

Juuust a Bit Outside # 11

Hi everyone. It's been about a month since the last newsletter. Wow!! How much we oldies can squish into a month is mind blowing. The Annual meeting was well attended, and our new format seemed to work well. The breakfast goodies from the Belles probably didn't hurt either. The screen issue for the Men was settled and seems to be working as well as could be expected. Keeping our players safe is one of the main tenants of our league. Collisions on the bases have really tailed off and almost everyone knows you can't over run second or third base without the chance of being tagged out.

Opening Day was one for the ages. Sorry you had to stand in the outfield longer than usual, but we had some special speakers and presentations that were so informative and interesting it was so worth it. I was asked if chairs could be provided in the future. Of course the answer was yes if you bring your own.

Here's some things to ponder...Guys, at this point it seems that our teams have been constructed well. No team seems to be running away from the rest. It's been very hard for the player placement guys because so many of our players have gone down to injury. When we try to fill a spot on any given day there are so many parameters you couldn't imagine. Some don't answer the phone, some have prior commitments, some forgot to tell us they are injured, some leave the park for various reasons. So please don't look at the sub list and question why you got who you got. ...at least approach the situation calmly and accept your sub or follow the proper procedures to rectify any problem.

...if you are the spouse or friend of a player or just a softball fan and have a pet, please follow the park and league guidelines. No pets near the stands or Tiki Hut. Thanks.

...the official score keepers behind the plate and the team score keepers in the stands are kind of busy and can't really lose focus during the game. Please don't bother them. I could end up losing a hit and I can't really afford that.

...our umpires are doing a good job but occasionally might miss a call. Since this is a friendly game cut them some slack. They've been instructed to not make fun of your strike outs or errors. Your spokesman is the only one that is supposed to talk to or question the umps. The protocol is for a player to tell the spokesman what should be appealed. If you need a replacement during a game the manager/spokesman tells the ump. Then the ump takes over with the player placement rep and you get your team together and wait calmly for the replacement.

...Weather related issues are usually out of our control. Both league presidents and the field V.P. discuss what the plan will be. The final decision is made, this year, by Sheila and me. Recently we made the call on cold weather days a day early. It seemed to make sense. Postponing for a few hours or a day is very hard on all because of other commitments. We follow the constitution as stated. Wind chill of below 45 degrees and we don't play... Monday goes to Thursday for the guys and to Friday for the girls. The other options are found online...where, by the way, so is everything else. Look out week of January 26!!

...Tom Sowinski's position as Reserve Manager has been filled, for next season, by Greg Estelle, Chairman, and Al Genovese and Jeff Bennett assistants.

...Elections are coming in February, and we really would like to see some folks step up and run for an office. The president elect position is open. It is a 3-year commitment.

...the League Executive Board has two openings: V.P. of Field Maintenance and Treasurer.

Get your letter of interest in by February 6. All information related to elections is online.

...we are addressing the bike rack issue. We need at least two more. OH, AND BY THE WAY ...don't put bikes on the memory walk bricks on either field.

..bats...we will not use illegal bats. To be a legal bat it must be one piece aluminum single wall, BPF of 1.20, cannot contain composites or be filled with after-market components. It must be approved by ASA or USA Softball. It must have the proper Citrus Park Softball sticker.

...we have installed another safety screen on diamond 3. It should be helpful in keeping the ball gatherers safe while collecting balls and dropping them into the buckets.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for the league, please feel free to call, email, text or see me. Be sure to bundle up for the next week or so as the temperatures and wind will make things interesting.

BTW... the Browns have won 2 games since the last newsletter so they fired their coach.