

SMSBL Members:

Let me start out right off the bat with an apology to all of you for the delay on getting out the summer schedule in a timely manner.

I will say right up front that most of the blame falls right on me. Please look at the following facts as just information for your consideration and a league update, not as excuses.

As most of you know we have been trying to work out a new working agreement with our co-leaser, ESBR, for almost a year. Our Lease with the city for this facility is up this year and the city would not talk to us about a new lease until we worked things out with ESBR. We finally came to an agreement but this took up a lot of time and effort and fell right into scheduling season.

Next, having lost seven teams due to the economy, we broke our long standing rule and let three teams have a little more time to get the money in. We could not start the schedule until we were sure they were in. This was a one time grace period due to the economy that will not be repeated, I learned my lesson on that.

Our 35+ division has only Four teams and each team was going to have to play the other three teams seven time each. This was not a desirable situation so several days of work and delay was absorbed in order to set up inter league play for the 35+ teams with Woodland/Davis MSBL. This caused further delay but hopefully will be fun and maybe useful in the future.

Also, the new agreement gives us control of the snack bar for the second half of the year. This is a new thing for us and requires us to jump right into action so the snack bar remains open. We will be developing procedures and such and ask for your understanding while we get this operation under control. This as you can imagine also is taking a lot of time and effort, also slowing things down. **I do want to ask you to support the snack bar to your fullest. It now directly aids our league. Hopefully it will allow us to not only meet all our obligations but MAYBE lower future fees. Time will tell.**

To add insult to injury, Davis parks and recreation double scheduled some of our nights at Playfields with NABA. we lost those dates and had to scramble for more dates.

Next, the scheduling program became infected with a virus and really screwed up things when we were almost done. This virus infected my personal computer and put me computerless for four days. Virus is now cleaned and it is safe to go to our web site again.

The whole board deserves a big "attaboy" for all their work and diligence. Boyce and JT deserve a big hand for all the work with ESBR and the facility. Dennis and Mark also get kudos for the hard work keeping the fields and facility top notch. Nate and Rob should be singled out for ten "attaboys" for working us through this schedule minefield and for getting the snack bar out of the starting blocks.

Once again I apologize and ask for your understanding and patience. I think, and hope, the problems have crested and it is down hill from here.

Hope you all have a good summer season.

Lanny Ropke
President, SMSBL