

EC Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Executive Council
Location: Schmitz residence
Date/Time: **Sunday, October 11, 2026 1:00pm**
Call to Order
Present: EC Members Gene Mehrtens, Darryl Dickerhoff, Rick Bergman, Mike Ferguson, AJ Koenig, Mark DeBold, Bob Wilson, Chuck Williams & Gary Schmitz. Not present: John Wilson. This meeting to discuss a full agenda prepared by Rick Bergman.

1. The date of January 9 at 10am was set for the annual Manager's Meeting. Location TBD. We will attempt to finalize the budget by Jan 20. Team deposits will be non-refundable $1,000 (increased to better handle preseason expenses) and will be due at the Jan 9 Manager's meeting. The balance of team fees will be due no later than March 1. Treasurer AJ mentioned that last year there were a few late-paying teams which required significant time on his part chasing down. It was agreed for this next year that teams will forfeit games until fully paid. It was agreed the EC will communicate to managers clearly, consistently and forcefully regarding fees.

2. RB summarized the status of the possible switch from a 501-C7 organization to a 501-C3 organization.

3. Steve Eckhard has prepared a draft of revised By-Laws for our review which upon finalization we will send to the IRS. Upon approval by the IRS, the EC can then make a firm decision to proceed with the 501-3C or not.

4. Discussion was had about a young candidate joining the EC to improve 43 division representation. Bob & Mike highly recommended Jared Mora, who is 45 and plays on the 43 Owls. He's also played in the MSBL. RB will reach out to Jared.

5. Discussion about the 43 Division – RB briefed all regarding the recent 43 playoff issue, and how the Championship has not and may not happen. We discussed the possibility of a 43 Manager's meeting in November or early December to discuss issues.

6. Team Status – RB briefed the EC about teams of concern. The 60 Dodgers would like to move to the West Conference. The 60 Grays are losing their manager, with Eric Hammerschmitt stepping up to replace Doug Weiss. The Perfectos are a team of concern, but no action taken.

7. Changing age divisions. After brief discussion it was agreed to no changes.

8. 70 Division – With more than 90 players over the age of 70, there is interest in forming a new 70-age group and play on weekday mornings to avoid conflicts with other divisions and have more field availability. This would be a draft league of 2-4 teams, playing 7 inning games. It was agreed to continue to explore, DD to check on field availability for weekday use.

9. An expansion team for the West Conference is in the works with 10 or so commitments to date, with Gary Gdula as manager.

10. Post Season Brackets – RB explained the controversy raised this past September by a team in the 43 division with the structured brackets. The EC agreed to continue as in the past vs the option of dynamic seeding.

11. Heat Policy – The Heat Policy was modified to include 'when a heat warning is in effect, games with start times outside the 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM time frame will be reduced to 7 innings".

12. The EC discussed and analyzed the criteria for 60 Division teams to play in the West Conference. The EC approved the 60 Dodgers request to move from the 60 Division East Conference to the West Conference. With the new 60 Division West Conference expansion team, the EC is projecting five 60 Division East Conference teams and eight 60 Division West Conference teams in 2027.

13. **Rule Changes** – we discussed and agreed as follows:

a. All cored bats such as Delano will be banned due to safety issues raised by the 43 Division. RB to send email notices ASAP to all managers to warn players from buying.
b. Safety Base – rule will be added to clarify.
c. When is Batters Slot an automatic out – our current rule is OK as is.
d. MLB rule differences – add to our rules that shifts will be allowed, pitcher on the mound disallows hidden ball trick, no limit to mound visits.
e. Rule change approved that Waivered players who are acting as a courtesy runner cannot steal bases. They can advance on a passed ball, wild pitch, or wild pickoff attempt.
f. Rule was approved that batter with CR designation must touch 1B after a walk or HBP.
g. Agreed that an outfielder can shift to an infield position, same as MLB.

14. <u>Miscellaneous</u>

- RB briefed EC on the yellow ball experiment in the Seniors this past season. It was agreed DD would obtain pricing from Hobbs for yellow baseballs, and we would then make a decision whether to pursue.
- League Business Cards – will print generically for all EC members.
- League Banner - disapproved
- Instructional Rule Videos – informational, RB to add link to league website
- MUSCO Lighting App – when reserving fields for 2027, we will attempt to gain control on lighting times for whatever fields we can, like we already do at St Peters and Lake St Louis.
- Importing game schedule into Arbiter – Gary, RB & Jack Eckhard will approach GSLAU on this to hopefully reduce errors due to manual imputing.
- GCS Name change – informational, no action.
- Lock Divisions on Website Separately – informational.
- Mascoutah HS – new field and lights. TBD as potential field, a long drive.
- Winter Warmup – Gene to follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.