

MSA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 10, 2023

President Warner called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present were Steve Warner, Marisa Boulton, Lisa Dunlap, John McPeak, Jason Gehoski, Gabe Gransden, Rick Walter, Brad Phelps, John McPeak, Jesse Stewart, Marcie Post, Tom Venman, Madison, Jeremy, Nichole, Pat Nelson, Marcus Clowers, Dave Curry, Colleen and several other unnamed guests.

Minutes: Steve Warner read the April 18, 2022 minutes. Moved by McPeak and seconded by Gehoski. Minutes passed.

Treasure's report: Jason Gehoski spoke on the treasurer's report. See attached.

Boulton moved to accept the treasurer's report, McPeak accepted. Gehoski abstained. Treasurer's report accepted.

UIC Update: Jason Gehoski spoke on behalf of the umpires. No new rules will affect us. A new bat rule but we are already following it. Masters and seniors have a new courtesy runner but Midland already does this. We currently need umpires. Two people from each team would be a great goal. We are using umpires and we are not keeping up with attrition.

New/Old Business:

- a. **Roster Deadline/Team Registration:** Men's and coed slow-pitch team deadline is April 20. Fast/Modified team registration is April 27th and Women's Slow-pitch roster deadline is April 13th.
- b. **Website:** www.midlandsoftballassociation.com
Vivian Schaff will be doing bat testing again for the MSA this summer. Bat testing dates are online and will be subject to change. Rainout line-App of call 989-399-0506. If it is game time then the umpires at the field will be making the decision. We will do our best
- c. **Fees:** MSA is raising player signup fee by \$2 to keep in line with the City of Midland increase. Fee increase with the rise in cost for field maintenance, mowing, lighting, etc.
- d. **Softballs:** Hit it and get it applies. Please help us keep as many balls as possible. This keeps our cost down. A majority of all the 12" balls were lost last season. A potential option would to have teams subsidize the cost of balls if they continue to be lost or taken.
- e. **New Website:** Transition date is imminent. The goal is to be more user friendly.
- f. **Spooing:** Mass emails are picking up. Please be smart and do not click on links.

- g. **Current Association Outlook:** 88 teams have been registered as of today.
- h. **Modified and fast pitch:** are now 12 game seasons.
- i. **Rainouts:** Limited number, we will reschedule and makeup two games.
- j. **Fields:** Emerson Park will have very limited use. Red Coats 4 and 5 are not available due to city water main replacement this year. General cost with using fields. Fencing, lighting, chalk, grating, mowing-all of this contributes to the cost. If we eliminate Emerson, our costs will go down.
- k. **Practice Reservations:** All fields are first come first serve, not enough reservations to manage it. If you see a groomed and chalked field, please do not use it for practice.
- l. **Open Practice (Drop in softball)** John McPeak spoke that noon Mon-Fri and Mon-Wed once the league starts. Typically 90-120 minutes. All are welcome to come hit and field.
- m. **Marketing Help:** We are always looking for help with marketing.
- n. **Future of the Association:** Softball across the county is declining. We have half the amount of teams as we used to have.
- o. **By-Law voting from the floor (virtually):** No by-laws were submitted prior to the meeting.

Gehoski stated an MSA rule change that we have adopted: The pitcher can start up to 6 feet behind the pitching mound.

Gehoski proposed to Change the time limit for men's fast-pitch to one 1:30 minutes from 1:45 minutes. Boulton seconded this. Support for the rule change included, last game start too late, potential more hustle by the players. This change was voted on and passed.

Dunlap proposed that COED had a homerun (over the fence) limit to three homeruns (with a one up rule), any over this limit the ball is dead and the batter will be out. No runners will advance. Nelson seconded this. This change was voted on and did not pass.

Pat Nelson proposed that stealing be eliminated in Men's slow-pitch. Boulton seconded this. Support for rule change included; eliminates the need for umpires to make a judgement call, adds to tension in the game, potential collisions and possibly adds time to the game. The change was voted on and passed.

p. Election of officers: 2022 Midland Softball Board

Current Board Composition is President, Vice President/Historian, Secretary, Treasure, Umpire-in-Chief, Commissioner and for At-Large Members

Steve Warner-President (none opposed)

Laura Currie-Vice President/Historian (none opposed)

Secretary: Marisa Boulton (unanimous)

Treasurer: Jason Gehoski (none opposed)

At-Large: Lisa Dunlap and John McPeak

Public Comment: Carsen asked if aluminum and copper will be combining into one league. Several questions were asked on leagues combining and what fields would be used.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:28 pm by Boulton and seconded by Dunlap.