

Marco Island Senior Softball Board of Directors Meeting Oct.24, 2023

Commissioner Tom Polston called the meeting to order at 8AM in the Community Room of the Admiralty Condominium.

Present: Ed Caster, Craig Cunningham, Mitch Eil, Gary Grefer, Tim McKenna, Bill Moors, Tom Polston, Bill Thompson, Randy Wesolowski.

Absent: John Toti

Announcements:

After discussion with the groundskeepers, the five scheduled Marco and Gulf Division games will begin on Monday, Wednesday, and alternate Fridays at 8:30, not 8:15 as previously reported. The remaining games for those days will be played at 10:15, 12:00, 1:45 and 3:30.

All Coaches, scorekeepers, umpires and significant others are invited to the Senior Prom Dinner Dance on February 24, 2024

The league is currently oversubscribed.

Considering this oversubscription combined with our limited field allotment time, and depending on the attrition rate of current applicants, which is unknown at this point, there may be some new Marco Island applicants who will not be accepted for league play during the 2024 season . They will receive refund checks.

Pitcher Protection Screen.

There was a long lively discussion among Board Members with some of the more salient comments being:

Reluctant to mandate a screen.

Minimum number of times batted ball hit screen (2.2Ttimes/game) in extensive summer pick-up game study and visit to Naples where a screen has been used for 10 years.

Listen to players wishes either way.

Any eventual non-binding survey should include both pitchers and batters in the Island and Marco Divisions with only two choices: Screen Yes or No.

Screen has no effect on game or outcome.

League does not use hot bats or balls.

This is a safety issue and the Board's responsibility.

No comment either way from USA softball.

Motion; Grefer, Seconded, McKenna:

Mandate Pitcher protection Screen f or Island and Marco divisions

Motion failed 4-5

For: Grefer, McKenna, Moors, Thompson

Against: Caster, Cunningham, Eil, Polston, Wesolowski

Motion: Mc Kenna, Seconded Grefer:

Mandate Pitcher Protection Screen for the Marco Division.

Motion failed 4-5

For Grefer, McKenna, Moors. Thompson

Against: Caster, Cunningham, Eil, Polston, Wesolowski

Motion: Cunningham, Seconded Thomson:

Mandate that the Pitcher Protection Screen be mandatory across all divisions for the 2025 season

Motion failed 3-6

For: Caster, Cunningham, Grefer,

Against: Eil, McKenna, Moors, Polston, Thompson, Wesolowski

Motion: Thompson, Seconded Wesolowski.

Face Mask and Chest Protector are mandatory for all pitchers in the Island and Marco Divisions. Upon receipt the league will absorb one-half of the cost to individual pitchers for desired safety equipment.

Motion passed unanimously

Umpire Relations

Gary Grefer shared the results of the manager feedback concerning umpires and has discussed the results, including potential division assignments, with each umpire.

Two umpires from last season are not returning. Bill Kaschube (retiring) JackTizio (moved to Tampa)
There will be a couple of new umpires this year

The Rules Committee reiterated that managers cannot challenge out/safe, ball/strike, or fair/ foul."

Rule Changes

Motion: Polston, Seconded, Mc Kenna:
Pinch runner may run once per inning in all divisions.
Motion passed unanimously

New Substitution Process

Motion: Grefer, Seconded, Thompson:
Implement a new more equitable substitution process which has been approved by the Board of Directors and will be fully discussed with all Managers.
Motion passed unanimously.

Gulf Coast Division time limit rule.

Motion: Wesolowski, Seconded McKenna:
Rescind the prior Gulf Coast Division time limit rule.
Motion passed unanimously

Player leaving game for personal Reasons.

Motion Grefer, Seconded Eil:
A player leaving the game for personal reasons does not subject his team to an out in each subsequent time at bat. He is merely crossed off the score sheet.
Motion passed unanimously

Defensive innings

Motion: Grefer, Seconded McKenna;
Each rostered player is entitled to play 5 defensive innings in the Island Division and 4 defensive innings in the Marco and Gulf Coast Divisions
Motion passed 8-1

For: Caster, Cunningham, Eil, Grefer, McKenna, Moors, Thompson, Wesolowski
Against: Polston

Gulf Coast Fifth Outfielder

Motion: Thompson, Seconded McKenna:

A manager in the Gulf Coast Division may choose to employ a fifth outfielder who must remain in the outfield and not move to an infield position.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion Thompson, Seconded McKenna:

If a Gulf Coast team cannot field 5 outfielders, the opposing manager must remove one outfielder.

Motion failed unanimously.

Streaming of Games.

The live streaming of selective games on a rudimentary trial basis during the 2023 season was met with many positive comments. The advantages of combining streaming with a method of improved score and record keeping was discussed.

Motion: Wesolowski, Seconded Cunningham:

Use the "Game Changer App" to combine the capability to live stream games with scorekeeping and player stats.

Include the initial costs for the required equipment and subscriptions, for the 2024 season.

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moors
Ed Caster

