

UCSSL MEETING MINUTES Jan. 14, 2026

Co - Commissioner Frank Mastrocola called the meeting to order at 7 pm. A sign in sheet was circulated among all in attendance. The only team not represented was **Debellis Assoc.**

Frank spoke about his new Co-Commissioner's role for 2026 of the 50's league. Rich Gaul will serve as Co-Commissioner of the 60's League. Officers Marty Marks, Pete Osborn, Rich Grossberg and Mike Rosenberg were also in attendance. Frank introduced the new 50's League Coordinator Jaime Reyes and new 60's League Coordinator Joe Kilburg. With the passing of John Malone Frank reached out to the Managers if they knew any Atty who wished to fill the role as Legal Advisor. He also asked managers to poll team members to see if anyone was interested in transitioning to Treasurer, currently filled by Pete Osborn.

Frank discussed the trend from more 50's teams to fewer and more 60's teams. Currently there are 9 50's teams and 10 60's.

New Team Names/Sponsors? Deegan and Rappa Construction could be combining, TBD.

Treasurer's Report

\$19,248 as of Jan 1, 2025. \$15,064 as of Dec 31, 2025. We ran just over a \$4000 deficit in 2025, as planned. We discussed the plan to leave team fees unchanged, which would bring our cash balance down to around \$10,000 by the end of the year. A level we would like to maintain. Along those ends, we informed the Mgrs the potential need to increase team fees by \$200 to \$300 for the 2027 season, TBD. Team fees for 2026 will remain at \$1,600.

Awards Banquet 2024

Attendance was improved over 2024 but still some teams had no representation at all. A tentative date of 10/2/2026 was set for the annual league banquet.

2026 Registrations – we emailed Managers the 2026 link for registration, cannot use the 2025 link. Paper registrations can still be used. New players will need to also provide a copy of the front and back of their driver's license.

Forfeits 2025

- Were greatly improved over prior years, will continue to receive 3 \$60 forfeit checks from all teams, prior to league play.

New Forfeit Policy: All teams will be required to submit **three** separate undated forfeit checks prior to the beginning of the season, each in the amount of the umpire fee. Any forfeit, whether it is called in or not, will result in the forfeit check being cashed. Once two checks have been cashed, two more will need to be provided prior to that team taking the field again.

Team Switch Rule: Deadline for notification to Co-Commissioner and Mgr remains at 3/15/26. The onus is on the Mgr to review rosters and notify any players they no longer wish on their team on a timely basis, to provide sufficient time for players to find a new team to play on.

Holidays: There will be no games scheduled for July 2nd, play will resume Monday July 6th. There will be no games played on Memorial Day and Labor Day, as applicable.

Field Selection: The 50's will require 4 fields and the 60's 5 fields. We are still working on securing fields but it appears we will have 3 fields in Linden and fields at Rahway River Park and Warinanco. It is unlikely that we will get the Scotch Plains fields (Jerseyland and Brookside), TBD. The Officers will make the field selections based on Mgr field preferences and late game preferences (possibility of 8PM, late starts at Tremley). We are looking for field agents to assess field conditions on game day for county fields, so playability can be determined by 4pm game day.

Bat Testing

One preseason testing for previously untested bats on a Saturday, date TBD. Testing at fields. Testing mid-June. Co- Commissioner Rich Gaul volunteered to possibly hold additional testing sessions should they become necessary.

Uniform Shirts

Still mandatory with UCSSL logo. Color should be consistent for all players on the field. ORDER NOW so there are no issues when Opening Day arrives.

Rules and Enforcement

Once our 2025 rules have been established is it the desire of managers that they be strictly enforced or shall the officers have the discretion to enforce rules and grant waivers from them as they see fit?

This will include (but not be limited to) enforcement of the team switch rule, wearing a uniform, May 15 roster addition deadline rule and the policy that the league will not reschedule games unless there are weather conditions dictating such or in the unfortunate event such as the death of a teammate or family member of a team member. Once again, managers **UNANIMOUSLY** voted for **ALL** rules to be strictly enforced.

1-1 Count (with NO courtesy foul): will begin on April 20th (opening day) and continue through the week of May 4th games. Beginning Monday May 11, league will resume 0-0 count.

Division Alignment and Schedules

Managers have unanimously granted officers the authority to create divisions and set the schedule based upon our perception of relative teams strengths, relying mostly on previous year's results.

50s Division

A: Douglas VW, Deegan/Rappa, Phenom. Boyz, Rocky's B & G

B: Terawulf, Thirsty Turtle, Echo Tap, Dowling's, Sonia's

- **A** division will play within their division 3X (9) and will play outside their division 2X (10). There will be one bumper game at the end of the regular season which will pit 1st vs 2nd and 3rd vs 4th. If first place has already been decided, then the bumper game will be 2nd vs 3rd and 1st vs 4th. A total of 20 regular season games.
- **B** division will play within the division 3X (12) and outside their division 2x (8) for a total of 20 regular season games

- **Special Accommodations** will remain the same as 2025. A division teams will give Dowling's, Echo Tap and Sonia's 5 runs OR and extra fielder.
- **Playoffs:** A division will begin in the semifinals. B division will have a 4th vs 5th play-in series—winner of which will meet the 1st seed in the semifinals.

60s Division

- Like 2025, There will be one 10-team division where each teams plays the other 2X (18) with two rounds of bumper games—one at the half-way point and the other at the conclusion of the regular season schedule. The Halfway bumper will be as follows: 1st v 3rd, 2nd v. 4th, 5th v. 7th, 6 v. 8th, and 9th v. 10th.
The second bumper will be as follows: 1st v. 2nd, 3rd, v. 4th, 5th v. 6th, 7th v. 8th, and 9th v. 10th.
- **Playoffs:** Like 2025, The top four finishers will compete in the A playoffs commencing in the semifinals. The bottom six finishers will compete in the B playoffs where the 5th and 6th finishers will receive first round byes. 7th will play 10th and 8th will play 9th in a play-in series. The lowest (worst) remaining seed will play the 5th place team and the highest remaining sed (best) will play the 6th place team in the semifinal series.
- **Special Accommodations:** A slight tweak from 2025. Four Levels:
 - 1) Swan Hotel will provide Linwood Boyz 5 runs OR an extra fielder.
 - 2) Swan Hotel AND Linwood Boyz will provide AJ Jersey and Deegan Roofing 5 runs OR an extra fielder
 - 3) Swan Hotel and Linwood Boys will provide Awnings, Yogi's Boys, Kenilworth VFW, Angry Joe's, Debellis, and Rocky's 7 runs and an extra fielder.
 - 4) Deegan Roofing and AJ Jersey will provide Awnings, Yogi's Boys, Kenilworth VFW, Angry Joe's, Debellis, and Rocky's 5 runs OR an extra fielder.

70's Division: Will play Thurs AM doubleheaders, must be turning 68 in 2026 to qualify for minimum age.

Winter Meeting Schedule

March 4 Rules: Submit Proposed Rule changes in writing to Marty Marks, Rich Gaul and Frank Mastrocola by March 1st to provide ample time for distribution to the Managers ahead of the March 4th meeting.

April 15

Season starts April 20th

Action items: Send all Managers copies of current rules, follow up on Atty and Treasurer leads and inquire back up to current webmaster of our Softball league site.