

2017 OPCSSL Captains' Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item	Impact	Additional Info
1	Introductory Remarks	
2	Comment on Riverdale Park Permits	Wednesday Division Appendix A
3	OPCSSL Trophy Expansion	League Appendix B
4	Rule Change Proposals	Appendix C
a.	Later start time	League
b.	Field changes	League (2018+)
c.	Removal of umpires from consolation rounds of play-offs	League
d.	Restructure play-offs	League (2018+)
e.	Clarification of Rule 36 re: pitchers in the active batting order	League
f.	Proposal re: cones on foul lines	League
g.	Batting order proposals	League
h.	Request for review of 2016 change re: pitches to female players	League
5	Banking Resolution	League Appendix D
6	2016 Financial Statements / 2017 Budget	League Available upon request.
7	Any Other Matters	
8	Adjournment	

Appendix A – Comment on Riverdale Park Permits



Discussion

- The OPCSSL has 2017 permits for Diamonds 1 & 2. These are the same permits that we had last year.
- However, it has come to the Commissioner's attention that the Wednesday schedule says Diamonds 1 & 3 and these were the diamonds used last year. We previously had permits for Diamonds 1 & 3.
- It is understood that there is a city run program that has a permit for Diamond 3 starting at 6:00 pm. However, it is also understood that they have been amicable and not requested use of the diamond until our games completed at 6:30 pm. The Past Commissioner is not aware of any complaints.
- It is recommended that we continue use of Diamonds 1 & 3. However, in the event of a conflict related to Diamond 3 after 6:00 pm, the OPCSSL teams would need to move to Diamond 2 (for which we have a permit) to complete the game.
- The Commissioner is open to a discussion regarding long-term solution to this matter.

Notice



A change has been proposed for this trophy.
An application is being submitted to the Captains for expansion of the OPCSSL trophy.

Proposal summary:

Single story, wooden construction addition to the base of the OPCSSL trophy. Addition would add approximately twenty (20) units. A single unit to be allocated annually based upon merit. Budget of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) has been allocated for this expansion.

For more information & to tell us what you think:
OPCSSL Captains' Meeting on May 3, 2017 at 5:15 pm
at the Fox & Fiddle.

Open to consideration of other options.

Appendix C – Rule Change Proposals

a. Proposal:

Later start time of 5:30 pm or 5:45 pm to allow for enhanced participation of management and others.

Commissioner Comments:

Current diamond permits (2017) are for 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm with Rule 8 noting that the games are to start no later than 5:20 pm. All else equal, a later start time would result in less playing time.

Upon mutual agreement, captains can choose to start a game at a later time. There are also accommodations currently within the rules for players arriving late (see “Rule 11”).

Changing the time of the park permits is not possible for the 2017 season. Investigation of a later start time for 2018 season is possible; however, experience has generally been that there are leagues / teams using the current diamonds after our 6:30 pm end time. Any decision regarding a later start time for the 2018 season would need to be made prior to the deadline for seasonal park permit applications (generally late November).

b. Proposal:

Change from McCleary Park to parks closer to the downtown core which may include the 3 Trinity-Bellwoods diamonds and / or Stanley Park.

Commissioner Comments:

Upon agreement of the OPCSSL Captains, Commissioner is willing to undertake an investigation of other diamonds for the 2018 season.

Note that Trinity-Bellwoods Centre is not available for the 2017 season. Anecdotally, discussions with City of Toronto permit officer notes increased demand for parks / permits.

As noted under a. (above), any decision regarding changing parks (or permit times) would need to be made prior to the deadline for seasonal park permit applications (generally late November). Agreement amongst captains would need to be done either via special meeting or electronically. There can be no guarantee that diamonds requested would be available at the dates / times requested.

c. Proposal:

Removal of umpires from consolation rounds of play-offs.

Commissioner Comments:

Savings would be \$40.00 per game (if umpire costs remain constant) or \$440.00 (given 11 consolation games are played including those played on the Saturday).

d. Proposal:

Restructure play-offs such that the only games played on the Saturday are the Championship and Consolation Championship games (i.e. the Thursday vs. Wednesday games).

Commissioner Comments:

Would require either 1) elimination of the “Pre-season” game or 2) extension of the play-offs one additional (Wednesday / Thursday) week. If adopted, proposal would not take effect until 2018.

e. Proposal:

Clarification of “Rule 36” regarding that pitchers must be in the active batting order.

Commissioner Comments:

Currently, the first line of "Rule 36" reads: "Pitchers shall appear in their teams batting order and must play at least one inning of defence in the field." Amendment would clarify that the pitcher must be in the active batting order and Rule 36 would be amended to read: "Pitchers shall appear in their teams current batting order and must play at least one inning of defence in the field." [emphasis added]

As with all rules, any mutual agreement amongst the captains would allow the rule to be waived or amended.

f. Proposal:

Teams acquire two cones to mark foul lines approximately 100 feet from first and third base. Cones would responsibility of the "Home" team. Cones would become mandatory in 2018 onwards but no proposed penalties for non-compliance.

Commissioner Comments:

None.

g. Proposal:

Both proposals below relate to the batting order. Note Proposals g. i. and g. ii. are mutually exclusive (i.e., if agreed upon, only one proposal can pass). Note that the proposals would not change "Rule 12. 25% Rule" as it relates to defense.

- i. No three batters of the same gender in a row.
- ii. No four batters of the same gender in a row.

Commissioner Comments:

As there are no proposed changes to the 25% Rule as it relates to defense, compliance under Proposal g. i. would be achieved by either:

- (1) having a minimum 33% female participation and a static batting order; or
- (2) having between 25 – 33% female participation and a "flexible" batting order.

A "flexible" batting order has been adopted in other leagues. The following language is taken from the Toronto Sport and Social Club rules. Note that this example from the Toronto Sport and Social Club has fewer batters (9) than what is normal under the OPCSSL, but the same principle applies.

"If the male:female ratio is greater than 2:1, then the batting order is two (2) men followed by one (1) woman. The male order and female order must always stay the same, although the overall order when mixed may change depending on the male/female ratio. For example, if a team has 7 men and 2 women present, the batting order will be: man 1, man 2, woman A, man 3, man 4, woman B, man 5, man 6, women A, man 7, man 1, woman B, man 2, man 3, etc..."

h. Proposal:

Proposal is for a league-wide binding referendum amongst female players on whether female players should be afforded 4 pitches. If referendum passes, it would reverse decision taken at 2016 Captains Meeting where a uniform 3 pitch rule (regardless of gender) was adopted. See attached note.

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Issue Note

OPCSSL Female Pitch Allotment

Issue: The pitch count for OPCSSL female players was revised from four pitches to three pitches for the 2016 season. This note provides information to support a request that a poll be taken of teams before the 2017 season to determine the pitch count for female players for the 2017 season.

Background:

Some female players were surprised that the pitch allotment for women was adjusted for the 2016 season at the 2016 OPCSSL captains' meeting without any prior consultation with affected players.

While equality is certainly a laudable objective, it's not uncommon that even at the highest levels of athletic excellence there are different rules for women and men. For example:

Olympic Event Specifications		
Event	Men	Women
Hurdle Sprint (distance in metres)	110	100
Hurdle Sprint (hurdle height in inches)	42	33
Shot put (implement weight in kilograms)	7.26	4
Hammer Throw (implement weight in kilograms)	7.26	4
Discus (implement weight in kilograms)	2	1
Javelin (implement weight in grams)	800	600

Also, if the objective is absolute equality in the OPCSSL, other measures could be considered such as:

- Women must make up half the players on the field and in the batting lineup
- Outfielders must stay in the same position during the entire game so that all batters have "equal" gaps in the outfield.

I've played in other softball leagues where there were gender-differentiated rules such as:

- Swapping in an 11-inch softball (instead of a 12-inch softball) when women bat. (Harder to hit, but the ball travels farther with good contact.)
- Rules to discourage walking a male batter to pitch to a female batter (two-base walk instead of one base).

Considerations:

We're an OPS league, so an issue note wouldn't be complete with a reference to "Pros and Cons" or "Considerations".

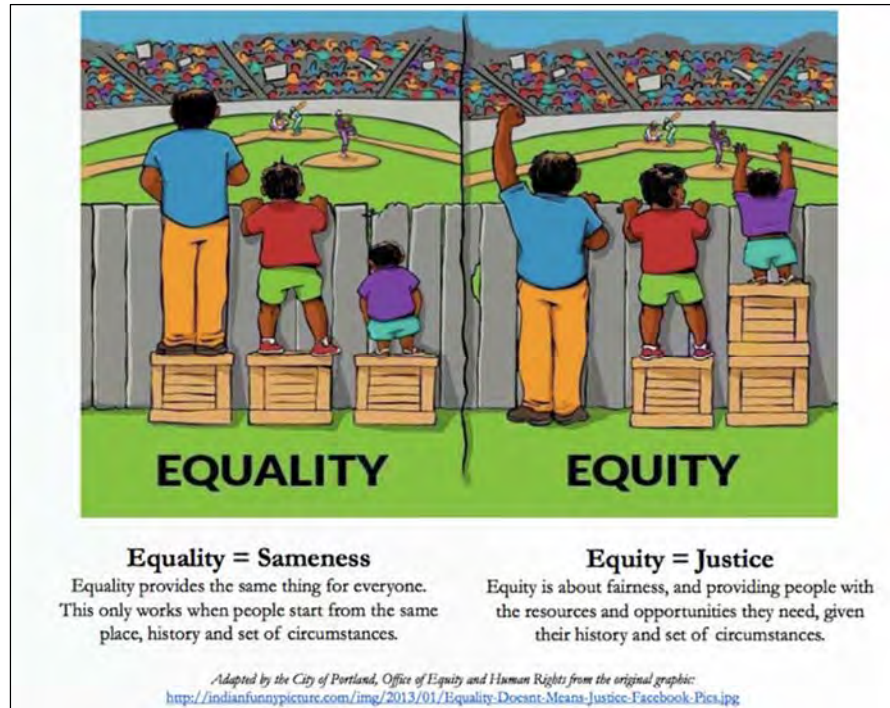
Continue with three pitches for women:

- Male and female players have equal pitches (sameness)
- May speed up play (marginally)

Review the three-pitch rule:

- Players not polled ahead of change to long-standing rule
- Different specifications for men and women exist in other sports, including Olympic Track & Field
- Women tend to have a smaller strike zone than men
- Having fewer pitches may discourage women who aren't strong hitters and less confident at the plate (particularly if they strike out in a clutch situation).

I'll conclude with the baseball-themed graphic that's often used to illustrate Equity vs. Equality.



I would appreciate the league giving consideration to polling female players ahead of the 2017 season to get their input on whether they would like to continue with the three-pitch rule or revert to the four-pitch rule.

I appreciate the spirit with which this rule was brought forward, but I hope there is some room to engage in a dialogue ahead of the 2017 season.

It's possible I'm a minority voice among my female colleagues and that a majority of female participants think the 2016 pitch count reduction is a welcome and overdue change.

Thank you for considering this request.

Prepared by: Maryanna Lewyckyj, Electrons (since 2009)

Appendix D

Banking Resolution

WHEREAS a meeting of the members of the Ontario Provincial Civil Servants Softball League ("OPCSSL") was held on May 3, 2017 with a quorum of members attending;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Civil Servants Softball League is also known as the Ontario Civil Servants Slo-Pitch League on certain documents including the Meridian Credit Union banking account;

AND WHEREAS the members wish to update the banking signing authorities of the OPCSSL;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Peter Lloyd and Cindy Bint be removed as authorized signers and Tri Luu and Daniel Kishimoto be added as authorized signers for the OPCSSL for banking purposes effective May 4, 2017;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that this resolution replaces the banking signing authority resolution dated September 29, 2016 which is attached for reference purposes only.

Tri Luu, Commissioner
May 3, 2017

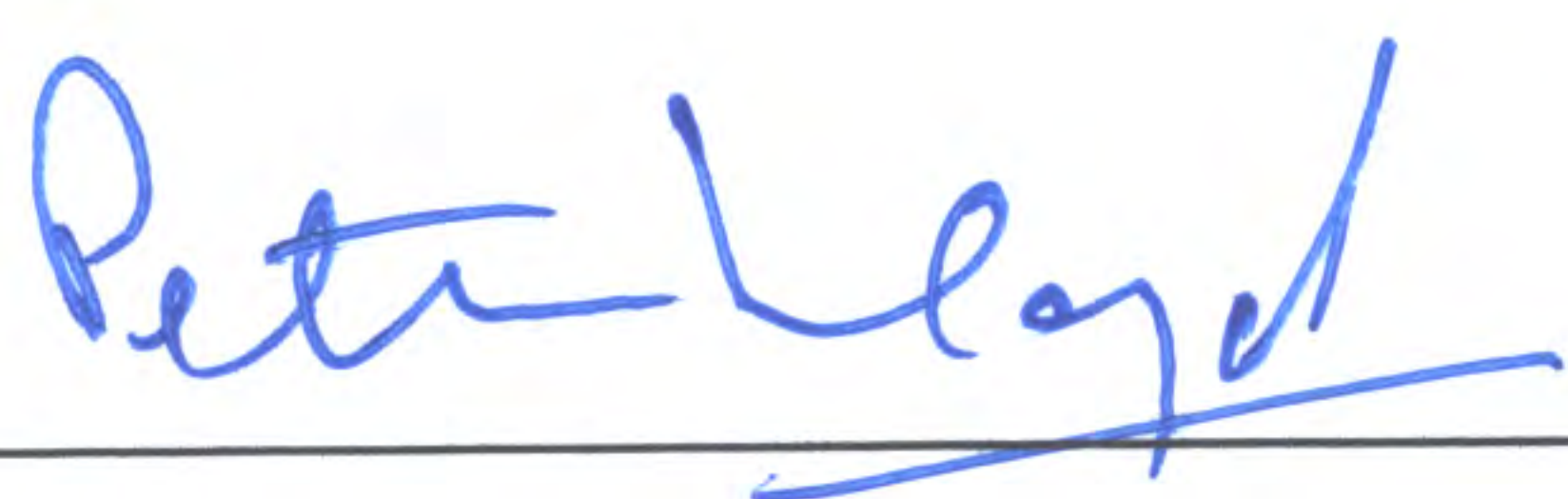
Daniel Kishimoto, Assistant Commissioner
May 3, 2017

Member
May 3, 2017

The following resolution was passed unanimously at a special meeting of the membership of the Ontario Provincial Civil Servants' Slo-Pitch League on September 28, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT Cindy Bint and Peter Lloyd be removed as signing authorities from the League's account with the Meridian Credit Union, and that Tri Luu be added as a signing authority to that account, effective October 14, 2016.

Verified by:



Peter Lloyd, Past Commissioner

29 September, 2016