

Juuust A Bit Outside #10

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to the C.P. Softball Family. Lots to cover in this edition of the newsletter. The Annual General Meeting has a bit of a different schedule. The Men will meet at 8:00am in the Royal Palm. The Belles of Harmony will be providing a light breakfast. Bring some cash along so you can get coffee, for \$1.00, and pastries \$1-4.00. The General Meeting will follow at 9:00. The Women's meeting will follow at approximately 10:00ish. There will be a Men's Managers meeting and an Umpire meeting to follow.

Gentlemen, there will be a vote on the 2 pitching screen options during the 8:00 meeting. Absentee voting must be done by email to me at dangerome24@gmail.com by 6:00pm Thursday, January 1. Ballots will be passed out to you. It is your option to take a ballot or pass. You just need to check Option 1...mandatory safety screen set 20 feet from the pitching rubber with pitch to be thrown over the 6' screen which pitcher **stays** behind until the ball is hit... or Option 2...Optional safety screen set 6' in front of and offset right or left of the rubber which pitcher **gets** behind before the ball is hit. This option includes pitchers just wearing face masks and shin guards. Because of the time constraints of the morning, we will hear reports from our board members and then vote. There have been 9 months for comments, questions and suggestions regarding any issue of your choice. Thanks to those of you who passed those along. However, if you have a comment email it to me or just tell me when you see me. I'll be the short guy wearing **the** Ohio State or a Browns hat.

We plan to announce the 2026 Division names at the meeting.

Tom Sowinski, our veteran reserves manager, will be retiring after this season. We are looking for someone who would be willing to fill that position. Tough shoes to fill but I know there are some experienced guys out there that can step up and share their knowledge of our sometimes-puzzling rules.

Everybody, please park your golf carts at the fields to not cause sun glare. Bring a towel to cover your windshield or in some cases on the hill park backwards.

We are looking into getting more bike racks and sprucing up the ones we have.

There is a new water fountain at Diamond 1. It's cold and it works. It was purchased because the old one died. The cost was \$1,500.00. Diamond 2 will undoubtedly get a new fountain upon the passing of the presently working fountain.

It felt as if the Team Reveal Day was a success. Over 250 hot dogs were sold as well as a few beers, too. Thanks to the Tiki Hut volunteers for a great start to the season.

Opening Day game times begin at 10:00 this year.

Embroidered hats would add \$5 to \$7.00 to the cost. Because printers send the hats out for embroidery, up to 2 weeks could be added to delivery time. Sorry, but not feasible at this time.

Don't forget to order an extra shirt or hat if you want from Gary Fulton.

The league is purchasing a new groomer for our field crews at the cost of \$26,000.00. The old one stuttered and sputtered blew smoke and died.

Finally, I am hoping for a peaceful, harmonious season. I really don't care for the negative undertones regarding Women's softball vs Men's softball. We are all here to play a game we love and have fun doing it. We need to be respectful of each other's space, differences and opinions. We don't need "kumbaya" moments, but we can play nice together. An issue for another day is the questionable language sometimes heard at the ball fields. Disparaging remarks and questionable language directed at others will not be tolerated. Being upset with yourself is another issue as long as the volume is turned down. This issue is addressed in our constitution and rules.

With all that said, have a great holiday or just enjoy your time here in Southwest Florida. How lucky are we? Go Browns!!