



# Board Meeting Agenda

December 10, 2023

7:00 PM at Bricks

**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	<b>Tanya Hartwell</b> , President	ABS	<b>Shelly Major</b> , Player Development Director
X	<b>Jeff Baskin</b> , Vice President	X	<b>Rich DiVito</b> , Website & IT Director
X	<b>Jen Rhoads</b> , Treasurer	X	<b>Jodi Coleman</b> , Brand & Marketing Director
ABS	<b>Stacy Nugent</b> , Secretary	X	<b>Kristi Cobbs</b> , Community Liaison & Fundraising Director
ABS	<b>Amy Bennett</b> , League & Team Schedule Director	X	<b>Josh Glood</b> , Director at Large/Treasurer in Training
ABS	<b>Derek Roe</b> , Program Director	ABS	<b>Carlo Faccini</b> , Director at Large
X	<b>Dan Berendes</b> , Panther Classic Tournament Director	X	<b>Mike Raymond</b> , Director at Large

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

**Additional Attendees:** Sarah Gatlin, Zac Humphrey

### 2) Approval of December Agenda (Tanya)

Any additions?

**No additions; motion to approve as is**

Motion: Jodi

Second: Jen

Vote: Unanimous Approval

### 3) Review and Approval of November Minutes (Tanya)

Any updates/revisions?

**No revisions; motion to approve as is**

Motion: Josh

Second: Jen

Vote: Unanimous Approval

## Financial Updates

### 1) Treasurer's Report (Jen/Josh)

Updates regarding monthly financials

#### **Discussion Notes:**

- Jen has transitioned documents and bank responsibilities to Josh including 1099s for 2023
- Working through Liability and Directors/Officers insurance for 2024

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

- **Josh** to file 990 in January
- **Josh** to add the following to 2024 budget:
  - \$129 HS Porta Potty
  - Panther Classic Berth Costs
  - MN Softball Registration/Posting fee for Panther Classic

## Old Business

### 1) Rookies Program Discussion (Tanya)

Shelly hasn't had the opportunity to follow up with the folks at St. Anthony on this and is requesting support from another board member to help scope. Sarah & Zac have volunteered to help out and will work to provide an update at our January board meeting.

Sam & Amber reached out to Shelly proposing bringing back the Rookies Program focused on 4-5 year old athletes. They also offered to facilitate it.

- Program Costs:
  - Coaching: Sam and Amber will donate their time
  - Facilities: TBC; likely SLP HS Fields if scheduling allows
  - T-Shirt Jersey: ~\$18 per athlete
- Timing: April – June
- Format: TBD; X times for X hours per week
- Proposed Fee: \$40 per athlete

Assuming we have enough information to make an informed decision, would propose voting on moving forward with this program.

**Discussion Notes:** Nothing additional to add

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

- **Sarah/Zac** to connect with Shelly and continue scoping for update in January meeting

### 2) Winter Training Clinics Update (Shelly)

Current numbers for our winter training opportunities are as follows:

- Pitching:
  - 2 registrations of 20 available
  - Breakeven is 13 athletes
- Catching:

- 1 registration of 20 available
- Breakeven is 6 athletes
- Coaches we had initially identified are no longer available; if we decide to move forward will need to explore other options that will likely be more costly than our current budget
- Optimize All-Skills:
  - 19 registrations of 20 available
  - Breakeven is 14 athletes
  - Note: there are some sensitivities to us taking a significant profit on this given we received a discount from Optimize in the spirit of partnership. Let's discuss and align on options.

Any hypothesis around why the numbers are low for pitching/catching? If we don't get enough interest for pitching/catching, do we need to consider cancelling?

**Discussion Notes:**

- Good to go on Optimize; glad to see there is so much interest
- All aligned that due to low interest and lack of instructor, we could move forward with cancelling catching. We should offer anyone that has interest the opportunity to catch during the pitching clinics free of charge.
- For pitching; we'll give it one more communication push to see if we can encourage participation/get feedback for why folks aren't participating. It is likely due to conflicts and participation in other training programs (Optimize/Complete Game) but will be helpful to confirm.
- Revisit offering both pitching/catching for early in the season/spring before we get into league games

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

- **Tanya** to reach out to Abby and provide update on where we stand; will also discuss with Derek about coach support
- **Tanya** to send communication re: pitching/catching clinics
- **Shelly** to give Lori a heads up that there is a potential we may cancel the pitching clinics
- **Amy/Krisi** to check in with Community Ed to find out how much lead time they need if we decide to cancel all together

**New Business**

**1) Board Member Position Votes (Tanya)**

**New Board Member Vote:** Sarah Gatlin

Propose we vote Sarah into the Tournament Director role and start the transition with Dan as he endeavors to roll off the Board in the near future

**No additional discussion**

Motion: Rich

Second: Mike

Vote: Unanimous Approval

**New Board Member Vote:** Zac Humphrey

Propose we vote Zac into an At Large role

**No additional discussion**

Motion: Mike  
Second: Jen  
Vote: Unanimous Approval

**Open Treasurer Role Vote**

With Jen's departure, propose we officially vote Josh Glood into the Treasurer role

**No additional discussion**

Motion: Mike  
Second: Rich  
Vote: Unanimous Approval

**Open Vice President Role Vote**

With Jeff's departure, propose we vote Mike Raymond into the Vice President role

**No additional discussion**

Motion: Jen  
Second: Jodi  
Vote: Unanimous Approval

With Jodi's departure, the **Brand & Marketing Director role will remain open**. We can divide and conquer these responsibilities until we recruit another member.

Thank you again to Jeff, Jen and Jodi for your years of service on the SLPSA Board!

**2) Panther Foundation Donation Discussion and Vote (Tanya)**

Last year we donated (2) baskets (\$400 investment) to the Panther Foundation's Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser. I propose we vote to approve the \$200 currently earmarked in the 2024 budget for this initiative. We can also discuss what we might want to donate.

**Discussion Notes:**

- Question was asked if we wanted to consider offering a discounted registration; historically we have not as we've stated we don't have budget to consider scholarships
- Alignment that this was something we still wanted to support
- Mike mentioned he has a contact we could leverage for discounted Yeti product should we want to explore something like that for a basket

Motion: Mike  
Second: Jen  
Vote: Unanimous Approval

**Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:**

- **Tanya** to ideate on basket items; will likely tap other board members for support
- **Tanya** to communicate to Panther Foundation that the donation was approved

### 3) 2024 Tryouts & Summer Season Discussion & Votes (Tanya/Derek/Rich)

#### Registration Update

- Registration Dates: 1/2 – 1/31
- Rich has a draft of the registration form started; need to review
- Early Bird Pricing: Rich was able to confirm with SE that we can accommodate pricing updates so will move forward with the tiered approach below per our November meeting discussion
  - Early Bird: 1/2 – 1/23
  - Final Week: 1/24 – 1/31 (Base price +\$10 for 8U & +\$25 for 10U+)

#### Mandatory Parent Meeting Date Discussion

- Propose February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM
- Was thinking Virtual but am open to in-person if the group feels otherwise

#### Pre Evaluation Practice Update

- Westwood Middle School has been reserved (Thanks Amy!)
  - Monday, 2/26
    - 10U: 6:00PM – 7:30PM
  - Tuesday, 2/27 6-9
    - 8U: 6:00PM – 7:30PM
    - 14U/16: 7:30PM – 9:00PM
  - Wednesday, 2/28
    - 12U: 6:00PM – 7:30PM
- Amy will forward invoices to Josh for budget tracking purposes if she hasn't already

#### Evaluator Identification and Evaluation Budget Discussion & Vote

- Evaluator Identification: Propose we ask Chris Bangle and SLPHS athletes to come back along; will complement with SLPSA Board Members as needed
- Evaluator Budget: \$2000; Need to discuss with Chris what his ask would be assuming he's willing to come back (HS coaches received \$825 + \$550 to SLPHS Boosters for athlete participation)
- Team Genius Software:
  - Used to track player scores during evaluations (LY cost: \$750)
  - Cost for use has increased to \$900 for 2024 (LY \$750)
  - Do we want to use again? Are there other options we want to consider? Chris mentioned they have moved back to doing evaluations on paper for the Club he's a part of. Would just require someone input scores into an excel grid once complete.
- Is there anything we want to change about the process?

#### Motion: Move forward with:

- **Officially engaging Chris about being a tryout evaluator**
- **That we will forgo Team Genius due to the cost for a 1-time use and consult Chris on their process for club via paper evaluation sheets**

Motion: Mike

Second: Josh

Vote: Unanimous Approval

#### Team Details Discussion

Here is an outline of what we've typically offered along with a few adjustments based on our discussions to date. Just wanted to confirm we're all aligned as this detail will be included with registration information.

- League: Do we want to do Soderville again if it's available?
- Season Length: End of March – July
- Practices:
  - 1 per week (Mon or Wed)
  - Additional TBD positional, skill specific and age group practices
- Games: 1 per week (Mon or Wed per Soderville league LY)
- Tournaments: 2 guaranteed; Panther Classic and 1 additional TBD invitational/league tournament
- Registration Fee: \$60 (*Note – increased by \$10 from last year to be consistent with the rest of the teams due to feedback received since previous board meeting*)

### **10U**

- League: MN Softball/Big West
- Season Length: End of March – July
- Practices:
  - 1-2 team practices per week
  - Additional TBD positional, skill specific and age group practices
- Games:
  - May: 1 double header per week (Tue)
  - June: 2 double headers per week (Tue & Thur)
- Tournaments: 4 guaranteed; Panther Classic, 2 TBD Invitational Tournaments, State Qualifier, and State/Nationals if qualified
- Registration Fee: \$500

### **12U**

- League: MN Softball/Big West
- Season Length: End of March – July
- Practices:
  - 1-2 team practices per week
  - Additional TBD positional, skill specific and age group practices
- Games: 2 double headers per week May - June (Mon & Wed)
- Tournaments: 4 guaranteed; Panther Classic, 2 TBD Invitational Tournaments, State Qualifier, and State/Nationals if qualified
- Registration Fee: \$500

### **14U/16U**

- League: MN Softball/Big West/Metro Area HS League
- Season Length: May – August
- Practices:
  - 1-2 practices per week
  - Additional TBD positional, skill specific and age group practices
- Games: 2 double headers per week May - June (Tue & Thur)
- Tournaments: 4 guaranteed; 3 TBD Invitational Tournaments, State Qualifier, and State/Nationals if qualified
- Registration Fee: \$575

\*Will add things like Tower Days Parade, Youth Night etc.. to schedules on SE

### **Coach Identification Updates**

- Logistics:
  - Applications were due 11/30; following up with those outstanding
  - Coach Selection Committee to conduct interviews and present recommendations at January Board Meeting; anyone interested in participating?

- Coach Candidates (\*application received)
  - 8U: Steve Kleppen\*
  - 10U:
    - Jamie Larson\* (Fall 10U Blue)
    - Connor Stolz\* (Spring & Fall 10U Red)
    - Zac Humphrey (new)
    - Amanda Preisinger\* (new – previous coach with SLP HS program)
  - 12U:
    - Anthony Vertalino (Spring & Fall 12U Blue)
    - Mike Jezorski\* (Fall 10U Red)
    - Jer Johnson\* (Spring 12U Red & Fall 14U Blue)
    - Amanda Preisinger\* (new – previous coach with SLP HS program)
  - 14U: None identified to-date
  - 16U/HS
    - Joe\* & Natalie Nusbaum (Spring 14U Blue & Fall 16U Blue)

### Spring Uniforms Discussion

I've been working with Nate at Twin Pines to scope options for spring uniforms and would like to propose the below. As a reminder, the cost for these will be rolled into tuition this year. Let's discuss!

#### All Players & Head Coaches



Coaches version will be logo only (no number)

#### 10U+ Players



Will have Panthers spelled correctly

- All 10U – 16U players will need to procure their own black pants, royal blue belt & royal blue socks
- Will include separate sizing questions on the registration form for each style and will also have samples available at tryouts for size verification
- Cost: should be flat to last year
  - Tshirt: \$18 each
  - Tank: \$35 each

### Notable Outstanding Items

- Confirm evaluators
- Parent communication with full-season info & update website
- Parent meeting agenda & presentation development
- Coaches interviews & selections
- Discuss procurement of (borrowed or purchased) nets/safety fence for hitting velocity exercise
- Assign Board Liaisons by team
- Schedule Team Pictures

- Start development of practice and tournament schedules

**Discussion Notes:**

- A question was raised about the final week registration pricing increase being too low; discussed that since it was the first year trying it we'd see how it goes and if it doesn't incent the behavior we're looking for we could increase for next year
- No objections to the Parent Meeting date; agreed virtual was the best options
- General alignment that while going back to paper evaluation forms for tryouts would be a bit more labor intensive, that it is worth trying due to the significant cost increase for Team Genius. Will discuss best practices with Chris as we discuss involvement in evaluations. Will use numbers vs. names to help keep scores confidential.
- Discussion around the number of tournaments we're registering our C level 10s team for and if we should consider reinvesting the money in more specific training opportunities instead. We agreed to revisit once we have a sense for 2024 registration numbers.
- Mike offered to help with uniforms in with the absence of someone in the Brand and Marketing Director role
- Josh offered to help with Coach interviews
- Discussed intentions to carry forward t-shirt jerseys to Fall; will need to discuss how we want to message that only new players (or ones with demonstrated need) would receive
- Discussed how long we intent to keep the tank-style jerseys; historically have done for 2 years but may want to consider keeping longer

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

- **Tanya** to reach out to Chris about participating in evaluations
- **Tanya** to reach out to Twin Pines to confirm go-forward plan for jerseys
- **Jodi** to share most recent list of player jersey numbers
- **Derek** to start scheduling coaches interviews

**4) Fundraising & Volunteer Commitment Discussion (Kristi)**

Kristi has been scoping potential fundraising opportunities for next season and is planning to provide an update for discussion and input.

Would also like to discuss how we'd like to approach volunteer requirements for 2024.

**Discussion Notes:**

- Overall there is a need to further focus what the intention/goals are for our fundraising; historically it has been for more general use to help keep costs down, to fund additional training opportunities etc.. Would be helpful to have a more pointed response to help focus the opportunities we explore.
- Cub has grocery bagging opportunities; age minimums vary by location but would be a pretty easy way to bring in ~\$1500-\$2000 in one day. The HS program may already be signed up for this over Easter weekend so will need to consider if we schedule.
- A mulch fundraiser though Silva is another opportunity that the football group has been scoping; could be an opportunity to partner with the Boosters on for broader reach
- Is this something similar we could do with softer salt as well?
- Lots of great ideas; will do some further investigating and revisit during January board meeting

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

- **Kristi** to further outline Cub opportunity for discussion in January
- **Mike** to scope opportunity with Silva for discussion in January

## 5) Panther Classic Tournament Kick-off Discussion

Would love to align and finalize some key details for the Panther Classic tournament so we can update our site and start the process for getting registration set up.

### Tournament Date

- Propose Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> to keep consistent with past years
- May 12<sup>th</sup> as back-up date due to weather

### Location

- Propose we lock in Fridley Community Park Fields
- Cost: \$500 LY; TBC for 2024

### Tournament Participation Costs

- Registration Fee: Propose a \$50 increase per team
  - 8U: \$150 per team (\$100 LY)
  - 10U & 12U: \$335 (\$285 LY)
- Gate Fee: Not something we've collected in the past; do we want to consider adding for this year?

### Tournament Level Classification & Capacity

- Level Classification:
  - 8U: Jamboree
  - 10U & 12U: Need to discuss pending the finalized levels for our teams; last year was advertised as a B/C tournament
- Capacity
  - 8U: Had 6 teams total LY, could we go up to 8? (Included 2 8U SLPSA teams)
  - 10U: 8 teams total (3 SLPSA teams)
  - 12U: 8 teams total (2 SLPSA teams)

### Sanctioning

I found various references to different sanctioning across our site/tournament documents. Would like to better understand these and align as a group on approach.

- USA Softball
- ASA
- MN Softball
- Qualify for NAFA Nationals and Monsta Nationals Berths

### Discussion Notes:

- Dan confirmed we're good to go on May 11<sup>th</sup> with Fridley Fields; awaiting invoice
- Fridley Field cost will remain at \$500; discussed an additional \$100 for porta potty as it was a challenge last year. Mike is going to reach out to try and get it donated but agreed we'd pay for it if we aren't able to.
- We are one of the cheapest tournaments in the area and provide great value however there is room to increase registration costs to bring us to closer parity with neighboring communities. Agreed to increase 8U to \$150 and 10U/12U to \$350. We will not charge a Gate Fee again this season but will reconsider for next year.
- The last few years we've been at capacity for teams by early March
- For 8U we should plan to offer as machine pitch given feedback from coaches LY
- Given the potential for us to be fielding A teams next season, we should position it as an Open tournament for leveling (vs. B/C)

- We should consider if we want to limit the number of teams from any given level or organization to ensure we have a good variety of competition
- Capacity wise, we should stick with what we did last year unless we want to consider expanding to a 2-day tournament
- There are costs associated with Sanctioning and Registering with MN Softball; we'll need to be sure they're accurately reflected in the 2024 budget

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

- **Mike** to reach out to his contact about a Porta Potty donation for the day
- **Dan** to share master to-do list with timing; start discussing transition elements with **Sarah**
- **Josh** to update 2024 budget once we have further clarity on additional costs (Berths, MN Softball posting etc..)
- **Rich** to start developing tournament registration with SE; will also update website accordingly

**6) Community Engagement/Youth Events Discussion and Vote** (Tanya/Kristi)

**Try Softball Night Discussion**

Last year we partnered with Community Ed and the SLPHS team to host a free try softball event in February. With our timeline moved up this year for registration/tryouts, do we want to try and pull something together for January? Or do we want to consider alternative timing leading into fall season that would allow for us to promote registrations? Would also allow us to be outside!

**SLPHS Softball Youth Night Discussion & Vote**

We've started discussions with Chris about repeating youth night next season. As a reminder, last year we funded the facility rental for the University of Northwestern Softball field and would propose we continue with that investment as currently held in the 2024 Budget. Chris is very open to our ideas on programing the evening to keep the kids engaged.

- Date: Friday, 4/25
- Time:
  - 6:00PM – 7:00PM Warm-ups & Youth Activity
  - 7:00PM Game Time
- Cost: ~\$500 for facility rental

**Motion: to approve budget for youth night facilities**

Motion: Josh

Second: Rich

Vote: Unanimous Approval

**Discussion Notes:**

- Liked the Try Softball event last year but not sure the timing was right; will hold on offering this winter and look to stand something in the summer to help drive Fall season registrations
- Can also look for other activities to participate in during that timeframe (ie. BTS events)
- Would like to investigate flyers to go home with students through Community Ed again
- We should be sure to include Youth Night in schedules on SE to encourage participation
- Would also like to get the SLPSA athletes involved in the Try Softball events (vs. just the HS athletes)

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

- **Tanya** add Try Softball event to board agenda after the new year to revisit

- **Tanya** to communicate to Chris that budget was approved for Youth Night
- **Tanya** to reach out to Community Ed to inquire about flyers

## 7) **2024 Board Meeting Schedule Review & Vote** (Tanya/Stacy)

Discuss and vote on proposed 2024 Board Meeting schedule (Appendix A). Updates to the Important Dates Calendar (Appendix B) have also been made for your reference.

**No additional notes; motion to approve as is**

Motion: Jeff

Second: Jen

Vote: Unanimous Approval

**Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:** NA

### *Wrap Up and Adjourn*

- Reminder: Next Meeting: January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 (to be confirmed)

Motion: Mike

Second: Jodi

Vote: Unanimous Approval

### Future Agenda Topics:

- Mental Health Session
- Updated Handbook & Bylaws Document
- Westwood Field Space Progress Updates
- Rental Equipment (Inventory and Go-Forward Plan)
- Field Space Assessment
- Spring Field Maintenance

## Appendix A | 2024 Board Meetings

Day	Date	Location
Sunday	January 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	February 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	March 24, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	April 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	May 19, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	June 23, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	July 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	August 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	September 22, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	October 20, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	November 17, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	December 15, 2024 @ 7:00pm	TBD

## Appendix B | Important Dates

Event	Dates	Location
SLPSA Summer Season Registration	1/2-1/31	
MN Softball Director Meeting	1/22	6:30 PM Medina Entertainment Center
Summer Parent Meeting	2/5	7:30 PM via ZOOM
Try Softball Event	TBD	TBD
Tryouts	3/2 – 3/3	
Summer Team Selections Communicated	3/4	
Teams Registered with Big West	TBD	
SLPHS Season Starts	3/11	
SLPHS Tryouts	Week of 3/18	
Big West Coach Schedule Meeting	TBD	Medina Entertainment Center 10U/12U @ 6:00PM 14U @ 8:00PM
8U League Meeting	TBD	
SLPHS Youth Night	4/25	University of Northwestern
SLPSA Picture Day	TBD	
Big West Summer League Games (10U & 12U)	4/29 – 6/20	
Panther Classic Tournament (8U/10U/12U)	5/11	Fridley Community Fields
Big West Summer League Games (14U)	5/21 – 7/9	
MN Softball Metro HS League Games (16U+)	6/3 – 7/10	
SLP Tower Days Parade	TBD	
10U & 12U State Qualifier	6/22 – 6/23	
SLPSA Fall Season Registration	6/24 – 7/19	
10U & 12U State Tournament	6/29 – 6/30	
Fall Team Selections Communicated	7/22	
14U & 16U State Qualifier	7/13 – 7/14	
NAFA Nationals 10U & 12U	7/18 – 7/21	10U Cottage Grove 12U Eagan & Mendota Heights
14U & 16U State Tournament	7/20 – 7/21	
USA Softball Nationals	TBD	
Monsta Championships 10U	7/25 – 7/28	
NAFA Nationals 14U & 16U	7/25 – 7/28	14U Prior Lake & Lakeville 16U Champlin Park & Coon Rapids
Monsta Championships 12U/14U/16U	8/1 – 8/4	Mounds View

