

# Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 8

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To: Info At Senior Softball <info@SeniorSoftball.com>



## Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 8

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SSUSA would like to thank all of the field crews we work with around the country, like this crew from Loudoun County, VA. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

### From the Dugout - Dispelling Rumors



**By Terry Hennessy  
SSUSA CEO**

As we get closer to re-opening the wonderful sport of senior softball, rumors abound about when fields will be opened in different cities.

In almost all cases, city field officials do not know until shortly before the fields are allowed to be opened. The decisions vary from state to state – and even from city to

### SSUSA Loosens Roster Restrictions to Help Teams Restart Season



SACRAMENTO – Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) is loosening some roster restrictions for the 2020 season to help managers field teams during the pandemic.

Under the temporary move, managers would be able to pick up players in the same age and skill level for a single tournament without the player having to obtain a release from his original team. In addition, managers in most

city, depending on how the pandemic is affecting a particular area.

SSUSA intends to hold tournaments as soon as fields are open to us. However, we need two weeks to set up a tournament, arrange umpires, schedule the games and assign directors.

That is why we will be making a go / no-go decision on major tournaments two weeks before they are scheduled to begin. If there is no clarification from the fields, we will cancel the tournament.

To be clear, this decision affects the major tournaments run through the SSUSA Office.

Our independent Tournament Directors will be making similar decisions, but may be able to wait until closer to the time the tournament is scheduled to begin to make their decision. These are tournaments in which teams send entry fees directly to the Tournament Director, not SSUSA.

We have received several positive comments from city and field officials to the Rules and Recommendations we published two weeks ago. This is very good news because we hope the new rules will allow us to re-open the sport as soon as possible in a safe way.

"I saw that you are making some adaptations and social distancing plans for your tournaments and that's great," said Chris Pelzman of the Roseville (CA) Parks and Recreation Department. "We may steal some of your new guidelines for our Roseville adult softball leagues."

Field and city officials echoed Pelzman's comments as they started to enact their own regulations from Salem, OR., to Polk County, FL.

In Reno, Michael Charles of the Parks and Recreation Department, sent an email asking for our recommendations and mentioned that his city would be removing bleachers and benches in dugouts. He said Reno would be asking players to bring their own chairs and spread out in and out of the dugout to maintain social distancing.

divisions could pick up two players from outside their region and the wait period for player re-classification is reduced from 90 days to 45 days.

"The situation we are hearing about from managers is that they have a majority of players who would like to play as soon as fields are open, but that is not enough to field a team," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. "Players who are reluctant to play are generally reluctant because of concerns from their spouses or children."

In addition, SSUSA officials are reminding managers that they have the option of playing as an exhibition team if they need to pick up players who do not meet these restrictions.

"We view these changes as necessary temporary changes to re-launch the sport, along with the safety measures we discussed a few weeks ago," said Hennessy.

#### **Here are the changes:**

1. Teams would be allowed to pick up players from teams in the same age group, skill level and appropriate region for a single tournament without a player release. Players would still need a release if they decided to permanently leave their original team.
2. Major, AAA and AA Teams that are down to a minimum number of players would be allowed to add up to 2 players from the same age group and skill level outside their region (but from the same side of the Mississippi River). Teams using 10 defensive players can add up to 2 out-of-region players to get to 14 total players or fewer, and teams using 11 defensive players can add up to 2 out-of-region players to get to 15 total players or fewer.
3. The wait period for players requesting performance or medical waivers to play one skill level lower would be reduced to 45 days (from 90 days) during the pandemic. These waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis.

## **TOURNAMENT UPDATES**

SSUSA continues to work with our regional directors, cities, and complexes as we strive to bring the sport back as soon and as safe as it is to do so.

SSUSA will be determining the status of upcoming tournaments two weeks prior to the scheduled start date of each respective tournament.

Many states are currently entering into their respective phases of re-opening.

SSUSA has sent its own recommendations to all of the Parks and health officials in the cities and states in which we hold tournaments, as well as to all of our leagues and other national softball organizations.

We hope that the adoption of these measures will allow us to re-open the sport sooner.

*Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at [terryh@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:terryh@seniorsoftball.com).*

## Miken Sports/Worth Sports



With many states continuing their respective phases of re-opening, SSUSA hopes to get all teams and players out on the fields as soon as it is safe for all involved to do so.

Once we are all back on the fields, please rest assured that you will see all the usual cast of characters you have grown accustomed to, such as directors, umpires, and vendors.

In our continuing series of SSUSA sponsors, this week we highlight Miken Sports and Worth Sports.

The mission of Miken and Worth is to elevate the level of play for serious athletes by developing the game's most innovative high performance equipment.

Miken and Worth are doing just that with their latest offerings.

The Miken Ultra Fusion Series features signature bats from some of the major influencers in the game - Johnny Bailey, Jason Kendrick, Michael Macenko, and

## STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN

Here is where SSUSA tournaments, scheduled through the end of July, currently stand in 19 states:

### **Maryland - No End Date on Stay-at-Home Order, Indefinite**

May 29 - 31: CRABTOWN CLASSIC Glen Burnie, MD

June 13 - 14: The Old Line State Showdown Westminster, MD

July 17 - 20: Bert Bennett Memorial Westminster, MD

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for Maryland's Roadmap to Recovery.

SSUSA will confirm play for the Crabtown Classic on Friday, May 15. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

"Tired of being cooped up, teams are scouring their home and neighboring regions to find open parks and tournaments that are likely to go off," said Tim McElroy, SSUSA National/Mid-Atlantic Director. "And, judging by the number of calls, texts and emails I've received, tournaments will be full."

"To meet the anticipated demand, Potomac Sports is making changes to its upcoming senior qualifier schedules (Old Line State Showdown and Bert Bennett Memorial)," continued McElroy. "Changes will include staggered starts for the different age divisions, while still limiting the amount of time and money any particular group spends on hotels and other travel expenses. The changes will also help Potomac Sports enforce social distancing guidelines and keep everyone as safe as possible."

Details, deadlines, and other information have been posted to the SSUSA [tournament page](#).

For more information on The Old Line State Showdown and the Bert Bennett Memorial, please contact Tim McElroy via email: [PotomacSports1@gmail.com](mailto:PotomacSports1@gmail.com) or phone: 301-514-2676.

### **Nevada - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/15**

June 2 - 7: ROCK 'N RENO CHALLENGE CUP - Reno, NV

**Phase 1** of Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery began on May 9.

SSUSA will confirm play on Monday, May 18, for the Men's 60 and over divisions, and Friday, May 22, for the Men's 50 - 55.

For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com)

Mike Dill.

**Johnny Bailey Ultra Fusion Maxload** - 12" barrel, .05 ounce endload



**Jason Kendrick Ultra Fusion Maxload** - 14" barrel, 0.5 ounce endload



**Michael Macenko Ultra Fusion Big Cat Endload** - 14" barrel, 1 ounce endload



**Mike Dill Ultra Fusion Balanced** - 14" barrel



The Ultra Fusion Series is powered with Z1649 Barrel Technology for a massive sweet spot, to go along with a Z-Lock handle to maximize bat speed.

For Worth, two bats showcase 2020 with the **Alan Tanner AT 18 XL** and the **Marauder Pro Edition XXL**.



Each bat features Triax Advanced Technology, as well as an S-Flex handle for an extended sweet spot and faster swing speeds.

The Marauder features a 13.5" barrel with

### **Texas - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 4/30**

June 4 - 7: DFW Classic Grapevine, TX  
July 9 - 12: Aggieland Classic College Station, TX

**CLICK HERE** to see a check list of what has opened in Texas, and what will be opening soon.

The complex in Grapevine is scheduled to re-open June 1.

For more information on the above tournaments in Texas, please contact tournament director Keith Parker, via email: **txhcc@yahoo.com** or phone: 903-315-6374

### **Missouri - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/3**

June 4 - 14: Missouri Open Columbia, MO

Missouri is in **phase 1** of reopening.

A **youth baseball tournament** was recently held in the state over the weekend.

The park director in Columbia has informed tournament director Will Rogers that the tournament is still a go, as of now.

For more information on the Missouri Open, please contact Will Rogers, via email: **willsharkdaddy@aol.com** or phone: 816-916-7891.

### **Arizona - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/15**

June 13 - 14: Mountain Madness I Flagstaff, AZ  
June 20 - 21: 40s Cool Country Classic I Prescott, AZ  
July 17 - 19: Ernie Jones Memorial/Western States Championships Prescott, AZ  
July 25 - 26: 40s Mountain Madness II Flagstaff, AZ

**Arizona** restaurants have begun dine-in service.

Governor Doug Ducey **announced** the opening of gyms, spas, and community pools. Professional sports leagues will be allowed to begin practicing in Arizona after the stay-at-home order expires on Friday

For more information on these Arizona tournaments, please contact National and Arizona State Director, Rick Seifman, via email: **tournsport@aol.com** or phone: 623-776-2143.

### **California - No End Date on Stay-at-Home Order, Indefinite**

June 12 - 17: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sacramento, CA  
June 16 - 21: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Hemet, CA  
July 28 - August 2: WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Sacramento/Placer Counties, CA

a 1 oz endload to create a heavier swing weight and generate more power, while Alan Tanner features a 13.5" barrel with .5 oz endload to add some weight in the end of the barrel for extra whip and more power.

With their extensive line-up for 2020, Miken and Worth look to continue to give players the confidence to drive balls out to the gap.

For more information, be sure to visit **Miken Sports** and **Worth Sports** online.

*This is the third in a series of what you can expect from Senior Softball vendors in 2020. Look for a highlight on DeMarini next week.*

## OBITUARIES - May 13, 2020



**James (Jim) Robert MacFarlane, Jr.**

Jim "Sandy" MacFarlane, 69, of Tustin, Calif. died on April 27.

A native of Detroit, Mich., MacFarlane spent many years at Tiger Stadium, where his uncle played the organ. There, he developed a love for baseball that led to a life-long hobby of playing softball well into his senior years.

MacFarlane was a long-time member of the Git-R-Done organization, beginning in 2008 with the 55 team. He last played in the 2017 season at the Winter World Championships.

"JimmyMac (as he was known by) was an avid softball player," said Tommy DeRocher, manager of Git-R-Done 65.

**California** is currently in stage 2 of reopening.

**Placer County** (which hosts part of the Northern California State Championships and Western National Championships), is one of seven counties in California allowed to reopen dine-in restaurants, malls, and office buildings.

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

### **Washington - Stay-at-Home Order Extended to 5/31 with modifications**

June 13 - 14: Northwest Cup Lacey, WA  
June 25 - 28: Inland Empire Classic Spokane, WA  
July 25 - 26: Smash It Sports Invite Enumclaw, WA

Washington is currently in its **Safe Start** reopening process.

For more information on the Lacey and Spokane tournaments in Washington, please contact Washington State Director Butch Jones, via email: [katstang7@gmail.com](mailto:katstang7@gmail.com) or phone: 360-791-3862.

For more information on the tournament in Enumclaw, please contact director, Tom Israelson (206-841-9955 or [israelsontj@comcast.net](mailto:israelsontj@comcast.net))

### **Oklahoma - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 4/30**

June 18 - 21: Oil City Classic Tulsa, OK (NEW DATES)

**Phase two** of Oklahoma's reopening is set to begin May 15.

Under phase two, organized sports activities can reopen and operate under proper social distancing and sanitation protocols. However, for those over 65 or part of a vulnerable population, continue following safer-at-home guidelines.

For more information on the Oil City Classic, please contact tournament director Will Rogers, via email: [willsharkdaddy@aol.com](mailto:willsharkdaddy@aol.com) or phone: 816-916-7891.

### **Florida - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/4**

June 19 - June 21: Sunshine State Showdown Ft. Myers, FL  
\*Please note adjustments to start dates for certain divisions.

There has been no update on when Florida will enter **phase 2** of reopening.

For more information on the Sunshine State Showdown, please contact tournament director Tim McElroy via email: [PotomacSports1@gmail.com](mailto:PotomacSports1@gmail.com) or phone: 301-514-2676.

### **Michigan - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Extended**

“He played on numerous league teams in Southern California, and was a member of the Git-R-Done organization, playing on 55, 60 and 65 teams.”

“JimmyMac was a valuable teammate,” continued DeRocher. “He was a solid team player and could run like the wind! He would do whatever was asked of him to help win a game. We have missed him these last few years due to illness. JimmyMac loved Git-R-Done and was also our webmaster. He may not be with us physically, but his spirit will endure as he will always be a Git-R-Done teammate.”

MacFarlane retired in 2019 as a Computer Network Engineer.



**John “Jack” G. Mateja**

Jack Mateja, 79, of Dyer, IN died on May 7. He would have been 80 on May 9.

A U.S. Army Veteran, Mateja was a long-time member of the Chicago Geezers 65s and 70s, as well as the Chicago Seniors 65 and Central State Seniors 70s, among others.

“We lost one of our most revered and outstanding players,” said George (Mickey) Mills, who played with Mateja on numerous teams. “Jack Mateja was by far the greatest senior softball player I have ever seen. If anyone should be in the softball hall of fame it was him.”

Mateja most recently played in the 2014 season with Central State Seniors.

### **Through 5/28**

June 27 - 28: Holiday Classic Sturgis, MI

July 11 - 12: Bobby Chapp Memorial Lansing, MI (NEW DATES)

The **Michigan Safe Start Plan** includes six phases.

For more information on the above tournaments in Michigan, please contact tournament director Mike Dembicki, via email: [mdembicki@capitaltire.net](mailto:mdembicki@capitaltire.net) or phone: 586-202-8376.

### **New Mexico - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/15**

June 27 - 28: Women's Western Classic Las Cruces, NM

**New Mexico** has three phases to gradually reopen.

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

### **New York - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/15**

July 7 - 12: NORTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Syracuse, NY

Certain low-risk business and recreational activities (including Landscaping, Gardening, Tennis & Drive-In-Movie Theaters) will reopen statewide on May 15th

**CLICK HERE** for the NY Forward Reopening Plan.

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

### **Arkansas (Arkansas is one of seven states that never enacted a stay-at-home order)**

July 7 - 12: MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Rogers, AR

**CLICK HERE** for a timeline of when facilities will reopen.

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

### **Oregon - No End Date on Stay-at-Home Order, Indefinite**

July 14 - 19: JIM SHERMAN MEMORIAL/NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Salem, OR

**Oregon** is scheduled to reopen with phase 1 on May 15.

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

"Jack's family would like to thank his teammates from the Chicago Geezers, Indy Classics, Joseph Chevrolet and the Marco Island Senior Softball League for their outpouring of sympathy," said Jack's son, Tom Mateja. Tom is also an SSUSA member, playing with All-In Softball 50, Big Hurt Softball/Draft Picks 50, and Old Stars 55.

"Jack was determined to travel down to Marco for the senior softball league this past winter," continued Tom. "Although his playing days ended a few years ago, he still treasured being at the fields with the guys."

During his childhood, Mateja was a member of the 1952 Whiting Little League team that advanced to the World Series in Williamsport. He was a three-sport athlete in high school, and a graduate of Purdue University.

Along with playing senior softball, Mateja enjoyed golf, bowling and gardening.

Mateja retired from LTV Steel.

### **In Memoriam**

Lou Coppola, 92, of Sacramento, Calif., died on April 25.

Coppola played in a local senior softball league until the age of 80.

"I first met Lou Coppola some 25 years ago when I joined the Golden Seniors Softball Club and he was one of its veteran leaders," said Ron Roach, a long-time member of the Sac Blues. "He helped the club in so many ways, including editing the club newsletter and serving on the board of directors. Whenever the club asked for volunteers, Lou would step forward. He was a tremendous ambassador for senior softball, avidly recruiting members and sponsors. He did all this while very active with other pursuits, including the staging of big band-era dances, singing in the church choir and traveling with his wife, Betty."

### **Illinois - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/30**

July 14 - 19: Quad Cities Classic Rock Island, IL

**Restore Illinois** - 5-phase plan splits state into four regions.

For more information, please contact tournament director, Kenny Chard, [klchard@yahoo.com](mailto:klchard@yahoo.com) or 309-721-9633.

### **Alabama - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 4/30**

July 18 - 19: Cullman Qualifier Cullman, AL

Safer-at-home order in effect until 5/22

Governor Kay Ivey is beginning to **loosen restrictions**.

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

### **Kansas - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/3**

July 23 - 26: Wes Weddle Classic Shawnee, KS

**Johnson County**, which includes Shawnee, will reopen in four phases.

For more information, please contact tournament director Randy Rowe 816-718-3221 [rrr5850@aol.com](mailto:rrr5850@aol.com)

### **Virginia - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 6/10**

July 28 - August 2: EASTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Loudoun County, VA

**Northern Virginia's** reopening is delayed until May 29

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two-weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

### **Indiana - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/1**

July 31 - August 2: ISA SENIOR WORLD SERIES Columbus/Shelbyville, IN

**Indiana** is beginning to move into stage two of reopening.

For more information, please contact tournament director, Jerry Jackson at 309-267-8772 or [jjackson@itv-3.com](mailto:jjackson@itv-3.com)

**SSUSA Hall of Famer Ken "Bogie" Van Bogaert Offers Tips to Improve Your Hitting**

Coppola's obituary was featured in the Sacramento Bee, **'Melodic and powerful': Sacramento radio legend Lou Coppola dies at 92.**



**Ken "Bogie" Van Bogaert - SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2019.**

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Hall of Famer Ken “Bogie” Van Bogaert has some clever ways to improve your hitting during the current softball layoff due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**CLICK HERE** to watch Season 9, Episode 145 of the *Swing Makeover Series*.

Recognized as one of the top softball hitters in the nation, Bogie has taught thousands of players to hit better through **ROTATIONAL POWER HITTING** for slowpitch softball, baseball, and fastpitch, which has sold more videos worldwide than any other hitting instructor.

On YouTube, Bogie’s **Swing Makeover Series** has been extremely popular in helping to guide players in reaching their power and consistency potential.

Bogie has been a force, and an ambassador, in Senior Softball for decades.

## **Survey Shows Sports Fans are Ready to Return**

A survey of more than 2,000 people throughout North America, conducted by Enigma Research, found that more than three-quarters of people who previously attended live sports events are extremely or very likely to return once large gatherings resume.

**CLICK HERE** to read the article.

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