



West Valley Slammers
Board of Directors Meeting
Nov. 12, 2024

Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call

Nikki Pirotta (president), Lindsey Kouvaris (secretary), Joe Rogove, Jason Griggs (via proxy to Joe Rogove), Brandon Rosato, Brandon Studley, Sarah Mudgett, JR Sandoval, Megan Wikramanayake, Cat D'Aulerio, Jenny Rempel, Dan Fukuyama, Michelena Goddard (via proxy to Jenny Rempel), Marcy Sandoval (via proxy to JR Sandoval), Angela Heredia (via proxy to JR Sandoval), Lisa Fukuyama (via Google Meet), Steve Eggers, Holly Carwana, Mat Sandoval (via proxy to JR Sandoval), Ben Skinner, Carrie Moreno (via Google Meet)

Three members of the public are present.

II. Confirmation of Quorum and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

III. Public Comment Time (2 min. per comment)

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Oct. 7 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Cause for Applause

Nikki thanked the Board for making an effort to attend the meeting, especially given the recent time change. She acknowledged JR and Marcy for running the Snack Shack during the fall season and expressed appreciation to Jason for taking care of the fields.

VI. Financial Report

- A. Financials - The league has a healthy bank balance which will allow us to set registration prices as needed and cover third party fees for online registrations.
- B. Annual Budget - Our goal is to have our annual budget ready to share by the December meeting.
- C. Tax update - Ben has connected with an accountant to assist with filing taxes.
- D. An issue with a team-specific equipment purchase made with donated funds arose during the fall, begging the question: What guidelines are in place to

govern how donated funds are used? Currently, the league has no established policy to guide this.

1. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reimburse the parent for the purchase of a team bat since no policy was in place at the time of its purchase and to hereafter create a policy in which the Exec Board will review and approve all purchases made with donated funds. In addition, the team bat will be returned to JR as part of the team equipment. The motion passed.

12 yes, 1 abstention, 8 no

VII. City Field Reservations

- A. The process is first-come, first-served. We were fairly high up on the list. Per City guidelines, we are allowed to request three fields. We asked for use of Doer Park, De Anza Park, and Paul Moore Park five days a week. We did not request use of Butcher Park since we've received negative feedback from parents in the past. We await a response from the City regarding our requests. If there are multiple requests for the same fields, the City generally asks the requesting groups to work together to come to a solution. So, while we have requested use of the fields, they are not yet confirmed.

VIII. End of Fall

- A. The rec season is over. Coaches have been returning keys and equipment.
- B. Fall Stars ends Nov. 30. As coaches finish their seasons, they will need to return keys and equipment. Nikki will send an email to remind coaches of this process.
- C. Unfortunately, an 8U coach reported that she lost the tee her team was issued. She has offered to pay for it, but Nikki raised the question as to how the league has handled this in the past. The Board agreed that lost equipment is the cost of doing business and the coach should not have to pay out of pocket for a replacement.

IX. Spring Rec Registration Timeline

- A. Last year, spring registration for 8U and up was \$360. This was slightly higher than other leagues. Holly noted that last year \$350 was the base fee and an additional \$10 was added to fund scholarships, bringing the total to \$360.
- B. In the past, the league has offered a sibling discount and a lower price for 6U. Head coaches have typically received a \$100 reimbursement.
- C. We will generate a code for siblings that can be publicized and used during registration to abate the need for reimbursements.
- D. Brandon S. will also create a code to use for scholarship families.
- E. A motion was made and seconded to set registration prices as follows:
 - \$350 early bird (8U and above)
 - \$375 after Jan. 1, 2025 (8U and above)
 - \$300 early bird (6U)
 - \$325 after Jan. 1, 2025 (6U)

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

X. 2025 Spring Rec Season Timeline

- A. Registration opens: Monday, Nov. 18
- B. Registration closes: Wednesday, Jan. 8
- C. Coaches meeting, equipment/keys: Saturday, Jan. 11 (possible rain out dates, Jan. 12, Jan. 25, or Jan. 26)
- D. 10U, 12U, and 14U Evaluations: Jan. 11 (possible rain out dates, Jan. 12, Jan. 25, or Jan. 26)
- E. Practices begin: Feb. 1
- F. Opening Day: March 1
- G. Hit-a-thon and Picture Day: April 27
- H. Final rec games: May 3
- I. All Star tryouts: May 4
- J. Closing Ceremonies/Championship Games: May 10
- K. A request was made to better publicize the season calendar online, on social media, and via emails to the league.

XI. New All Star/A-ball-Select Team Logo

- A. Lindsey has reached out to a former colleague who has offered to donate design services for a new logo for A-ball/Select/All Star teams.

XII. Rec Uniforms

- A. Rec uniforms will continue to use the home plate logo. As of now, the plan is to work with Boombah again.
- B. It was noted that last year's jerseys were too slim for some players. The league will make an effort to advise families to size up for a slim fit or size down for a unisex fit.

XIII. Open Positions

- A. Nikki expressed appreciation for all of our current board members and the work that we do. She asked board members to continue to be responsive to email even during the next "slower" stretch.
 - 1. Dan suggested creating a standard for all board members to respond to emails. The board is encouraged to provide an initial response within 48 hours.
- B. Nikki is looking into ways to better accommodate dial-in attendance at meetings. In person attendance would continue to be encouraged, but a dial-in option could help folks flex around issues such as illness, childcare, etc.
- C. 12U Player Agent (Board position)
 - 1. Melissa Leslie, our 12U player agent, has stepped down for medical and family reasons.
 - 2. Lauren Matheny has expressed interest in taking on this role. She has a second year 8U player.
 - 3. A second candidate expressed interest, but has a child in the 12U division, which is not allowed according to our bylaws.
 - 4. A motion was made and seconded to approve Laura Matheny as our new 12U player agent. The appointment was approved unanimously.
- D. Volunteer Coordinator (Board position)

1. This role remains open and will become more critical as we roll into spring.
- E. Practice and Game Scheduler (not a Board position)
1. Joe stepped up to help in fall, but we would like to have someone to take on the role more permanently. The person fulfilling this role will receive volunteer hours.

XIV. 2025 Rec Season

- A. Insurance
1. We are all set with our insurance.
 2. All coaches will need to complete the training and be listed with USA Softball.
- B. Select/A-ball Updates from USA Softball
1. There have been no significant changes since our last meeting.

XV. Continued Discussion Constitution Section 8.0 and Playing Rules

- A. Bylaws Section 8
1. According to USA Softball, Select players will be required to play rec, no tournaments after March 1 or they will forfeit eligibility for Summer All Stars, round robins and friendlies are allowed throughout the spring.
 - a) Summer All Stars should be viewed as a reward for rec girls who have worked hard throughout the spring season.
 - b) Two options were presented for Select: 1- Similar to what happened last year with an additional practice and potential for friendlies; 2- Open divisional workouts to work on higher level skills.
 - c) Could we offer both a “traditional” Select and workouts for rec girls who want to grow their skills? Can we host more clinics to help players grow their skills?
 - d) Select is included in the bylaws and will remain an option going forward.
 - e) A motion was made and seconded to expand the Select definition to include 8U. The motion passed.
18 yes, 3 nos, 0 abstentions
 2. A-ball has been approved and teams may be governed by the league as the league sees fit.
 - a) The Board should approach this discussion holistically, thinking not only of our current A-ball team but also of potential future A-ball teams.
 - b) Per the bylaws, A-Classified coaches need to be chosen. An email should go to the league inviting applicants.
 - c) As soon as a coach is selected and registration is open, tryouts may occur. Players must be registered before tryouts. Brandon S. will create an A-ball registration to capture pertinent information. Once the team is selected, the families will receive a separate link for payment.

- d) A motion was made and seconded to set registration fee at \$2,000 or less for spring and summer 2025. The motion passed. 20 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions
- e) A motion was made and seconded to eliminate the minimum player requirement on A-ball teams and to require each A-ball team to include at least six players who have previously played one season or more for WVS. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Playing Rules

- 1. Updates to the playing rules were approved by unanimous consent.
- 2. Brandon S. will post the playing rules and a formal vote to ratify the changes will be taken at the December meeting.

XVI. Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 2, 2024

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Items Approved Via Email

There were no email approvals requests since the Oct. 7, 2024 meeting.

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 30	Fall Stars season ends
Dec. 2	Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Jan. 6	Board meeting, 7 p.m.