

Cape Cod Senior Softball League Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026

Members Present: Jim Gunning, Ben Caswell, Jack Avery, Mike Barry, Bob Potter, Rob Richardson, Abe Gorelick, JoJo Schaefer, Kevin Barry

Absent: Nikki Hilton, Dan Keane

Guests: Don Saulnier

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Gunning at 4:00 pm.

Moment of silence for Mike Hannafee and Mike Onnembo.

**Treasurer Report:** (Barry)

Kevin presented an overview of December financials, including balance sheet 12/31/2025, Income statement 12/31/2025, and FY 26 Budget vs Actuals 12/31/25 – 12/31/24.

**Screen Rule Reconsideration:** (Umpires)

In our previous CCSSL Board meeting, board voted the following motion:

*For all divisions, utilize the screen as mandatory with the pitcher torso and head completely behind the screen after the ball is released. Once contact is made, the pitcher is an active fielder. Penalty: Umpire will give warning on first offense, and removed as pitcher for subsequent offense.*

The head of umpires requests the Board re-consider the new “screen rule” for these reasons:

- Difficult to enforce resulting in uneven application
- Distracts umpire focus on other critical duties
- Is overly punitive to pitchers
- Creates potential conflict and animosity between players and umpires

*Motion made to rescind the new rule (as described above) returning to the prior 2025 screen rule: See Rule Effected Page 22 Rule 6 Section 11, wording below. Intention is that all divisions use the pitching screen, and pitchers are encouraged to get behind the screen. Motion made by Ben, seconded by Bob Potter, motion passes unanimously.*

#### SECTION 11. PITCHING SCREEN RULE.

- A. At the beginning of each half inning or when a pitching change is made during any half inning, the pitcher will position the screen, no more than four feet in front of the pitching rubber (measured to the end of screen legs), with its closer side no more than one foot from the middle of the rubber on the glove side of the pitcher. The pitcher will deliver all pitches to the side of the screen, not over the top.
- B. The CCSSL strongly encourages the pitchers in all divisions to move entirely behind the screen upon release of each pitch and before the ball reaches home plate.
- C. The pitcher may make a defensive play on any batted ball.
- D. A batted ball that hits the screen will be declared "No pitch, dead ball", with no penalty on the batter.
- E. A thrown ball that hits the screen will be a live ball, play on. A thrown ball that becomes lodged in the netting of the screen will be declared a dead ball, with runners returning to the last base touched.
- F. Umpire judgments on screen situations are not subject to appeal.

#### **New Player Onboarding and Evaluation:** (Gunning/Doiron)

Jim Gunning and Bob Doiron discussed goals for new players: *Onboarding leading to Evaluations.*

- Player Registration:
  - Welcome Letter
  - Add to CCSSL Mailing list
  - Assign Mentor
- Mentorship:
  - Establish Communications
  - Engage Player in League Activities
  - Responsive Interactions
- Evaluation Planning
  - Schedule Evaluations
  - Instruct and Inform Players
  - Player Sign-ups (track & Monitor)
- Evaluations:
  - Structure Evaluation
  - Assignment of field Support Team
  - Execute Evaluations

Bob Dorion discussed suggestions for this year's evaluation sessions.

- Bob Dorion will make initial phone call to new players, including topics such as:
  - Welcome to the league
  - Point them to website
  - Give them the evaluation dates and expectations for evaluations
- Bob sent document to Jim regarding:
  - What he needs to do before the event
  - Resources needed/manpower needed
  - Actual event
- Other topics:
  - Want protocol for players showing up without registration (historically 10% walk-on)
  - Outlier protocol – those on wrong field
  - Coed: Same field, combined with D3 & D4, although Coed followed D3/D4

**Member Registration as of 1/19/26: (Gunning)**

Type	2026 Returning	2026 New	Total 2026	2025 Returning	2025 New	Total 2025	Diff All
<b>D1</b>	19	1	20	27	1	28	-8
<b>D2</b>	29	2	31	38	1	39	-8
<b>D3</b>	39	1	40	36	1	37	+3
<b>D4</b>	22	0	22	20	0	20	+2
<b>COED</b>	11	0	11	12	0	12	-1
<i>ALL DIVS</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>-12</i>
<b>Pool</b>	5	0	5	4	0	4	+1
<b>Rec</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Volunteer</b>	3	1	4	2	0	2	+2
<b>Total</b>	128	6	134	139	3	143	-9

## **MA Games (Kemple)**

MA State games has awarded Cape Cod for location of 2026 MA State Games. Typically, they take place end of July. Bob Kemple encouraged them to move earlier because they are too close to Classic.

- May 29, 30, 31 scheduled, not Memorial Day weekend
- Historically 4 Divisions, 60, 65, 70, 75, adding 50s division.
- Teams will have 3 game play on Friday and Saturday, each team will play 3 games on Friday and Saturday
- Friday, games will start at 8/9am.
- Sunday 1 game elimination
- Reserved Memorial, Potter, Bassett, also reserved Sandy Pond
- Did get reserved hotels with special rates, Freebird, Uncommoner, Margaritaville all special rates.
- Welcome night at Uncommoner or Tugboats
- Press Release coming from MA State Games
- Rules, bats, balls standard common practice, same as Classic
- Maybe cookouts on first day, no food trucks. Need hosts, umpires
- Considering sponsorships. VIP opening ceremony on Cape
- Age 40 and up, women's tournament in Springfield

## **Recruiting (Schaefer)**

Ideas from the Recruiting volunteer group (12 volunteers):

- Presentations to Council on Aging (5 dates) and Rec departments
- 200 flyers and Rack cards
- May offer informal practices
- Social media presence
- Grocery store 1:1 connection
- Emphasis on community/comradery/friendship
- Create a new player pathway/mentor
- Radio Station contact
- CASL outreach
- Other:
  - Need push on awareness (press, articles, town websites)
  - Goal of 10% growth this year
  - Do we have retention program (reaching out to existing players to make sure they return)

- Perhaps incentive people to bring in players (\$25 discount on registration on players you bring in?) Put name in bucket if bring someone to evaluations
- Suggestion to make a call to the 400 members - personalize
- JoJo asked if Jim could send an email blast

## **Sponsorship (Potter)**

Proposal to formalize our sponsorship management. As we expand, league sponsorship is more important, community engagement. We need to excite these sponsors and keep them tied to the league.

Recommending we have a dedicated sponsorship committee to manage sponsors, enhance the value of being a sponsor in this league.

### Scope:

- Formalize sponsor programs
- Elevate league sponsors
- Recruitment, onboarding, communication, relationship management with sponsors
- Reporting and governance
- Professionalize sponsor relationships
- Look for other opportunities for sponsorships
- Someone that can sell the excitement of the league
- Communicating the value of the league
- Other:
  - Need target list, diversified list of businesses (can't have 15 hotels)
  - More restaurants
  - Follow up, written and in person
  - Active with Chamber of Commerce
  - Suggestion to offer 3 year deals
  - Idea to give plaques to sponsors

Bob Potter, Kemple and Jim Gunning to compile list of names from registration where they indicated jobs in sales or marketing.

### Committee structure:

- Sponsorship leader
- 2 - 4 members to be a part of the committee
- Interact with other volunteer committees
- Look at registrations to see who has past in Sales

## Tournament Teams Request for funding: (Gunning)

We invest in our tournament teams in an effort to enhance player experience while marketing the league and the Classic Tournament.

- Enrich and broaden CCSSL member playing experience
- Increase league recognition and national awareness
- Promote CCSSL as destination for senior softball players
- Attract new teams to the Classic

### Tournament team requests:

Team	Tournaments	CCSSL Players	Registration Fees	Recommendation
Dugout Dawgs 75s	East Coast Tournament, Pompano	RICHIE ARCHAMBAULT, ROSS COPPLEMAN, JOHN DANBY, MARTY DEMARTINO, BILL EAGAN, MICHAEL GROSSMAN, EDDIE JAY, STEVE JONES(substitute) ROBERT KEMPLE, TIM MCGOVERN, VIN STEBBINS, BEN CASWELL	\$500	\$500
CC Mariners 70s	East Coast Tournament, Pompano	Craig Andrews, Tim Bowler, Tony D'Allessandro, Dan Frye, Larry Kanupp, Bob Kemple, Jim McNamara, Bob Maruca, Dave Pina, Frank Pina, Mike Preite, Ken Rogers, Paul Tangusso	\$650	\$650
One More 50s	April (RI) \$400 May (CT) \$400 June (CT) \$600 July (NY) \$700 Aug (CT) \$400 Oct (CT) \$400 Oct (MA) \$500 Nov (FL) \$750	Rich Rideout, Rock Rose, Andy Maddon, Mike Waite, Chuck Arvinitas, Ferdie Miller, Chris Sheehan, Perry Comeau, Ron Carpenter, Tim Utley, Greg Downs, Steve Ellard	\$4,150	\$2,000
Ockers 65s	March Virginia Beach \$690 April Charlotte ISSA \$575 May Raleigh SSUSA, \$660 June Roanoke ISSA \$575 July Syracuse USSA \$660 July Louden USSA \$680 Aug Richmond ISSA \$575 Sept Las Vegas SSUSA \$890	Gary Innamorati, Mike Barry, Eric Weiser, Ed Fegreus, Arnie Marrero, Bob Trabucco, Gary Arnie, Craig Andrews, Dave Perillo, Jay Houser, Greg Fallon, Keith Fluker	\$5,305	\$2,500

*Motion to approve \$500 to Dugout Dawgs 75s, contingent on an acceptable disbursement process, motion made by Mike Barry, seconded by Rob Richardson. 6 - 0, with 1 abstaining, motion passes.*

*Motion to approve \$650 to CC Mariners 70s, contingent on an acceptable disbursement process, motion made by Abe, seconded by Rob Richardson. 6 - 0, with 1 abstaining, motion passes.*

*Motion to approve \$2,000 to One More 50s, contingent on an acceptable disbursement process, motion made by Ben Caswell, seconded by Rob Richardson. 4 - 1, with 2 abstaining, motion passes.*

*Motion to approve \$2,500 to Ockers 65s, contingent on an acceptable disbursement process, motion made by Bob Potter, seconded by Ben Caswell. 3 - 1, with 3 abstaining, motion passes.*

**Other Topics:**

- Hank Bowen worked with Dennis Rec department, suggested idea to book Kelley 2, league games under the light. Proposal is that every team plays one game under the light. Jim Gunning to discuss with Division presidents. Total cost of \$750 for every team to play 1 game under the lights. Issue with putting the fence up and down, Jim will bring up with Division presidents to get feedback.
- Want agenda item regarding Managers for upcoming season

*Motion to go into Executive Session made by Ben Caswell, seconded by Rob Richardson, motion passes unanimously.*

*Motion to close Executive Session made by Ben Caswell, seconded by Bob Potter, motion passes unanimously*

*Motion to adjourn at 6:15pm made by Abe, seconded by JoJo, motion passes unanimously.*

**Next Meeting:** *Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Ryan's Family Amusements (if in person), otherwise Zoom invite.*

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