

Big Lake Baseball Association (BLBA)
Monthly Board Meeting Agenda & Minutes



Meeting Date/Time: April 9, 2025 at 7pm

Location: McPete's in Big Lake

Recorder: Tessa Miller - Secretary

Attendance:

Name	Position	Att	Name	Position	Att
Dan Grove	President	P	Lawrence Luoma	MAL – Travel Director	P
Mike Horn	Vice President	P	Joe Bruns	MAL – Equipment Coordinator	P
Nicole Possehl	Treasurer	P	Henry Bochenski	MAL – In-House Coordinator	P
Tessa Miller	Secretary	P	Stephanie Mericle	MAL - Volunteer Coordinator	P
Ashley Luoma	MAL – Director M&M	P	Loren Holthaus	MAL – Associate Director	A
Tay Kaeppe	MAL - Webmaster	P	Jeff	Shield Pro Exteriors	G
Andrew Gosewisch	MAL – Player & Coach Development	P	Brendan	Shield Pro Exteriors	G

MAL = Member at Large

P = Present, PV - Present Virtual, A = Absent G = Guest

Agenda:

Topic	Description	Action / Discussion	Action By
Approve previous months board minutes	Review and approve previous months board minutes and send to webmaster to post.	Minutes approved	
Shield Pro Exteriors	Visitors and Grand Slam Sponsor for 2025 season	Two visitors from Shield Pro attending - please see minutes below for more information	
Open Forum	For additional discussion and/or open to public	See minutes below for open forum items	
Bylaws	Updates	Bylaws reviewed and approved	
Finance Update	Update from Treasurer	See below for additional information	
Registration	Discuss refunds	Dan creating travel free form in sports engine	Dan
M & M	Updates from M&M	See updates in minutes below for action items	See minutes
Quad City/In-House	Updates	Schedule meeting on Apr 13, 2025	Henry

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Travel	Updates	See updates in minutes below	
Handbook	Updates - waiting to update until we have tryouts worked out	On hold	
Contact List	List setup		
Team Photos	9u-14U: May 16, 2025 M&M/15U: June 12, 2025	Stephanie is setting up dibs opportunity for photo night on May 16th	Stephanie
Equipment Assessment	Updates	See minutes below for more info	
Equipment Gear Swap	Updates/Next Steps	See minutes below for more info	
Volunteer	Updates	Stephanie is set up with website and dibs access	
Uniforms	Updates & volunteer opportunity discussion for sorting	Jerseys are expected this week, and then we can set up a volunteer opportunity for uniform sorting	
Apparel	Updates & coach codes	Nikki purchasing coach apparel codes	Nikki
Apparel Tab	Ashley will discuss		
Community Involvement / Sponsorships	Updates	See updates in minutes below	
Sportsmanship Award	Dan to present idea	Information being sent to coaches	Dan
Scoreboard	Dan to present idea	See minutes for more information	
Tournaments	Ordering of rings - longest lead time Umpire discussion	See minutes for more information for several action items	
Spring Tryouts	Ideas for next season	See minutes for more information for action items	
Future Meeting Plans	Ashley to discuss	Next Meeting May 14th at 8pm	

Dan Grove called the meeting to order at 7:02

Approval of Previous month's meeting minutes: Tessa requested a motion. Ashley motioned, with Dan seconding. All were in favor, motion carries. Previous months board meeting minutes approved.

Shield Pro Exteriors

- Visitors and Grand Slam Sponsor for 2025 season
- 2 Guests present at meeting

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- Company located Big Lake
- Dan met with Shield Pro Exteriors about future opportunities
 - Working shift(s) to assist with tournaments with their company gear on
 - Partnering on some possible for future of a ballpark
 - Jeff contacted MN Twins and MN Saints
 - have not heard back from Saints
 - has a meeting with MN Twins grant director about available grants the 2nd week in May and will let us know how it goes.
 - Would like to raise funds for a BLBA only ballpark via grants and on own
 - Working with a case statement to present to different organizations
 - **Action Item: ALL BOARD** - Would like a few testimonials to include in his case statement
 - Per Mike - do we bring in other communities to ask them how they started
 - Staff
 - Family based company
 - 24 or so employees plus crews
 - Future
 - Use BLBA as an advocate for their company and allow them to use our logo in their advertising
 - Found Big Lake Baseball Association and wanted to excel in community contributions
 - Also helping out Seniors community services via repairs and lawn care
 - Challenge
 - Finding public fields for our teams - up to three teams trying to share 1 field
 - **Action Item: Tessa to order jersey for Shield Pro Exteriors**

Open Forum

- 9 Travel team
 - **Action Item: Mike Horn reaching out to coach**
 - Joe Bruns has offered to have joint practices with the team
- Tournaments on the 13U-15U are a struggle to find right now
 - If we do not find enough tournaments, we can discuss partial refunds for those teams
 - We are on waiting lists, and starting to get calls from a few tournaments to join

Bylaws

- Discuss commenting on current bylaws document
- Action Item: Board members to review
- Dan motions to adopt bylaws are reviewed tonight. Mike seconds motion. All in favor. Motion Passes.

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Finance Update

- Update from Treasurer: Cheddar Up for Donations/Sponsorships?
- Travel fees, tournament (gate and fees) will be coming in
- M&M Jerseys at \$16 without adding the sponsor names
- M&M Hats at \$11

Registration

- Currently, once teams are formed players do not get a refund.
- Travel fees are \$50
 - Action Item: Dan setting up the sportsengine to get travel for created

M & M

- Registration closes 4/10
- We have around 100 registered
- Shared flyer through ebackpack
- **Action Item: Tessa to create a Rolodex of contact information**
- **Action Item: Once registration closes, Tay will assist to make groups within SportsEngine**
- Coaches are asking for a very simple practice plan and some guidance on season
- Equipment handout day
 - **Action Item: Joe and Ashely to work on setting up an equipment handout date - perhaps May 2nd with 6pm-6:30pm pickup timeframe, but will finalize**
 - **Action Item: Ashley asking Joe to see if the coaches binders are in the bags from last season**
- Opening Day Banner
 - **Action Item: Ashley working to get quotes - RPM graphics offers discounts for nonprofits**
 - Banners that we could use for opening night for M&M for sponsorships and spudfest
- Informational meeting held last night
- Website
 - **Action Item: Tay to update one spot on website from "Minors" to "Majors"**

Quad City/In-House

- Scheduling meeting on April 13th
- Henry has created a calendar for the coaches with dates blocked out
- Until mid-May start at 6:15/6:30, After mid-may can start at 6

Travel

- Scheduling Fields with Community Ed
- All teams are scheduled
- Umpires

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- Dan working with umpires to schedule and will send in QC schedule after the QC scheduling meeting.
- Dan will now have access to the umpire schedule - sending the list to coaches for them to follow up.

Handbook

- waiting to update until we have tryouts worked out

Team Photos

- 9u-14U: May 16, 2025 - M&M/15U: June 12, 2025
- Volunteer/Dibs request in process

Equipment Assessment

- Equipment handout completed
- L-Screen: Would like to purchase 1 for Liberty 2
 - **Action Item: Lawrence getting 2 L-screens from shed and bringing to 4-plex**
- **Action Item: Joe checking through M&M Gear**
 - Baseballs coming from grants
- Shipping Container
 - We have agreement that we can bring a container in between the shed and the batting cages.

Equipment Gear Swap

- First event took place at M&M informational meeting
- Leftover gear in shed for next event

Volunteer

- Stephanie gained access to website and dibs
- Photo day event is created and ready for review
- Cancellation days - Need to contact volunteer coordinator to cancel shifts

Uniforms

- Status & volunteer opportunity discussion for sorting

Apparel

- Updates and Coach Codes
- **Action Item: Tay will send out email for the pop-up store**

Apparel Tab

- Can we change "fan gear" to "apparel"
 - **Action Item: Tay looking into changing the name**

Community Involvement / Sponsorships

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- Sponsorships: Have reached out to 61 companies and organizations via emails, online forms, and in-person. Three Sponsors thus far.
- Item: Can we get an alumni email going out
- Three confirms sponsors package
 - Engraved bats for Home Runs
 - Action Item: Lawrence will reach out about framing a jersey for Shield Pro
- St.Cloud Rox
 - Approved for \$5000 donations
 - Purchasing the baseballs
 - Sent link for the pitching mound
- MN Twins
 - Approved for 3 equipment kits - 1 at each level
- MN Twins tickets
 - Tay received 500 tickets
 - Need to find a distribution plan - email registered families up to 4 tickets.
 - August 17th game
- Kinder coffee - based out of St. Cloud
 - Tay received samples from the coffee shop
 - They offer fundraiser
 - Package would have Big Lake Logo on it
 - \$20/bag and association gets \$7/bag
 - Electronic - no door to door
 - They will set up a website to use for the fundraiser
 - Our cost into it
 - \$65 for website and labels
 - If we sell 50 bags, then they will absorb the \$65
 - They will provide social posts
 - Could they sponsor coffee for our tournaments
 - Put together incentives
 - Top Seller, Top Team gets a pizza party
 - Gift cards from places like BP Athletics
 - **Action Item: Tay moving forward and putting together communication plan**
- SpudFest
 - Are we doing the parade spudfest
 - **Action Item: Tay to register for spudfest parade**
- Sunday spotlights
 - Asking board and coaches to submit

Sportsmanship Award

- Dan would like to possibly start a sportsmanship award. Coach picks player at the end of the season. This would be one per team, and they would get a trophy of some sort.
- **Action Item: Dan to send information out coaches regarding this program**

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Scoreboard

- Softball is looking at partnering with BLBA and football to put scoreboards into the 4-plex
 - At this time BLBA will be using our funds for needs of the baseball association

Tournaments

- Ordering of rings - longest lead time
 - **Action Item: Dan ordering rings - getting designs from company**
- Umpire discussion
 - Umpires through Northstar
 - Need to have rules set and are communicated to umps
 - **Action Item: Henry to send updated 2025 rules to Dan once they are updated.**
- Start volunteer discussion
- We are light on 9U-11U Big Lake tournament
 - Currently have 19 teams total, but need more for each age group
 - **Action Item: Dan reaching out to teams that participated last year to find out if they will be joining Big Lake tournament**
- 12U-15U is filling up for the 2nd tournament
- **Action Item: Tessa to send out tournament to-do list**

Spring Tryouts / Evaluations

- **Action Item: Tessa to reach back out to SCSU to get their proposed plan**
 - Ask baseball evaluators background
 - Is his team available for Jan/Feb timeline
 - Confirm if they form teams
- **Action Item: ALL BOARD: Next board meeting bring ideas**

Future Meeting Plans

- Next meeting is May 14th at 8pm

Meeting ends at 10:05