

Cape Cod Senior Softball League Special Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 2026

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

Guests: Glenn Beard, Donny Saulnier

Call to Order

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

Review, discuss and vote on recommendations from the Rules and Policy Committee.

Rules Committee: D-1 Bill Campbell & Dave Perillo 1) D-2 Rich Archambault, Bob Doiran & Dana Peterson D-3 Eddie Jay & John Vaughn D-4 Sheila Boyle & Bob Reynolds Chairman Glenn Beard D-3

1. Batter's Box Change-Change the current Batter's Box rule to align with that for SSUSA below:

(Rule effected Page 24 Rule 6 Section 3 Paragraph A) Refer to Exhibit 1A for copy of current CCSSL Rule, Exhibit 1B for a copy of Batting Positions from SSUSA Playing Rule and Exhibit 1C copy of clarification from SSUSA Message Board

"The batter must take an initial position with his back foot no further forward than a line defining the front edge of home plate. The batter will be called out if the batter makes contact with the ball when the back foot is completely further forward than the line defining the front edge of home plate".

This means that the front foot location is deemed in play UNLESS the front foot steps in front of or on the plate.

Rationale: The current Batter's box (Mat or turf) are not sized correctly and are often not placed or aligned properly, potentially causing an inappropriate OUT call, which was witnessed many times in league play as well as in the Classic. This change would fix the focus onto the stationary plate and eliminate the variability in Mat size and positioning. In addition, many umpires did not enforce the current rule because it is too difficult to manage, however, one Umpire made a commitment to start enforcing the rule only in the playoffs which proves the rule inconsistent with normal league play. Shifting the Batter's Box rule to align with the current SSUSA rule allows the umpire to more easily watch and enforce the rule and also prevents Batter's from advancing forward towards the Pitcher which addresses the safety issue.

Motion to accept the Rules Committee recommendation made by Mike Barry, seconded by Abe Gorelick, motion accepted as written above in green.

2. Replacing Home Safety Home Plate with a line to be crossed (Rule Effected Page 36 Rule 8 Section 10 paragraph B) Refer to Exhibit 2A for copy of current CCSSL Rule, Exhibit 2B for existing scoring flat placement Exhibit 2C for placement of scoring line, Exhibit 2D1& 2D2 Diamond Layout per SSUSA and Exhibit 2E from SSUSA 2025 Rules Summary

"Runners must touch runner's home base scoring line or touch the ground beyond the runner's home base scoring line."

This rule change replaces Rule 8 Section 10 Paragraph B

Rationale: This will match tournament play easier call for the umpire and lessen the chance of injury

Motion to accept the Rules Committee recommendation made by Dan Keane, seconded by Ben Caswell, motion accepted as written above. 4 – 4, Commissioner voted to break the tie.

3. Courtesy runner exceeding allowable entry shall be an umpire call, not require an appeal by defensive team (Rule Effected Page 13 Rule 4 Section 7 Paragraph I) Refer to Exhibit 3 for copy of current CCSSL Rule

"When a courtesy runner touches the base the umpire will rule the courtesy runner out for any violation of the courtesy runner eligibility rules."

This change eliminates the requirement of the appeal process to rule out a Courtesy Runner if a Courtesy Runs in excessive of number time allowed per game per Rule 4 Section 7 Paragraph C

Rationale: The umpire keeps a record of the Courtesy Runners and It is difficult for a defensive team to keep track of courtesy runners when they have all players in defensive positions

Motion to accept the Rules Committee recommendation made by Dan, seconded by Ben, motion accepted as written above. Motion denied with a vote of 5 – 3.

- 4) In D-1 & D-2 allow option to play without pitcher screen (Rule Effected Page 22 Rule 6 Section 11) Refer to Exhibit 4 for copy of current CCSSL Rule.

Rules Committee Recommendation modified as follows:

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.

Motion made by Dan Keane with revised language above, Rob Richardson seconded it. Motion Passes with vote of 6 – 2.

- 5) D-1 & D-2 to have players to be Courtesy Runners twice in one game (Rule Effected Page 13 Rule 4 Section 7 Paragraph C) Refer to Exhibit 5 for copy of current CCSSL Rule

"Any player on the roster maybe used as Courtesy Runner but that player may not run more than twice in a regulation game"

Rationale: This will be in align with D-3 & D-4 rules and given managers more options with players with minor injuries affecting their running ability

Motion to accept the Rules Committee recommendation made by Dan Keane, seconded by Ben Caswell, motion failed by a vote of 5 – 1 with 2 abstaining.

Other Topics:

In the future, Commissioner suggested D4 division to consider: *D-4 to allow one player per team to be designated as batter only with the option to have a substitute batter runner from home plate (Page 37 Rule 8 Section 1) (refer to Detail paragraph 14)*

Proposed changes to CCSSL Policy:

- 1) Permanent Pool Player, Fall Ball Team Player and / or COED Team Player looking to be assigned to a regular divisional team will be required to participate in the evaluation process Add highlighted green sentence - Refer to Exhibit 3 for current language (page 3) Division Placement Policy (2nd paragraph)

Each year the League will conduct at least three evaluation sessions in the spring.

New players and players returning to the league after an absence of a year or more must participate in at least one session to be considered for placement on a team. A player who was previously a permanent pool player, Fall Ball Team Player and or a COED team player and is looking for a placement on a divisional team will be required to participate in at least 1 evaluation.

Should an evaluation session be cancelled due to weather or other reasons, the commissioner and division presidents will determine if a make-up session is needed. Players who do not attend at least one evaluation session will be placed in the league player pool and be evaluated in preseason games.

Motion to add the sentence in green as recommended by the Policy Committee (in green) made by Ben, seconded by Abe. Motion fails by a vote of 7 – 1.

2) Change Tie Breaker Protocol - Add Head to head run differential to be 2nd tier tie breaker -Refer to Exhibit 4 for current language (Page 11)

Division and Tournament Champion (3rd Paragraph) In case of identical win/ lose record the Tie Breaker protocol for Post Season Tournament placement is as follows:

1st) Head to head record

2nd) Season head to head run differential between teams with identical records

3rd) Average runs allowed for all season games

4th) Average positive run differential for all season games

5th) Coin Toss

Motion made to add additional tie breaker language (above in green) made by Bob Potter, seconded by Dan Keane, motion passes unanimously.

Motion to assign Nikki Hilton as our new Coed division president, motion passes unanimously.

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Ryan's Family Amusements (if in person), otherwise Zoom invite.

Suggested Topics for next meeting:

MA Senior Games

Player Evaluations/New Players/Mentorship/Dave's instructional program (Bob Dorrian)

Sponsor Coordinator (Bob)

Recruitment/Registration

New Player/Mentorship