

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 7

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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



Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 7

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We all look forward to that next walk up to the fields.

From the Dugout: Notice on Fees (Tournaments; Player/Team; Clubs & Leagues)



By Terry Hennessy
SSUSA CEO

We are starting a "Letters to the Editor" feature in this Newsletter to answer some

Tournaments Cancelled in Hawaii and York, Pushed Back in 5 Cities; Reno Update



Trying to schedule senior softball tournaments in multiple

of the questions that have been sent to us that we feel represent the questions and concerns many players and teams may feel.

Communication, by its very nature, is best when it is a two-way street. Otherwise, it's just an edict... and we all know how that feels during these times.

On a positive note, we have received several communications from cities and fields on the Senior Softball USA Rules and Recommendations for starting up senior tournaments during the pandemic. They unanimously have said that by instituting these rules there is a very good chance we can re-start the sport sooner.

I do want to address one topic in this column near and dear to most of us: money – specifically entry fees, player and team registration fees and league fees.

Entry Fees:

We stopped depositing checks for tournaments that are run out of the main SSUSA office in May and June as soon as the first stay-at-home orders made those tournaments uncertain. We have been holding those checks and our staff will be calling managers in the next week to ask whether teams want them returned or applied to a later tournament.

For those teams that have sent entry fees to our SSUSA Tournament Directors, please contact them for their policies. Those are any tournaments in which you sent the entry fees directly to the director and not SSUSA.

For teams whose entry fees SSUSA has already deposited, our policy is: Senior Softball USA will credit entry fees for use in tournaments through both the 2020 and 2021 season. The only refunds will be for teams that are disbanding permanently. If there is a particular hardship, please email us at info@seniorsoftball.com.

We will be calling those managers as soon as we verify the season has started to determine how they want to use their credits.

states with different restrictions that change almost daily is a lot like painting with water colors in the rain, according to Senior Softball USA officials.

Just since the Newsletter last week, SSUSA has had to cancel tournaments in York, Pennsylvania, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

In addition, SSUSA moved several tournaments later into the season, including:

- The Oil City Classic in Tulsa, OK., from May 14-17 to June 18-21.
- The Bobby Chapp Memorial in Lansing, MI., from May 16-17 to July 11-12.
- The Steve Simmons / Mosquitoland Classic in Little Canada, MN., from June 4-7 to Sept. 10-13 (it will be a non-qualifying warmup to the World Masters Championships).
- The Quad Cities Classic in Rock Island, Ill. from June 20 - 26 to July 14 - 19.
- The Connecticut Masters Games (SSUSA runs the softball portion) from June 27-30 to the fall (dates to be announced).

And there is the ever-changing Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup in Nevada.

The original dates of Rock 'n' Reno were May 22-31 and they have changed dramatically more than once. There is still no certainty from the governor of Nevada. This is not unusual. The governors of all states are doing a delicate balancing act between public safety and opening their economies.

SSUSA officials were hoping to hold the Men's 40 Division and Women's Divisions in Carson City on May 29-31. However, SSUSA was informed by Carson City on Tuesday (5/5) that fields would not be available until mid-June. SSUSA officials are looking for alternative weekends for later in the season for the Men's 40's and Women's Divisions.

"We moved the 60 division to weekdays along with the 65-85 Divisions – and we pushed all of those divisions back one week, to June 2-4 in Sparks and Reno," said SSUSA Executive Director Fran Dowell. "There was not enough room on the weekend for the 60s because of very limited field space."

"On the June 5-7 weekend, we were able to get the four-field Reno complex," she said. "We have moved the Men's 50 and 55 Divisions to that weekend, on a space available basis."

SSUSA has moved back the entry deadlines and will let teams know as soon as the situation is clarified in each of

We will be depositing checks for tournaments that run after July 1 because we believe we will be able to run those tournaments.

HOWEVER, we recommend not sending in entry fees until we are closer to the entry fee deadlines. That especially applies to the Reno and Glen Burnie tournaments.

Player and Team Registration Fees:

If players or teams play in **NO** SSUSA tournaments until Dec. 31, 2020, we will credit another year to the player or the team.

Think of it like a fishing license: If you use it once, it counts.

Club and League Fees:

If a SSUSA Club or League paid their fees for the season and cannot play for the entire season, we will credit the fee for 2021.

We have asked our insurance carrier if we could get any kind of refund on the insurance while we were not able to play. Their answer was no. So, this is the best we can do.

Thank you for your patience. We all want to get back playing as soon as possible and we will continue to strive to make that happen soon!

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

Letters to the Editor: May 6, 2020

Catcher Wearing Mask

I would like to make a suggestion regarding the requirement that the catcher wear a mask.

I heard of an accident in the U.S. in which a guy who was oxygen deprived while

the states. If the situation is not clarified within two weeks of the start of each tournament, SSUSA will cancel or postpone the tournament and notify teams.

At this time, SSUSA recommends that teams do not send in entry fees or make hotel and flight reservations until we have confirmed the tournament.

STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN

Here is a State-by-State breakdown of where SSUSA tournaments stand until the end of June:

Nevada - Order in place through 5/15

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

CLICK HERE for for more information on Nevada's Road to Recovery.

Oklahoma - State order expired 4/30

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

SSUSA was informed by the City of Tulsa and the Parks and Recreation department that city-owned sports complexes and organized sports activities with more than 10 people will remain closed through June 1.

Due to this, the Oil City Classic has been re-scheduled for June 18-21.

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

Michigan - Order in place through 5/15

June 27 - 28: Holiday Classic Sturgis, MI

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

The Bobby Chapp Memorial, scheduled for May 16-17, has been rescheduled for July 11-12. Location and fields remain the same.

The Summer Swings for Rings in Detroit, which was also scheduled for July 11-12, has been cancelled.

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

Pennsylvania - Order in place through 5/8

May 16 - 17: Battle of the Roses York, PA (CANCELLED)

driving went head-on into a tree. Most catchers are not in shape and generally high on their BMI (Body Mass Index), so wearing a mask while playing may pose a danger.

In addition, the sun and its UV rays are stated as a killer of Wuhan virus (COVID-19).

If the temperature is over 80 and the sun is shining, you should waive the covering of face for the catcher.

Duane Williams Sacramento CA Islanders 65s

EDITORS NOTE: While the N95 masks are thicker, making breathing while playing harder, they are not required for catchers, officials or directors. They may wear the lighter masks, which are more breathable. In addition, SSUSA is developing face shields on ball caps that keep a thin plastic shield away from the face so breathing is normal even while playing. The reason for the rule is to protect the people the catcher is near (batters and umpires). These new rules and regulations are also designed to allow the sport to meet CDC recommendations so that we can re-start playing sooner.

How Different Will It Be?

A number of Syracuse Cyclones 75 players have these observations, questions and concerns:

- Will we be room sharing or be in single rooms? What about room cleanliness?
- What about socializing with teammates at the hotel -- will the lobby be off limits? Will we have to wear masks?
- What about eating? Will we be able to eat at restaurants, or will it have to be take-out or delivery and eat in our rooms?
- What about social distancing during the games? Will it be necessary – or even possible? Will we have to wear masks all the time?
- I would prefer to wait until all signs of the virus clear up. Hopefully by September. Mortality rate of all ages from virus if caught is about 5%. For seniors, it is more than 10%.

The Battle of the Roses has been cancelled. No new dates are available at the moment.

The State of Pennsylvania is set to open in phases. Beginning on May 8, 24 counties are scheduled to move from the Red Phase into the Yellow Phase. York County, the location of the Battle of the Roses, is not part of those 24 counties. Organized sporting events are scheduled to resume in the Green Phase.

New Mexico - Order in place through 5/15

May 16 - 17: High Desert Duel Albuquerque, NM (CANCELLED)

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

As was noted last week, the High Desert Duel in Albuquerque has been cancelled. No new dates are available at the moment.

The Women's Western Classic in Las Cruces is still on as scheduled.

Arizona - Order in place through 5/15

May 30 - 31: 40s Mountain Madness I Flagstaff, AZ (CANCELLED)

June 13 - 14: Mountain Madness I Flagstaff, AZ

June 20 - 21: 40s Cool Country Classic I Prescott, AZ

As was stated in last weeks newsletter, the 40s Mountain Madness I in Flagstaff has been cancelled. No new dates are available at the moment.

We will know more by May 29 on the status of the tournaments in June.

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

Missouri - State order expired 5/3

June 4 - 14: Missouri Open Columbia, MO

The park director in Columbia, MO has been in contact with tournament director Will Rogers and informed him that it is approved to go ahead at this point.

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

Maryland - No end date, indefinite

May 29 - 31: CRABTOWN CLASSIC Glen Burnie, MD

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

- I'm not playing or practicing (yet) in my league – and there are no plans to start soon, so I may not be in game shape.

Andy Endsley Syracuse NY Cyclones 75s

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sharing or not sharing rooms with teammates will be individual decisions. However, as antibody testing, effective treatments and immunizations become widely available, it will hopefully be less of a concern. As far as playing with masks, the catcher is the only player required to wear a mask. We do recommend other players wear masks or face shields.

In the short term, players may have to get take-out or delivery and eat in their rooms – that depends on individual states, and player preferences.

Our goal is to provide the framework for re-starting the sport as soon as possible in the safest manner possible. The ultimate decision is up to each player.

Manager's Responsibility?

I am sure that you and the other SSUSA personnel are getting a great many questions regarding the new rules and regulations.

The one that most concerns me as a manager is the third one on the list concerning managers being responsible for keeping any sick players or players in quarantine out of the tournament.

I would be interested in any discussion that might have been held by your leadership about possible lawsuits occurring against a manager as a result of this wording. Most all managers are not doctors, as you know. Sick has a broad connotation to it covering a much larger ground than just the coronavirus, but would obviously cover the coronavirus.

Also, I am sure you know that players could have the virus when they start a tournament and not even know they have it. However, if they do, they could theoretically pass it on to a teammate and/or opposing player without even

The beach and boardwalk in Ocean City, Maryland, are scheduled to reopen Saturday. No masks are required; however, social distancing remains in effect. SSUSA is waiting for confirmation on fields being open.

SSUSA National and Mid-Atlantic Director Tim McElroy has been in contact with the complexes in Maryland.

Minnesota - Order in place through 5/18

Sept. 10 - 13: Steve Simmons Memorial/Mosquitoland Classic Little Canada, MN (NEW DATES)

The Steve Simmons Memorial/Mosquitoland Classic has been rescheduled for Sept 10th-13th.

The tournament will be a tune-up for the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships and will **NOT** be a qualifier.

Texas - Sate order expired 4/30

June 4 - June 7: DFW Classic Grapevine, TX

Texas hair salons, barbershops, nail/tanning salons can reopen May 8 and gyms will be allowed to reopen at reduced capacity on May 18.

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

Hawaii - Order in place through 5/31

June 11-14: Hawaii Qualifier (CANCELLED)

The Hawaii Qualifier has been cancelled. The tournament will not be rescheduled.

SSUSA will waive the requirement for Hawaiian teams to play in a qualifier for the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships. Hawaiian teams will need to submit their roster to Hawaii State Director, Jeffrey Kimoto, jeffreylimoto@gmail.com, who in turn will submit the roster to SSUSA to determine skill level.

California - No end date, indefinite

June 12 - June 17: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sacramento, CA

June 16 - June 21: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Hemet, CA

California's stage 2 of reopening will begin on Friday, May 8.

Washington - Order expired 5/4*

knowing they were infected at a tournament.

It would seem to me that a strict interpretation of this language would then make the manager a possible target of a lawsuit possibly asking for financial damages if someone later on thinks they got infected at the tournament and learns that one of the opposing players had the virus at the time of the tournament.

I am not a lawyer, but in my business career I saw many lawsuits that resulted in financial redress that seemed unbelievable to me. I would appreciate any thoughts you and others had about this subject.

Mike Cordry

General Equipment WA 75s

EDITORS NOTE: We only hold managers responsible for asking players whether they are sick or in quarantine. This is an honor issue for the players to avoid them passing the coronavirus to other people at the parks. We will be issuing new Team /Player Agreements that all players must sign saying they understand that there is a chance of injury or contracting illnesses in groups during the tournament. This covers managers, as well, because the agreement is signed by the players.

The idea, of course, is to keep people as safe as possible when we start playing again. As with many things in life, there are no guarantees and some people may not be honest with their managers or us. We have no choice but to base our policy on trust and protect both managers and the organization in case someone is less than honest.

This policy is also designed for health departments and parks -- they will require many of these specific steps be enforced in order for us to begin playing again. We have already received notes from a few jurisdictions with specific questions regarding us playing again -- fortunately our new guidelines address all of their major issues -- which gives us hope that we will be able to re-launch the sport this summer.

June 13 - June 14: Northwest Cup Lacey, WA

June 25 - June 28: Inland Empire Classic Spokane, WA

*Lifting of restrictions will be coordinated with the governors of Oregon and California.

SSUSA should know more by May 25.

For more information on the above tournaments in Washington, please contact tournament director Butch Jones, via email: katstang7@gmail.com or phone: 360-791-3862.

Florida - Order expired 5/4

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

Florida has entered its first phase in reopening.

For more information on the Sunshine State Showdown, please contact Tim McElroy via email: PotomacSports1@gmail.com or phone: 301-514-2676.

Illinois - Order in place through 5/30

July 14 - 19: Quad Cities Classic Rock Island, IL (NEW DATES)

[CLICK HERE](#) for Illinois' five-phase reopening plan.

In response to Illinois' plan, the Quad Cities Classic has been pushed back to July.

For more information on the Quad Cities Classic, please contact tournament director Kenny Chard, via email: klchard@yahoo.com or phone: 309-721-9633.

Connecticut - Order in place through 5/20

June 27 - 30: CT Masters Games (POSTPONED - NEW DATES TBA)

The Connecticut Sports Management Group (Nutmeg State Games and CT Masters Games) has postponed all sporting events to the fall. New dates TBA.

Be sure to visit <https://seniorsoftball.com/?events> for all up-to-date information regarding SSUSA tournaments.

Dudley is HOTW for 2020

TOC Berths?

I know how SSUSA feels about our TOC being unique and that it is only for tourney champions. Recently I had a team manager suggest having both the first and second place teams from each Tournament of Champions qualifier be eligible to get a berth to our TOC next February 2021. The reason for this is because of the number of tourneys we have had to cancel this year because of the pandemic thereby having fewer teams qualifying for the TOC. We could only make this change for this year only because of all of the cancellations that are happening.

Chuck Sharkey
SSUSA New York State Director

EDITOR'S NOTE: At this point, we have had to cancel only one TOC tournament, the Tidewater Classic, and we have made the Crabtown Classic in Glen Burnie, a TOC Qualifier to take its place this year. Teams have the same number of chances to qualify, so we don't plan on changing the qualification rules.

However, if we need to cancel TOC Qualifiers in the coming weeks, that may change. As with almost everything in the pandemic, the timing of how life will go on remains in a constant state of flux.

Moving 60s to Weekdays in Reno

You are asking people that are not retired to burn up vacation time to play in the (Reno) tournament during the week. 60-65 players are most likely still working. I can tell you the team I play for will not be doing that since it means taking off Monday to drive up or hopefully be able to fly in from out of the area, then play Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and then drive home.

Are you going to cover the vacation time we use for this? Not a good scenario or plan. Then in September (during the World Masters Championships) you expect us to play 4 days. There goes a family's 2-week allotted annual vacation and leaves no family vacation. That will not go over well with the family members.

Keep the 60's on the weekend as they always are even if it is later then Memorial

DUDLEY

With many states beginning 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.

One of those vendors you can expect to see at many of SSUSA's tournaments is Dudley, America's premier softball company, founded in 1938.

Mike McCarron, a National Promotions Manager for Dudley, has been with the company for 38 years. McCarron is well-known in Senior Softball, earning numerous all-tourament selections playing with Randy Smith Softball.

This year, McCarron, who is also part of the testing process with players during product development, has his own signature bat. "It's pretty cool," says McCarron, who travels around the country selling and promoting Dudley, on having a signature bat. "I was at a few tournaments earlier in the year and some players asked me to autograph the bat. It was very flattering."

Regarding testing, McCarron has players from Texas, North Carolina, and his home state of Louisiana do on-the-field testing. Seeing how many swings it takes to break in the bat, or crack the bat.

"I love softball," says McCarron. "When I'm out on the fields, I forget about everything. I get to play with the guys I grew up with. The friends you make is amazing."

The latest offering from Dudley is the **Lightning Legend HOTW**, available in the following models:

One-piece signature bat series

12" barrel with 0.5oz end-load (Bobby Nifong)

14" barrel with full end-load (Mike McCarron)



Day weekend (or get another set of fields), and for the Worlds take it back to 3 days. If the wives, husbands, girlfriends, boyfriends complain they can't do the town, then do it when you aren't playing or go by yourself.

Waiting for the parks to open shouldn't decide where brackets are going to play.

Duff Criley
Tri-C-Machine, CA, 60s

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are no good choices in this pandemic.

Even if we can use a complex on the weekends, there will not be enough room for all divisions. That's why we moved the oldest division -- the 60s -- to the week. We understand that some teams, maybe many teams, will not be able to participate during the week.

However, some 60s teams may be able to play -- and that is better than no 60s teams being able to play.

We wish there was a better answer -- but the unusual restrictions caused by this pandemic force us to change when some divisions play... just to give some teams an opportunity to play.

We all hope this is over soon and we can get back to normal scheduling.



Two-piece bat series

0.5oz end-load
14" barrel full end-load



Dudley says its HOTW technology is exactly that: Hot Out The Wrapper!

The barrel compression ranges are specifically designed for senior softball, which is the foundation behind Dudley's HOTW composite bat technology.

New with the Dudley HOTW bat series is the manufactured date code on each bat. Showing that no one bat is the same.

This is the second in a series of what you can expect from Senior Softball vendors this season. Look for a highlight on Miken Sports and Worth Sports next week.

OBITUARIES - John Zoccato



John S. Zoccato

John Zoccato, 83, of Englewood, FL, died on January 15.

Zoccato was the long-time manager of Joseph Chevrolet, and was a two-time (2004 and 2011) Manager of the Year winner in Softball Players Association (SPA).

Additionally, Zoccato served as

Las Vegas Casinos Turned Into Food Banks



Boulder Station - Headquarter Hotel for the LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest and World Masters Championships

The closing of Las Vegas casinos due to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to mass lay-offs and an increase in demand for food supplies.

To meet this demand, Station Casinos (Boulder Station, Palace Station, and Sunset Station) has teamed up with

Commissioner for two senior softball leagues in Venice, FL, co-founded a travel league in Venice, FL, directed several Florida Half Century tournaments, and umpired.

"John was one of the most passionate people I have met about softball," said Melvin Eubank, who played on the Joseph Chevrolet team. "He lived and breathed softball and always wanted us to play the best opposition."

For his efforts, Zoccano was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) in 2013 in the Pioneer Manager category.

Here is what was said of Zoccano at the time of his induction...

Bill Lowry: "John has worked tirelessly for many years to provide senior athletes an opportunity to succeed and excel."

Lou Giovanini: "John has always loved the game of softball, and has devoted a great deal of his time, energy, and money to play competitive Senior softball. He does an excellent job recruiting players, staying in contact with those players and is very loyal to his players. I have a high regard for those individuals who aspire to be the best in their vocation or avocation. John has exemplified this trait."

Norm Ellis: "'Z' (as he is called) has managed 30 plus first place wins in the top division of play, 65, 70, and 75 major plus. John from the start has said 'We play the best or we don't play at all,' and that is what he has done."

Three Square Food Bank to serve as emergency food distribution sites.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

LS Warriors Sing America's National Pastime Song



The Louisville Slugger Warriors Amputee Baseball Team took to social media to show how much they miss the game with a rendition of Take Me Out to the Ballgame.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video.

Professional Sports Return!



Bubble Boy kicks off KBO season with ceremonial first pitch

For those feening for the return of live action sports, the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO) has you covered.

Playing in empty stadiums, the KBO began its season on Tuesday, May 5. You can catch the games on ESPN.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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