**MANAGERS’ / PLAYERS’ SURVEY – 2022**

Survey comments received from managers/players are shown in black.

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

**GENERAL:**

* Can’t think of anything offhand.  Unless they can do something about the postponed games lol… Overall I thought it went very well.  Tacos on the horizon?
* Communication to the managers is GREAT. No issues with the rules, we all know them and if we don't, go read the handbook given to us at the Manager’s Meeting.
* Overall-our league is GREAT!!!!! Keep up the good work!!! We APPRECIATE all the efforts our board members make for us and look forward to next season!!!!!!
* Good? - kudos to Clint Berger. It’s clear he cares, communicates well, works hard on the player evaluations, etc.… It’s obvious Clint puts a lot of time and effort into the league so please offer our great appreciation for all his tremendous support and efforts.
* **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.?**

**CONFERENCES – SCHEDULING, SESSIONS:**

**GENERAL:**

* Tough question, for which I do not have an answer. There are not enough players in each age group to create full conferences at the same age levels. The Saturday morning conference has such a large divide. 60 tournament players in with many 70+ year-olds. Tuesday night (Black Bob) also has a 10-to-15-year age difference, for us at least. Conferences are needed, and giving runs helps, but a little worried about safety for the older players having to play against the younger aged teams.
* My only complaint is that I don't like playing league games that count when all the tournament players are missing. Those games can be played, but should have no standing on wins and losses.
* **DRAFT:**
  + **General:**
  + I got absolutely nothin'! Everything ran so smoothly from "Meteorologist" Ray Hare to all the dedicated team managers. I have two field issues, but I'll keep them to myself and just be very thankful that we have a place to play softball.
  + I think the draft went really well the coordinators did a very good job in the draft.
  + **Saturday Morning**
    - I have talked to a few players who are playing in both the Saturday morning 60+ competitive & draft conferences who would like to see a double header set up for the draft to attract more players & help it to survive. My suggestion is to either start the competitive conference 30 minutes -- to 8:30 AM (from 9:00), and continue to play for 9 innings, or 90 minutes. Then start a double header for the draft @ 10:00AM -- which would be 30 minutes earlier than this year. OR… start the draft doubleheaders at either 8 or 8:30AM & have the competitive league play after. Schedule the draft games for 7 innings, or 60 minutes & they would be done around the same time as this year when the 1 draft game was scheduled for 9 innings or 90 minutes. Moving the draft games to 9 innings or 90 minutes has not resulted in drawing that many more players. I am in favor of anything that would result in doubleheaders for the Saturday draft. I think a double header for the draft would draw more players even though you would probably lose some competitive players for the draft; but hopefully, would draw more new players to offset that.
* **COMPETITIVE:**
* **Monday – Independence**
  + excellent communication from coordinator, season ended in September 2-5.
* **Monday – Women’s Hartman**
  + Positive things - awesome fun and feel as though the separating of the teams for the 2nd session was very effective
  + We feel that the new break out of the divisions on Mondays for the women was a GREAT ideal!
  + We are very happy with the performance of Annie and Susan as our directors-they are doing a GREAT job! I feel that there are a few ladies that have personal issues with them and try to make them look bad-but we have seen nothing but fairness and impartiality on their part in treating each team the same and equal.
  + It seems that a few teams on Monday nights expect special considerations over other teams because they play tournaments-but that should be a non-issue for LEAGUE PLAY. We all know Monday is league night-and we ALL struggle for subs-as everyone knows-my team has borrowed players almost every week-for YEARS!!! why do they expect special consideration over the other teams because they have missing players? There are LOTS of players that will play as a borrowed player if you are missing players-but they are a bit picky on WHO they borrow-so they expect special treatment. I know there was an issue over a forfeited game- which I think was handled VERY poorly by the forfeiting team-how can a team forfeit due to not having enough players-then expect to get to schedule it for another date just because they had missing players playing out of town? A scheduled game is a scheduled game-and a forfeit is a forfeit-you can't and should not be allowed to take back a forfeit-and it was not fair to the other teams in the league that they expected that SPECIAL TREATMENT.
  + I have seen some of the women treat one of our directors very poorly because rules were not bent to suit them. I do not like the fact that they personally attack our board members and scream and yell at them, then bad mouth them to the other players and teams. This game is for FUN, there is no money involved, and if they are that unhappy then perhaps they should play elsewhere.
  + Good and positive. We are really happy with the split of the Women’s silver league on Monday nights to 3 divisions. We felt that the games were much more competitive.
  + We would like to see if we could have a woman's representative sitting near/at the Silver games as well as the Gold division games. That way questions and concerns can be brought up without needing to delay a game to find the answer or have some one run over.
* **Tuesday – Black Bob**
  + Of course, I would like the league moved to Hartman, just so it would be closer to my home. 😀😀😀
  + Fields good, post-game social area (parking lot) after games is great
  + Kyle takes good care of the teams
  + 70’s conference – Competitive, yet friendly
  + Tuesday night at Black Bob 2nd session bracketing of teams (American and National in lieu of strictly by age) seemed to work well.
  + Please avoid scheduling an odd number of teams in a conference if possible. Odd numbers, e.g., 5 teams, compel a bye every 4th week. When combined with inevitable weather cancellations, the Tuesday 55+ conference teams played 16 weeks over a 26-week calendar --- April 19 - October 11.
  + Consider playing a 16-week schedule from May thru August with September for make-up. The records for all teams were almost identical for both Spring & Summer sessions in 2022. Consider a post-season conference tournament.
  + Scheduling Communications: We appreciate their efforts to start games early, i.e., 6:30, 7:30, including changing the schedule as the season dragged on. However, there should be a location that everyone can see the current schedule, which means updating the website with every change.
* **Thursday – Heritage**
  + Older leagues that play on Tuesday night at Black Bob should play on smaller fields at Heritage, and younger leagues at Heritage should play on larger fields at Black Bob.

**EQUALIZERS:**

* The giving of runs within a division should be eliminated.   Giving runs to teams in division is a travesty and makes an absolute mockery of the game.  We should pass out skirts to any team who accepts such runs.
* Equalizers need to be adjusted for length of game, 5 runs for a less than 5 inning game = wrong
* No incentive to hustle to keep the game moving for some teams, causing some games to only be 4 innings long, which I feel (when 5 runs are given, or taken, as an equalizer) is wrong.
* Consideration should be given to the team being given equalizer runs to have a runner start on second base in lieu of automatically being given the run (per inning).
* Giving & receiving runs: It would make sense to revisit the guidelines when, and when not, to give runs. I believe we could still make it simple, but also think outside the box on the ruling…meaning, maybe if the team who receives 3 runs for the first game, wins, then they forfeit those runs for the 2nd game. This is akin to resetting the back nine holes to even strokes if you’re beating your friend during an 18-hole golf outing.
* I think for each inning a given team is scheduled to receive an equalizer run (i.e., 3 innings, 5 innings, etc.), that team should starts with a man on 2B and they should have to “earn” the equalizer. And they are able to score 6 runs in each of those innings.

**FIELD / FACILITY CONDITIONS:**

* **Black Bob Park:** 
  + Fences – Many areas of the fencing around Black Bob Park are rolling up at the bottoms and is becoming a safety hazard, not to mention the balls are often rolling underneath them now.
* **Hartman Park**:
  + Outfields are a bit rough and can be dangerous with the holes – Hartman Park
  + Lighting seems to be misaligned - very hard to see in some areas – Hartman Park
  + Field conditions were good.
  + Field conditions in the outfield were tough some nights. A few holes were located in the center field near water system heads. We also would find baseballs and think if we could come up with some system to check for these items before the 6:45 game would be helpful not to mention safe.
* **Heritage Park**:
  + There is a light burned out that needs replacement at Heritage on field A, it has been that way for 2 years. It creates shadows on the infield that make it hard to pick up the ball off the bat. If the parks department won't fix it can the league take care of it?
  + Lighting at Heritage Park – For pretty much the entire season, the lights on field A (third base side) did not work.
  + Fences – Many areas of the fencing around Heritage are rolling up at the bottoms and is becoming a safety hazard, not to mention the balls are often rolling underneath them now.
  + No feedback from my Thursday Heritage team (which is not unusual). They are satisfied with the way the league ran in 2022 and wonder when Heritage Park, overall, will be improved. According to Doug Hite, that won't happen until all of the improvements to Mid-America and Mid-America West are completed; probably 3 years at the minimum.
* **Roe Park**:
  + We should move Saturday morning Roe Park games to a better facility (one with outfield fences, playable outfield, etc.). The main reason I would consider removing this league from my schedule is the facility. Playing at Roe is not as fun as other venues. Yes, I know venues are in short supply, but we need to get this done. I've heard that the main reasons for not moving are 1) other potential venues are difficult to get, and 2) players that reside from a distance complain that they don't want to travel even further. Neither of these reasons should trump finding a safer, more fun venue.

**PLAYER SKILL RATINGS / TEAM RATINGS:**

* Rating system needs to be tweaked, did not work well for Barber Financial 70+ team on Tuesday nights at Black Bob.
* Rerating of players dropping down in age should be 1/2, not 1 (e.g., 68-year old's rating should drop from 7 to 6.5 to play in 60 leagues, not drop from 7 to 6). (e.g., 70-year old's rating should drop from 7 to 6 to play in 60 leagues, not drop from 7 to 5).  The current system generates too many equalizer-runs to be given.  Too many times, teams that are equal in ability (regardless of age) are given too many runs.  Too many times I've been on a team giving equalizer runs and getting our butts kicked anyway (without the added benefit of equalizer runs).

**RULES:**

**11 Defensive Players:**

* + Regardless of SSUSA ruling that 65+ use 11 fielders, our league should only allow 10 fielders at 65+.  IMHO it's ridiculous that we use 11.  Do "they" think we have too much offence???  IMHO 11 fielders makes a "mockery" of the game.

**Fair Play:**

* + Catcher interference. Verbal distraction of a batter is catcher interference and must be stopped.

**Draft specific:**

* + We should give thought to the infield fly rule. if we have true draft teams it may be looked at with consideration given to player ratings.
  + I think there should be more consideration given to the amount of high rated players allowed on each team. we may be out sourcing the true draft players in an attempt to be a dominant team.
  + Some thought may be given to the pool players. on how to use them and place them permanently on teams simply to make the numbers fair.
  + We did have a Monday 70+ draft managers meeting a few weeks ago. I assume Ray is covering our conversations in that meeting. The one pretty common agreement was to eliminate the infield fly rule in the draft conferences.
  + if possible, we need to discuss changing from 120' to 150' we measured field B at roe and it was 146 from home to edge of grass.
  + Need to have a time limit for batters to get in the batter’s box before and between pitches instead of checking their gloves etc.
  + Need the length of time a pitcher has to deliver a pitch between pitches .it may save enough time for another inning.
  + Our current rule relative to women playing in any draft conference states:

C. Women may play on men’s teams as long as they fit the age and ratings criteria. The only underage exception is that 40+ women may play on 50+ men’s Draft teams.

Does this mean we are restricting women from our 60+ draft conference?? If so, why? If not, then maybe our rule needs to be reworded.

**Home Team:**

* If a team gives runs it should always be the home team -- for both games of double header.

**Length of Games:**

* **Tuesday night -- Black Bob (55+)**
  + Since the 55+ conference is the top league on Tuesdays, and we score more runs, just make all of our games 6 innings with no time limit. 6th inning is the unlimited inning. If the score is 2-1 after 5 innings, or if its 25-24 after 5 innings, play the 6th inning unlimited and call it good.  Too many games go 4½ innings and I am absolutely sure some umps call games early.  Yes, the games might take a little longer, but for what the league costs, an hour isn't enough time to play.
* **Tuesday night – Black Bob (70’s** **division)**
  + Probably averaged 5 inning games, or less. Suggest extending games to 70 minutes. The 70’s division starts at 5:30, so those games would be complete in 2½ hours. Next set of games would start at 8 pm, which is not too late.
  + Consider starting the unlimited inning for 70’s conferences after the 45-minute game clock rather than 50 minutes. 70’s conference unlimited innings tended run exceedingly long.
* **Hartman Park on Monday nights**
  + Games often run well over time - making later games very late (and nearing the lights shut off time). Can the open inning start time be announced sooner?
* **Roe Park**
  + Saturday competitive games should be 7 innings, not 9 and potentially double header, not just 1 game. 9 inning games are not the norm for slow pitch softball and are too long. Why is this the one and only league to do this?

**Pinch Runner:**

* + Real simple. Eliminate runner for the batter. If you can’t run to first, time to retire.

**Pitching**

* + Both MLB leagues (the American, and now the National) have the rule whereby pitchers do not have to bat – i.e., the DH (Designated Hitter). How about the KCMSSL adopting a rule whereby the pitcher has the option to bat, if he wishes, or the team wishes for him / her, to do so. But on the flip-side, allow for that position to have a DH -- if the player / team wishes.
  + Pitches over 12 foot in arc:  These cannot be called strikes.  Calling a 14-foot pitch a strike makes a mockery of the game.  Umpires have to be accountable for this, rather than 'little dictators'.  Same situation with a flat pitch.   These are rules routinely broken.
  + Consideration should be given to a stationary screen (collapsible) between the pitching rubber and the home plate mat. IF we believe the pitcher should be protected from a batted ball this would be safer. Yes, pitcher would have to pitch over the screen and batter would have to hit pitch coming over the screen. As a pitcher I'm not likely to immediately step behind the screen after releasing the pitch due to follow through. Given a batted ball traveling 60 mph only takes 1 second to travel 80 feet it puts my safety all on my reflexes. Balls are coming off the bat at greater than 60 mph and the pitcher's box is not 80 feet away giving reflexes a lot less than 1 second to protect myself. Otherwise, we should remove the screen all together as it just stops batted balls that are not hit directly at the pitcher anyway and we would be consistent with tournament play.

**SAFETY:**

* I feel the safety is a non-issue. the defib machine is on hand and has been used successfully, THANK GOD!

**UMPIRING:**

* + **Tuesday Black Bob:**
    - Umpires were OK. Feel we need to provide them a bit more respect, and feel it would help if each one was to wear an official umpire’s shirt.
    - New umpires should be given at least some training prior to being assigned league games.
  + **Monday – Independence**
    - Better umpiring, earlier notifications of cancelations.
  + **Monday Women’s Hartman**
    - Umpires need to be replaced - not always super courteous, not always arrive on time, some do not always appear to know the rules either
    - The UMPIRES that they provide us leave a LOT to be desired. Some do not know women’s rules, or even some slow pitch rules!
    - Our only other “concerns” are umpires. Don't think there is any way to get them more consistent. We know they are hard to find.
* **What needs to be added?**
* **What needs to be eliminated?**
* We have nothing that we believe should be eliminated.
* **Miscellaneous Comments:**
* Need someone other than the present coordinator running the Tuesday Independence draft conference.