



MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 1, 2023
TO: CITY OF COSTA MESA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
FROM: DAVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT, MAJOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL *D.J.*
SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2023 COSTA MESA ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Major League Softball, Inc. ("MLS") has provided the City of Costa Mesa ("City") with an Adult Softball Program on a year round basis since August 10, 2015. Operations include league marketing services, program administration and coordination, officiating services, computerized scoring system as well as the design, procurement and distribution of individual awards for 1st-Place and 2nd-Place teams. The Costa Mesa Adult Softball Program positioned online at www.mlsoftball.com and participants are able to register their teams, make payments, pick up players, view their game schedules and access League Standings, Individual Statistics and League Leader lists.

The Adult Softball Program is conducted at the TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex 970 Arlington Dr. Costa Mesa, CA 92626. The program is offered three (s) seasons per calendar year with each season consisting of eight (8) regular league games followed by playoffs. Teams are guaranteed one playoff game. Leagues are available Sunday through Friday nights. Coed play is offered Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings with Men's play on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and during 2022, we also made Men's play available on Tuesday evenings which has resulted in all the fields being full on Tuesdays.

ANALYSIS

With the cessation of the restrictions that affected the program during the early part of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 returned to normal program formatting and operations. The chart below provides the seasonal team participation numbers which have remained solid in this post-COVID 19 environment. The Summer League was completed efficiently prior to the closure of TeWinkle Park for maintenance during August 2022. The traditional Fall season followed the maintenance closure and after very wet fall weather, the Fall 2022 League was completed during January 2023. We received excellent cooperation and communication from Recreation Division staff and we appreciate this very much.

The City graciously reduced its Royalty Percentage from 40 to 30 percent and collected royalties for these three seasons as follows:

Season	Calendar Year	Actual Team #	Royalty Received	Notes
Spring	2022	88	\$9,504.00	
Summer	2022	96	\$10,320.00	
Fall	2022	98	\$10,584.00	
Totals		291	\$30,408.00	

Major League Softball, Inc.

371 E. River Ave. • Orange • CA 92866 • (714) 289-1983, Ext. 2

The Royalty Percentage was increased to 30 percent beginning with the Summer 2022 season and will return to 40 percent for the Summer 2023 season when it will remain at 40 percent for the rest of the contract term. The 2022 post-pandemic team participation numbers continue to reflect trepidation from some teams, especially those with older players that continue to be leery of the virus.

The year was fairly uneventful with respect to serious incidents such as poor sportsmanship that escalates to the need for police assistance. There were a total of five (5) ejections during the entire year and the players served their rule mandated one week suspensions during the week following the ejections.

There were approximately 1,450 games conducted during 2022 and a total of 12 injuries where a player had to come out of the game (a log of Injuries and Ejections appears below). There was one situation where a player had chest pains and 911 was used to summon EMS and the player went to the hospital in an ambulance. Here is the log:

SPRING 2022

3 Injuries:

2/10/22 (THU) – Chris Engles, Patrick’s Pub (shoulder)

2/23/22 (WED) – Aaron Castillo, Icy Cold Ones (left leg)

4/12/22 (TUE) – Linda Clark, 20 Bucks Is 20 Bucks (finger, left hand)

2 Ejections:

2/17/22 (THU) – Dale Collard, Chicago AC

4/11/22 (MON) – Ken Moorhead, OC Havoc

SUMMER 2022

2 Injuries:

5/3/22 (TUE) – Jasmine Diaz, Base Noc (shoulder)

6/24/22 (FRI) – Ross Dillingham, Saints (left hand)

3 Ejections:

5/1/22 (SUN) – Joe Martin, Thirsty Pitches

5/9/22 (MON) – James Johnson, OC Havoc

5/26/22 (THU) – Dale Collard, Chicago AC

FALL 2022

7 Injuries:

10/4/22 (TUE) – Robert Aciena, Tewinks (face/right eye)

10/11/22 (TUE) – Ivan Manico, Shake n Bake (leg)

10/30/22 (SUN) – Danny Humphries, Monarch DX (chest pain) **911 was called, player taken in ambulance**

11/18/22 (FRI) – Chad McDow, Mean Machines (ankle)

11/18/22 (FRI) – Art Duarte, Mean Machines (knee)

11/18/22 (FRI) – Roger Rojas, Mixed Nuts (forehead)

11/22/22 (TUE) – Matt Fairman, Shades of Gray (finger)

CONCLUSION

Customer satisfaction remains at a high level as our Customer Service Desk received no complaints that we categorized as “Serious”. There was some frustration during January with the weather as some teams were not expecting to be playing and that caused some game scheduling difficulties for them. We stuck to our tried and true policy of not changing game schedules to accommodate a team(s) because that becomes a never ending slippery slope. We also receive occasional complaints at the fields about the conditions of the infields and have to explain that we are coming in after the youth baseball and softball programs have conducted hours of practice and/or games.

Once again during 2022, the Costa Mesa Adult Softball Program outperformed the surrounding area programs. During 2022, team registration numbers exceeded those posted by Newport Beach, Fountain Valley and even Huntington Beach. We have seen a significant influx of teams from Huntington Beach as the City contracted out the operation of their Central Park Sports Complex and the contractor had no experience with conducting Adult Softball Leagues and has shifted the focus to serving youth sports at the Complex.

We (MLS) continue to receive excellent support and cooperation from Recreation Division staff and have not had difficulty with communication and response. We look forward to a continued long and mutually beneficial relationship. We are happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information the City may desire. Feel free to contact me directly and I will assist.