

OSA Board Meeting Agenda

October 14, 2025

Start: 6:38 p.m.

Present: Matt P, Nila, Margaret, Jaime, Pat, Sara

Sept Minute approval: No feedback. Palm move, Norman second. Approved.

Tom- Finance Update – not present, no update

Jamie- Uniforms Update – no update for fall uniforms, no leftover inventory.

looking for holiday swag store

Norman: Hockey does a custom sweatshirt with name on it. Paid \$60 & use as

Other options – sticker package, helmets, sandals, etc.

Brandon Howe- Player Dev. Update – not present.

Items discussed:

Hit Dawg made it to all practices and all positive feedback. Sometimes she talks to the adults too much. TC Fastpitch night and day difference. Hit dawg way better. TC Fastpitch gave generic, the same feedback to every player.

St. Kate softball camp sent out, will resend info out.

Will send some info about our fall training camp that we're hosting 10U/12U. Palm do social media post.

Break even for 10u/12u at the dome 15 girls.

14U, this is separate from their other leagues.

For OSA 14U, need to do fall tryouts and get a year round commitment. Winter development leagues are doing earlier than 14U. What do we need to put in place to put 14U year round? Right now don't have enough pitchers and catchers for spring. Will have enough for experienced but would be really tight for a development team. Can't partner with other orgs as they've already set their teams in the fall. For year round, we need to get a coach first for fall 26. The current coach will take them through the spring, but after that will start his own program.

Fall camp numbers:

Have 7 for 10 & 12s

Have 2 for 14. 14U is double the price. Should have 5-6.

Need to open up to 8U? Hard because of the skill difference. Sara Craig must be helping as she sent the email for HS volunteers. Next week Tuesday after we know the HS numbers, Bishop will email families with a sign up genius for volunteers. 5-6 p.m. defense, 6-7 offense. Game at the end.

Biggest skillset depletion is pitching. Need someone on staff. Hartnick is doing a renegades winter team but will send them back to OSA for spring.

Push a new communication email reminder and social media post about the training and open to 8U experienced players. Won't put St Kate's on it and will do a separate blast for Hit Dawg. Need to separate 8U as 10U/12U parents don't want their players to play down. Hartnick and Carr coaches will help. Bishop will create practice plan. Haven't made ala carte official. Won't be able to get the payback if we do ala carte. Will do case by case if they reach out and ask.

In the past Quinn has been subsidized since Jaime coaches. Players who have parents volunteering, we should subsidized too.

For HS players will volunteer, what can we do for the team as a thank you. Will make a donation to the HS program.

Stuff to bring to the dome for fall clinics:

Home plates, tees, make sure everything is labeled. 11&12 inch balls, Bow nets, Marve machine.

Red Machine only use the Marv balls, get rid of the dimple balls as they dent the bats.

Should we buy more Marve machines? We have two. Want to get one for the DC. Varsity bought one.

Marv top speed is 50 but can move closer to get the ball going faster.

Dome is charging \$100/month for storage fees. Keep working the relationship with the dome as we have it good. The dome is swamped and they gave us priority.

Fall training at hit dawg: Monday pitching, Thursda hitting. 8U left open for Thursdays. Need 4 students to make the session work. These are just for OSA.

Can offer other small group options out of the dome.

Other options with TC fastpitch.

Nila- Travel Update

Tryouts got bumped to Sunday 3/8/26 from St Kates. Couple weeks later than normal but that's what worked out for them. Was originally scheduled for grade state basketball.

Pre-tryouts: don't have a dome yet.

Have a readout sheet – evaluation scores, let's you know your areas of development, and takes the mystery out of how teams were formed. Can be pre or regular tryouts. Skills listed, and shows you where you are compared to the rest of the kids for each skill. Will people make assumptions? Nila doesn't have the recommendation now, but talking about what it could look like. 4 different skills ranked and get judges feedback. Comes to the parents, not the kids. Plan to have the proposal for Jan meeting.

Dibs--hour volunteer requirements for parents. Don't have enough volunteer options right now since we don't have concessions.

Outgoing fundraising chair – mentioned looking into trying to get corporations to reimburse volunteers for their hours. Also ask parents for corporate sponsors, donation matches. Include blurb for end of year. Include with the holiday swag store notification. Send out in December and March

Fall Player evaluations – if you are a coach and haven't filled it out, please do.

Nila will email out summaries. She'll put feedback together for every coach and will share with them. All but a few are very positive.

8U rec, too many kids, but by the time we had that number, not able to add another team.

8U A – a lot of feedback on rotating players. Did get that for 10U too. Fair play – doesn't necessarily mean all positions but maybe not all in the outfield.

10U Stronger players wanted to play with their talent, C team players from spring “stuck” on C team in fall. Kept teams together in the fall from the spring, per the by laws. By laws are a little loose and give us coverage to do what we want to do.

12u model coaching culture on Hartnick. Would like an additional tourney and more pitching.

14u shorten meetings and have more batting practice. Otherwise very positive.

How do we publish fair play and rotation guidelines, specifically 8u and 10U?

Define and communicate early fall team formation. Hard in the fall without tryouts.

Setting roster cap no more than 13.

In the future, need to define assistant coach expectations and practice expectations.

Complaint about parent going to MN softball. MN Softball said won't handle parent complaints. Got mixed messages. Mn softball released the name of OSA to the org the complaint was about. MN Softball investigated. What is the point of a governing body if not going to investigate and will release the name and org of the people who did the complaint. Releasing out org doesn't protect players and families. MN Softball crossed a line. Complaint wasn't safe sport but was fair rules. Conflict resolution – did you talk to the coach? Coach should talk to travel directors. MN softball wasn't supposed to reply to the complaint by the parent. They did reply to the parent and said what the parent should do. Need to develop a OSA complaint process. Want another option besides coach. Should put a complaint form up on the web site. Can be anonymous but can put their name on if they want. Will fix our own process. Matt did talk to the coach and made nice at the Halloween tournament.

Rather than give free sweatshirts, comp coaches by giving their kid free fee, free camp, etc.

3 parents came and asked about our out of district player policy. 3 players don't live in district or attend Orono schools. Davita has not enforced the out of district rule. By laws say if they have previously played, they can continue. Can't kick those kids out now. We have not vetted the 'do you live in Orono or go to Orono schools' question in the past. Should be a no unless there are special circumstances, where the parents should go to the board. We had a Delano girl, but they didn't have 8U. Need to vet going forward.

Sara- 14U Update

Nothing more to add besides above.

Winter clinics Sundays starting in Jan – 5 clinics contracted with TC fastpitch.

Can we push it back to late Jan early Feb. so we don't have 3 weeks between those and tryouts.

Tryouts March 8

Feb 22 and that is the state basketball tourney.

Pretryouts March 1

Clinic: 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/22

Brette- Tech Updates – Not present, no updates

Everyone needs to start using the OSA emails.

Pat - Fundraising

Trying to get a database to start soliciting our members. Got pushback from Brette and wants Pat to send his list to him. Haven't shared member emails with board members. It all goes through Brette. Focus is on 8U parents. Tell him to only send the ask to 8U parents. 10/12/14 get different messaging. Always Brette has just always sent the emails.

Matt K.- Fields Updates - not present

Dome time needed and set up

Field and facilities updates:

New bases at DC.

Matt P. - Equipment Updates

Big asks: another red pitching machine with Marv balls for DC, sliding mats, white boards. Keep white boards in the shed, then hang on the fence for practice, use for explanations. Need to redo the first aid kits. Need band aids, ice packs, ladies' products. They're old and gross, so start fresh. Next spring will load up the list of what each team gets. Should we add a pitching machine that pitches over 50? Those are \$2500-\$3k. Dimple balls are going away as they void the warranty on bats. Jug machine, need one that throws real balls. Sara Kraig lets 14U use the HS team's machine. Only bought balls this fall as we need catcher's gear next year. Want to throw away the wheel machines. 14 bought tanner tees last year.

Eric Shultz purchased his own catchers equipment for 8U rec. He's doing a study on the blue pitching machine springs. Possible next equipment person?

Sara - fields

Talked to school. Field costs are what is variable for us. Discovery, JV, Varsity are on an hourly basis. Have been meeting with them for a year on and off. They have new management in too.

Issues: 1. Field maintenance is poor (embarrassing). 2. Need to reduce costs.

Asked MN softball, can we get info on what fields cost for other associations. Did a survey. No indicators of who is who, but we are on the very high end of associations working with schools. School did their own survey and said they're not that high. OSA did pointed survey around our area for similar school size and we're high. Sending strong emails, they may need board approval. Baseball doesn't rent from school as too expensive. We're paying the same amount for the varsity fields as the football stadium. Met with the school again this fall; didn't want to meet over the summer. Dropped Discovery Center by \$10/hr. Sent pics of DC fields. DC is putting a big investment into fields. Adding tons of Diamond Ag. Jesse, school grounds person, has been fighting for us but isn't the decision maker. Had words with her boss, Chad. Got a bid and accepted to put Diamond Ag down and get it laser graded. Maybe new benches for fields 2&3. 1&4 are fine. Need to do drainage. \$50k investment. Discovery is now \$15/hr. Took JV down to \$15/hr. Varsity, we want to know how much per year to maintain and want our cost to reflect that. Should not be charging us more than what they pay to maintain. Schools have been putting OSA money in a slush fund. We are maintaining the fields. Trying to push for a fixed model, not hourly model. Big lake school charges \$20 per player. We rake and maintain them. Reconvene in Jan. Matt K reach out to Paul Grunnan to talk what prep looks like between our uses. JV & Varsity didn't do anything and we had to rake and prep before practice and games.

School has larger campus wide initiatives. Taking down OK kids. That'll be new tennis courts. Will be green space. Talking about a levy for youth sports, arts, multi association packages in the future. Nick did his homework and looked up tax records as a non-profit to understand what % of our budget goes to fields. We can drop the cost to families if we can drop the field costs. Made money from donations and such. Need anything for the fields, put it in its separate account.

Jamie Miscellaneous

Washerman throwing progression

Don't need the wrist flicks.

For spring, coming up with the videos. Schedule coaches training. We have done a coaches clinic at hit dawg before too.

Go through you tube recommendations.

14U coaches open to do small group or private hitting lessons, 4 and 4:30, at long lake dome after school. Don't want to put them out there if people don't want them. He doesn't want to advertise it, but he's a D1 college coach so good for the girls. Did just for 14u and Sara managed. Opening it up to younger kids would be harder. He doesn't manage it because it is through OSA. We don't manage Lisa. Can do private lessons directly with Hit Dawg. Will wait on it for now.

Would love pitching over hitting. Lisa has Mon and Tues 5-6 for pitching

Nila move to adjourn, Pat second. Approved.