MINUTES for Softball Board Mtg Oct 16, 2026

Call to Order & Quorum Established

- Meeting Start time - 12:00 Noon
- Recorded by - Bill Parker

Attendees: Board Members

Ted Schneider - President
Ken Silva - Vice President
Dave Swanson - Treasurer
Jim Opyd - Director of Field Maintenance
Bill Parker - Secretary

John Nicodemo - Director of Membership - Absent

Open Member Comments

- TBD

Commissioner Reports

- Red - Don Raneiri
  - Fall Draft Complete, well handled
  - 65 players in the draft, 60 selected
  - 2 players went into the White draft, 3 stayed on the Red sub list
    - The sub list is low in number, Don and Craig will watch the use of subs to ensure team compliance as noted in the Fall Rules.
- White - Chip Stanczyk
  - Fall Draft Complete, well handled
  - 66 players selected, 17 on the sub list
- Blue
  - Fall Draft on Monday, the 19th @ 4pm
    - 113 players in draft
  - Blue league umpire training will be held Oct 26th
  - Adding Kandi Patrick as Asst Commissioner
    - Motion made by Ted to approve
    - Ken seconded
    - Unanimously approved 5-0
- Women - Mariln Leinberger
  - Nov 21th (Saturday) game
  - Senior Bat use on our field during Women's game.
    - Ted visited with Activities Dept re their using senior bats
    - Activities Dept inclined to support but is checking with CAM Administration.
- Saturday
  - Fall Draft on Thursday @ 4pm

- Special Rules for Fall Season to be approved (Index 1)

    - Submissions from Red, White, and Blue Leagues
        - Ted motioned to approve as submitted for all leagues
        - Bill seconded
        - Unanimously approved 5-0
- Separate discussion followed covering player statistics
    - Who's responsible for keeping track of team stats?
        - Scott Kibby does a great job overseeing the gathering of data, BUT
            - Coaches & managers have been asked to track their own team
            - The process fades with time, and reluctance
    - What's the process? & what's the issue?
        - Some members are concerned the whole process is too serious
        - "Our club is a recreation league .. too much expected?"

Treasurer - Treasurers Report

- Current cash balances
    - approx $3,800 cash on hand
    - Approx $41,000 in Savings
- YTD 26 Budget vs actual
    - Membership dues status
    - Sponsor payments/expense to date
        - Open sponsor invoices
        - Slow, slightly behind expectations
- 2027 Budget
    - Proposed 2027 Field Projects
    - Working well with Jim's Field Maintenance and Cam support
- Status - Internet domains
    - It was more difficult than it should have been to move our 2 domain names to point to our new TeamSideline website. We now have complete ownership of, and administrative control over scgsoftball.org, and grandsoftballaz.org. Going forward, changing service providers will not be as challenging as this was, from a website URL standpoint.
- Our Club's Financial Committee is working to provide more precise budgeting. The new sheet authored by Randy Ratcliff gives us better invoicing control. Better accounts receivable/collection control. And, better budget forecasting for our advertising income.
- Going well, progressing to be on track by Summer 2027

Secretary

- Review for the approval of Club Board Meeting of September 18, 2026
    - Motion made by Bill to approve Sept minutes as presented
    - Ken seconded
    - Unanimously approved 5-0

Director of Field Maintenance

- Foul Lines Project update
    - Foul lines install complete
    - Jim appreciated his volunteer crew and Gothic for all the work

- Other Project(s) Update
    - The screen behind the catcher's position is showing signs of wind tattering
    - Jim searching for approx 30 ft wide screen
    - This work is under review
- Plate area upgrade
    - Work starts Monday the 19th
    - To be handled by volunteer crew under Jim
- Non league events scheduled for our ball field
    - Nov 1st - Red League tourney supporting Cancer
    - Nov 8th - Coed game
    - Nov 15th - 16" ball tourney
    - Dec 13th - Coed game
- Possible dates for Surprise Fire Dept vs Surprise Police Dept
    - Sundays are target dates requested
    - Will be scheduled on a not-to-interfere basis with other field use (practice)

Director of Membership Services

- N/A - John N will not be attending

Vice President

- Picnic plans
    - Schedule
        - Help needed for set-up - Friday the 30th @ 2PM
        - Pick up of chairs & tables plus clean up - Saturday the 31st @ 1:30PM
    - Ticket sales
        - 164 tickets sold so far
        - Final tix sale Oct 24th

President

- Nomination committee meeting
    - Dan Newman, Laura Johnson and Denise Gibala
    - Email Blast sent out already
    - Three open board positions, terms end 12/31/26
    - President, Secretary and Field Maintenance Director
- Katie Iverson will sing Monday, November 2nd, during the 2nd game
- Grand Open House (Sponsored by the Activities Dept) -
    - Thursday, November 5th @ 8:30am to 11:30am
    - Sonoran Plaza
- 2027 Reserved Dates
    - All dates as submitted have been confirmed
    - 2027 calendars will be coming out
    - Winter Fling date will possibly change
        - Currently scheduled for April 10th but that may change
- Softball Club ad (full page) in LifeStyles Magazine
    - Each CC is alloted one full page of free advertising per year
    - Code of Conduct reminder (Index 2)

        - A simple reminder that courteous and friendly viewing of the games, both by players and fans alike, is how we should all enjoy the time.
- Co-Ed League - nothing to update at this time
- Pinchrunners
    - Updates - Dave Powers' letter was thankfully noted.
- Grand Neighborhood Reps Volunteer Event December 4th
    - Looking for Raffle item from club
- Peer Council Charter Club Meeting set for Dec 12th
    - Ted asked if Treasurer Dave could support, TBD
- Ted has compiled a list of supporting Club "Who's Who" for every season
    - Managers, commissioners, etc
    - To be used as a check on moving forward as a club.

Old Business

New Business

- *Treasurer Dave asking about the feasibility of credit card registration, through Team Sideline, to start for the Winter Session. No objections*

**** Next Board Meeting Note the change ****

- **Nov 16, 2026 @ 1PM** in the Gila Room, Cimarron Building

Meeting Adjourned at 2:46PM

- Motion made by Bill to adjourn the meeting
- Ted seconded
- Unanimously approved 5-0

2026-27 RED League Specific Rules

1. Subs:

a) Call players on the sub list first. They can be used 4 times per team. If a player from the sub list is unavailable, you may request a rostered player as a sub. They can only be used 2 times per team. A player going in mid game for an injured player does not count against their total.

b) We are using an A, B, C etc. classification for subs (not the one tenth system) List will be provided.

c) Any exceptions see a commissioners.

3. Sliding is allowed at all bases except at home plate line. Sliding at the home plate line will be called out.

4. Red league will utilize the 70' base paths.

5. We are going to use the Senior Softball sub running rule. A player can sub run once per inning. Please note: a runner may be asked if they "need or want a runner". If the runner says they do not require a runner then they must be left to run for themselves.

6. Three Home Runs per team per game, After that they will be considered walks.

7. Only players with a minimum rating of 2.7 or better are allowed to sign up for the Red League draft.

8. In the event that 2 of the 3 Red League games are completed, those games completed will be posted per the results of those games (Win = 2 points, Loss = 0 points or a Tie = 1 point). If one of the three games cannot be completed due to weather, that game will be considered a tie. (1 pt for each of those teams) Anything less than two complete games will result in a "tie" for all 6 teams resulting in 1 point for each team.

9. We follow the Senior Softball rules which allow for unlimited walks. (Please note: It is the commissioners desire that managers don't overuse the intentional walk. If this becomes a bigger problem than we think, we will discuss alternatives for next session.)

10. Each Manager is allowed two challenges or an "ask for help" per game. (Please note: This does not include appeals, such as missing a base or leaving early on a fly ball/tag up situation because umpires do not call these proactively and a manager must make an appeal to the umpiring team.)

11. The Batters box is the carpeted area on both sides of the plate and the batter is restricted to remain on or within the two white lines. The white lines and the front and back of the carpet within the white lines comprise the "Box".

The batter must have their feet on or inside the white lines and on or within the front and back of the green carpet. A batter may not have either foot completely outside the box when making contact with the ball. If either foot is outside of the “box”, the batter is considered out.

White League Specific Rules Fall/Winter 2026-27

1. **Skill Level.** A minimum skill level of 3.7 is required to be drafted into and play in the white league.

2. **Manager Requirement.** An active player must have a skill rating of 3.1 or better to be a manager.

3. **Sub Players.** We are using an A,B,C classification system for subs (not the one tenth system). Managers are required to utilize players from the corresponding "bucket" on the sub list when possible. Once a substitute player has been requested, contacted, and confirmed to play, this player has the right to play in the game regardless of the rostered player's potential change of plans. Subs may be used 4 times per team. If players from the sub list are unavailable, managers may request a rostered player as a sub. Rostered subs may be used two times per team. A player going in mid-game for an injured/sick player does not count against the team's total. Managers shall keep track of all subs used on their respective team in conjunction with the commissioner(s). Both substitute players and rostered players may only play a maximum of four games a week. Note: Commissioner(s) may make amendments as needed, due to operational necessity.

4. **Sub Runners.** We are using the Senior Softball sub running rule. A player may sub run once per inning. A player may be asked if they need/want a runner but does not require a sub runner, if they choose to run. If a sub runner is on base and is due to bat, s/he is out at the base and comes in to bat for him/herself. If this out at the base is the team's 3rd out of the inning, this batter shall be the leadoff batter in the following inning.

5. **Batter's Box.** If a batter makes contact with a ball while having either a foot completely outside the white lines or a foot completely off the green carpet, that batter shall be considered out.

6. **Base Paths & Sliding.** We are using 70 foot base paths for league play. Players may slide into and/or back to a base, not the home plate line.

7. **Walks.** We follow the Senior Softball rules which allow for unlimited walks. Commissioner(s) have the liberty to revise this rule for the following session, if needed.

8. **Challenges.** Team managers are the only persons who may challenge an umpire's call or ruling. In an effort to expedite play, managers are limited to two challenges (or requests for a second umpire's opinion) per game. This does not include appeals on plays where runners may miss a base, leave early, improperly tag up, or the like. Umpires do not call these proactively, therefore a manager must make an appeal to the umpiring team.

9. **Home Runs.** Each team is allowed three home runs over the fence/wall. Each home run over the team's limit will be considered a base on balls and base runners shall advance one base, but only if forced.

10. **Rain Outs & Frost Delays.** We will count any and all games we get in. If we do not get a game(s) in, so be it. We will go by winning percentage to determine a session champion.

11. **150-Foot Line.** We are using the 150 foot line for all games. No designated outfielders may step on or in front of this line prior to the ball being hit. There will be only one (non-pitching) infielder (1B,2B,3B,SS,R) allowed on the grass, past the infield dirt, prior to the ball being hit. If, in the umpire's judgement, an offending player touches the batted ball, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded one base in addition to the base s/he is closest to occupying. If there is a second offense by the same player, the batter is awarded two bases in addition to the base s/he is closest to occupying. Runners on base will be forced to the next base. If it happens a third time, the offending player is ejected with no possibility for substitution.

2026 Blue League Fall Season Special Rules.

Grand Softball Club

1. No tie breakers permitted.

2. Each Manager is allowed two challenges or an “ask” for help” per game. (Please note: This does not include appeals, such as missing a base or leaving early on a fly ball/tag up situation because umpires do not call these proactively and a manager must make an appeal to the umpiring team.)

3. A runner on any base whose turn it is to bat, may have a substitute runner WITHOUT an out being declared. Any player can run for themselves and another player once an inning.

4. The four-run rule (for half inning) will apply except for the last inning which will be unlimited.

5. All teams will field 11 players with positions designated as follows; 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, 5 infielders, 4 outfielders. All player’s bat. The Blue League will use the 150 foot cones for all games. All outfielders must be behind the cone line until the ball is hit. Only “one” infielder can be on the grass with the four outfielders until the ball is hit.

6. All infielders shall position outside an imaginary line drawn from the first base bag through the pitching rubber, to the third base bag: But they shall be allowed inside that line once a pitched ball is hit.

7. After a batted ball, if there is a play on a runner going to first base, the runner must touch some portion of the orange base extending into foul territory. The runner will be called out if they fail to do so. If the runner is avoiding a collision, then the runner may touch any portion of the white or orange bases. This is an umpire judgment call and not subject to appeal.

8. All substitute players will be acquired through the sub czars. The sub czar will choose a sub from the sub list FIRST with a rating variance of no more than .1 +/- from the player being replaced. If no player is available from the sub list, sub czar will contact players from the bye team SECOND with a rating variance of .1+/- from the player being replaced. If no player is available the sub czar may then contact a rostered player with a rating variance of no more than .1 +/- from the player being replaced. Once a sub is acquired, that sub plays in the game regardless of requesting team's change of plans.

9. Substitutes:

    a. All subs must be requested through the sub czars until 7PM the night before the game. Any player cancellation after 7PM, the manager must contact a Blue League Commissioner to request a substitute player. The player will be obtained by the Commissioner from the rostered player list using the same .1 +/- rating.

1) If there is a cancellation at game time and a player of .1 +/- (or more) cannot be found a commissioner can/may give permission for the manager to play with 10 players until an appropriate sub can be inserted into the game.

2) The manager of the opposite team shall be advised by the Commissioner of a late player substitute or the team playing with 10 players prior to the start of the game.

3) Players on the active roster and/or on the sub list may only play a maximum of 4 games a week per league. All players are limited to substituting for the same team 6 times a season. Managers shall keep track of the subs used on their respective team in conjunction with the Sub Czars keeping track. There shall be no disciplinary action taken against any Manager, Team or a Sub Czar in the event an honest mistake is made regarding this subject.

b. DUTY REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE: Players who will miss their Umpire or Scoreboard Duty must report their absence to their managers. They are NOT to find their own replacements. The MANAGER is responsible for contacting the Umpire Czar or the Scoreboard Sub Czar for a replacement.

c. If a team rostered player misses more than 6 games for any reason, the Commissioners can/may seek to replace that player permanently with a player from the sub list if an appropriate player can be found.

10. Games will be 7 innings in length with a 60-minute time clock with the clock starting with the first pitch of the game. If the 5th inning is finished with any time on the 60-minute clock, the game will end on the completion of the 7th inning. If the 5th inning is completed and there is no time left on the clock the game will end on the completion of the 6th inning. If the clock runs out before the 4th inning is completed, then it will be a 5 inning game. If the Fall Season has 6 games per day, the team behind in the last inning of the game will bat first. If only 5 games per day this rule will revert to the 10-run flip flop rule.

11. In case of frost delay of 15 minutes or more the following occurs: All games for that day will be 55 a minute clock and limited to 6 innings. The clock will start with the first pitch of the game. Commissioner on duty is to send a text to 12 managers as soon as decision to delay is made.

12. Any game completed on a rain day will count with rained out games being ties.

13. League Champions will be determined by winning percentage.

14. “ Any “ ball hitting the pitchers screen (if used in a game) will be called a dead ball and not a strike.

A friendly reminder from the Board of your Softball Club,

All players and fans are reminded that we are all at the softball field for the same reason, the love and enjoyment of the game. The Grand Softball Club is dedicated to the promotion of Senior Slow Pitch Softball for exercise and recreation in an athletic environment designed to promote fellowship, sportsmanship and friendly competition. That said, we remind you all that what you say while in the stands can be heard by those around you and we request that you refrain from being critical or condescending toward those who are trying their best to enjoy and play the game.

It has come to our attention that some of the fans, while watching the games have been critical and condescending toward some of the players. Please remember that the players are trying their best and this is the players' recreation time. We all have our strengths and weaknesses and the sport is supposed to be fun for the players. Those negative comments can negatively affect the players and their families who hear the negative comments. Please help us to keep a positive and supportive environment for our players and fans.

Thank you

Grand Softball Club