



Sometime in the mid 1970's, a group of Christian men met together to discuss the possible formation of a new church softball league. The concept was fellowship among believers through Christian athletics. The teams would come from local Suffolk County churches of various denominations, and the participants would be expected to adhere to biblical principles of behavior. Meetings were held, ground rules were established and in 1976, and the Suffolk County Christian Softball League (SCCSL) was born.



In its inaugural season, while the details are sketchy, the league boasted approximately eight teams in two divisions. Since then, the league has continued to grow. In 1981, the SCCSL became the Suffolk Christian League (SCL). This name change, while not changing its purpose, allowed the SCL to expand and not be restricted to softball. As of yet, no additional sports have been administrated by the SCL*. With a little advertising from a local Christian radio station (WLIX 540AM), the distribution of Key Fobs, Bumper-stickers, Lapel Pins, Waterbottles, T-Shirts, Mugs, Newsletters and a lot of help from the Lord, the league grew in number and reputation.



Over a quarter of a century later the SCL, has twenty-seven men' s teams, 6 women' s teams and as of 2002, a brand new youth conference. The league continues to be a blessing to believers of over 15 denominations represented by over 40 churches throughout Suffolk County. In addition to being a place where relationships are formed and maintained between believers and between churches, many teams have also discovered the value in using this ministry to reach out to non-believers. Game nights tend to be family nights where wives, girlfriends and children can enjoy fellowship in the format of

Christian athletics.



The league's program currently includes: 18 regular season games played on Monday and/or Tuesday nights, a mid-season, 9 inning all-star game, a late-season tournament between Long Island's four Christian leagues, double-elimination playoffs, a post season 1-pitch tournament and a post season awards banquet hosted by one of our member churches featuring over 200 awards, plaques and trophies, Christian speakers from professional sports teams as well as local Christian ministries, a time of praise and worship, slide presentations, door prizes, not to mention the food. Also provided are bi-monthly newsletters that are both mailed and e-mailed. This year marks the debut of our official website, escl.net, as well as the formation of our new women's conference. All this and more for half the cost of standard leagues this size.



If the SCL sounds like it would be a good idea for your church, and your church agrees with the SCL Statement of Faith, download a membership application, fill it out and mail it in. The SCL Board of Directors will review your application and get back to you within a few weeks. The 2000 season is already underway, so there would not be any expansion until the 2001 season. May the Lord bless us with another twenty-five years.

Key Moments in SCL History

1976

Formation of the SCCSL

Monday Night Schedule Established

1979

Ronald L. Mentus (NVC) elected 1st President

Hiring of ASA Umpires for All Games

1st Annual East/West All-Star Game

6 Team Single Elimination Playoffs with 3-game Finals

1980

WLIX "Christian Sports Report" with Mel Torre

League Scholarship Fund Established

1981

Renamed "Suffolk Christian League"

1st Annual SCL Awards Dinner @Nesconset Church of Christ

Debut of the SCL Spotlight

1982

Inter-League Championship with the Charismatic League

Realignment into Two Conferences with 4 Divisions

Tuesday Night Games Added to Season Schedule

1983

1st Nassau/Suffolk All-Star Game

1st Inter-County Championship

Women's Tournament Debuts

1st Pastor's Classic Softball Game

Base Paths Lengthened to 65 ft.

1984

Certified as a Non-profit Corporation by NYS

New Logo & Corporate Image Established

1985

Formation of the SCL Hall of Fame

Tax Exempt Status Granted by NYS

1986

Umpire Rating Card System Implemented

1987

Double Elimination Play-offs Implemented

1990

Paul K. Schnier (GLW) elected 2nd President

1991

Howard Johnson (NYMets) Guest Speaker at Awards Dinner

1992

Mike Gartner (NYRangers) Guest Speaker at Awards Dinner

1994

Joseph Girgus (NCA) elected 3rd President

1995

Annual Island Classic Tournament Debuts

1996

Conference Realignment into Northeast and Southwest

1999

Full Color Spotlight Newsletter Goes E-mail

2000

New Logo & Corporate Image Introduced

Web-site, escl.net Launched

Women's Conference Formed

2001

**John Vanbeisbrouk (NY Rangers) Guest Speaker at Awards
Dinner**

2002

Youth Conference Formed

2006

Dave Dideriksen (NVC) elected 3rd President

2007