

# UCSSL Meeting Minutes March 26, 2025

- **Distribution of Softball**

Teams were allotted softballs for the season and should have enough to begin the playoffs. It is important that losing playoff teams hand over remaining new softballs to the winning team of their playoff series.

- **Collection of Checks**

\$1600 per team can come in but no more than two checks per team.

3 undated forfeit checks made out to UCSSL in the amount of \$60.

These checks are due to the league before Opening Day April 21, 2025

- **New Team Names/Sponsors**

50s Angry Joe's/Tad Pools → Rappa Construction

50s Car Revolution → Sonia's BCE

50s Suspenders → Dowling's Tavern

60s NJ Gov. Services → Rocky's Bar & Grill

- **Number of teams and players**

We have three fewer teams but the registration pace will likely yield the same number of players in 2025. This will mean that rosters will be at or near the 23 maximum and potentially cause hardships for some players getting the playing time they would like.

This will be a challenge for managers. It is likely that at the end of the season, the league will reach out to players individually who might be unhappy with their 2025 playing time to see if they are interested in forming an additional team or teams for 2026.

- **Special Accommodations Review Rules 11.1 and 11.2**

The "special accommodations" for 2025 are as follows.

**50's: 2025 A Teams** will provide **2024 C Teams** (Dowling's Tavern, Echo Tap & Grille, and Sonia's BCE) EITHER 5 runs (one each in innings 2-6) OR an extra defensive player.

**60's: 2024 A Teams** (Swan Hotel, Linwood Boys, and Deegan Roofing) will provide 2024 B teams 7 runs (one each in innings 1-7) AND an extra defensive player.

Swan Hotel will provide Deegan Roofing and Linwood Boys EITHER 5 runs (one each in innings 2-6) OR an extra defensive player.

These special accommodations will continue through the playoffs.

All were reminded that with the departure of 60s A team Linwood II, there will only be three remaining 60s A teams this season and by definition *at least* one of last year's 60s B teams will finish in the top four spots of the single division and qualify for the A playoffs.

- **Field costs and Availability**

With ten teams in each of the 50s and 60s divisions we will require 5 fields on each night of the regular season. We will have access to the following fields on the following nights:

Monday: M2, M3, T, RRP1, RRP3, and Brookside

Tuesday: M2, M3, T, RRP1, RRP3, W8

Wednesday: M2, M3, T, RRP1, RRP3

Thursday: M2, M3, T, RRP1, RRP3, W8

We have been told that M3 will be unavailable for the second and third week of our season due to renovations. Therefore, we are still looking for an available field for Wednesdays.

All were advised that Union County fields at RRP and Warinanco cost us \$20 per night and we pay that amount whether we use that field or not (unless there is a rainout).

At Linden fields we will now be paying \$35 per night but only if we actually use the field. Use of lights costs an extra \$35 per field.

- **2025 schedules**

While not actually discussed during the meeting it is important to note that there will be 21 regular season games in both the 50 and 60s divisions.

**50s:** Play each team four times inside the division (16 games) and one time outside the division (5 games).

**60s:** Play each two times within the division (18 games) with three bumper games (after 6th, 12th and 18th games). *The extra bumper games will ensure that more games will be played against similarly competitive teams.*

- **Update Managers and Team Leaders**

A current listing of all managers, assistant managers and officers will be sent out shortly. Please check to see that the information is accurate

- **Players Seeking teams**

**50s**

Tyrice Evans	862-899-4297	tyrice.evans@gmail.com
Bernard Penoro	646-574-1605	bpernor@gmail.com

**60s**

Robert Herber	646-209-1004	robherber@yahoo.com
Dion Ross	201-563-5499	drossalliance@gmail.com
John Thurmond	732-407-1295	DJMonster4248@icloud.com
Lloyd Haymes	862-444-5978	Lhaymes@gmail.com

- **New bases**

Please evaluate the condition of your bases. If you feel one or more requires replacement, please let Marty Marks know, so we can provide replacement(s)

- **Preseason bat testing**

We will have one preseason bat testing session on Saturday April 12. It will take place at the home of Pete Osborn 938 Summit Ave. Westfield @ 1 PM.

Only **new** bats or bats that do not have a **UCSSL 2024** can be tested on this date. All other bats will be turned away. If a bat has a 2024 sticker, it can be used at the beginning of the season until your team's at-the-field testing is complete. A schedule of at-the-field testing will be provided prior to the beginning of the season. Players may come to any at-the-field testing session for a bat test even if it is not their team being tested that night.

## **Rules discussion and votes**

**14.2. TEAMS:** Each team roster will consist of a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 23 players. Emergency roster changes can only be made by the league if a roster is reduced to fewer than fourteen players. Players added to team rosters due to team hardship after the May deadline must pay the full league fee and submit a signed waiver form before participating in games, as must all other players. Emergency roster additions after the May deadline are also governed by the minimum 25% of all regular season games played by the team in order to qualify for playoffs. If a hardship waiver is requested, the team manager must submit the names of the players who have left the team thereby creating the hardship. Removed players may not return during the current season. **Proposal:** *Increase the Emergency Roster change threshold minimum from 14 to 16 players.*

**Moved by Marty Marks and seconded by John Fiore and passed by a 19-0 vote**

**4.1.6 "Manager's Dream" rule.** Two players may occupy the same position in the batting order and alternate times at bat each time through the lineup. Managers shall announce to umpire and opposing manager prior to the start of the game that this option is being used. **Proposal:** Eliminate **4.1.6**

**Moved by Pete Osborn and seconded by Jaime Reyes and defeated by a 17-2 vote**

**4.1.6 "Manager's Dream" rule.** Two players may occupy the same position in the batting order and alternate times at bat each time through the lineup. Managers shall announce to umpire and opposing manager prior to the start of the game that this option is being used.

**Proposal:** Players occupying the same position in the batting order may also play in the field at the same time.

**Moved by Rich Gaul and seconded by Dave Dudas and passed by a 17-2 vote**

**Designated Hitter Rule:** Allow a player to be in the batting order and bat for the pitcher. This DH cannot play in the field.

**Moved by Dave Dudas and seconded by ? and defeated by a 17-2 vote**

### **Revisit minimum playing time rules**

We reviewed the history of our minimum playing time rules and it was decided that there would be no changes for 2025. It will remain the manager's discretion how much (if any) a player will get in each game.

**5.1.3.** From Opening Day through games played in the week where May 15 falls, batters will begin their at-bat with a 1-1 count with NO COURTESY FOUL PROVIDED. **Proposal:** ELIMINATE, OR reduce length to include the first 2 weeks of the season ONLY

**Discussions and votes were held on variations for this rule and ultimately a vote of 12-7 makes this rule unchanged for 2025**

**Proposal: 5.2.4. NEW:** If a team has enough players present that they do not have to play shorthanded, they MUST play with 10+ players (50s), 11+ players (60s).

**Moved by Pete Osborn and seconded by ? the rule was adopted by a 15-4 vote**

**5.7. TREMLEY FIELD:** 50s Division A teams may not play on Tremley unless no other suitable field is available. **Proposal:** Rescind this rule and allow all teams to play on Tremley field. (Joe Kilburg on behalf of Tim Mullhall)

**5.7. TREMLEY FIELD:** 50s Division A teams may not play on Tremley unless no other suitable field is available. **Proposal:** ADD: 60+ A teams may not play on Tremley if another field is available (for 2025 "A teams" will consist of those teams who were in the 2024 A Division) (Pete Osborn)

**Much discussion was held on the use of Tremley Field and the potential liabilities for the league. It was decided that UCSSL Officer John Malone who serves as legal advisor to UCSSL will research the matter and provide an opinion for the league. The Managers will be advised of the opinion prior to our field selection meeting**

**Proposal: 7.1.3. NEW:** A team may use its one unlimited scoring inning in *any inning* but must declare they are doing so before the 6<sup>th</sup> run crosses the plate in that inning.

**Moved by Nick Meltzer and seconded by Kevin Carroll this proposal was defeated 18-1**

**5.3.4 NEW:** All unofficial games that are suspended will be replayed from the beginning  
**Marty Marks advised that this rule was inadvertently removed from our UCSSL rules and by a 19-0 vote it was reinstated.**

**8.3.6.** If a pitch is thrown with an illegal courtesy runner on base, an appeal can be made and the illegal runner is out. **Proposal:** Eliminate

**As we have been employing a rule that allows a courtesy runner to be replaced by another courtesy runner, this rule was contradictory and was rescinded by a vote of 19-0.**

**12.3 TEMPERATURE POLICY.** Games will be postponed if the National Weather Service forecasts a GAME TIME heat index of 103 degree or above or a Wind Chill “feels Like” temperature of 45 degree or below.

**It was decided to leave the temperature policy as is, and we will attempt to provide a National Weather Service link on the UCSSL web site.**

**14.4.2.** Each team will be required to submit a separate check in the amount of \$50 in addition to their sponsor’s fee. This will be kept by the league only if the team forfeits a game any time after 3pm on game day. If the team does not forfeit any games the amount will be returned at the end of the season. **New Rule: All teams must submit 3 undated checks made out to UCSSL in the amount of \$60. These will be forfeit checks and will be cashed when a forfeit occurs regardless of whether it is called in ahead of the game. Once two checks are cashed, two more checks must be provided before the team will be allowed to play another game.**

**14.5.5 New:** Forfeited games will count toward the 25% of games played minimum necessary to qualify for the playoffs. Only players on the roster of the team that received the forfeit will be credited with the game played

**15.4.4.** [50s division] All Finals playoff games will be held at the following fields: A Division – Memorial Field # 2 (Linden) B Division – Memorial Field # 3 (Linden) C Division – Tremley Field  
[60s division] All Finals playoff games will be held at the following fields: A Division – Memorial Field #3 (Linden) B Division – Tremley Field

**There is continued concern about using M2 due to severe sun glare on the left side of the field. In the final playoff series 50s B will play on Tremely. 50s A home team will have a**

**choice between using M2 or M3. We also have the option (with agreement of both teams) to move an M2 game back to 7 pm if there is no scheduled late game.**

**The 60s A Playoff finals will remain on M3 while the 60s B finals will be played at Tremley.**

**Proposal:** In the playoffs teams must have 14-15 players at the field available to play. If a team does not have that minimum, each time a missing player is scheduled to bat it will be recorded as an out.

**Defeated by a 18-1 vote**

**Proposal:** 60s Division. When the three 2024 A Teams play 2024 B Teams, the A team must use wood bats.

**Defeated by a 19-0 vote**

- **Next meeting will be April 9 where we will have field selection and distribution of checks for umpire fees**