

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 11

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June 3, 2020 - In This Issue:

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LS Warriors Go to Bat for Two High School Seniors



The Show Me State is set to host the first SSUSA tournament in three months.

From the Dugout: New Game Standards to Debut at Missouri Open



By Terry Hennessy
SSUSA CEO

On Thursday, the first wave of 61 teams will compete in Columbia, Missouri – the first SSUSA Qualifier in almost three months.

The Missouri Open has created national focus on seniors playing softball during the pandemic because of an article in Time Magazine last week.

SSUSA Develops Face Shields for Game Play

In this tournament, SSUSA Director Will Rogers and UIC Donna McGuire will be rolling out our new rules and recommendations designed to make the tournament as safe as possible.

We ask players and spectator alike to observe the new standards.

Our directors and umpires will be wearing face shields, catchers will be wearing face masks, managers are asked to keep the game balls and disinfect them between innings, players are asked to spread out in and out of the dugout to maintain social distancing – and spectators are asked to do the same in the stands. When not playing, players are asked to wear face masks and maintain social distancing.

[Click here to read the full rules and recommendations.](#)

These procedures are for the safety of everyone at the complex.

SSUSA – and all other national softball organizations -- want to be able to open the sport throughout the nation in the next few months. If players and their friends and family follow these pandemic rules, it will go a long way in showing the sport can be played without spreading the virus.

We respect the fact that some will disagree. But those who do not agree and do not want to follow the procedures will make it difficult to re-start the sport we love.

Therefore, if you do disagree and do not want to follow the new rules, stay home. You will be more than welcome to return when the pandemic is under control and hopefully we will be able to relax the new standards.

This is for the good of the game, your fellow players and their families.

Thank you!

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



SSUSA National Director and Manager, Doug Robbins, shows off the SSUSA Face Shields

Senior Softball USA today announces the development of softball face shields, as well as SSUSA face masks and gaiters designed for senior softball players.

The SSUSA face shield, a plastic shield attached to the brim of a ball cap, was initially developed by Kate Hennessy in Minnesota for use for first responders and other public workers in her area.

Ironically, the idea for the face shields started with Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer, cleaning out a closet full of old softball caps at the beginning of the pandemic.

"When I heard about the excess caps," said Kate Hennessy, Terry's sister-in-law, "I remembered an ad I saw for a baseball cap with a shield attached. I knew from being a former intensive care nurse that the shield would provide better protection than a mask, but the shields were much harder to get."

SSUSA sent about 100 new, but dated tournament caps to Kate (the caps from Terry's closet had been worn), and she and husband Pat developed a simple method to attach a plastic shield to the front of the cap.

"We made enough to supply the local fire department and

SSUSA International Tour Pushed Back to 2021



Senior Softball USA will be postponing the Jewels of Eastern Europe Tour, with tournaments in Prague and Budapest, until next year.

“The reason is the uncertainty of the pandemic, international airline travel and the potential restrictions in the Czech Republic and Hungary,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer.

The 32nd annual SSUSA International Tour was originally scheduled for early May 2020, but was moved back to October 2020 when the pandemic struck America and Europe.

“We will be moving the Jewels of Eastern Europe Tour back to April 29- May 11, 2021. These are the equivalent dates to the original time of the tour in 2020,” said Hennessy.

SSUSA will compete in an annual Heavy Hitters Tournament in Prague, which is a benefit tournament for schools, and a tournament in the wine village of Szendentre, near Budapest, along with historic site visits, shopping and dining during the Jewels of Eastern Europe Tour.

SAVE THE DATE - Second Annual Caribbean Classic

city workers, as well as friends and family,” said Kate. “It felt good to do it.”

SSUSA took the design and modified it slightly for use by umpires and officials. Doug Robbins, manager of Timberworks, helped modify the design and tested it on the field.

“We like the design because it allows umpires to breathe much more easily when they are on the field while maintaining personal protection,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director.

“We believe players will like the shields for the same reason,” she said.

The shields are initially being developed for umpires and directors, but will also be available for players in about two weeks.

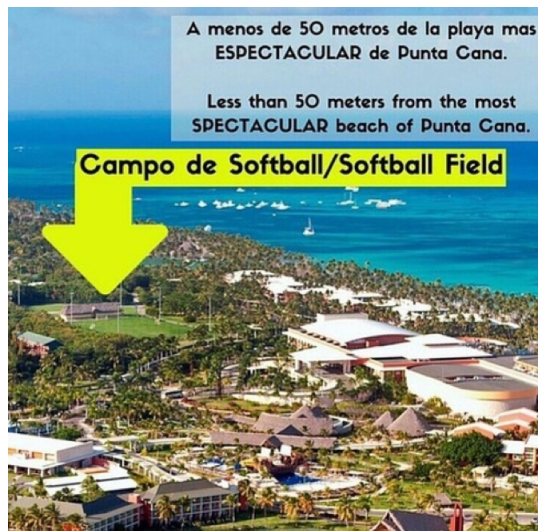
In addition, SSUSA is introducing thin face masks and gaiters for players. The face masks are intentionally very thin to make it easier to breathe and the gaiters are designed to pull down easily when a player is on the field and back up when they come off the field.

Masks and gaiters will be available next week. Masks are \$10 plus shipping and gaiters are \$15 plus shipping.



SSUSA face mask

The SSUSA office will be open for phone calls at 916-326-5303 from



Also, be sure to save the date for the second annual Caribbean Classic in the Dominican Republic, February 17-22, 2021. For more information on this trip, please contact Jim Goff, james.goff@mchsi.com.

Backyard BP



Art Eversole's backyard BP setup

By Art Eversole

8 am-noon Pacific Time Monday-Thursday beginning Monday, June 8.

Tournament Updates: Missouri Re-Opens Sport;

So Cal Champs Officially Moves to Yuma

Following a three month hiatus caused by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, SSUSA tournaments officially return to the diamonds this week in Columbia, Missouri.

The Missouri Open will kick-off tomorrow, Thursday, June 4, with the Men's 65 and 70 age divisions. The Men's 55 and 60 divisions will play this weekend, June 6-7; while the Men's 40 and 50 divisions will play the following weekend, June 13-14.

The Midwest appears to be a solid starting point to re-launch the sport, as the Oil City Classic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 18-21 is also currently scheduled to be played.

Along with the Midwest, Arizona and Florida are also on track to host SSUSA events.

The Southern California State Championships, June 16-21, will be extending its border a bit, as the entire tournament has officially been moved to Yuma, AZ. The move was done because the original locations of Hemet and Cathedral City will not be open in time to host.

If your team is interested in participating in the Southern California State Championships in Yuma, please email info@seniorsoftball.com as soon as possible. We will need to know by noon tomorrow, June 4.

Although some SSUSA tournaments are beginning to get the go ahead, others have been grounded.

The Western Classic in Las Cruces, June 27 – 28, which last week was expanded from a Women's only tournament to include Men's 40 – 60, was cancelled this week. SSUSA was informed that the facility would be closed through the end of June.

Senior Softball News Contributor

As the moratorium on ball field usage in our area continues, I decided to do some hitting in my backyard (dry swings got old).

I devised a home BP setup using tennis balls and carrier, a battery operated soft-toss machine, along with a piece of astro-turf. Personally, I do not like hitting off the tee because hitting the lower half of the ball can meet the tee hardware.

This soft-toss machine is adjustable for ball height. I use the 6-second ball release delay (uses 3-AA batteries). The process uses gravity to send the ball down to the awaiting batter and suspends in midair to strike at the height you have set the machine to.

The tennis ball coming off the senior bat offers a solid feel and travels ~150 - 200 ft unless you are Bret Kreuger or Steve Leighton... then lookout neighbors.

The two bats displayed are:
Yellow ONYX, 27oz two-piece
Orange 27oz Dudley Lightning one-piece, Mike McCarren model

Art Eversole, of Washington, has played on Major and Major Plus teams with W.E. Ruth Realty. He is the NW Senior Softball Webmaster/ Softball Communications/Hitting Club Admin/NW Leagues internet coordinator. Eversole can be reached via email at rtmyboy01@gmail.com.

SSUSA Player Featured in the Wall Street Journal

Other tournaments that have been cancelled include the Old Line State Showdown in Maryland, the Northern California State Championships, and the KC Monarch Qualifier in Kansas, which was scheduled for August 13-16.

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

The two weeks are needed so that SSUSA and teams can prepare for the tournaments.

Many states, counties, and cities are continuing through their respective phases of re-opening. We thank all our players and teams for their continued patience as we work to bring the sport back.

STATE-BY-BY BREAKDOWN

STATE

Here is where SSUSA tournaments, scheduled through the end of July, currently stand. All tournaments below remain on as scheduled.

Arizona

June 16 - 21: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Yuma, AZ

Interested teams for the Southern California State Championships should contact SSUSA at info@seniorsoftball.com by **noon tomorrow, June 4.**

July 15 - 19: Ernie Jones Memorial/Western States Championships Prescott, AZ

Deadline July 3

July 25 - 26: 40s Mountain Madness II Flagstaff, AZ

Deadline July 10

Interested teams for the Western States and Mountain Madness should contact tournament director Rick Seifman, via email: tournsport@aol.com or phone: 623-776-2143.

Oklahoma

June 18 - 21: Oil City Classic Tulsa, OK

Deadline June 4

Interested teams should contact tournament director Will Rogers, via email: willsharkdaddy@aol.com or phone: 816-916-7891.



Dave Weinman on the SSUSA International Tour in Nice, France in 2019.

Senior Softball player, Dave Weinman, 66, of New York, was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal.

The article, *Softball Alone? If That's the Only Choice, He's Game*, was written by Jen Murphy and appeared in the WSJ on May 31.

CLICK HERE to read the article.

LS Warriors Go to Bat for Two High School Seniors



Estero, Fla. – The Louisville Slugger Warriors recently sponsored two deserving high school seniors, Lauren Hobbs and Ashlee Lykins.

The duo will be given a chance to be celebrated, by experiencing a senior class trip, prom and graduation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that forced spring semesters across the country to be completed remotely, the class of 2020 missed out on many of these annual milestones and right of passages.

Hobbs and Lykins are model students who have excelled both academically and athletically. This fall, Hobbs is headed to

Florida

June 19 - June 21: Sunshine State Showdown Ft. Myers, FL

Deadline June 4

Interested teams should contact tournament director Tim McElroy via email: PotomacSports1@gmail.com or phone: 301-514-2676.

Washington

June 25 - 28: Inland Empire Classic Spokane, WA

Deadline June 11

July 25 - 26: Smash It Sports Invite Enumclaw, WA

Deadline July 10

For more information on the Spokane tournament, please contact Washington State Director Butch Jones, via email: 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)

Michigan

June 27 - 28: Holiday Classic Sturgis, MI

Deadline June 19

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

Deadline July 3

The state of Michigan lifted its stay-at-home order on June 1, and groups of up to 100 people can gather outside a long as they practice social distancing.

For more information, please contact tournament director Mike Dembicki, via email: mdembicki@capitaltire.net or phone: 586-202-8376.

New York

July 7 - 12: NORTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Syracuse, NY

Deadline June 23

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Arkansas

July 7 - 12: MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Rogers, AR

Deadline June 23

Stetson University in Deland, FL and Lykins is off to Furman University in Greenville, SC. Both student-athletes will be on softball scholarships.

CLICK HERE to read the press release.



Ashlee Lykins



Lauren Hobbs

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Texas

July 7 - 12: Aggieland Classic College Station, TX

Deadline June 23

For more information, please contact tournament director Keith Parker, via email: txhcc@yahoo.com or phone: 903-315-6374.

Oregon

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

Deadline June 23

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Illinois

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

Deadline June 30

For more information, please contact tournament director Kenny Chard, klchard@yahoo.com or 309-721-9633.

Maryland

July 17 - 20: Bert Bennett Memorial Westminster, MD

Deadline July 3

Interested teams for the Bert Bennett Memorial should contact tournament director, Tim McElroy, via email: PotomacSports1@gmail.com or phone: 301-514-2676.

Alabama

July 18 - 19: Cullman Qualifier Cullman, AL

Deadline July 3

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Kansas

July 23 - 26: Wes Weddle Classic Shawnee, KS

Deadline July 9

For more information, please contact tournament director Randy Rowe 816-718-3221 rrr5850@aol.com.

California

July 28 - August 2: WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Sacramento/Placer Counties, CA

Deadline July 7

Reminder that this year teams do NOT have to play in a qualifier to compete in the Western Nationals.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Virginia

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

Deadline July 7

Reminder that this year teams do NOT have to play in a qualifier to compete in the Eastern Nationals.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Indiana

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

Deadline July 7

For more information, please contact Amy Jackson at 309-267-8324 or ajackson@dist102.org.

Contact Information:

Senior Softball USA

9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12

916-326-5303

info@seniorsoftball.com

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