

Manager/Board Meeting Agenda Monday September 22 Hiland Church 7pm

Meeting called to order by president Ron Zankey at 7pm. All board members present all teams represented except MPG and Roma.

Remembering Jim Steigerwald, Phil Wagner, Mark Barash

Moment of silence for departed.

FIELDS NOT ACCESSABLE THURSDAY OCT 2 - MONDAY OCT-6

Our most effective recruiting tool is word of mouth.

Remind players always be recruiting for 2026.

-Final Accounting 2025 (Elmer Ebeck Treasurer)

Elmer presented 2025 league ledger of income and expense. There was a general operating surplus in 2025 of which is earmarked for tractor maintenance and sprinkler repair 2025.

Season Winning Team Awards

- BMF Gold Division Season Champion
- Mineo's Gold Division Tournament Champion
- NPL Silver Division Season Champion
- NPL Silver Division Tournament Champion
- Goodrich & Geist Bronze Division Season Champion

Congratulations to season and tournament winners!

2025 Accomplishments

- Bronze Division Jim Grosjean Frank Byers. Round of applause for Jim Grosjean successfully putting together the 4 team Bronze league. The season exceeded expectations and looking forward to 2026. Thank you Jim Grosjean and Frank Byers and Bronze division managers Larry Spontak, Bob Zajac Greg Schlass, Rick Zabrowski Ray Raible Bill McLaughlin Jim Steigerwald.
- Fall Ball Dan Harrison. Dan stated fall ball has been a success with 4 teams competing Tuesday and Thursdays. Season to end Oct 9.
- Ray Hensler Bangers Silver expansion team. Thanks Ray for stepping up to manage.
- Saturday Gold Division Games seem to work well, may need again in 2026.
- Port-o-Jon paid by NACSSL
- July 17 Knights (3 callups 1 Bronze) vs MPG(2 callups) got Double header done!!
- Only 1 regular season forfeit. No player ejections, no game protests.

-Food Bank Drive (Jim Grosjean) The donated food items were delivered to the North Hills Food Bank with the help of Clark Stewart, Mark Warren, Bob Scullion, Bobby Knight and Chuck Heilman who were instrumental in making the food drive a wonderful success. Thanks to players for their generosity.

-Survival rainouts. Silver makeup was challenging 5 unscheduled games not played. But got it done. Worst rainout year in memory.

Ron stated that despite the worst rainout season in memory, NACSSL had the best season ever 280 members strong, expanding the league with a Bronze division, and a Fall league. Complements to managers for getting players to games with only 1 regular season forfeit. NACSSL is the best senior league in the tristate area with expanding membership. Thanks to all who make this league work so well.

2025 League Issues

-Chuck Heilman field maintenance foreman and web master plans to retire 2025. Greg Heilman and Dave Dworsky resigning as well. John Sapsara (Roma) agreed to replace Chuck. Ralph Yannayon (Vikings) has taken over as web master. Current crew staying on to close out 2025. Currently recruiting maintenance crew members for 2026.

Thank you, Chuck, Dave, Greg and John, for your dedication and hard work and dedication to keep the fields in top shape!

Recommend wage increase for foreman from 13 to \$15/hr. **Approved.**

-USA Insurance (George Hess) **Teams encouraged to purchase team insurance in 2026.**

-Lodge Parking lot needs lines painted to improve parking and capacity.

-Mashuda outfield dirt spring 2026?

-Mashuda infield dirt spring 2026? Remove infield lip.

-Lambert center field drainage, may need French drain.

Lambert and Mashuda field improvement to be evaluated and estimated for cost and time by John this fall.

-Sprinkler system maintenance. Fix 3 sprinkler heads. Full inspection in spring.

John working with Matt to repair sprinklers and broke valves.

-Ron Bickford resigned as VP Silver board member. Ray Hensler appointed to replace Ron.

-Frank Byers appointed VP Bronze Division Wayne Wadsworth appointed VP Gold Division to replace Frank.

Umpire Evaluation Iron City Umpire Association (Ray Peterson)

Umpires from NACSSL Thank You!.....Dave Dworsky, Larry Gaertner, Dan Harrison, Denny Maguire, John Mels Melaragno.

Managers voted to grade 2025 umpires a B. Managers raised some concerns about umpire performance. Ron stated these concerns will be addressed with umpire and chief. Ron stated our relationship with Ray Peterson is very good and should continue in 2026.

Game Protests 2025

-None

Player Ejections 2025

-None

Rule exceptions made. (Bylaws 2.D)

-Bill Lowe coming off reserve to Briar Cliff (Managers approved voted by email.)

Team Humana stated their disagreement with this vote as they and other teams were denied the same request in prior years. Ron stated this decision is a bad precedent to set, stating further that we do not have a problem with a player shortage that causes forfeits due primarily to a working callup and player replacement system that works very well.

-Cyclones NPL move game from July 3 to July 8 (approved by managers)

-Knights vs Batmen managers voted suspended game rather than forfeit due to George Hess injury in 2nd inning.

-Final Silver Standings contested by Cyclones Mels requesting the 8/4 suspended game with MPG not be counted as a win for MPG in the final standings because there was still 1 unscheduled makeup game with MPG remaining. Mels contended the game (their 3rd meeting) on 8/4 with MPG leading after 5 innings should not be considered as their final meeting and should be played to conclusion or not be counted in the standings.

Rule 2.D.2 states games suspended must be completed at the teams next meeting unless it is the final meeting between the 2 teams.

Decision process.

On 7/21 manager meeting, the Silver managers voted to not extend the season for makeup games. Playoffs would begin 8/11 and teams would do the best they could to schedule makeup games.

The basis for the vote in favor of MPG win vs Cyclones 8/4 was that on 7/28 and 8/6 Silver managers were notified that there were still 5 unscheduled makeup games which included the unscheduled 4th and final game MPG vs Cyclones. There were no responses by teams affected or teams not affected regarding the scheduling of the 5 makeups.

Therefore, no response was considered to be Silver managers acceptance of the final makeup schedule with the understanding the season would not be extended to accommodate the 5 unscheduled games.

The final, manager approved, makeup schedule, did not include MPG vs Cyclones 4th game, so by default, the 8/4 MPG vs Cyclones game would be considered their final meeting. By Rule 2.D.2 MPG was winning after 5 innings and was awarded the win.

The outcome of the game in question affected the standings for 4 of the 8 teams in Silver. 4 Silver managers not affected by the decision voted 3-1. The 4 Board members not affected were included to create an 8-member quorum and voted 4-0 that MPG vs Cyclones suspended game was the final meeting and MPG awarded the win. Not voting were the 4 Silver teams affected in standings which included board member Dan Harrison of Knights. Board member Ron Bickford voted as Batman team manager and did not cast a second vote as a board member.

Mels expressed his disagreement with this decision. Ron defended the decision stating this was a unique circumstance that was decided by managers and board members not affected by the decision.

Forfeits 2025

-NPL 6/3 not enough players (Regular Season)
 -Batman 7/31 not enough players (Makeup)
 -Bangers 7/31 not enough players (Makeup)
 -Bangers 8/7 not enough players (Makeup)

Standings for 2026 Draft (Forfeits applied)

<u>Silver Final</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct</u>	
NPL	19	7	731	NPL 1 reg season forfeit no effect on final standing
Mavericks	17	11	607	
Knights	15	10	600	
MPG	16	11	593	
Cyclones	16	11	593	
Rutter	15	13	536	
Batman	7	16	304	Batman 1 makeup forfeit no effect on final standings
Bangers	2	24	77	Bangers 2 makeup forfeits no effect on final standings

<u>Gold Final</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct</u>	
BMF	22	6	786	No forfeits in Gold Division
Mineo's	17	10	630	
Humana	16	11	593	
Briar Cliff	14	14	500	
Brandt's	13	15	464	

Roma	12	16	429
UPMC	10	17	370
Vikings	6	21	222

Rule 25.A. calculating wins losses for draft purposes

- A. A win percentage will be calculated for each team by dividing the number of wins by the total number of games played. A team may not improve its draft status through forfeited games. Forfeits will be deducted from losses and a win percentage will be calculated. The win percentage will be used to determine the team's standing for draft purposes. (E.g. a team with a 10-15 regular season record but 5 forfeits will have a 10-10-win record for draft purposes).

2025 Field Evaluation

- Lambert/Mashuda
- Woods (Wednesday) Park improved the field at season end but was unplayable the entire season. North Park gave 2 additional days for makeup but were also rained out. We will be requesting a refund.
- Sangree (Thursday) Ross Township gave additional days for makeup.
- Warrendale (Tuesday 8pm) Marshall gave additional days for playoffs.
- Bronx (Wednesday) West View gave additional days for makeup.
- Treesdale (Thursday)
- Seville a possibility in 2026.
- Blawnox a possibility in 2026

Preliminary 2026 Head count deficit based on 14-man roster

0 Mavericks	_1_ Mineo's
1 NPL	_3_ Humana
2 Bangers	_2_ BMF
_ _ MPG	_ _ Roma
3 Batmen	_3_ Briar Cliff
2 Knights	_2_ Vikings
3 Rutter	_3_ Brandt's
2 Cyclones	_3_ UPMC

NEW BUSINESS

- AED Training 2026 (Dan Harrison Ray Hensler) **Ray and Dan to make plans for 2026 training.**
- Accident Insurance can be acquired at \$200 per team in 2026. (Dan Harrison) If team has additional insurance, it covers all players on that team. George Hess could have used it.

Rule changes proposals.

Today we will have a brief discussion of proposed rule changes. We will vote on what rule changes to be considered/tabled for 2026. Final rule wording will be voted on at the spring meetings. Rule change proposals must be in writing.

-Change Gold Division minimum age from 62 to ?? We need to keep players in Silver or risk player shortage. (Zankey) **Tabled to 2026.**

-Undrafted Silver players make eligible to play in Gold even if under age. Same as Bronze division. (Harrison) **Tabled to 2026.**

-Money Awards. There is no written rule stating money awards. Past precedent has been honored \$100 division champ, \$100 Playoff champ. No Bronze division award was discussed when Bronze was established this year. Board decided to award Goodrich \$200 that they agreed would be donated to a Jim Steigerwald (recently deceased Bronze manager) charity of choice. **Money awards need to be established each year at spring meeting. Tabled to 2026.**

-Suspended games less than 4 ½ innings. (Vikings vs Briar Cliff) start over or continue clarification. (Knight) Rule is not clear. Needs to be same as rainout less than 4 ½ innings start over. **Tabled to 2026.**

1. **Darkness/Time Limit**-Games suspended for darkness or **time limit** must be completed at next regular meeting of the two teams. If darkness occurs at the last meeting between the 2 teams' game will be considered complete as of last completed inning, **assuming 4 ½ innings** have been played to constitute an official game.

-Clarify home team in DH makeup. (Zankey) **Tabled to 2026.**

Rule 2.E.1

1. **Make-up Game Double Header**-**The makeup game will be played first.**
~~home team for the first game is the team designated as the home team on the original schedule. The second game will be the game on the schedule for that date.~~

-Screen option inning by inning (Zankey) **Tabled to 2026.**

-Batted ball hitting the net should be a "no pitch" currently is a foul ball. (Bill Dell). **Tabled to 2026.**

Option 1. Ball hitting the screen is dead ball no pitch in all cases.

Option 2. Ball hitting the screen on 3rd strike will be given 1 "courtesy foul ball".

Option 3. Ball hitting the screen with 2 strikes can never be a strike out.

For Options 1 and 2 a ball hitting the screen counts as a foul ball for strike 1 and 2.

-Unscheduled makeup games. Not sure if we need a rule or do we continue to vote and decide as in the past what to do at the end of the season depending on circumstances at that time. In past years teams have voted to accept makeup games not played/not counted. In general, teams do not want to extend the season. Silver had 5 unscheduled makeup games that were never played. This is a rare occurrence due to unusual number of rain outs in 2025. **Consensus was to decide each year as circumstances dictate. Tabled to 2026.**

3 makeup scenarios for the 17 un-played games were presented to Silver managers on 7/21 and they voted 7-1 to not extend the season.

- 7 runs per inning maximum allowed and last inning open runs allowed. (Scullion) **Tabled to 2026.**

- 5 runs per inning maximum allowed last inning open inning (Zankey) **Tabled to 2026.** Discussion: shorter games, reduces risk of injury. Seems to be working in the fall league.

Catchup Rule (Cannon) Tabled to 2026(Declined)

5.5(1). FIVE-RUN LIMIT PER INNING

Teams are limited to five runs per inning except for;

- A. When a team trails by 11 or more runs, it may score as many runs until they are five runs behind.
- B. In the game's final inning, each team may score unlimited runs.

Catchup Rule (Zajac) Tabled to 2026(Declined)

Once a team scores 7 runs, the half inning is over regardless of the number of outs and the other team shall come up to bat except in the following conditions:

1. Catch-up rule: If, in any inning, except the last, a team is behind by 10 runs or more, in the same inning as the opposing team, it may continue to bat beyond the "7 runs per inning" until the trailing team ties the opposing team or commits 3 outs - whichever comes first,
2. The last inning is an open inning for both teams and there is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored except that once the Home Team goes ahead the game is over.

Additional rules to be considered and tabled to 2026 as follows.

-First 2 picks awarded to last place team in each division should be evaluated and voted each year depending on strength of team roster and other factors. (Mels)

-Walk rule to be reconsidered (Grosjean)

-3+1 Home run rule in Gold division to be reconsidered.

Officer Elections (Officers elected)

- Ron Zankey President
- Dan Harrison Secretary
- Elmer Ebeck Treasurer
- Wayne Wadsworth Gold VP
- Frank Byers Bronze VP
- Ray Hensler Silver VP