



PCSSA Volunteer Umpires now in service:

Under the leadership of Steve “Bubba” Ward, our very own PCSSA volunteer umpires began umpiring National League games, as planned, on January 23rd. Initial feedback has been very positive and the umpires look great in their new official uniforms! The volunteers will begin covering American League games in late-February and will alternate games with Gary and Gene Page (roughly 50/50) throughout the remainder of the current Fall/Winter season.

Remember, questioning rule interpretations are fine, but arguing judgement calls and yelling at and mocking umpires are not! The volunteer umpires are our friends and teammates and have the full support of the league.

Spring Season Registration:

2023 Spring season registration is now open and the form can be found on the PCSSA website under “Registrations.” Registration will remain open through February 24.

Please register early!

- Draft Day is March 3
- Opening Day is April 11 and will run until approximately the first week of June
- Game days are planned to be Tuesday and Saturday. Thursday may also be added. There may be double headers like 2022. This all depends on the number of players who register.
- Everyone registering as a player will be drafted and will be provided with jerseys and hats
- Those registering as a sub only, may wear their team uniform and hat from the current fall/winter season, or a sub uniform and hat if they already have one. All subs must have a uniform and hat.
- All players (including subs) will be required to wear softball pants or shorts (black or grey) matching the team color choice
- The 2022 Spring season had 8 teams. This year should be between 8 and 10 teams.
- Depending on registration numbers, we expect to have an American Division (minimum of 4 teams) and a National Division (minimum of 4 teams). Those not drafted in the AL will be moved to the NL draft. If we don't have enough for 4 AL teams, then we will combine all players into one Spring Division.
- PCSSA Volunteer Umpires will handle all Spring season games
- Further details will be announced immediately after the registration period is completed and we know the number of teams, player ratings, etc.

- Fees will be as follows:
 - Player \$80
 - Non-playing Manager or Assistant Coach: \$50
 - Sub (already has a Sub or Fall/Winter team uniform): \$20
 - Sub (does not already have a Sub uniform): \$65

Bat Specifications Committee:

Mark Pollock is now heading up the new Bat Specifications Committee. The committee's Charter is as follows:

- Stay abreast of softball bat specifications in use throughout various national senior softball organizations
- Stay abreast of the various bat manufacturers and any new technologies, specifications, etc. under development
- Establish relations with local bat representatives and organize bat try-out days if/when possible
- Confirm and update bat standards for PCSSA as necessary
- Establish a "Bat Approval Process" for PCSSA

Volunteer Days – Feb. 7, 8 & 9:

The league does not run itself. We currently have a record 305 members of PCSSA, and approximately 100 players and non-players volunteering their time to help make this such a great organization – but we need more! During games on February 7, 8 & 9, we will have tables set up at the Field of Dreams and manned by Committee chairs and Board members available to share their experiences and give more detail about the roles. Please stop by and offer your services!

Field Maintenance Reminders:

Some important reminders from the Field Maintenance team:

- Bat Warmers – do not belong in the garage. They are stored leaning against the rampway to the garage (near the field brushes).
- AED and First Aid Kit are to be stored on the bottom shelf of the shelving unit against the back wall in the garage (not in the locked closet)
- When brushing the infield after each game, **please remember to stay at least 6 inches to a foot away from the outfield grass edge.** Brushing all the way to the edge of the outfield grass causes a buildup of infield material which leads to a hump at the edge of the infield.
- When hitting practice fly balls before games, **please stay off the grass.** The dead spots along the 1B and 3B sides are a direct result of people hitting from there. Please hit from the warning track dirt.
- The pitching machine is for use only with batting practice at the Field of Dreams – not for practicing fly balls. The machine was not designed for fly balls, and trying to make it do so only adds extreme wear and tear and shortens the equipment lifespan.
- When something at the Field of Dreams is broken (equipment, gates, garage door, etc.), please text the Dir. of Field Maintenance, Howard Locker, asap (703-887-2245)

Player & Manager Code of Conduct:

Just a reminder – although we all like to compete as hard as our bodies and minds allow, PCSSA is a recreational organization among friends and neighbors. While we don't have a specific "Code of Conduct," we do have a moral obligation to control our tempers as we are all closely watched (and perhaps, admired) by our peers and spectators, young and old. Abusive or foul language, arguing loudly between players and managers,

throwing of equipment and over-expressing anger, even if directed at ourselves, is not acceptable under any circumstance.

Potential Third Division:

As many have already heard, the league is evaluating the possibility of creating a third Division next Fall/Winter season. A committee consisting of current Managers, Board members and other committee chairs has been created. The committee has visited games of similar divisions in Sun City and Sun City West and experienced first-hand, the fun and camaraderie that they have and are currently benchmarking best practices and specific rules and features that may apply to such a new division. More information to follow in the coming months.

Upcoming Events:

February 1- Spring season registration opens (runs through February 24)

February 3 – Spooner Warm-up Clinic and APS Clinic with former Major League players

February 7,8 & 9 – Volunteer Days at the Field of Dreams (details to follow)

February 23 – Hot Dog Day at the Field of Dreams

March 3 – Spring Season Draft

March 6 – PCSSA Golf Tournament (All spots now full); Bad weather make-up day is March 22nd

March 6 – PCSSA Board Elections begin (on-line voting runs through March 10)

March 24 – PCSSA night at the Goodyear Ballpark for the 6:05pm game between the Cleveland Guardians and the Chicago Cubs. Sign-up and ticket info to follow in mid-January.

April 5 - End of Season Banquet. The event will be held at the Field of Dreams. Details to follow...

April 11 – First day of Spring Season

April 17 – Annual General Meeting (9:00am at the Field of Dreams)

Sponsors:

This month we are highlighting the following VIP Banner Sponsors (please also see the attached file):

Desert Sage Landscaping

Sunce Enterprises

West Valley Air Conditioning & Heating

Armbruster Insurance

Pebble Creek Community Church

Screenmobile

Please consider using their great services and be sure to thank them for their sponsorship!