# USA Softball of Connecticut 2021 (01110)

# Annual Meeting Minutes Middletown CT Elks Lodge #771

December 4, 2021

1. Call to order

Patricia Patusky (President) called to order the regular meeting of the USA Softball of CT at 10:03am on December 4, 2021.

A moment of silence was observed for Frank Begen, and prayers sent out to R Moffit, P Machol and Cliff Larose’s Father.

**Roll Call**

Bradley Sanchez (Secretary) conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Patricia Patusky, Henry Koritkoski, Cliff LaRose, Jessica Caro, David Reno, Carl Pignone, Frank Begen, Greg Post, Angelo Santomassimo, Bill Uluski, Don Mohr, Anthony Roberto, Steve Kolitz, Excused: Scott Beauregard, Stan Capp. Guests: Robert Signor, Jerry Schuette, David Pierson, Rich Wilkinson, Gary Johnson, Carl Franks, Wayne Legere, Peter Miller, Carl Marotta, Tim Roussin

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting

All received and read minutes from last meeting. Two changes from the 2020 minutes under treasurer’s report Section E: Should read Mike Olenski and under Player’s Representative report section A should read any tournaments at their current class until notified by Oklahoma. Minutes were accepted

1. Treasurer’s Report: Hank Koritkoski
   1. Financial Report was presented by Hank Koritkoski.
   2. Savings Account Balance as of November 2, 2021: $5,014.53
   3. Checking Account Balance as of November 2, 2021: $90,372.99
   4. Raymond James Investment Account as of October 31, 2021: $ 32,519.12
   5. Books are being audited by Michael Olenski and Sons at this time so 2021 account information not updated.
   6. Discussion was held to make suggestions on what to do with profits above our expectations and was tabled until new business.
2. President’s Report: Pat Patusky
   1. Bylaws were updated last year with the understanding that they are guidelines and can be amended at any time because it is a living document.
   2. Looking for a replacement for the Northcentral district commissioner due to Frank Begen’s passing.
   3. Ed Emielita resigned as Shoreline District commissioner and Dave Reno has been assigned as temporary commissioner.
   4. Grievance was submitted by Brad Sanchez and Jerry Schuette against Pete Notarino. The Grievance committee was Bill Uluski, Tony Roberto and Pat Patusky. Pete was suspended until September 7, 2021and was required to write a letter of apology for his actions. He appealed to the Nationals on the grievance and spent $300. The National office upheld suspension, but he does not have to write an apology letter.
3. Commissioner’s Report: Hank Koritkoski
   * 1. A National Council met in October.
     2. There were several Code changes to redefining Women’s division, also in Championship play, Men’s and Junior Olympics and Players pool and changing team’s classification to auto bump. Junior Olympics added an East and West Nationals to cut down on travel and expenses for teams.
     3. Team registration fees remain the same.
     4. No longer printing rule books or score books for the 2022 season.
     5. Looking for a new national registration website option.
     6. Many of the local leagues are independent and are not registering through USA softball, so umpires working those games are not insured, should anything happen during those games.
     7. We registered twice as many teams from last year to this year, but numbers are still down compared to 2019 season. Thank you to Dave Reno for his hard work.
     8. Looking for sponsorships to help cover costs
     9. A new organization titled One Nation is coming to CT to run tournaments and is registering players, not teams.
     10. Questions were asked and answered at the end of Commissioners report. A proposal was made to donate scorebooks to teams. Tabled until new business A motion was made to Pat Patusky by Steve Kolitz and seconded by Tony Roberto to donate the scorebooks and all were in favor, so motion carried. Dave Reno made a statement that all Associations in the state should have bylaws and or policies in place to protect the umpires from stand alone leagues that do not register with USA softball.
4. UIC Report: Cliff LaRose
   * 1. Umpires Meeting in Middletown on Saturday February 19, 2022.
     2. State Clinic for umpires will be on Tuesdays starting January 25, 2022 for 4 weeks at the Sportsplex in North Branford 6:30 -8:30. For new and existing umpires. It will consist of: Live play, go over rules and situational plays and an open book test. New umpires fee of $15 to attend.
     3. Junior Olympic Umpire fees to increase from $55 to $60 to stay in line with Fast pitch Nation.
     4. A proposal was made by Bill Uluski and Steve Kolitz to increase slow pitch umpire fees from $35 to $38 for the 2022 season. Pat Patusky took a vote and all were in favor.
     5. Looking to add another Deputy UIC for slow pitch.
     6. And it is still a requirement to have Safe Sport training and a background check each year for fast pitch umpires only.
     7. National Umpire School: Held in Epsom, New Hampshire on April 2 and 3, 2022.
     8. Umpire Registration is $44 for 2022 year.
     9. New Rules: See links below
5. JO Commissioner’s Report: Jessica Caro
   * 1. All adults (18+) involved in youth play must have a completed USA softball background check and complete Safe Sport Certification. This includes all coaches, assistants, scorekeepers, and umpires. BAC badges must be displayed while on field. 18+ athletes ARE required to complete Safe Sport Certification. It is a federal mandate. An in-person class will be held on Saturday January 22, 2022 at Sliders Grill & Bar in Berlin CT to assist any person filling out required paperwork.
     2. USA Softball 12U All American Games will be held in Oklahoma on August 12 – 14, 2022. 4 Ct athletes proudly wore the UAS jersey.
     3. USA Softball High Performance Program (HPP) identifies athletes who will: train compete and represent USA softball and serve as a pipeline to the National team.
     4. USA softball if CT is excited to announce the dates of our State Championships. The 10U -18U will run from July 29 -July 31, 2022 at various state locations. Contact Jessica Caro if interested in helping in any way. Visit website for all tournament info: www.usasoftballne.com
6. Tournament Director’s Report: David Reno
7. 752 team were registered in 2021.
8. The dates for all 2022 tournaments have all been solidified.
9. State tournament will include Class D, E, Rec. and Co-Ed. At the Sportsplex, Branford, Ct. Dates: August 12 –14, 2022.
10. All qualifiers have been posted on the NE website. State winner will get a National bid. Connecticut teams had a great showing in the Nationals: Dirt Dogs in Class A and B. DeMars did well and Trinity placed second in Class C Nationals. Willi Boyz came in second in the D nationals.
11. Need to work on registering more teams “east” of the river – Hamden, East Haven, Winsted, and North Central CT.
12. A motion was made by Steve Kolitz to increase the tournament directors fee from $30 to $45 dollars from each team and seconded by Angelo Santomassimo, the increase would not affect USA of Connecticut. Motion passed unanimously.
13. District Commissioner’s Reports:
14. No report.
15. Hank thanked everyone for their hard work especially Dave Reno and Jessica Caro. Pat Patusky as president did a very good job.
16. Player Representative Report: Angelo Santomassimo: It is the players and coaches’ responsibility to get players reclassified. They can appeal their classification from January 1st to August 1st of that year in writing. You are not officially reclassed until Connecticut USA softball gets notified by the National office in Oklahoma. Player plaques from the Nationals that played in August, have not been received from Oklahoma yet.
17. Old Business: Peter Miller submitted a grievance against Hank Koritkoski in 2020 to the National office for not following our by-laws sanctioned by USA softball. The National office ruled that the issues were resolved and Hank Koritkoski and USA CT Board was in good stature. Hank reported on state website that we have direct links to tournaments, insurance information and registration.
18. New Business:
19. Hall of Fame report by Bill Uluski: The HOF dinners were held on October 9th and 10th. Fast Pitch had 140 people attend and Slow Pitch had 190 attendees. Looking for another venue next year to accommodate crowd and other issues, and also sponsorships to offset cost of dinners. Next year’s dinner will be announced in late February 2022. The physical Hall of Fame is located in Erin’s Gym at 2275 Main Street Stratford, Connecticut.
20. Pat asked if anyone would like to look into having a CT USA softball newsletter to keep teams and umpires updated on what is happening in the state. A motion was made by Cliff LaRose to form a committee to create a newsletter. Seconded by Bill Uluski. Motion passed unanimously. The creation of the newsletter should not cost more than $1000.
21. A motion was made by Don Mohr to transfer $30, 000 per recommendation of financial adviser into the existing Raymond James account or create a new one. Seconded by Cliff LaRose. It passed unanimously.
22. A motion to start a scholarship from CT USA softball was made by Cliff LaRose and seconded by Rich Macdonald. It passed unanimously.

XIV: Adjournment

Patricia Patusky (President) adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Bradley Sanchez (Secretary)

|  |
| --- |
| The 2022 USA Softball Code & Rule Changes have been posted on [USASoftball.com](https://usasoftball.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3cb6efc2039accb2bb3032261&id=c4136ab83d&e=ef0d0f09ad) and are linked below for your convenience. The full documents as well as the Bylaws Changes document will be posted at a later date.   [2022 USA Softball Code Changes with Comments](https://usasoftball.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3cb6efc2039accb2bb3032261&id=7f99d2cc0d&e=ef0d0f09ad)  [2022 USA Softball Rule Changes with Comments](https://usasoftball.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3cb6efc2039accb2bb3032261&id=6edcc50102&e=ef0d0f09ad) |