

## RMSA Directors

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## ROME MEN'S SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

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**May 14, 2008**

### Memo to all Team Captains:

We've had a great first week! Keep up the great work! With all the many changes we have instituted since last season, it's nice to see the compliance we've received thus far. That said, we have encountered some issues that need to be addressed as quickly as possible to keep this league moving in the right direction. Of particular importance are the issues of proper dress and keeping score. We've had several problems in both areas so far this week and now is the time to address these problems.

We held two league-wide meetings prior to the season. We've also had the website updated since February with the changes we have instituted this season. There is no reason teams should not be up to speed on what is being done this season.

This memo serves as a *warning* to **ALL** teams in the RMSA. Any future violation of the policies outlined in this memo will result in sanctions against either individual players or entire teams. You are urged to take this seriously.

We are an ASA association. And as such, we follow ASA Rules. All team captains should have received a copy of *The Official Rules of Softball, 2008 Edition* and an ASA scorebook. We have also modified some rules and added some of our own. These can be found here: <http://www.romemenssoftball.org/rules.html>. A copy of the RMSA Rules will be included as an attachment to this memo. If you have not received a 2008 Rule Book (some of the late-entry teams may not have), please see one of the Board members and we will have these made available to you.

Two problems that have arisen are regarding uniforms and score sheets. Both policies have been made clear at each of our pre-season meetings and have also been addressed on the website and the message board. If you have not visited our website, please do so. The address is listed above. It is the most vital source of information for all RMSA happenings. We also run a message board forum for RMSA members to interact with the Board and with each other. All it takes is a quick registration and you are a member. There is a lot to be learned from our website. We urge you to check it out.

On to the issues at hand: Opening week has brought forth several issues regarding **uniform requirements**. The RMSA is **NOT** requiring teams to purchase team jerseys. All that we require is that each member of individual teams wears the same *color* shirt. Most teams have followed this policy; however, there are several veteran teams that have not (Don's Auto, Western Legion for example). The team captain must decide upon a color that represents that team and all team members participating in game play must wear that color or one similar. Again, it does not have to be a uniform, just a shirt of the same color.

Other issues to consider in the uniform policy:

- Tank tops are not allowed.

- Players may wear sport-type shorts, sweatpants or baseball pants. **NO JEANS, DRESS PANTS, OR CUT-OFF SHORTS** are allowed.
- Hats and/or visors are optional. However, if you wear a hat or visor, only **baseball-type hats** are allowed and must be worn bill forward.
- If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry, illegal shoes, or illegal parts of the uniform and they refuse, the player will not be allowed to play (The jewelry is strictly a judgment call on the official's part. Follow what the official instructs you to do or you will suffer the consequences.).

Bottom line, you are a softball player. Look the part or pay the consequence.

The other main issue that we have had problems with in the first week of the season is that of **score sheets**. On the whole, the new score sheets have been good. However, there have been problems among several teams that haven't been filling them out correctly (B-52s, Aquino's [Utter], Wetsel Seed, Brew Crew, Chrome Pony, Dream City). The score sheets we've created this season are different but should not be new to you. We've had a sample copy and a downloadable blank copy of the new sheet available on the website for some time now. We also handed out blank copies and sample copies at the first pre-season meeting. I am attaching a sample copy to this memo. If you would like another, please visit the website. As mentioned previously, the website is the main method of disseminating information. If you are not visiting on a regular basis you are missing out.

It is the responsibility of the **HOME TEAM** to keep the official score sheet for each game. As such, the designated scorekeeper for the game must see to it that score sheets are completed correctly. A correct score sheet (at the very least) contains a **player's first initial and last name**, spelled legibly and correctly. Full name would be best and would not take much more time to do. No longer will we accept score sheets with just a first name or nickname listed. If this occurs, **your team will forfeit** the game. The reasons for this strict enforcement are twofold: (1) It lets us know who has played and if they are on that team's roster (relates to liability as well); and (2) It helps me with the write-ups for the newspaper. I cannot include your name in the weekly "Diamond Dust" column if you are listed as a nickname or just "Joe" on the score sheet. The *Sentinel* doesn't allow it and it questions our legitimacy as a league.

In addition to filling out the players' names (from **BOTH** teams), the scorekeeper or the Home Team representative is responsible for keeping an accurate sheet for the game. Again, there is a sample game sheet attached to this memo if you do not know how to fill out the sheet.

The scorekeeper must also write the names of the umpires in the proper place at the bottom of the score sheet. This is important in the case of any game controversies; we can contact the umpire or the assigner if there are problems.

It may seem as if we are going overboard with these simple rules this year. However, the simple fact is, we are being put under the microscope and we need to follow the rules as they are written. Please help this league continue to thrive by following these rules. And as always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, do not hesitate to contact any one of us either in person, through email, the message board or by phone (all of our information is available on the website). As we've said before; this isn't our league, it's yours. Your input is vital in keeping this league alive.

We all thank you for participating and for helping this league become the largest organized recreational activity within the City of Rome.

Sincerely,  
 Mike Kohli  
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