



February Ad Hoc Board Meeting Agenda

February 1, 2024

7:00 PM, Zoom

Our Mission: To provide the youth in the Spring Lake Park School District #16 attendance area the opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of fastpitch softball at a competitive level.

Our Focus: Teaching fastpitch softball fundamentals, promoting team play, improving individual skills and having fun in order to promote a life-long enjoyment of fastpitch softball.

Call To Order

1) Welcome & Role Call (Tanya)

Present	Board Member	Present	Board Member
X	Tanya Hartwell, President	ABS	Shelly Major, Player Development Director
X	Mike Raymond, Vice President	X	Rich DiVito, Website & IT Director
X	Josh Good, Treasurer		OPEN, Brand & Marketing Director
X	Stacy Nugent, Secretary	X	Kristi Cobbs, Community Liaison & Fundraising Director
X	Amy Bennett, League & Team Schedule Director	X	Zac Humphrey, Director at Large
X	Derek Roe, Program Director	ABS	Carlo Faccini, Director at Large
X	Sarah Gatlin, Panther Classic Tournament Director		OPEN, Director at Large

*Board Quorum for Approval Decisions: 50% of filled roles required

Additional Attendees: N/A

1) Rookies Program Discussion & Vote (Sarah/Zac/Shelly)

Discuss updates on any progress regarding offering this program for Summer 2024

- Program Costs:
 - Coaching: Sam and Amber will donate their time
 - Location: Airport Fields \$315 (assumes one new field night and tacking on to one night that is already scheduled)
 - T-Shirt Jersey: ~\$18 per athlete
 - Flyers: TBD; Zac is scoping getting them donated and distribution feasibility
- Up to 20 athletes; pre-K – 1st grade focused
- Timing: June - July
- Format: Tuesday/Thursday from 6 PM – 7 PM
- Proposed Fee: \$60 per athlete; would need at least 8 athletes to break even on field space

Discussion Notes:

- Registration open through mid-May so we have time to get t-shirts
- Will waitlist over 20; if demand is high on waitlist we'll endeavor to find another coach so more athletes can participate in the program
- Will work to be included in April school flyer distribution; Zac will work to get printing donated
- Motion to approve moving forward as outlined above

Motion: Mike
Second: Zach;
Vote: All Prove

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **Zac/Sarah** to work with Amy to finalize field details
- **Zac** to work with John A for flyer distribution
- **Zac/Rich** to get registration form created

2) Registration Discussion & Team Formation Vote (Tanya)**Current Registration Numbers**

89 total athletes confirmed registered; 23% registered in the last week (progress!)

- (1) 12U registration outstanding (Mya McGraw) but was emailing with her guardian last night and expect it to come in bringing us to 90 total athletes
- Compared to LY, we're slightly down at 8U, 12U and 14U+/slightly up in 10U

2023 Numbers for context:

- 100 Registered / 95 Final Athletes due to cuts needed at 12U
- 36% registered in the last week (or after)

Registration Breakout by Age Division

- **8U | 15 athletes**
 - Three players (Neva Gust, Caylin Togle and Lachlyn Mickelson) requested to be placed on the same team due to carpool needs
 - Soderville League is flexible on team size; 6 player minimum for game play
- **10U | 33 athletes**
 - Includes (3) 8U players requesting to play up
 - Harper Nugent (played 10U Red LY on Stoltz's team)
 - Audrey Fitzpatrick (has played 2 years of 8U with us; 8U Red LY on Matusovic's team)
 - Jeorgia Robb (played 8U Red LY on Matusovic's team)
 - (1) 10U player (Taylor Higgins) has requested to be evaluated during the 14U/16U group on 3/2 due to conflicts; this aligns with the process outlined in our Parent Handbook
- **12U | 22 athletes** (23 with Mya McGraw)
- **14U/16U | 19 athletes**
 - (7) 14U athletes prefer to play at their age level
 - (9) 14U athletes are willing to be considered for a hybrid
 - 3 players are true 16U and would need be placed on a hybrid team

Number of Teams, Team Size & Level of Play Discussion & Vote

Based on coach/parent feedback to date, and considering the talent pool of athletes registered, I'd suggest we consider the following:

- **8U**
 - Leveling not applicable
 - (2) evenly split teams; while we can technically have 1 team with 14, that isn't going to be a great experience for anyone at that age level
 - Since they don't start until April, propose we keep registration open longer to see if we can recruit a few more
- **10U**
 - (1) B Team (11 athletes)
 - (2) evenly split C Teams (11 athletes each)
- **12U**
 - (1) B Team (11 athletes)

- (1) C Team (12 athletes)
- **14U**
 - (1) B team (9)
- **14U/16U Hybrid**
 - (1) A Team (10)

Discussion Notes:

- 8U alignment that we're OK to go with smaller teams, will continue to accept registrations and start considering who the 2nd coach could be
- 10U lots of healthy debate with some in favor of A, some wanting evenly split teams, and some expressing concern about bumping down with the large number of returning players
- The topic of trying out pitchers/catchers continues to come up; is challenging due to the limited number we have and need to continue to discuss ways to develop players in those roles
- There is already an expectation of having a "top" team, if we want to fundamentally shift how we build teams it would be ideal to communicate that in advance of registration
- Support for adding questions around team formation in the season end parent survey
- If we're starting at B for 10s, it makes sense to be consistent for 12s – especially with smaller numbers
- 14U/16U alignment that we'll keep registration open and look for additional players; fortunate to have flexibility for sub players at those levels and feel we'll be able to find coverage with smaller teams if need be
- Motion to approve the following:
 - 8U: as outlined above
 - 10U: B1, B2, and C for levels; note that is an SLPSA designation – both will be B in the eyes of MN Softball
 - 12U: as outlined above
 - 14U/16U: as outlined above

Motion: Josh

Second: Zac

Vote:

- Approve: Tanya, Zac, Josh, Kristi, Derek, Amy, Sarah, Rich, Stacy
- Oppose: Mike (would prefer an A team)

Next Steps (if any)/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **Tanya** to communicate approach to coaches
- **Tanya** to submit an exception notice to MN Softball

Coach Salary and 14U Coach Vote

NOTE: We're still working to confirm Amanda and Natalie's payment expectations so may need to table if we don't hear back by the time of our meeting.

- 14U Head Coach: Propose we approve Amanda Presinger for that role
- Head Coach Salary:
 - For those with athletes on the team, propose we continue offering full registration refund including tank jersey costs; jersey cost would be new this year (~\$210 additional cost)
 - Amanda Presinger: Propose \$1000 as a first season head coach for 14U
- Assistant Coach Salary:
 - Natalie Nusbaum: Propose \$500; flat to LY

Discussion Notes:

- Motion to approve Amanda for the 14U head coach role
- Will follow up on payment conversation during next board meeting once Derek hears back from Amanda and Natalie around payment expectations

Motion: Derek

Second: Kristi

Vote: All Approved

Next Steps (if any)/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **Derek** to follow up with Amanda and Natalie re: payment expectations
- **Tanya** to add coach salary vote to February Board Meeting agenda

3) Fundraising Discussion (Tanya/Kristi/Mike)

Tonight's discussion will be focused on fundraising for the 2024 season; discuss options, gain consensus and vote on what we want to pursue in addition to those already planned to offset team expenses above and beyond what the fee covers in addition to equipment needs, additional training opportunities, field maintenance, association operating expenses etc...

Long term: We need a more in-depth follow-up discussion around our financial goals and association needs to determine our fundraising strategy for 2025 and beyond. I will add this to a future monthly agenda.

Fundraising initiatives we currently have in progress:

- Cub Bagging; ~\$1100 raised during the last event (hit 2023 budget) with two confirmed dates for 2024; can look into more if we feel we have support to cover
 - April 13/14 10AM – 5PM (will allow 14s and above)
 - May 25th Memorial Weekend 10AM -5PM (will allow 10s and above)
- Spirit Wear Store(s) (brought in just shy of \$1000 last year)
- Ham Lake Chamber (\$1000) and SLP Lions (\$500) Renewals; will resubmit applications for 2024
- HOM Furniture Sponsorship; in active discussions
- Panther Homecoming Tailgate; not a huge one (~\$200 LY) but has a combo goal of fundraising, community engagement, and driving awareness for the program

New potential fundraising initiatives proposed:

- Mulch Sales: has the ship sailed on this if the football group has already confirmed with Sylva?
- Charitable Gambling (raffle/pull tabs): In doing some preliminary research on the [MN Dept of Revenue site](#) around [Lawful Charitable Gambling for Non-Profits](#), logistically I think this is going to be a tricky one to stand up for this season unless we have another organization to tack on to. If the group feels strongly about this option; I think a simple raffle would be our best approach.
- [Fund Crazy Cards](#): board did a quick turn version of this last year around NCAA and seemed to sell well and have a high margin; would need to scope what opportunities are available for March/April
- Community/Food Product Offers (Kwik Trip Car Wash/Butter Braids/Pizzas/Coupon Cards): my two cents - I think the market is saturated with these types of fundraisers and would suggest we consider these as personal fundraisers for those athletes looking to offset the fee vs. a required option supporting the association in total

Proposed 2024 Fundraising Goal: \$8,000

- Assumes roughly \$500 per 8U team and \$1,000 per 10U+ team to cover team expenses above and beyond what the fee covers in addition to equipment needs, additional training opportunities, field maintenance, association operating expenses etc...
- ~\$2,500 is already accounted for in our 2024 budget (Spirit Wear, Ham Lake Chamber & Lions)
- ~\$5,500 would be the outstanding balance we'd be looking to cover through Cub Bagging and any additional fundraising initiatives. As a reminder, our current budget has us sitting at a **~\$3,000 deficit**.

Discussion Notes:

- Discussion and agreement that fundraising needs to be a mandatory as we currently aren't covering team costs and don't want to increase fees
- Some of the bigger gambling initiatives like pull tabs are complex and time consuming; more than we want to take on in the short term as we focus to get something going for 2024
- Agreed that a Simple Raffle would be the best way to go for this season
 - Would be a mandatory for all families
 - 50/50 Raffle structure – need to figure out payout tiers
 - 20 per family to be sold at \$5 each (\$100 per family requirement)
 - Need to discuss if we'd allow more
 - Need to get permit with MN Dept. of Revenue
- We will announce this and the Cub fundraiser at the 2/5 parent meeting

Motion: Mike

Second: Kristi

Vote: All Approve

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **Kristi/Zac** to further investigate and provide an update
- **Tanya** to add to Parent Meeting Presentation and future Board Meeting Agenda for 2025 discussion

Wrap Up and Adjourn

- Parent meeting presentation will be coming tomorrow for you all to review. Please be on the lookout!
- MN Softball Directors Meeting has been rescheduled for 2/19