

# Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 19

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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*Sept. 4, 2020 - In This Issue:*

WMC Session 4 (Men's & Women's 50) Moves to Phoenix on New Dates

Milwaukee Classic Celebrates 20 Years

SAVE THE DATE: OKTOBER FEST CLASSIC KICKS OFF 2021 SEASON

From the Dugout: Managing Disappointment

OBITUARIES - 9/4/20



Flashback Friday: No Limits (Nevada) Then and Now 20 Years Apart. Photos courtesy of Connie Stewart.

### From the Dugout: Managing Disappointment



**By Terry Hennessy  
SSUSA CEO**

Disappointment, whether you are 5 or 50 years old, feels lousy. Depending on the importance of

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the situation, it can be devastating.

When we sent out notifications of change for the first three World Masters Championships sessions, we were disappointed not to be able to do the tournament in Las Vegas – we knew players and their spouses and friends looked forward to coming to Las Vegas all year.

Fortunately, we found good alternative sites in St. George, Utah, and Kingman, Az., and we could do those sessions on the same dates.

The fourth session (50 Men and Women) was much harder.

We kept hearing that the Nevada governor might be opening fields for tournaments for groups with proven Pandemic Protocols. Fortunately, we had used our protocols successfully in more than 20 tournaments throughout the country – so we were optimistic.

We knew, however, that the clock was ticking.

If the fields in Las Vegas weren't open by the first week of October, we needed a backup plan.

We checked cities with enough fields that were close on the same dates: nothing was open. Then we went further out, trying to keep the same dates: no cities with enough fields were open.

We then asked these cities for any dates in October.

Fortunately, Mesa/Glendale in the Phoenix area had three 4-plexes and one 6-plex on the last weekend of October.

We realize the change in both dates and location for the 50 Division is very disappointing because it entails new days off from work and changes in travel plans for players and their families.

On the bright side, the fields are very good and Phoenix is a wonderful place to play in late October.

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

## OBITUARIES - 9/4/20

The fourth session of the **World Masters Championships (WMC)** is moving from Las Vegas to the Phoenix area at the end of October.

“We were very lucky to be able to find an area with enough good fields anytime in October,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. “We appreciate all of the efforts of LVSSA and the Las Vegas area parks to try to get permission for us to use Las Vegas area fields – but unfortunately, they could not confirm that we would be able to use the fields under the Nevada governor’s phase-in plan.”

Now all four sessions of the WMC have been moved from Las Vegas to different locations.

Two weeks ago, SSUSA received notice that Las Vegas fields would not be open for tournaments through the end of September. As a result, the first and second sessions (55-85 men’s divisions) were moved to St. George, Utah, and the third session (Men and Women 40 Masters) were moved to Kingman, Az. The first three sessions will be played on their original dates. Schedules for the first two sessions have been posted on the tournament page.

The phase-to-open orders in Nevada, like many states, are based on a formula of the number and percentage of COVID-19 cases in each area throughout the state. At this stage in Las Vegas, tournaments are not allowed at least through the end of September, and there is no timeline for tournaments to be allowed.

SSUSA and LVSSA worked with both the Nevada governor’s office and the Nevada Attorney General’s Office in an attempt to get permission to run the tournament from Oct. 1-4.

That effort also failed.

The fourth session of the World Masters Championships, featuring all 50 men’s and women’s divisions, will be in Mesa and Glendale, Az.

**Oct. 30 – Nov. 1:** Men’s 50 Major-Plus, Men’s 50 AA and all Women’s Divisions.

**Oct. 29 – Nov. 1:** Men’s 50 Major and AAA

The City of Phoenix fields are closed, but Mesa and Glendale fields are still open. The tournament will use the Red Mountain, Skyline and Eastmark Softball Complexes in Mesa and Victory Lane in Glendale.



**Curtis L. Hazlewood**

Curtis Hazlewood, 73, of Modesto, Calif., died on July 29 from cancer.

In SSUSA, Hazelwood was a long-time member of Animals 60 and 65, and most recently played with Who 70. He last played in the 2019 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup.

With Animals 65, Hazlewood helped lead the team to a first place finish at the 2015 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships in the 30-team Men's 65 AAA Division.

Along with being an SSUSA member, Hazlewood was also a long-time member of Stanislaus Senior Softball Association (SSSA) as a player, manager, coach, commissioner and Director.

For his efforts, Hazlewood was inducted into the SSSA Hall of Fame in 2013.

"Curtis was my teammate and best friend for the past 20 years," said Dave Conley, manager of Who 70, and member of Animals. "It's hard to state what a great guy Curtis was. He would play any position I needed to put him in, and if you needed anything, he was the first one there no matter what."

"In 2010, when I had both my knees replaced at the same time and woke up from surgery, there Curtis was keeping me from thinking I could just jump out of that bed and walk on home," said Conley. "So it wasn't just his playing ability. He was the greatest person I've ever met. I'm proud to have known him and he will be in my life forever. #16 will never be worn by an Animal or Who player again."

The new Deadline for Entry: **Oct. 8**

SSUSA has sent notice to all 50 managers and players entered in the WMC and will be calling managers next week. Teams that cannot make the new dates will get a full refund.

## Roster Help for WMC

In order to help teams losing players during the pandemic, SSUSA is allowing teams to use their master roster for the World Masters Championships. All teams may use their master rosters, including teams that were not able to play in a qualifier.

Those rosters may only have three higher skill level players.

If a 40-65 year old team drops below 15 players, the team may add players in the same age and skill level to get to 15 players.

If a 70-85 year old team drops below 16 players, the team may add players in the same age and skill level to get to 16 players.

In addition, teams can add two (2) players from out of their region (same side of the Mississippi River) if they are in the same age/skill level this season to get to 14 players in 40-65 age groups and to get to 15 players in the 70 and older divisions.

After the entry deadline, teams cannot add players that would change their rating.

## Milwaukee Classic Celebrates 20 Years

BROOKFIELD, Wis. - The Milwaukee Classic (Wounded Warrior Tournament), held here at Wirth Park Softball Complex Aug. 6 - 9, celebrated its 20th year in 2020, 9th as a Wounded Warrior benefit tournament.

"This is the only SSUSA tournament where all proceeds raised go to Wounded Warrior Project," said Thom Mikich, Tournament Director.

"This year we raised \$8,000 (\$45,000 to date)," continued Mikich. "The greatest casualty is being



**James C. Lemmon**

Jim Lemmon, 57, of Castro Valley, Calif., died earlier this year on Feb. 6 from cancer.

Lemmon worked in law enforcement for 28 years and retired as a Lieutenant from the San Leandro Police Department. He also volunteered his time in the community as a youth sports coach for 26 years, most recently serving as the Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach at Monte Vista High School.

Lemmon's passing was featured in The Mercury News.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/02/07/monte-vista-girls-basketball-coach-jim-lemmon-remembered-for-being-a-good-man/>

Lemmon began his SSUSA career in 2012 with East Bay Oldies 50, before moving on to West Coast AfterShock (JU Ent/AfterShock) 50 as player/manager from 2014-2019.

In 2019, Lemmon played in the LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships, Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup, and SSUSA/CAN-Sirs Northern California State Championships. He earned All-Tournament honors at the 2017 Southwest Championships.

forgotten. Senior Softball will not forget.”

A total of 34 teams competed in the 2020 edition of the Milwaukee Classic.

Congratulations to the winners:

ALL IN - 50 AA

MINN LUMBERJACKS - 55AAA

MINN MERCHANTS - 60 MAJOR

POPE TRANSPORTS - 65 MAJOR

STUDZ PUB - 65 AAA

MINN MASTERS - 75 AAA

## SAVE THE DATE: OKTOBER FEST CLASSIC KICKS OFF 2021 SEASON



The 2021 season will officially begin a month early, as the inaugural **Oktoberfest Classic** will be held in Polk County, FL, October 24 – 25.

Games will be held at Auburndale Sports Complex and Walker Road Softball Complex.

Visit the [tournament page](#) for more information.

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