

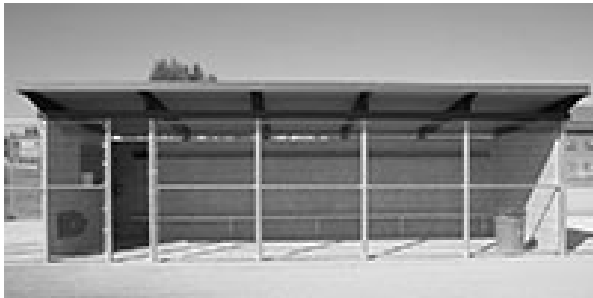
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SSUSA logo, PNG format, compressed

From The Dugout - Re-Ratings & Roster Policy Changes



By Terry Hennessy

Re-evaluating Moving Teams Up

At last year's National Convention, the Rules Committee voted to move teams up based on the number of teams in their division at the World Championships in Last Vegas.

After detailed consultation with the administrative staff that deals throughout the year with Ratings and Rosters, I have come to the conclusion that the Rules Committee needed further discussion of the "Formula Move-Up" rule adopted at last year's convention.

As adopted, I believe, the "Formula Move-up" could result in a wholesale loss of teams competing in Senior Softball in the 2023 season and in the future.

While black-and-white mass move-ups are easy to apply and understand, they do not take into consideration the actual scores of games, histories of teams, or recommendations by those directors who routinely see the teams play. In the 60AAA division alone, 12 of the 45 teams would have been raised.

Hurricane Ian blows Winter Nationals and Convention out of Ft. Myers



Hurricane Ian devastated many lives in the Ft. Myers area and it also forced the moving of the Winter Nationals north to Winter Haven, Fla., and the canceling of the SSUSA National Convention – which was also scheduled in Ft. Myers – in December.

While we are disappointed, we realize that the Ft. Myers area has more important issues to deal with at this time and we offer our best wish for a complete recovery from this major hurricane.

We'd also like to thank Polk County for helping us find fields in Winter Haven and Lakeland to move the Winter Nationals.

While we had to cancel the National Convention, the National Rules Committee will be meeting on rule change recommendations for 2023 in December. The three Hall of Fame inductions that had been scheduled for the Convention Banquet will take place at major tournaments.

In many brackets, it is obvious which teams are dominant – and should be raised – and it is rarely across straight percentages.

Before we instituted a policy with such high risks, I believe we need to re-visit the basis of Ratings and, I hope, give much more jurisdiction to the staff who work on them every day.

After the 2022 World Championships in Las Vegas this year, we reviewed all of the brackets and made the initial determination of move-ups based on which teams in a bracket are not only in the top 10 percent but are clearly stronger than the other teams.

We will delay any other moves until the National Rules Committee has a chance to meet and review the policy.

Tournament Roster Policy Change

In an effort to lock in rosters to the proper divisions for tournaments, SSUSA is implementing a new policy. This is designed to prevent unnecessary rating changes after schedules are posted, which almost always result in changes of playing times for other teams – and worse game schedules.

Teams that do not submit their roster by the “Hard Deadlines” for a tournament will be taken out of the tournament and their entry fee will be refunded.

Here is how it will work:

At the published deadline for a tournament, our Master Scheduler will establish the time and date of the “Hard Deadline.” That is the time the schedules will be drawn.

Each team that has not submitted a roster by the official deadline will be called and informed that if SSUSA does not receive their roster by the Hard Deadline, they will out of the tournament and we will refund their money.

Terry Hennessy is the chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

Renew Before Jan. 1 To Get Old Player Registration Rates

Some Senior Softball USA Player Registration rates will increase Jan. 1, 2023.

Inflation has resulted in increased cost, forcing SSUSA to incrementally increase some Player Registration rates. The 1-year Player Registration will remain the same at \$35 and rates for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-years will increase by \$5.

Players registering before January 1, 2023, will pay the old rate. Here are the rates:

1- year remains the same: \$35

2- years \$50 (old rate \$45)

John Fournier (Hall of Famer player) and Rocco Combareri (Hall of Fame manager) will be inducted at the Tournament of Champions in Wint Haven in February. Carl Gustafson (Lifetime Hall of Fame) will be inducted at the World Championships in Las Vegas in September 2023.

Baden: Official Ball of the 2023 Season



SACRAMENTO – Senior Softball USA announced that it had signed a three-year agreement with Baden Sports to become the Official Ball of SSUSA.

The Baden Senior Fire Ball will be used exclusively in all 90 SSUSA National Qualifying Tournaments and Championships, and will be offered special pricing to SSUSA-sanctioned leagues in 200 cities, according to SSUSA officials.

“We used the Baden Fire ball in Las Vegas and we had many positive comments,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director.

The agreement is slotted to begin Jan. 1, but Baden balls will be used this November at the Winter Nationals, moved to Polk County, Florida, and the Winter Worlds in Phoenix, Arizona.

Rhode Island Senior Softball League – Hall of Fame & 40th Anniversary

By Emilio Notarantonio

WARWICK, RI. _The Rhode Island Senior Softball League held its annual end of the year banquet/picnic at City Park here in October, but unlike any previous season-ending gathering, this event was special in two ways:

3- years \$60 (old rate \$55)

4- years \$70 (old rate \$65)

5- years \$75 (old rate \$70)

Permanent USA Card (75+ years old): \$35 (current rate \$35)

It was the 40th anniversary celebration and the league's Executive Board introduced its first Hall of Fame inductees.

The Executive Board had previously approved the idea of a RISSL Hall of Fame in the spring. The Hall of Fame committee was made up of Executive Board members and league veterans. A list was compiled of 60 individuals for consideration.

The Criteria:

- Age: 70+.
- Active league member for 10+ years.
- Administrative service as a league official and/or Executive Board member.
- Player, sponsor, manager, or any combination of the three.

The final outcome: a list of eight individuals who will forever be known as the original inductees. The list was heavy in its make-up of league officials. While all the inductees had experience in playing and managing, the ultimate criteria was woven around individuals who guided the league through its beginnings, infancy, and now, adulthood. Due to their willingness to devote time, guidance, and stewardship to the league, RISSL currently has 20 teams and 365 rostered players.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame were:

- Dick Bamford
- Pete DeMasi
- Joe Giordano
- John Murphy
- Emilio Notarantonio
- Tony Rozzero
- George St. Vincent
- Len Yanku (Posthumously)



Left to Right: Emilio Notarantonio, Tony Rozzero, Pete DeMasi, Robin S Vincent (accepting on behalf of her husband, George), John Murphy, Joe Giordano and Dick Bamford.

Three members of this group go back to the first year of the organization, in 1982.

Len Yanku was the founder and the man who wanted to start a softball league for 50+ year old players in 1982.

Pete DeMasi was a league member for 40 years and was the first player taken in the league's first season draft.

Joe Giordano was one of the eight original organizers. He also served in all four elected offices, managed and played over his 40-year period.

John Murphy, George St. Vincent and Dick Bamford were league officers and Executive Board members. They also managed and played for more than three decades. He was instrumental in starting two club leagues that give 60+ to 80+ players additional playing time.

Emilio Notarantonio has been a league member for 30 years. He has served on the Executive Board, as vice commissioner and commissioner over the 30 years and is still an active player and manager. He's also been the SSUSA New England Director for over a decade.

Tony Rozzaro has been a league member for 25 years. He served as vice commissioner and long-time member of the Executive Board. He played for several Rhode Island championship teams. He continues to be heavily involved in league affairs.

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