

PSGSL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

December 7th, 2021-6pm @ Hunters Bar PS

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/3424103314>

1. Call To Order / Roll Call...*Brian Thompson*

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| i. Ballers- No | ix. Rag Tags- Yes |
| ii. Broke Bats- Yes | x. Retros- Yes |
| iii. Crazy Pitches- Yes | xi. RoadRunnerz- Yes |
| iv. Eagles- Yes | xii. Rounders 2.0- Yes |
| v. Greyhounds- Yes | xiii. Sandstorm- Yes |
| vi. Heat- No | xiv. Stingers-Yes |
| vii. Los Malos- Yes | xv. Thunderbirds- Yes |
| viii. Peckers- Yes | |

2. Review of 11/2 Meeting Minutes...*Brian Thompson*

Minutes approved as submitted by unanimous vote of the council. Motioned by Steve Lisante and seconded by David Smith.

3. Treasurer's Report...*Peter Ho*

Peter provided a detailed report of the current financials and highlighted an increased expense in the Pride parade category due to the creation of team flags to gain more attention while walking in the parade.

Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous vote of the council. Motioned by David Binder and seconded by Ryan Markovich

4. 2021 Fall Season Wrap-up Report...*Scot Howard*

Congratulations to:

Stingers (Upper Division) going 10-2 for the season

Sandstorm (D Div) going 11-1 for the season

Retros (E Div) going 12-0 for the season

14 Teams / 226 players / 12 games each for most teams

Implemented a new round-robin format for D Div to accommodate 8 teams across a 6-week season

5. Ratings Review & Process Update...*Lenny Broberg*

Has worked with Jeff Herman to come up with a Ratings Review and process. This process will be provided to the teams during the month of December.

6. PRIDE Wrap-up Report...*PRIDE Committee*

The pride committee reported a successful participation in the parade and noted that the Flags created a new attention grabbing tactic. Many teams participated highly whereas other teams had no representation in the parade.

7. Old Business

a. Turkey Shoot Wrap-up Report...*Peter Ho*

- i. Financial Summary- generated \$6400- 40 teams
- ii. Congratulations to winners
- iii. Recommendations Going Forward- Grow the tournament by doing October date

b. Upcoming Tournaments...*Scot Howard*

- i. Sin City Classic: Jan 13-16
 1. All softball divisions are full

2. Roster Deadline is Dec 15; they will then be locked
3. All rosters must be approved by the Board before submitted
4. Masters Teams: Reg is Thurs evening / Difficult to reg at fields

ii. PS Winter Classic: Feb 4-6

1. Registration is open
2. Discounted pricing in effect until Jan 4
3. PSGSL will be verifying all team rosters

iii. Saguaro Cup: Apr 8-10

1. Registration is open

iv. PS Senior Tournament: Jan 29 @ BLD

c. Sponsor Appreciation Calendar Wrap-up Report...*Brian Thompson*

The Sponsorship appreciation calendar went really well throughout the season and the council concurred that this effort should be continued to bring further exposure to our sponsors and encourage inter divisional camaraderie. Many council members provided feedback such as advertising the weekly sponsors each week at the field and posting the weekly sponsors earlier prior to the start of the season. It was also encouraged to reward members who attend these sponsorship weekly events, a possible punch card was suggested with a prize at the end of the season for attending a certain number of events. Teams were also encouraged to coordinate fundraising events with your corresponding sponsorship week.

d. Demuth Batter's Boxes Update...*Brian Thompson*

This activity will be turned over to Scot and members of the Senior league who will coordinate a new time and date to repair these batter's boxes since the previously scheduled date now conflicts with a Toys for Tots Tournament that same weekend.

8. New Business

a. Breakfast With Santa...*Scot Howard*

i. Volunteers Update...*Josh Russell*

The City of PS and PSGSL are hosting a free community event for 200 underserved children and their families on Dec 18 at the PS Pavilion. With \$7K in donations from BMW of Palm Springs, Contour Dermatology and PSGSL, every child that attends (ages 5-12) will receive a new toy for the Holidays. Coverage has already appeared on NBCPalmSprings.

b. 2022 Practice Fields At Demuth Park...*Scot Howard*

PSGSL is working with Parks & Rec to cover the cost of practice fields for one month – either Feb or Mar. We will coordinate the scheduling so that all teams have equal access to fields and practice times.

c. 1-Day Masters Inter-League Play...*Scot Howard*

We are exploring interest in a 1-day tournament, similar to the annual A/B Inter-League play, for Masters teams within the SoCal region.

d. USA Umpire Certification...*Lenny Broberg/Peter Ho*

e. PSGSL Code of Conduct Update...Scot Howard/Brian Thompson

i. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The PSGSL rule regarding unsportsmanlike conduct applies to Umpires as well. Our umpires have noticed a change in how they are being treated and as such many no longer enjoy working with our League. If umpires are not willing to work with us, then we don't play ball. Therefore, PSGSL umpires have been instructed to give each team one warning if a situation arises. Afterwards, a player and/or coach may be objected if deemed necessary by the umpire. Anyone ejected for arguing, yelling, bad-mouthing an umpire will be suspended for the remainder of their games that day and all games the following week.

ii. Team Eligibility

PSGSL ByLaws Article IV: Members: Teams representing PSGSL may only include a maximum of 3 non-LGBT players as per NAGAAA guidelines.

It's been brought to the Board's attention that this rule isn't being enforced. According to one source, non-LGBT players are being told to simply "check the box" and their frustration with the League is growing when they repeatedly see LGBT players sitting the bench, while more than 3 non-LGBT players are on the field.

Investigating this assertion, the Board reviewed the "status" checked by the 226 players for The 2021 Fall Season. 21 had checked non-LGBT, which is 9% of the total players this past season, meaning that with 14 teams no more than 2 non-LGBT players would be on the field for a team.

We also have a coach present that has similar concerns that would like to address the Council....(please see last page for a copy of the statement presented to the board)

The Board's position on non-LGBT players:

The PSGSL was not formed just to be another softball league. There is a reason Tommy (Our Founders) included Gay in the title. Their mission was to provide a safe, fun environment for everyone but with a strong emphasis on, using their words, "...members of the Gay and Lesbian community" in Palm Springs.

That said, the Board does not want to discourage non-LGBT members playing in our League but would like to see these individuals be more immersive in and supportive of gay-themed activities off the field like marching in the PRIDE parade, attending team events on Arenas, etc.; rather than just showing up on a Sunday and playing softball. For example, I can count the number of non-LGBT members that marched in this year's PRIDE parade on 1 hand.

9. Good of the Order/Announcement

Rick Kulek-Manager Thunderbirds-12/7/21

Firstly I want to commend Peter Ho and the other PSGSL members who did a fantastic job with the tournament a couple of weeks ago. Over Turkey Shootout weekend, the Thunderbirds team felt compelled to do something we had great reservations about. That is protesting another team. Since moving to California in 2005 till now I had not filed a protest against another team. That covers a span of 15 years. My lone protest prior to this was back in the 90's in Florida, over 20 years ago. In the events here we strongly felt this team had at least one unrated player who undoubtedly belonged in the C Division. Perhaps the bigger issue. Over time I have witnessed teams stacking up with heterosexual players. I feel this is largely due to the ease of being able check "questionable" as a sexual designation. As one former PSGSL player/manager put it, "You can't question me". There seems to be continued pushing of the limits of the 3 heterosexuals per team rule. When I asked someone who I trust implicitly, that knows this team well whether they were abiding by the "3 per", they counted at least 7 participants that he knew to be heterosexuals. This was really upsetting to me as we had previously turned a blind eye to obvious breaking of the rules. Now not only were the sexual preference for the vast majority of the team in doubt, but the abilities of the unrated players were also in serious question.

I've been involved with gay softball since 1995. Back then it was actually an 80/20. As gay acceptance has grown it seems only natural that there is an increase in participation of heterosexual players. Without throwing out accusations towards anyone or any team, it has simply gotten too easy to lie and some have no reservations about doing so. When I was taking a team to the World Series in Portland I wanted to pick up a player from another team, but knew he was heterosexual and we were already at our cap. When I lamented about this to his coach, he replied, "He checked the box and that can't be questioned". Ethically I couldn't bring myself to do this. Unfortunately this seems to be a growing issue. I also feel sadness that many of these people who perhaps should be designated as heterosexuals aren't heterosexuals that are necessarily there to support their Gay, Lesbian and Transgender brothers and sisters. Rather I've previously overheard a current player state that it's the cheapest softball deal in town. Then you look at participation marching in Gay Pride and it's non existent for some teams. Though I've not experienced this first hand, I've even heard there are players in PSGSL who do not want to take photos to have their faces put on a gay website. This is outrageous. To me, the 3 heterosexual per team rule is what integrates heterosexuals in the gay community. As gay people many of us have experienced being the minority in different facets of life. Being a participant in a gay league allows us the comfort of being around other gay players. I believe the intention of admitting heterosexuals is that they feel a connection with us. Mike Landin is a close friend and the person I run a senior league with. His wife Teri and my partner Peter go out to lunch and movies while Mike and I are at tournaments. Jerry Contreras has been playing for me for well over 10 years. We have roomed together and he has slept at my house for early flights as I'm near the airport. I affectionately call him "my son" because if I had a son I'd want him to be just like Jerry. It's not just about softball with these guys.

What should be done. There are two courses of action. The first is untenable. That is to open it up so ALL TEAMS can have as many heterosexual players as they desire. This way there is no cheating. The second way is to change the sexual preference wording on player forms so it reads, "**The majority of the time** I consider myself to be gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual or heterosexual". The current verbage causes too much of grey area which is exactly what people who are solely looking to beat the system want. The Rounders have won multiple World Series titles in the "A" division playing by the rules. Finding "A" level players is much, much more difficult task then those in the C, D and E divisions. How is it that Jeff and the Rounders can do the right thing and yet there is the ability to ignore rules in the lower divisions?