

1.20.2026 | 7:30 PM | Microsoft Teams

North Dakota Softball All Stars Board Meeting

Attendees

Tim How	Mike Skogen	Cory Erickson	Allison Riddle
Mike Oehlke	Alysha How	Brooklyn Morris	Emma Passa

Not present: Makenna Alexander

Meeting notes:

- **Board Membership Update:** Tim informed the group that Maddy Sweep resigned from the board due to new commitments, and discussed options for filling the vacancy, noting that the bylaws require eight members and the board currently has nine without Maddy. The group can either seek a replacement or continue as is; suggestions or referrals for new members are welcome.
- **Administrative and Financial Updates:** Tim provided updates on state filing, tax forms, website renewal, and the organization's financial status, highlighting a year-end bank balance of over \$13,000 and positive financial trends.
 - **State Filing and Website Renewal:** Tim completed the organization's state filing and renewed the website for 2026, with plans to handle the tax form in the following month.
 - **Financial Status:** The group finished the year with just over \$13,000 in the bank, an increase of nearly \$3,500 from the previous year, marking two consecutive years of positive growth.
 - **Budget Preparation:** Tim is preparing an updated budget and will distribute it to the group for review, inviting feedback to identify any gaps.
- **May Tournament Planning and Team Registration:** Tim led a discussion on the upcoming May tournament, covering logistics, entry fees, team registration status, bracket structure, and the inclusion of out-of-state or JV teams to reach the target of 48 teams.
 - **Tournament Logistics and Entry Fee:** The tournament is scheduled for May 8th and 9th at the N Softball Complex, with the entry fee increased from \$300 to \$350 per team due to higher costs for umpires and helpers; feedback from a survey indicated this fee is reasonable.

- **Sponsorship and Umpire Coordination:** Flint Group returned as a sponsor, and Tim confirmed with Koby Penick to manage umpires for both the tournament and the All-Star Games.
- **Bracket Structure and Survey Feedback:** Survey results showed strong support (92%) for maintaining the bracket format, despite some concerns about teams playing others from their own region; Tim plans to adjust placements creatively to minimize intra-region matchups. He will work with the board in finalizing brackets.
- **Team Registration and Filling Spots:** Currently, 43 teams are registered, with Sheyenne JV on a waitlist and Breckenridge Wahpeton (a Minnesota/North Dakota co-op) seeking entry; the group discussed whether to include out-of-state or JV teams to reach the ideal 48-team structure.
- **Consensus on Out-of-State Teams:** After discussion, the group agreed to include Breckenridge Wahpeton if needed to fill the bracket, with a preference for North Dakota teams but openness to nearby out-of-state teams with North Dakota players.
- **Tournament Operations and Improvements:** The group reviewed operational aspects of the tournament, including volunteer arrangements, golf cart logistics, and awards, and discussed potential improvements for the upcoming event.
 - **Volunteer and Gate Operations:** The Green and Gold Fund will again provide volunteers for gate operations and transportation in exchange for a \$2,500 donation, similar to last year.
 - **Golf Cart Rentals:** The group discussed increasing the number and size of golf carts for staff, umpires, and trainers, with input on configurations and rental costs; Tim will follow up on pricing and availability.
 - **Awards Adjustment:** Tim noted that championship plaques were too small last year and will be ordering larger ones for the upcoming tournament.
- **All-Star Games 10th Anniversary Planning:** Tim and the group brainstormed ways to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the All-Star Games, including alumni involvement, special events, and venue selection, with input from current and former players.
 - **Alumni Involvement Ideas:** Suggestions included hosting an alumni game (potentially slow pitch), an alumni luncheon or tailgate, and a panel discussion for current seniors led by alumni who played in college.

- **Special Jerseys and Branding:** The group discussed incorporating gold into the jerseys or logo to mark the 10th anniversary, with Emma's jersey provider from last year praised for quality.
- **Venue Selection and Budget:** Tim proposed holding the first day at NDSU for \$4,500 and the second day in Bismarck, with consensus to proceed despite the high cost due to the anniversary's significance.
- **Event Scheduling and Activities:** The group reviewed past schedules and considered integrating alumni events, skills competitions, and player luncheons into the two-day format, maximizing use of the NDSU facility.
- **Alumni Outreach:** Tim and Brooklyn will contact alumni to gauge interest and participation, using available email lists and social media to maximize outreach.
- **Eligibility and Nomination for All-Star Games:** The group discussed the eligibility of a Wahpeton student who plays for a Minnesota-based co-op team for All-Star nomination, ultimately agreeing to allow the nomination and manage the process internally.
 - **Eligibility Criteria Discussion:** Tim explained the traditional requirement that nominees play for a North Dakota-sanctioned school.
 - **Group Consensus and Voting Process:** After input from board members and former players, the group agreed there was no harm in allowing the nomination, with the understanding that coaches may or may not vote for the player.
 - **Nomination Logistics:** Tim will provide nomination instructions to the coach and adjust the process as needed, with the group retaining final decision authority if voting presents complications.
- **Coaching Stipend Increase and Recruitment Challenges:** The group agreed to increase the All-Star Games coaching stipend from \$100 to \$250 and discussed ongoing difficulties in recruiting coaches, considering alumni assistants as a backup plan.
 - **Stipend Adjustment:** Recognizing increased travel and time commitments, the group unanimously supported raising the coaching stipend to \$250, with some openness to going higher if needed.

- **Recruitment Difficulties:** Tim described the challenges in securing coaches due to timing, turnover, and reluctance to repeat, and outlined the current status of outreach to eligible coaches.
- **Alumni Assistant Coach Proposal:** The group supported the idea of appointing alumni as assistant coaches if not enough high school coaches accept, ensuring adequate staffing for the event.
- **Backup Plans and Flexibility:** If necessary, the group is open to having two Class B coaches or other combinations to fill coaching roles, prioritizing coverage and event continuity.
- **Action Items and Next Steps:** Tim summarized the meeting's decisions and outlined next steps, including finalizing team registration, contacting alumni, updating the budget, and following up on nominations and coaching assignments.
 - **Team Registration Follow-Up:** Tim will monitor team registrations through the January 31st deadline and reconvene the group if additional teams are needed to reach 48.
 - **Alumni Contact and Event Planning:** Tim and Brooklyn will reach out to alumni for participation in anniversary events and the panel, coordinating logistics for the first day at NDSU.
 - **Budget Distribution:** Tim will send out the updated budget for review and feedback from the group.
 - **Nomination and Coaching Assignments:** Tim will follow up with the Wahpeton coach regarding the nomination process and continue efforts to secure coaches, implementing the alumni assistant plan if needed.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Board Membership:** Consider and suggest potential candidates to fill the board vacancy left by Maddie's resignation, if anyone has recommendations. (the team)
- **Tournament Team Registration:** Re-engage with the group after the registration deadline to determine how many teams have registered and identify any remaining spots to fill to reach 48 teams. (Tim)
- **Golf Cart Rentals:** Contact the golf cart rental provider to confirm pricing and determine the appropriate mix and quantity of carts for the tournament based on board member availability. (Tim)

- **Alumni Engagement for 10th Anniversary:** Reach out to alumni to gauge interest in participating in the 10th anniversary event in Fargo, including potential involvement in a panel and/or alumni game. (Tim, Brooklyn)
- **Budget Update:** Send out the updated budget to all board members for review to ensure accuracy and completeness. (Tim)
- **Wahpeton Player Nomination:** Email the Wahpeton coach with instructions and information for nominating his daughter for the All-Star game, and coordinate with the board on how to handle her nomination in the voting process. (Tim)
- **Coach Stipend Increase:** Implement the increase of the All-Star game coach stipend to \$250 and communicate this change to coaches. (Tim)
- **Alumni Assistant Coaches:** Identify and recruit alumni to serve as assistant coaches for the All-Star game if needed to supplement the coaching staff. (Tim)