

## **VSS Board Meeting minutes (draft)**

Date: February 2, 2026. Time: 5:30 pm. Location: Pepe's, Manchester

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Attending: Dick Nabel, Cicci Quatropani, Bill Hettinger, Jerry Biancucci, Mike Smith, Steve Vera, Jeff Schivetti, Tim Poloski, and Kevin Conklin. Absent: none

2. The minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting were approved

3. Commissioner's Opening Comments: Financially we are in the same or better shape than last year at this point

4. Player/Manager comments: None

5. Treasurer's Report: The balance is \$4,250.17 as of 1/31/26. The liability insurance bill of \$1,500 was paid today. The O&D will be paid later

6. Registration Update:

**Summary: Total - 29**

1 new PM only

3 AM only

9 AM & PM

16 PM only

7. The following 12 recommended rule changes submitted by the rules committee were discussed:

1) Allow teams to make defensive substitutions during the double inning so some guys don't have to sit 2-innings

Discussion was held. The board approved this recommendation: Yes – 7; No – 1

2) The committee also recommends the league track the number of games that do not go to completion like they did in 2024 and reevaluate double inning and sub rules mid-season if game time is a problem.

Tracking game information is a board task not a rule. The board discussed this recommendation and will ask managers to report games that do not go to completion to Tim when submitting scores.

3) A ball hit into the pitching screen is a foul ball.

Discussion was held. The board approved this recommendation: Yes – 8; No – 0

4) Drop the Flip Flop rule or make it 12 to 15 runs. (Note: SSUSA Flip Flop rule 5.5(2) is 10 runs. Current VSS rule mirrors SSUSA)

Discussion was held. The board rejected this recommendation: Yes – 0; No – 8

5) Change the home run rule. Open it. Let the guys that can hit him hit him. It's a five run rule inning anyway.

Discussion was held. The board rejected this recommendation for unlimited home runs: Yes – 0; No – 8.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved (yes 6, no 2) to send the home run rule back to the rules committee asking the committee to consider a change to the home run rule that would allow 3 home runs per team then outs in place of the current 2 home runs then 2 doubles then outs rule that is currently in place

6) Hit to the Outfield Grass Rule: a) Any ball hit to an infielder who is on the dirt who was able to knock it down and make the play, but the ball rolls onto the grass that infielder be allowed to continue to make the play and throw out the runner going to first base.

Discussion was held. The board rejected this recommendation: Yes – 1; No -7

7) A base runner at third base be allowed to step into foul territory, even with the base, when there is a batter at the plate, particularly a strong pull hitter. When the ball is hit the runner must go back to retouch third base and then they can run home.

Discussion was held. The board rejected this recommendation: Yes – 1; No -7

8) Allow a team to get subs to bring them 11 players instead of capping it at 10

Discussion was held. The board approved this recommendation: Yes – 8; No – 0

9) Change the position rule when a sub plays to exclude up the middle because nobody plays that when they're short a player and add in second base so there's an infielder's spot.

10) Subs can play anywhere.

The board discussed recommendations #9 and #10 together as they are related. The board approved recommendation #10: Yes -8, No – 0 and took no action on #9

11) There were two similar have to umpire a game after arguing with an umpire suggestions submitted. The committee considered the following:

If a player argues with an umpire and receives a yellow card/ejection, they have to umpire a game before they will be allowed to play again.

Discussion was held on this recommendation and the issuance of yellow cards. The board rejected this recommendation : Yes – 2; No - 6

12) The pitching screen must cover ½ of the rubber

Discussion was held. The board approved this recommendation: Yes – 6; No - 2

The board also reviewed the suggested rule changes not recommended by the rules committee. No action was taken.

## 8. Committee Reports

a. Internal Competition - (see items #6 registration update above)

### b. Umpires

The league needs umpires. Incentives for umpires were discussed. Individuals who umpire 15 to 24 afternoon league games for the 2026 season will be given a \$25 gift

certificate to a league sponsor. Individuals who umpires 25 or more afternoon league games for the 2026 season will have a free registration for the afternoon league for the 2027 season (but not the gift card).

c. Sponsors

A list of current and prior sponsors will be distributed. We will reach out to reconnect with long time sponsors who are not currently sponsoring the league. The sponsor fee will \$200.

d. External Competition

The 1-Pitch tournament will be a league social event this year with teams be formed from league membership. We are considering August 1, 8, or 15 for the 1-pitch tournament. Dick will contact the town and other leagues to confirm determine availability of community field for these dates.

e. Social

Kevin Conklin will handle social committee (holiday party) this year

9. Old Business

The draft schedule will be discussed at the next meeting

10. New Business

Cicci presented an idea to put a chalk line in the infield at Henry Park or in the outfield at Community Field in order to make the infield the same size at both fields. Discussion was held. The board elected to take no action.

11. Next meeting date: The next meeting will be March 2, 2026 at 5:30pm. Location TBD.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.