**MEMBER’S END OF THE SEASON SURVEY – 2024**

Managers’ Survey comments in black.

Managers’ Survey Review Committee comments in royal blue.

Supporting rule or other information (relative to item).

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

**Positive Feeback:**

* Everything was very pleasant and very well organized, congratulations to everyone!
* I have played in the league for the past 2 years and have really enjoyed it! Thank you for all that you do!
* I greatly enjoy playing softball in this organization. It is run very well by a dedicated, caring and thoughtful group of people.  My thanks to all of you.
* Being new to the league I don’t have much at all for complaints. Just about all the folks with which I’ve played or encountered have seemed helpful and encouraging. Leadership has been responsive to questions and engaged.
* Overall, I think we had a good season.
* I think the leadership does a great job. Thanks for all you do to in providing us with an opportunity to play softball.
* I have nothing but praise for both Mike Curley and Paul Heacock for their hard work this past summer. They both were very organized and on top of all situations.
* I think senior softball is very well run. Thanks for all you do.
* Overall, it is a positive experience playing in the league.  Keep up the good work.
* First off, I have nothing but praise for the way the league was ran this year. From the very top management all the way to the field managers, everyone did a great job. You ran a fine league. Take a bow.
* You guys do a great job...keep it up.
* First of all, I would like to thank the BOD members and committees for all the hard work. It is very much appreciated. The league members are very lucky to belong to this outstanding organization.

**Sportsmanship:**

* I recently reviewed - in the website - the history of the organization/league.  It was an interesting read.  I noticed some comments towards the end that there’s been an uptick in unsportsmanlike or rude behavior and that it might be due to generational characteristics.  In the very short time I’ve been involved, I’ve noticed some related issues as well.  In sport settings we see more and more of this.  Just ask guys that marshal at golf courses or little league umpire or refs.  As a senior sports league that depends on a steady flow of new members and good standing in the communities, the topics of excellent sportsmanship and ethics should be paramount in all we do.  That is the very essence of sport and as a group of wise, experienced, and seasoned players, managers, and leaders, we should be very purposeful and empowering with everyone in the organization to quickly and consistently deal with issues when they happen (immediately or as soon as possible).  If that type of culture is implemented effectively, the League’s reputation will attract and foster growth in membership and be admired in the community.

Appreciate the observation and positive support.

**Marketing & Recruiting:**

* One possibility for marketing the league to more people would be to approach area churches. I would think there would be a good amount of interest in the Lee’s Summit, Blue Springs. And Grain Valley areas. The only way I found out that the league existed was through some guys I played pickle ball with.

Anyone, and we mean anyone, receptive to helping us out in this area—since each person’s “local and immediate” relationship with their own church, etc., is a definite advantage—please get in touch with any one of the following from our Marketing & Recruiting Committee:

Dave Hendrikse dhendrikse@rosemann.com 816-728 2457

John Mondi jmondi@kc.rr.com 913.284.6005

Terry Jackson tcj857@gmail.com 913.706.4788

Barry Gordon barrygordo@aol.com 913.827.7722

Mike Curley curley@turbonet.com 208.882.3536

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Gary Pycior gpycio1@gmail.com 816.206.3683

**“North of the River” Conference, or Otherwise:**

* I think we need to try to get a conference north of the river. Everything is south and east. Used to have a conference at Kappy Rock. What happened? Thanks
* My only thing that would make it a better experience is having a league north of the river. When you have a
long drive and there’s 15 players on a team and playing time is limited it can come to a point that it’s not worth it.
* I would very much like to see leagues in other parts of the city. As an example, I played this year with an individual from up north. I used to live up north and know of several individuals who would probably be open to joining a league up north, specific to their age group.
I myself live in the western part of the city. I would like to see a 70+ league held in western Shawnee or Lenexa. I don't have a real firm solution to how we can get more members, except for just getting the word out. I found out about the league this year by googling it. Perhaps posting notices in community centers would do the trick.

Per Deb Brown, “Happy Rock is available for us on Wednesdays for 2 or 3 fields, starting in April.”

The Survey Committee agrees with the proposal / need to have a conference “north of the river”. The mindset is that this conference needs to be a “draft” conference…opposed to a competitive one. And maybe a Wednesday night one at Happy Rock. Clint Berger sent out an inquiring email—on November 23, 2024—to the 108 current members who live “north of the river”. If you did not get / see that email, or even if you do not live in the Northland but would be interested in participating in this new conference, please get in touch with Clint – clintberger@hotmail.com, or 913.481.7937. We need to know the overall interest level before we proceed.

* I really don't want to see the Roe Park 70+ league move out to Lees Summit.
* Regarding the move to Frank White, the facilities are better and I’d adjust if necessary but the convenience of Roe is hard to ignore.

More to be shared with everyone on this at our annual December Membership Meeting (Dec. 7th, at Tomahawk Ridge Community Center - 11902 Lowell Ave, Overland Park, KS 66213—starting at 9:00).

**Length of Games:**

* I would like to suggest changing from double-header conferences, where you often don't get all 7 innings in, to single 9 inning games over 90 minutes. In leagues where I use that I can't remember the last time we didn't play a full game. It also tends to keep the schedule working and games don't run late. All other rules used in the 7-inning game still apply (including the number of HRs).

Each conference (the coordinator in conjunction with input from their corresponding managers) has the autonomy to either play two 7-inning games or one 9-inning game. The board does not mandate either. So, communicate your desire with your conference coordinator. A decision (prior to the start of each season or session) is what will determine whether or not your conference is going to play two 7-inning games or one 9-inning one.

* This works great in our Monday night league in Topeka. NO TIME LIMIT, period. We play 6 innings, period. 6th inning is unlimited. If it is 3-2 after 6 innings and it’s only been 45 minutes, game over. no 7th inning. In 3 years with 50 min limit, then unlimited (with the KCMSSL) I think I've played 1 complete 7 inning game. If it’s 20-18 after 6 innings and the game lasted 1 hour and 10 minutes, game over. With this there is no whining about umps "speeding" up the clock. Everyone knows the deal before they step on the field. Injuries won't run time off the clock which umps like to do to hurry up and get done. Lots of players commute a long way for league games, if they knew they would get 6 innings in without question that would be much more positive.

This is a Catch-22 scenario. We have too many other members wanting the time length of the games to be “shorter”. They are requesting earlier “nights”, meaning they are wanting to get home earlier after the 2nd set of scheduled games each night. We do not dispute your claim, Mike: “**In 3 years with 50 min limit, then unlimited (with the KCMSSL) I think I've played 1 complete 7 inning game.”** Not a single survey committee member could ever remember playing a full 7-inning game. So, your claim is understood.

Our current guideline is 50 minutes and then the open inning. With that happening, and hardly ever getting into the 7th inning (as stated), we feel a standard 6-inning game, across the board, would average 1 hour 15 minutes. This is NOT an issue for the teams who play the first sets of doubleheaders each night on each field, but it does push the finish of the scheduled 9:30 games to end around 11:00 or 11:30. Thus the Catch-22 situation. This would not allow for those players participating in those 9:30 games to get home any sooner.

Our suggested rules change recommendation (to our Rules Committee) is shown below.

* Do something to speed up games. Especially in conferences where there are 8:30/9:30 games after the 6:30/7:30 games. Possibly put a time limit on the amount of time between pitches. There are too many pitchers who slow down the game by complaining about every pitch not called a strike. And there are those pitchers who take too much time in between pitches. Something needs to be done so that the 8.30 games don’t consistently start at 9-9:15.
* The only thing I would like to see change is the time of the late games. Sometimes the 8:45 games don't begin until 9:15 which is pretty late for a week night. Our team had four 8:45 games this fall which makes it tough for me to commit to playing next season.
* Either eliminate the open inning or start it earlier. All my games this season ran over by at least 30 minutes, if we were playing the late games we never started on time.
* I played in a tournament in the Quad Cities where there was a 50-minute time limit, a 1-1 count and no courtesy foul. I took some getting used to as a number of players on my team liked to go down either foul line but they adjusted and the games usually went 6 or 7 innings.
* One change I would like for the Board to consider in order to speed up games is to eliminate the courtesy foul ball when a batter has two strikes. Having played one tournament with this rule, my opinion is that it significantly speeded up the game while also not significantly altering the essence of the game. Playing on Tuesdays at Black Bob fields, it is routine that the games that follow prior games are started 15 -30 minutes later than scheduled. I would hope that a change such as this would eliminate most late starts. I think that a faster paced game is always more fun to play in than the alternative. Nothing worse to be in the field while multiple batters are walked in an inning.

**This is a topic that is submitted every season.**

* + As to the flat 6-inning suggestion (above), the KCMSSL has NOT tested or implemented it at any point in the past. We have no feel for how well it would work. But we do feel confident it would NOT shorten the game times.

**We have, however, attempted the following:**

* + Reduce the game time (as to when the open inning is called) to 45 minutes. Did NOT go over well at all.
	+ Tested a “flip-flop” inning idea (in order to save time), whereby the defense would stay out in the field for two consecutive innings, and obviously the offense would bat back-to-back. This idea didn’t even make it through the first session of the season.
	+ We’ve purchased clock timers (back in 2021)—to hang on the fence behind each field’s home plate—so that everyone would be using the same 50-minute source relative to game time. But too many umpires do not use them, and members are complaining the umpires are calling the games too early (not allowing the games to go the full 50 minutes before the open inning is called).
	+ We have suggested not retrieving “in the park” foul balls down the lines. Hasn’t helped.
	+ We have suggested eliminating the courtesy foul. Members did not want to do this.
	+ We have “encouraged” teams to hustle in and out between innings…..to no avail.

**A few of the following have been suggested, but we have not implemented any of them as a rule change:**

* + Since a typical 7-inning game goes only 5 innings, we’ve suggested conferences consider changing from two 7-inning doubleheaders to a single 9-inning game (as done in Saturday’s & Sunday’s competitive conferences). We’ve even suggested one 10-inning game, but specific conferences have routinely pushed back, without even trying.

Why suggest this?? We all know which inning is, routinely, the longest inning of the game???—the open inning. This makes simple sense since all other innings are limited to 5 runs—other than the open inning. Therefore, with two 7-inning games, each weekly matchup between teams ends up with two open innings. With one 9- or 10-inning game, there would be only **one** open inning.

* + We can offer a “NO OPEN INNING” last inning “option”. That way, if either team is up by more than 5 runs going into the last inning, the game is over—since, if either team is down by 6 or more runs and the last inning is limited to 5 runs (just like all other innings), the team that is behind cannot come back to win. However, we feel that would cheat teams out of that last inning of play each time that occurs.
	+ We can offer a new flip-flop option. The flip-flop rule could be implemented even when the home team is down by just a single run. If the losing team does not score, taking the lead in the top of that last inning…game over. If they go ahead, the original home team, obviously, gets the chance to come back and win in the bottom of the inning.

The Survey Committee, again, feels SOME SORT OF CHANGE is still necessary. Based on our history (above) trying to address this issue, we are recommending the elimination of the “courtesy foul” for **Competitive Conferences ONLY**. This is the current rule:

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 a dead ball. That batter would be out ONLY if he has used his courtesy foul.

We are recommending the rule to read something similar to the following:

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 out if any subsequent swing / strike results in a foul ball of any type. No courtesy foul allowed. ~~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.~~

**Game Times:**

* Saturday morning leagues at Roe Park, could we flip the start times for draft and competitive leagues. Hard to play two draft games then a competitive game and this way may get a few more players for the draft teams.
* I would like to see a return of the competitive conference games on Saturday at Roe to an 8:30 start time. It seemed that most Saturdays, the draft games would extend way past the allotted time (excluding the extra inning game) and the competitive conference games would be 30 minutes or more late in starting.
* This may not be fixable; but the Saturday Roe Leagues were a scheduling nightmare. For some reason the double header Draft League could not finish anywhere near on time. This had the Silver League starting 45-60 minutes late. I’m not sure what to suggest, start the double header draft 30 minutes earlier while leaving the Silver where it is, flipping the two leagues since a one game Silver league should have a better shot at completing in a timely manner, or some other idea?

As of today, it is our understanding that two of the four 60+ Saturday morning competitive conference teams are not returning. If this holds true, and those two teams are not replaced by two new teams, Field B will be available for alternative scheduling options. This “could” mean the 65+ Silver Conference could slide over onto Field B, allowing both conferences to start at 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, or whenever. However, a possible increase in the number of draft conference teams on Saturday morning (from the current 4 to 6, for example—due to the elimination of the Saturday morning 60’s competitive conference and the move of both the Monday and Thursday morning Roe draft conferences to the Frank White Complex) could duplicate the current game time scheduling situations.

**Rules (COMPETITIVE):**

**Flip-Flop:**

* Eliminate the 7 run "flip-flop" rule. 10 run flip-flop threshold seems more in line.
* Clarify the flip-flop rule (at Heritage). One umpire wanted to flip-flop in the 3rd inning. Both teams thought the flip-flop shouldn’t occur until at least the 5th inning. However, the rule doesn’t specify that. The umpire did let us continue and not flip-flop until the 5th inning.

**Flip flop rules**: When the unlimited-run inning starts, if the home team trails by at least seven runs, the original home team will bat first and bat first throughout the remainder of the game; the original visiting team will bat after the home team’s final out only if the home team ties the game or takes the lead. In addition, if the visiting team does not have a seven-run lead entering the inning, but its lead reaches 15 runs in the top of that inning, the teams will flip flop at that point.

Simply stated, the proper enforcement of our flip-flop rule should be followed. It’s feasible for an umpire to state, “the **next** inning will be open” in the 3rd inning—meaning the 4th inning ends up being the open inning, depending upon how much time has expired. But it would seem to be almost impossible for the 3rd inning itself to be the actual “open” (last) inning. If this is routinely occurring with a single umpire or by all umpires at a single venue, the coordinator or board needs to get involved.

That being said, the survey committee is recommending the competitive and draft flip-flop rule to mirror each other. That recommended change is shown below:

**FLIP-FLOP RULE**: When the unlimited-run inning starts, if the home team trails by at least seven runs, the original home team will bat first and bat first throughout the remainder of the game; the original visiting team will bat after the home team’s final out only if the home team ties the game or takes the lead. In addition, if the visiting team does not have a seven-run lead entering the inning, but its lead reaches 10 runs in the top of that inning, the teams will flip-flop at that point. Managers and the umpire shall note any runners left on base and the current batter in case the home team takes the lead. If this happens, the visiting team will finish its at bat after the home team’s final out.

**Pitching Screen:**

* Hitting the pitching screen should not be a foul ball. It should be a do-over. **A batter hits the ball in fair territory, yet gets penalized for it** because the league wants to protect the pitcher (which I agree with) by putting an obstacle (the screen) in the field of play.  To my knowledge, there is no other level of baseball or softball that counts a ball hit in the field of play as a foul ball.  That's why we have foul lines. The screen did its job by protecting the pitcher, but the batter gets shafted. This is not in the spirit of the enjoyable, competitive, and safe playing environment we continually talk about. I propose we review this rule for a possible change. In my opinion, the fairest way would be to essentially declare it a "no-pitch" and not count a ball hitting the screen at all.  Just re-do the pitch and swing.

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 foul by hitting the screen but cannot foul out by hitting it.

The survey committee is recommending this suggestion be adopted. Any number of batted balls hitting the pitching screen will simply be a dead ball ONLY. They will not be counted as a foul ball strike.

The committee feels the impact of this change will be somewhat offset if we agree to simultaneously implement the change to the courtesy foul ball rule (as noted above—under the Length of Game section).

**Borrowed Players:**

* Unfortunately, I think the adding of substitute players to have enough to play still needs to be tweaked somehow. Managers are adding higher rated players at will. Not really fair to the opponent. Have fun with that!

**BORROWED PLAYERS.** A team may borrow up to two league members only if they are short players, the League Members who are borrowed must have player ratings that are equal to or lower than the team’s rating. Borrowed players must be declared to the umpire and opposing manager before the game.

All managers, along with the conference coordinator, have access—via their smartphone—to each KC Metro’s player’s conference-and-age-adjusted skill rating. Granted, if the subject manager is following our rule, he / she should not substitute a silver-rated player for a borrowed gold-rated one. That being said, the smartphone option is available to police such actions. Members of the board cannot always be present and really should not need to be present everywhere for this policing.

**Runner From Home:**

* The recent rule change regarding, "runners for the plate" needs to be eliminated. It does nothing but make the fact that you can have a runner from the plate ridiculous. Why should it matter whether the batter can or cannot run, if he hits the ball and would ordinarily make a double, triple, or inside the park home run. If he needs a runner, then the batter is penalized because he needs an assist. That rule is a penalty and not a help. If a team has a good runner, he should be able to run the hit out. If all teams dont have a runner, then it’s not a fair rule anyway.  If we are going to allow courtesy or pinch runners, there should be no penalty for having players who cannot run.

Not sure if it’s understood that this rule was implemented and will stay in place (for now, at least) as a supporting piece of our Player Skill Rating / Team Rating features. Someone who is rated, on a 10-to-1 scale, close to 1 in the speed category (for example), is not a fairly-rated part of his / her Team Rating if he / she has an #8-rated player, for example, repeatedly running for him / her from home plate. It is for this reason that the courtesy runner is restricted to 1st base only on a hit…since it makes sense that the #1-speed-rated batter would not routinely make it past 1st base on a base hit if he / she ran for himself / herself. And yes, we realize having a pinch runner for that #1 rated speed player, once he / she does get on base, is the same form of altering that player’s speed skill rating, but we do not wish to delve into changing that feature of the game.

* New rule for runners from home for an injured batter, can only advance to first base on the hit.  As a hitter that uses runners from home, I feel this is a fair and just rule and we should keep it, even if it costs me a few extra bases.
* The runner from home rule in both competitive and draft leagues only served to confuse the umpires. It didn’t cause anyone who normally accepts a runner from home to suddenly be able to run. It may have saved a couple of doubles and a triple or two but it didn’t provide many extra hits for the guys who might be thrown out from the grass. If those were the rules committee’s goals, it wasn’t worth the confusion.

**Courtesy Runners:** Before the game, (Competitive only) teams may designate two players who may have a courtesy runner from home, and announce the player(s) to the umpire and opposing manager. These runners from home will be limited to a single on the initial hit, no matter where the ball ends up. All other runners that are already on base can advance at their own risk as normal. After the initial single, that runner can advance as many bases as possible on any of the next batted balls. 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.

We support the retention of the current competitive conference rule for BOTH Competitive and Draft conferences. We recommend the current Draft conference rule be revised (in our book) to match the Competitive Conference rule below.

Courtesy runners from home: For players unable to run, a designated runner may be used from home. A team may have unlimited designated runners from home. These runners from home will be limited to a single on the initial hit, no matter where the ball ends up. All other runners that are already on base can advance at their own risk as normal. After the initial single, that runner can advance as many bases as possible on any of the next batted balls. Managers must notify the other manager before the game of these batters. ALSO: Courtesy runners may be used on base only if the original runner requests one.

**Foot in Front of Plate:**

* This past season we adopted the new rule from the SSUSA Tournaments that the batter cannot have their rear foot in front of the front of the plate. The SSUSA Officials declared that the new rule was a "safety" feature for pitchers because so many batters have begun running up at the pitched ball and end up hitting the ball when they are too close to the pitcher. Now we all realize that the SSUSA Officials have already stated that they are not going to adopt the obvious safety measure of using pitching screens which would obviously protect the pitcher. First of all, I question that "many" batters are employing the technique of running up at the pitched ball. But even if they are running up at the pitched ball, how does that become a safety feature in our KC Metro Leagues since we use a pitching screen.
Yes, I realize that KC Metro officials stated that the new rule was adopted into league play so that members could get accustomed to the rule for tournament play. However, this rule takes away from many players the opportunity to hit the ball to the opposite side of the plate from which they are batting. This past year I have had to make a major adjustment to my batting stance and my swing since I cannot move up in the batter’s box to enable me to hit the ball to the opposite field. Since I am 80 years old and I normally bat from the left side, teams have implemented a shift to place at least 7 defensive players on the right side of the field. and one team used 8! In the past it has been very easy for me to just move up in the batter’s box and hit the ball to the side with only two or three defenders. Playing against 70-year-old players, and some younger, it is difficult to compete without the ability to hit the ball the opposite way. This rule seems to have no application to our leagues since we utilize a pitcher’s screen and the pitcher is protected from batted balls. I hereby request that this rule be discontinued in league play in the KC Metro system.

**SSUSA’s Rule Book:**

**BATTING POSITION:** The batter must take an initial position with his back foot no further forward than a line defining the front edge of home plate. The batter will be called out if he hits the ball when the back foot is completely further forward than the line defining the front edge of home plate.

The survey committee is recommending reversing the use of SSUSA’s current rule by going back to their (and our) prior rule (below). “Tournament” players will simply need to adjust when they go to any SSUSA tournament.

**THE RULE:** The batter must have at least some portions of both feet on or inside the lines of the batter's box at the start of the pitch. A batter who steps out of the batter’s box at any time during the pitch and then hits the ball, fair or foul, shall be called out. “Steps out of the batter’s box” means one or both feet, totally, touching the ground outside of the lines of the batter’s box.

**Batter’s Box Dimensions / Layout:**

* I am frustrated with the size of the batter’s box. They are not enforced. They need to be narrowed. They should not be baseball size. If you bring it up to the umpires they laugh at you. I have talked about this for almost 20 years with no results so do not expect any this time.

**MLB SSUSA / KC METRO**

 

Without having been made aware of these reported discrepancies for the past “almost 20 years” (per the report above), if any Parks & Recreation department is applying 4’X6’ batter’s boxes on any of our fields, opposed to our senior softball 3’X7’, we ask that you notify your conference coordinator (so that he / she can address it appropriately). If that doesn’t resolve the problem, please contact any one of our board members. Just FYI, the umpires have no say-so or authority relative to the dimension accuracy of the batter’s boxes. Those are applied by the individual Parks & Recreation employees.

**Sun In Batter’s Eyes:**

* Several years ago, the KC Metro officials adopted a rule that allowed the batter to point out to the umpire that the sun had become positioned in such a manner that the batter could not see the pitched ball coming into the plate. In such instances, the umpire would take the batters position and decide if the sun did prohibit the batter from seeing the ball. In those situations, the umpire ordered the pitchers to mover six feet to the left or right and move the pitching screen with him. Since I play a lot of games at Black Bob's field number 4 at 5:30 and at 6:30. we encounter this situation a lot. At least those of us who bat left-handed. In the past two years, not one umpire has acknowledged the existence of this rule and has not had the pitcher move. I would like this rule re-instated. It does not hold up the game as some will contend if everyone is aware of the rule ahead of the game beginning and everyone knows what to do. (Don Woodard)

We feel if we follow-through with our recommended “Foot in Front of the Plate” rule change (directly above), this concern will be greatly reduced.

**Rules (DRAFT):**

**Base “Run-through”:**

* New rule test implemented on Monday Draft league. Run through at 2nd and 3rd base. I’m totally against this one as an infielder who was run into on 2 occasions due to this rule. I get the idea behind it just don’t see that it will reduce injuries.
* With the new rule for running through 2nd and 3rd bases, I would suggest setting them the same as 1st and home bases…so no one gets hurt by running into the fielder.
* One concern I had was the base (over running) at 2nd & 3rd which was confusing to most softball players.
* allowing runners to overrun 2nd and 3rd bases in the 70+ league is a good idea. I'd like to see that kept.
* The tested rule in the Draft Leagues where the baserunner can run through the bag at second and third - much like at first - should be reconsidered. I don’t know the underlying reason for the change. I suppose it’s a safety concern for the runner, but it created collisions and near collisions with the fielders trying to field their position on the incoming throws. I’m not convinced it created any additional layer of safety and many folks disliked it.

This rule change was a “test” for the Monday morning – Roe Park 70’s draft conference. It may have been just be a matter of getting use to the rule, with a few modifications, in order to eventually be accepted. However, the majority of players were currently not yet receptive to this overall change. **FOR NOW, THIS RULE WILL NOT BE ADOPTED AS A PERMANENT RULE CHANGE.**

**Team Roster Limit (Pool Players):**

* Should there be limits on the number of pool players in draft leagues? Should pool players be guaranteed playing time or only used as needed by teams who are short of players.  We had pool players forced on us even though we had more than enough players on our team. This took at bats away from our regulars.

**This needs to be discussed further by the Draft Conference Rules Committee**

**Loaned Players, Teams short on Players:**

* A team with 15 players, providing either 2 or 3 players to a team with less than 9 players, **"** seemingly **" penalizes** the team with the 15 players! **MAYBE**a **"** substitute **" weekly pool** of at least **nine (09)** can be assigned **each week** for backup/substitute players??
* The only input I have concerns a possible rule change when a draft team has less than 11 players batting.  Depending on who is missing this can be a big advantage to the team that has less than 11 batters hitting. If their better players are among the available hitters, the better hitters come up more often.  This is particularly disappointing when the team that has 11+ players is supplying the missing players on defense.  Can we consider a draft rule change that the missing hitter positions take an out – at least the first time through the lineup if not each time?

**This, also, requires further discussion by the Draft Conference Director, along with the draft coordinators and / or draft managers. One meeting has already occurred, but obviously more discussing is necessary.**

**Batter Not Being Allowed to be Thrown Out at 1B:**

* The only rule I do not like is when a ball is hit to the outfield you can’t throw the runner out at first. If that player can’t make it to first in time, it shouldn’t penalize the defense.
* As an outfielder, I hate the rule change this year that prevents outfielders from throwing out a runner at first. I guess I understand the intent, but it is frustrating when there is a play to be made at first and I can’t make it. If the rule was for safety reasons, I would not have a problem with it. But when it is simply to make it easier for runners to get on base, I think it is silly and unnecessary.
* If an untouched batted ball reaches the outfield grass, a runner on the bases cannot be thrown out on a force out or at first. What this entails is if a ground ball is hit and is not touched by an infielder, and it reaches the outfield grass, the runner cannot be thrown out at first. The same is true for runners going to 2nd or 3rd, if it is a force out. If the runner attempts to take an extra base, they are on their own. The force out rule would also apply If the batted ball reached the outfield grass on the fly. These rules would apply to the 70+ league.

**This rule will stay in place, as is. Sure, we could attempt to clarify every individual on-field situation which could possibly occur at any given time. However, we feel that would severely complicate the rule’s initial intent.**

**Umpires:**

* Most of the umpires do very well on what are difficult calls on a bunch of grumpy old men. But there are a couple who could use a refresher on some of the rules. The infield fly rule is one such. It could help to walk through scenario-based possibilities.
* Another area of concern is the safe or out calls made from behind the plate. Based on which call is being made … for example, calling a batter out at first is hard enough without trying to make that call from behind the plate - you’ll get a better angle to see the play and make a more accurate call, thus eliminating some of the complaints, if the umpire were to get down the line or out on the field.  It’s not much and not many, but a reminder wouldn’t hurt.
* As in years past the umpire quality continues to be an issue.

These comments were passed along to the company in charge of supplying us with umpires.

**Team Standings / Website:**

* Our website is usually up to date on scheduling changes and scores & standings except Tuesday at Black Bob Park.  Far from perfect and wish someone would take charge of this.

Not sure what the reported problem entails. This link <https://kcseniorsoftball.org/?page_id=2912> to our website page for the Tuesday Black Bob conferences shows something for each conference.

Shown below each conference listing on our web page is a link to the city of Olathe scores and standings for each conference. Accessing each link entails ONE additional click.

<https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/olatherecreation/schedule/569811/Tuesday-55-KCMSSL>

<https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/olatherecreation/schedule/569458/Tuesday-65-KCMSSL>

<https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/olatherecreation/schedule/569459/Tuesday-70-KCMSSL>

**Players / Team Ratings**

* While I am a believer in individual player and team ratings, I still think there should be an alternative way to evaluate a team that continually outperforms or maybe under-performs its rating. It seems to me that it would be pretty simple to establish a "team rating appeals" committee that could watch a team play and make a recommendation to the BOD as to whether that team should not be given runs or be given runs based on its performance.

This person presented his ideas / plan to the board of directors at our November 21st meeting. More to come if anything develops. We wish to see the effect of the 2025 “sliding scale” equalizer format, along with the tweaking of how many runs are involved, before any subsequent changes are considered.

**Equalizers:**

* After playing a season where you put the spotted runs at 2nd base to start an inning, instead of just giving the runs. ...I think I like that. You get an advantage but you still have to earn the runs.
* The Equalizer "runs given" rule used by the Gold Division on Thursday worked well and should be incorporated in the rules for the most competitive conferences and divisions.
	+ NOTE: The “test” referenced above was as follows. Each inning’s equalizer run—designated to be received by any subject team—was not automatically given to the receiving team. The last batter from the previous inning was placed on 2nd base and the team had to “earn” the run. If the team was unable to score that run, they don’t get the equalizer for that inning. If scored, however, they were still allowed to score the routine maximum 5 runs per inning (other than for the open inning).

The “equalizer run” to be placed on 2nd base in the 1st inning defaulted to the last batter in the line-up’s original batting order.

The survey committee is recommending to the Rules Committee that we adopt this same Equalizer Rule for all COMPETITIVE CONFERENCES ONLY.

* Regarding the Thursday night silver conference, please get rid of the high silver, medium silver and low silver designations. We had to consistently give runs to the other teams in our conference that were more talented than our team. And then proceed to lose to those teams. Sometimes by the amount of runs we had to give or less. Sometimes the games weren’t competitive. Yet, we had to give runs to these teams. If you’re in a silver league, it’s a silver league. Plain and simple.
* I play on a Tuesday night league at Black Bob Park in Olathe on the 75 and over league. I would like to see the following changes to the extra player or the giving of 3 runs per game. I think the team that get the extra player should not get the 3 runs. The team should have the choice of the extra player or the 3 runs, but not both. If you choose the extra player, then you don't get the 3 runs. If you choose to take the 3 runs, then you don't get the extra player. I hope you bring this up at the next meeting of the board and at the manager's meeting.
	+ NOTE (per the Tuesday night 70+ Coordinator - Bob Fama): There weren’t any qualifying 75+ aged teams in the Tuesday night 70+ conference. Even though the Antiques did ask for **more** equalizer runs and extra players while they were playing Ageless Wonders2.0, Bob did not oblige them. The Antiques did, subsequently, lose the first game that night 17-14, and then lost the 2nd game 20-8. The final standings:



* Please consider awarding Equalizers based on the difference in composite numerical team ratings. For example, award 1 run for every .3 team rating difference: a 6.3 team, low gold, gives 1 run to a 6.0, high silver. Today's equalizers are awarded based on a rating-based step: a 6.1 gives 3 runs to a 6.0 team. These teams are essentially equal yet 3 runs are awarded for a .1 rating point. Award 1 run for every .3 difference in team rating.

This same suggestion was initially presented, earlier this past season, to the Ratings Committee by Lee Tenold. We simply did NOT, and routinely do not, make such changes in the middle of any season. However, this suggested change will be implemented starting with our 2025 season.





**Field Conditions:**

* The fields for the Monday night league in Independence could easily have been in better shape. The infields were usually rough; they should have been dragged more often. Plus, during the first half of the season, when there was a light rain, the fields were not made playable.

There is a strong chance this conference will be moving to Young Park in Blue Springs, MO starting with the 2025 season. 1200 SE Adams Dairy Pkwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014 -- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Zvz2fpVksXgwYACj9>

* I’ve had the opportunity to play at Heritage, Black Bob, and Roe.  Of those three, Roe stands out as the one that could be upgraded.  Playing on fields without fences is tough on outfielders (especially seniors) and I wonder if there’d be alternatives?  I suspect Roe is used due to it being centrally located (?) and cost is probably low.   At any rate, it’d be good to play at a nicer facility even if it cost a little more.

Both the Monday 70+ and Thursday morning 60+ draft conferences at Roe Park will be moving to the Frank White Complex, in Lee’s Summit, starting with the 2025 season -- 3901 SW Longview Rd, Lee's Summit, MO 64081 -- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/tkMbTV4Y5wh1anbXA> . The Frank White complex offers 300’ fully-fenced fields, with turfed infields, covered dugouts and bleachers, a centralized restroom area in combination with concessions and an observation deck. The fields are “sloped” (thus allowing for rain drainage), and the outfield is level and the grass is cut shorter.

We are unable to make the same move with the Saturday morning conferences (60+ Draft, 60+ Competitive, and 65+ competitive) simply due to the fact that Jackson County Parks & Recreations has tournaments scheduled at the Frank White complex almost every weekend of the season.

* Let's get some new lights at heritage park. hire a lighting company to address the lights.
* the outfield grass could be better taken care of at Heritage Park as well.  too many bare spots and giant clumps of grass.   i only play on the two fields to the left as you walk into the park     not sure if the right-side fields have the same issues.  hiring a turf company.  or put in artificial turf.

Both of the two above listed items were passed along to your conference coordinator. He will contact Johnson County Parks & Recreation. This was his response:

Johnson County was responsive in fixing issues with the lights when we reported them (essentially getting the existing lights working). Any significant field or light upgrades are not likely unless they get funding for their overall improvement plan. That plan is out there, but not currently funded.

* Either force Hartman Park do a better job of maintaining the fields or move to another park. Very rarely are the outfield foul lines visible. We had one of our players sprain their ankle on second base because the base was sticking up. We reported it to our league coordinators, the situation was never resolved.

This item was passed along to the KCMSSL Hartman Park coordinators. This was the response from the city of Lee’s Summit maintenance personnel:

* We did not mark the foul lines this year. That’s something we could do better. What we had done in the past was cut the grass shorter on the foul side of the foul line.
	+ I was not aware of the second base issue.

When this item was shared with the three venue’s coordinators (Monday women’s, Wednesday’s men’s, or Thursday’s women’s), none of them were receptive to moving to some other park complex.

**Off-Season Workouts:**

* My suggestion would be to have a new player pre-season work out open to guys that may be considering playing.
* Have you ever considered offering a clinic in the off season for those who would like to sharpen their skills? Maybe a batting clinic?

John Mondi conducts outdoor “NON-KCMSSL-SANCTIONED” workouts / games whenever the weather cooperates. Please contact John is you wish to be included in any of his sessions:

jmondi@kc.rr.com -- 913.284.6005

And past that, there are several groups, which includes Mondi again, who conduct indoor workouts at Homefield, in Olathe, during the colder winter days.

Steve Krull and John Mondi are working together to also try to bring Steve Imlay, with his SLI Academy Training <https://sliacademy.com/> “back” to Kansas City for another class. If interested, please get in touch with Steve - skrull1019@me.com , 913.709.4648, or John Mondi (info above).