger Barry Gordon Tim Burkindine

Steve Krull Bobby Gregg Dave Hendrikse

Randy Rowe Rocky Osborn Donna McGuire

Ann Willkett Susan Scholler John Mondi

Bob Zimmerman Mark Splettstaszer Jeff Harlan