

History of the Colorado Senior Softball Travel League

"In about 1990, Dean Stoner, Don Jerome and others started looking at the possibility of starting a Saturday Senior League known today as the Colorado Senior Softball Travel League. Able to find enough interest with six teams from Colorado Springs, Lakewood, Loveland, Greeley, Broomfield and Golden, the league played its first season in 1991. A lot of the games were played at the Broomfield facility in the early years because Dean had an in with Park and Rec and was able to get the fields mostly donated while the league tried to get off the ground. Each team played each other three times during the season and the league ran that way throughout the 1990s.

Dean Stoner was the first commissioner and with or without a board of directors, what he wanted to do was the way it was. In 1996, he heard complaints that the catchers were not calling pitches in accordance with the arc rule (sound familiar?). So when teams showed up for the post season tournament, he advised everyone that the arc rule was waived and unlimited arc was in for the tournament. Stan Suichta who was playing for the Fort Collins team then, had uncanny control that day and was able to drop the ball with 20 to 25 feet of arc onto the plate and mat. Needless to say, they won the tournament.

The league fluctuated between six and ten teams during the 90s. At the end of the 1999 season, Dean said he was retiring and the league almost folded. At the last minute, Charlie Chase who had the Farmers Insurance team from Colorado Springs, jumped in and agreed to be the commissioner for 2000. He was the commissioner for two years. During that time the league did not grow and some teams were getting discouraged because they couldn't compete with the top teams. Also during that time one of the Scrap Iron tournament teams came into the league almost intact and went through the season unbeaten. That's what brought on the rule regarding how many tournament ball players between the ages of 50 and 59 could be on any one team.

In about 2001, Tony Leonard mentioned that the league would probably be better off if we used some type of unbalanced schedule so teams played more games against teams comparable to them and less against teams that weren't of similar ability. Alan Weichmann took that on and came up with a schedule that the coaches liked. Even though it has been tweaked from year to year, the unbalanced schedule is still used today. Alan also became commissioner in 2002 for two years. Alan was and still is the league scheduler. At that time the league had nine teams.

In 2004 Greg Broeckelman took over the commissioner's job for three years. During that time the league grew from nine to 13 teams. The league was also aligned in two divisions, known today as the American and National. We also broke the divisions up for the post season tournament into three divisions

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based on the final league standings so more teams had chances of winning awards during the year. During this time the number of Scrap Iron tournament teams continued to expand which brought more interest for the Saturday Travel League and expansion of the league to what is 14 teams today.

Richie McDowell took over as commissioner in 2007 through 2010. His mission was to "continue growth of this league and keep it as fair as possible for all teams."

The CSSTL board ran the league in 2011 Season without a commissioner.