

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 3, 2019

The following is a summary of our league meeting of April 3, 2019
37 were in attendance, with all 23 teams represented.

Conair is now Bob's Rescue.

Managers were reminded that a registration/waiver form must be signed prior to a player engaging in any team/league activity, and all registration materials must be received before a player participates in league games.

Managers are also reminded that "preliminary" rosters are due by league rule "before the scheduling meeting that is held in early April." Because our final pre-season meeting is early this year, and the season begins in less than 2 weeks, managers will have until Monday April 8 to submit their initial roster, using the NJSSA form in either WORD or Excel format. This is one week prior to our season openers.

These are needed so the commissioner can inform teams as to what registration materials have not been received, and so a thorough check can be made on things such as too many OOC players on rosters, so a list of 70+ players eligible to use senior bats can be compiled, etc.

Final rosters are due on or before May 15, following four full weeks of league play. This should be more than enough time to finalize rosters and gather all completed registration materials. Reminder of the revised UCSSL Rule that pertains:

4.4.1. ALL registration materials must be in the hands of the commissioner by the usual **May 15th** deadline. Final rosters will be disseminated to team leaders via email immediately after the May 15th deadline. NO player will appear on a team's official roster unless his completed registration form and full league payment have been received by that date.

Sponsor checks are due ASAP as are \$45 forfeit deposit checks.

Softballs -- each team received 26 Tattoo 52/300 softballs prior to the meeting. These 26 balls will cover each team's games through their first two playoff games, as usual.

Bats -- a schedule for bat testing will be created based on the location of fields and ease of moving from one location to the next. Officers (and a skilled volunteer) will be testing as many teams as possible on each of these nights early in the season. Weather permitting, this can be accomplished during the first two weeks of league games.

Bats not tested on the designated date for their team will need to be made available at a later time/place.

New bats only can be tested prior to the season, most likely at the commissioner's house in Westfield, at a time to be announced -- probably either Saturday the 13th or Sunday the 14th.

Bats with a 2018 UCSSL sticker can be used until the deadline for the completion of 2019 testing, after which only those bats with a 2019 sticker may be used in UCSSL games. This deadline is expected to occur as early as the week of April 29 (the third week of the season).

Bats that pass the test will receive a SILVER pre-printed (with "UCSSL 2019") "tamper evident" label.

Senior bats will also be tested, and will need to meet the same slightly less stringent compression threshold as in 2017 and 2018 to pass. These will receive a round BLUE "UCSSL 70+ 2019" label.

Please understand that it is possible that ASA approved bats can develop a very low level of compression due to extensive use; these bats will fail the compression test which is unfortunate, but these bats do present a **safety** concern which is the primary reason for the bat testing program.

The link to the ASA website's "Non-Approved Bat List" will again be emailed to managers, who are encouraged to print a copy of this list to put together with the team's UCSSL Rules and ASA Rule Book.

Pitcher protection (another a **safety** concern) -- pitchers are again strongly encouraged to wear a protective mask in all UCSSL games. To that end, UCSSL agreed beginning two seasons ago to reimburse pitchers (one per team) for the purchase of a mask, up to a maximum of \$45. The mask will remain the property of the league, held by that team. Please understand that many leagues require the use of pitchers' protective gear or have mandated the use of a protective screen in front of pitchers. It is possible that one of these may eventually (perhaps before long) become a USA/ASA requirement.

For now, we believe we have taken sufficient **safety** measures through bat testing, the use of the ball deemed safest by USA/ASA, and the recommendation that pitchers wear a protective mask.

The new umpire assigner has been very responsive to our requests for assigning outstanding umpires more frequently and for not assigning umpires we find to be deficient. If you have any umpires who distinguish themselves as being exceptional -- either good or bad -- please let us know so we can continue to have more of the best umpires officiating our games.

Shirts (and new dirt bases for 60+ teams) should be available Saturday, April 13, at Your Tops in Kenilworth between 10 am and 1 pm.

The UCSSL awards banquet has been scheduled for Friday October 11.

Marty Marks presented the recommendations of the committee he chaired tasked with creating a set of standard ground rules for each of our fields. The report was accepted with a few amendments made -- to Tremley, 8th Ward and Jerseyland.

Some reminders and notifications:

1. Items you received recently (or will receive soon) via email:

2019 UCSSL Rules (make special note of our new rules), UCSSL Ground Rules, 2019 Managers/Officers Listing, 2019 Schedules for both 50s and 60s as well as for bat testing, 2019 Field Permits, and links to USA/ASA Approved and Non-approved bat lists.

2. Game day reminders:

Home team occupies bench on first base side of field, supplies bases, strike mat, pays umpire \$45 cash; each team supplies a new ball.

Speed-up rule is in effect the first two weeks on unlighted fields – no infield, only two warm-up pitches after first inning.

Paying umpires if a delayed rainout -- pay them \$10 "show up" fee if umpire must call the game before a pitch has been thrown. They get full \$45 if there is a game time forfeit.

Please report game results in a timely manner to your division coordinator and to me so we can send publicity early each weekend.

3. Items you should bring and be giving to us, if you have not already done so:

Your sponsor's fee, your \$45 forfeit deposit, remaining player registration forms and fees (please be sure that checks are payable to UCSSL, or are endorsed to UCSSL), your preliminary 2019 roster. (Any of these items you did not bring to the meeting will need to be delivered -- email or otherwise -- to my home prior to the start of the season.) Players may not participate without a signed waiver form! Rosters should be emailed as an attachment.

4. Items you will be getting at tonight's meeting:

A check for umpire fees in the amount of \$585.00 to pay for 12 regular season home games plus one playoff home game, softballs, a USA Softball Rule Book and a scorebook.

Let's play ball and have fun!