

## **LBSA Meeting Minutes**

**Feb 19, 2025**

**7:00 pm SGMS Room A105**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Board Present: LaRue, Beth, Adam, Erin, Mike, Ivy. Kayrene and Samantha remotely.

Guests are Ryan Anderson, Chase Leininger, Dan Bush, Drake Burford

First item on the Agenda is the Proposal to amend our charter and co-op with Belgrade, which would allow Livingston players to try out for Belgrade All Star Teams. All players will now play in their districts for regular season unless there aren't enough players to make a team. This proposal potentially pertains to All Star season for Minors, Majors, and Babe Ruth.

Ryan Anderson: Advantages are that kids can play on an age based level specific to each group, giving them the opportunity to be successful rather than being on a mixed age team. Belgrade has one of the best programs across the state, kids will play around 50 games rather than 15 games for limited tournaments. There is also an opportunity for Livingston board to learn from their program. This doesn't have to be a permanent decision.

Questions: Adam- how does the charter impact the Osprey All stars? Ryan responded that Livingston Osprey can still form a team, but could not play in the state tournament due to restriction of only one team per charter. Adam- when can we change/make our charters, could this happen once enrollment numbers are known? Ryan assumes that most likely the charter would need to be formulated at the beginning of each year. Our charter would remain the same for T ball and coach pitch. LaRue spoke with Mike Bell (who heads up Belgrade program) about changing the charter, it doesn't sound too difficult to do but the details were not discussed. Erin mentioned that add'l kids wanted to play in Liv from Manhattan and the Manhattan board didn't allow them to do so. It was a bummer that they couldn't play, as Manhattan did not have an All Star team. Drake- What if some players go play in Belgrade, and as a result there aren't enough kids to make an All Stars team at all? Then there are several kids in Livingston getting no play time for All Stars, which we all know is important to their development. Kayrene- if we build the program and get more kids enrolled, would chartering even be necessary?

Ryan reported low numbers for high school currently, ~ 22 kids - 9 starters - need more like 28. The Legion program has ~14 kids, should be about 18. We all want higher numbers, it's a matter of how to get there. More kids at the younger levels are enrolled currently. Maggie reported via text about 210 the last 3 years, 2024 had 45 in advanced coach pitch ages 8/9, 77 beginner coach pitch 6/7, 88 tee ball ages 4&5.

Chase- Another advantage is that we can pull Belgrade players if needed to come to Livingston.

He reiterated that this proposal gives the power to those families that do want to get a lot of play time rather than taking that opportunity away from them. Ryan recognizes it a Catch 22 but does not want to take away the opportunity for a kid to play 50 games.

Samantha - I understand that incentive to let them play over there, but we haven't given this board a chance to get the word out. She personally feels that we can grow our numbers and get a lot more kids playing baseball in Livingston. Kayrene agrees, stating that the board is new, we see a lot of potential. She did not receive any information with her kids coming into the program last year, Eli's as a 1st grader and Luke as a 4th grader. If we can get the info out we can grow the program. Of course we want to see the boys and girls play for the teams they want to play for, but we stand the risk to lose the best players to play for the other town.

Chase- the goal is to strengthen the program here. We don't have the stepping stones in place yet, do we have enough kids? When we don't, it's frustrating for kids and coaches, and that was witnessed first hand when he was in the program.

LaRue- maybe we co-op for one year, as a "trial", since there is an opportunity for their kids keep playing with their teams. This could also be only for the Babe Ruth level, since there are no other known kids interested beyond Babe Ruth level. Erin - we haven't had a chance to formulate our vision as a board, we need more time, maybe it's okay to co-op for one year.

Adam- supports family choice.

Chase - there is a huge benefit to doing this because we have the opportunity to learn from a seasoned board. Beth- I don't have time to work with Belgrade board; I'm busy with Livingston's board. Numbers are what's needed.

Erin- why not try co-oping for one year, is there much harm?

Dan Bush- he is fine with giving families additional options, but wants to grow the Livingston team.

Ryan - In the interest of being transparent, if there is no co-op he will have to reconsider options for his player, including the regular season. These are real decisions at the babe level to take that into consideration. It is important to give kids the opportunity to have a 50 game season. As baseball progresses, numbers get smaller, baseball is not for everyone, it's the hardest sport to play, and it sees the biggest reduction every year. Thus, for the kids that want to play, and get that time in, it's important to give that to them if possible.

Samantha/Kayrene - asked about pricing, Chase & Ryan clarified costs for Belgrade leagues - \$500 registration, \$224 uniforms, etc. Tournament costs and overall expenses were discussed; essentially we don't think there will be a substantial impact to the financial aspects for those kids that play here. If a player does want to try out and play with Belgrade, the travel costs of going to all the tournaments is by far the most expensive, but a lot fundraising is done as well.

**Action item:** Answer 3 questions, 1, can we co-op for just Babe Ruth, and leave other leagues as is? Can we confirm that Osprey definitely can't play in state tournament? And lastly, clarification on the fees and general process.

Once these questions are answered, the Board will facilitate a vote via email.

## **Other Business:**

### **Registration Report:**

12 softball and 21 baseball registrants so far, city of Livingston email has not gone out. Details were discussed.

**Action Item:** LaRue will follow up with Maggie to get that email out to the bigger City Rec Dept List.

LaRue: Gardiner is working on putting a team together and may play on our teams or form their own team.

Drake is working on getting coach background check and registration, there has been some confusion with SportsEngine but should be resolved soon.

### **Financial Report:**

Beth relayed reports, getting books in order. 3 operating accounts, debit card has been secured, back invoices have been paid. Overall everything is in good order (thanks Beth!)

### **Fundraising:**

Sponsor banners from last year need to get up, put them up this year and give them an extra year since they were never put up last year.

Beth got Kenyon Noble as a \$1000 Grand Slam Sponsors, and Opportunity Bank will also sponsor again.

Sponsor ideas: Adam - In the past, Legion sent letters to all businesses, offering sponsorship for banners, Adam has the letter drafted. LaRue has also a template used for the ski foundation that could be used as well. Erin- The softball league did a banner of all sponsors and brought that with them, to away games. Ivy- A bigger picture strategy for specific wants/needs for field improvements, equipment etc needs to be organized and will help us meet fundraising goals.

**Action Item:** Organize a fundraising committee meeting, but let's get through registration first. Add as Agenda item for March meeting.

Concessions: Organize concessions meeting in March/April as season gets closer. Erin- we could consider opening the softball concessions stand during adult softball. Lots of ideas on how to make concessions better.

### **Website/Social Media:**

Website- getting updated as we go. Old information has been removed and current registration info, BOD etc has been posted. Sports engine back end is not user friendly, LaRue would like to look at other options in the future.

The Facebook page has been getting updated thanks to Suzie Fleming, she is still working on getting us access but is happy to share posts for us for now.

Meeting adjourned 7:33 pm.

Charter Coop email:



**Adam Stern**

Feb 26, 2025,  
8:14 PM (2 days  
ago)

to Erin,  
LaRue, me,  
Samantha,  
Beth, Mike,  
kayrene.silv  
estri@gmail  
.com,  
Brody,  
Coach

Hello LBSA Board,

I would like to propose a motion to engage in a cooperative charter with Belgrade Baseball, for the 2025 Babe Ruth league. Restricting the charter to Babe Ruth gives us a chance to evaluate the system without changing our entire organization.

Below is information on the charter, and instructions for voting by email.

### **Information about a cooperative charter with Belgrade**

The LBSA has all-star teams called the Osprey. The Osprey play three or four tournaments after the regular season, and finish near the end of June. In past years the Osprey have not participated in the State Tournament.

The Belgrade all-star team plays eight tournaments, ending with the State Tournament in mid-June.

Under a cooperative charter with Belgrade:

- Livingston athletes will play on LBSA teams during the regular season.
- Livingston athletes would have the opportunity to try out for the Belgrade All-Star team.
- LBSA would still field an Osprey team.
- The Osprey would be ineligible to play in the State Tournament (which we probably wouldn't do, anyway)

For this year, we would only cooperatively charter with Belgrade for the Babe Ruth League. Majors and Minors will remain under LBSA charter.

### **My personal viewpoint**

I always support providing more options to families, and also I believe we will recruit enough players to field an all star team here in Livingston. Therefore I support engaging in a cooperative charter with Belgrade for Babe Ruth this year.

### **Voting instructions for board members**

Please send your vote by email, and use "reply all."

If you want more information before voting, then send out your questions and we will get answers right away.

There are eight people on the LBSA board, and we need a majority of five to approve the motion.

I vote "yes."

Thanks everyone for your time. Because of you and all our great volunteers, we are going to have a great baseball season this year, regardless of our charter situation. It's going to be a fun season.

-Adam

224-1875

Vote Talley: All those in favor of co-oping with Belgrade for the All-Star season, Babe Ruth team for the 2025 season:

Adam Stern: yes

Erin Loucks: yes

Mike Benzel: yes

Samantha Downey: yes

Ivy Burford: yes

Kayrene Silvestri: yes

Beth Zeman: yes

Motion has passed, LaRue will proceed with executing charter rule changes per LBSA by-laws instructing board president to handle these matters.