

SLPS June Board Meeting

Date: 6/11/2023

Time: 8:00

Attendees: J.Baskin, T.Hartwell, R.DiVito, A.Stromgren, D.Roe, J.Coleman, J.Rhoads, S.Major

Absent: D.Berendes & S.Leet

Approval of May Minutes: (unanimous)

- J.Baskin
- J.Rhoads

Approval of the June Agenda: (unanimous)

- J.Baskin
- J.Coleman

Financials:

- \$25,000 – looks like a large number, but there are items that need still need to be paid.
 - UMPS, Coaches, evals, Nationals, etc.
- T.Hartwell to provide LIONS check (\$500) to J.Rhoads
- A.Stromgren to provide Malborgs check (approx. \$200) to J.Rhoads
- Nationals:
 - National Fees to pay (\$700) 10Blue, 10Red, 12Blue & 12Red.

Tourney Recap:

Wins:

- Set game times for parents to plan day (8U/10U – AM & 12U – PM)
- 10U and 12U Team enrollment fulfilled by April 1 (Waitlist – 5 teams)
 - Initial tourney invite email to directors/board presidents sent in Jan 22'
- Volunteering/Dibs execution/Parent participation
- Chick-Fil-A was extremely popular again this year
- Music/Field Announcing for Championship games / Music throughout Tourney Day
- Tourney Medals
- Board partnership
 - Successful event because ALL board members took an 'All-Hands on deck' approach starting on Friday night with set-up.

Opportunities:

- Higher class teams being allowed to compete drew complaints from some teams (Level recommendations came after tourney was set up)
- Weather

- 8U pitching rules (coach pitch vs. machine) was main reason 8U teams backed out. Recommend machine for future years
- Too much Jets pizza purchased (Popular but not *THAT* popular 😊)
 - Some teams recommended going to a grill with hot dog and burger offerings. However, not a popular option from the board.

Additional notes:

- Breaks in-between game times were tighter than previous years, and some did not have enough time to grab concessions in between games (Umps thought the times in between games were perfect)
- If we continue to leverage field 5 & 6, potentially bring in a porta potty to allow more accessible bathroom access.
- Entry Fee was loved by ALL teams....but feels like we could raise it to \$300 or \$325 from \$285 and still be the cheapest tourney around.
- Add in a Pitch, hit and run contest, before or during or after each age level.
 - Try to get a sponsor to give away something cool at each age level.
 - Drone, Bluetooth speaker, air tags, airpods, go pro, etc.
- Explore separate A, B & C tournaments with pool play if SLP continues to field A teams. Perhaps do 2 days (Fri/Sat) vs. 1 day (Sat) – Volunteer capacity at risk
 - Panther Classic is becoming more popular (5 teams were waitlisted this year.) If popularity continues, might be worth expanding.

2023 8U, 10U and 12U Registrants:

Coon Rapids

Brooklyn Park

STMA

St. Anthony

Wayzata

Columbia Heights

Soderville

Waite Park

East Ridge

Armstrong Cooper

Anoka Ramsey

- Venmo was discussed – but there are some fears around security + 990's and new Tax Laws – revisit at a later date, 2024.

Tower Days:

- R.DiVito – as we ran out of candy again this year, he has heard that parents would donate candy.
- T.Hartwell – suggests handing out something other than candy.

Fall Uniforms:

- Games start the weekend of 8/19
- Board agrees that T.Hartwell & J.Coleman will work on the Fall jerseys (**unanimous**)

Off Topic:

- There are not any gate fees for Qualifier – just State.
- PINS - \$30 each & we currently have 833 PINS

Fall Ball Coaches Search:

- T.Hartwell, D.Roe & R.DiVito will again conduct the coaches search.

Coaches Shirts:

- Agreed to do them for Fall as it was too late to do them for Summer.
 - J.Coleman & T.Hartwell will be working on these along with the Player Jersey's

3M Volunteering:

- T.Hartwell to Present
 - Sunday 7/30
 - Need 12 Volunteers
 - Volunteers need to abide by the age requirements
 - Shift 11am – 5pm
 - Rich to Create DIBS
 - Limit 2 people per household
 - Organization would benefit to about \$1000
- Motion: (**unanimous**)
 - R.DiVito
 - J.Coleman

Summer Surveys:

- Submit questions to A.Stromgren then he'll work with S.Leet
- R.DiVito suggests doing mid-season surveys
- R.DiVito to submit survey questions:
 - Motion: (**unanimous**)
 - T.Hartwell
 - J.Baskin

- Timing:
 - 8s – 12s 6/1 (NOW)
 - 14s – HS 6/20

Panther Pride:

- 5pm – 6pm for 6 Sundays
- Registration has been open since this past Wednesday
- If Teams can help volunteer with it this year, that'd be great.
- 10 athletes registered as of now.

Discussion at 10s, 12s & 14s.

- 10Blue
 - Issues with “A” placement from Coach down.
 - Coach has brought up issues concerning Soderville
 - T.Hartwell feels as though they've improved throughout the year.
 - Athletes seem generally happy but can be frustrated.
 - Add more practice time?
 - Info on pricing of fields per T.Hartwells request:
 - Lakeside \$100
 - Airport \$200
 - SLPHS \$4 a day
 - A.Stromgren/J.Rhoads have indicated more field space isn't a funds issue, but an availability and access issue.
- 12 Blue
 - A few not happy w/ games – complaining about competitiveness of the team.
- 14 Red
 - Issues w/ attendance for all team activities
 - Coach spoke with Liaison
 - Main concern is the attendance
 - 'solutions'
 - Had to pull up catchers from 12
 - 12s will be double rostered for 12s & 14s
 - MNSOFTBALL rosters will be adjusted strategically [J.Rhoads]
 - Do we need to shut the team down, due to lack of players?
 - No – not at this time.
 - Had a racial issue on the team – the athlete in question is no longer w/ the program
 - Officers + Coach + Athlete + Family met to discuss the issuer, prior to the player opting to leave the program.

Term Limits:

- A.Stromgren & S.Leet need to be out of their roles after the 7/16/23 meeting.
- Nominations:
 - Will need nominations & votes [Majority carries]
- J.Rhoads & J.Baskin term 12/31/23
- Officers commitments:
 - President + Secretary are on a concurrent 2 year term
 - Vice President + Treasurer are on a concurrent 2 year term – opposite President + Secretary.
- Terms ONLY apply to Officers.

Meeting Adjourned

- 10:00pm CST