



MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2024
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 2023, we also made Men's play available on Tuesday evenings which resulted in all the fields being full on Tuesdays.

ANALYSIS

The chart below provides the seasonal team participation numbers calendar 2023. The Summer League was severely impacted due to the very long and wet winter that prolonged the Spring 2023 season. It was necessary to truncate the Summer League and that prompted a significant number of teams to take the season off. The traditional Fall season followed the maintenance closure and a relatively dry fall the season was completed before the holidays in December. We received excellent cooperation and communication from Recreation Division staff and we appreciate this very much.

The Royalty Percentage has been back to 40 percent and collected royalties for these three seasons as follows:

Season	Calendar Year	Actual Team #	Royalty Received	Notes
Spring	2023	90	\$14,040.00	
Summer	2023	76	\$10,640.00	
Fall	2023	83	\$12,948.00	
Totals		249	\$37,628.00	

We are seeing some reduction in participation, mainly from teams that have older players. However, 2023 Royalty revenue was almost 24 percent greater than 2022. This was due to having all three seasons back at the 40 percent royalty rate and a City approved fee increase that was in affect for the entire year.

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 1,120 games conducted during 2023 and a total of 10 injuries where a player had to come out of the game (a log of Injuries and Ejections appears below). Here is the log:

SPRING 2023

7 Injuries:

3/9/23 Matt Freman, Enterribles (head, thrown ball)

3/27/23 Nick Logan, Double Doublez (knee)

4/6/23 Mike Tuckness, Pitch Please (finger)

4/17/23 Haylee Westerman, Double Doublez (ankle)

4/18/23 Joe Cristo, Shake n Bake (ankle)

1 Ejection:

5/2/23 Keith Scheberg, Fifty Shades of Gray

SUMMER 2023

2 Injuries:

6/1/23 David Ives, Snafu (ankle)

6/2/23 Wyatt Williams, Pace (shin/knee)

2 Ejections:

6/26/23 Mark Miller, Hard Men Soft Balls

6/28/23 Conrad Gallegos, Wasted Talent

6/28/23 Ty Kaufman, Low Ballers

FALL 2023

1 Injury:

Will Meinke, SACC Life (hamstring)

2 Ejections:

10/26/23 Jake Ponsford, Kenwoods on Deck

11/6/23 James Johnson, OC Havoc

No 911 calls were made per the reports

CONCLUSION

Customer satisfaction remains at a high level. Our Customer Service Desk received a small number of complaints mostly demanding that teams be removed from the league because in the opinion of the complainant the team was too strong for the level of competition. We do not view complaints of this nature to be serious because we are vigilant with respect to monitoring team classification and league parity and deal with this issue routinely as a matter of course. There was some frustration during the Spring League due to weather and the fields not recovering after rain. This has been an ongoing issue and we suggest the City explore the various methods available to improve/lessen recovery time. We also receive occasional complaints 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 2023, the Costa Mesa Adult Softball Program outperformed the surrounding area programs. During 2023, 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.