

Big Lake Baseball Association (BLBA)
Monthly Board Meeting Agenda & Minutes



Meeting Date/Time: July 22. 6pm

Location: Lupulin

Recorder: Tessa Miller, Secretary

Attendance:

Name	Position	Att	Name	Position	Att
Dan Grove	President	P	Lawrence Luoma	MAL – Travel Director	P
Mike Horn	Vice President	A	Joe Bruns	MAL – Equipment Coordinator	P
Nicole Possehl	Treasurer	P	Henry Bochenski	MAL – In-House Coordinator	P
Tessa Miller	Secretary	P	Stephanie Mericle	MAL - Volunteer Coordinator	P
Ashley Luoma	MAL – Director M&M	P	Loren Holthaus	MAL – Associate Director	A
Tay Kaeppe	MAL - Webmaster	P	Ryan Norland	Guest	P
Andrew Gosewisch	MAL – Player & Coach Development	P			

MAL = Member at Large

P = Present, PV - Present Virtual, A = Absent G = Guest

Agenda:

Topic	Description	Action / Discussion	Action By
Approve previous months board minutes	Review and approve previous months board minutes and send to webmaster to post.	Minutes approved - Tay posting to website	Tay
Open Forum	For additional discussion and/or open to public	See meeting minutes below for open forum items	
Bylaws	Updates	Tay posting to website	
Finance Update	Update from Treasurer	See meeting minutes below for updates and action items	
Volunteer Checks	Updates	See meeting minutes below for updates and action items	
M & M	Updates from M&M	Equipment turn-in 7/23 6-7pm	
Quad City/In-House	Updates	Equipment turn-in 7/23 6-7pm	
Travel	Updates	Equipment turn in as teams complete season	
Handbook	Updates - waiting to update until we have tryouts worked out	See meeting minutes below for updates and action items	

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Team Photos	Review	For the 2026 season we will offer direct to house shipping	
Equipment Assessment	Updates	See meeting minutes below for updates and action items	
Volunteer	Updates	See meeting minutes below for updates and action items	
Uniforms	Updates	Reach out to vendor about credit for BLBA	Tessa
Apparel	Updates	Reach out to apparel store for credit	Tessa
Elections	President chooses committee	Application forms and communications going out. Voting at next board meeting on August 13th	Dan Stephanie
Community Involvement / Sponsorships	Updates	Coffee fundraiser brought in just over \$500 for BLBA	
Tournaments	Recap	See meeting minutes below	
Evaluations	Go through board ideas	Motion to use Mash STC for 2026 evaluations. Checking on potential dates.	Tessa

Dan Grove called the meeting to order at 6:16

Approval of Previous month meeting minutes: Tessa requested a motion to approve. Ashley motioned, with Dan seconding. All were in favor, motion carries. Previous months board meeting minutes approved.

Open Forum

- Fall Ball Question - Not sponsored by BLBA
 - 9/10's might pull together
 - **Action Item: Tay will post on the BLBA facebook that Fall Ball is not sponsored by BLBA; however, they can sign up as a team or free agent with MYAS.**
- Sportsmanship Awards
 - QC - Submissions acquired
 - **Travel - Action Item: Lawrence gathering submissions**
 - Ask the recipients to come to August meeting to accept award if available
 - **Action Item: Tay providing options for the award**
- 15's as they are departing the youth program
 - Potentially provide each 15U player an outgoing gift to show our appreciation of their commitment to the Association.
- Benefit for Samantha Dietz
 - BLBA to donate a BLBA blanket for the silent auction for the benefit on August 2nd

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Bylaws

- **Action Item: Tay to post bylaws to BLBA website**

Finance Update

- \$20K still coming from SpudFest
- Concessions Net from three weekend tournaments was approx. \$6K
- Expenses for umpires and fields are still coming out - under budget for the year
- Travel Fees: For update travel fees
 - **Action Item: Dan will send email to outstanding fees and let them know the fee will be added onto next seasons**
- Uniform will be discussed upon apparel coordinator taking position after elections
- SpudFest meeting coming up September (regularly scheduled meeting)
 - **Action Item: Dan and Nikki to attend meeting for 2026 sponsorship fund**
 - **Action Item: Ashely added a reminder and due date to BLBA calendar**
- **Action Item: Dan contacting a company to ask about reconditioning mounds versus buying all new.**
- Looking at containers for us and will provide us with quotes

- **Action Time: Tay contacting Rally Sports about jersey sponsorships**

Volunteer Checks

- In 2026 we will look into having volunteer checks being electronic upon registration
- **Action Item: Stephanie/Tay/Ashely to reconcile lists**
- **Action Item: Dan to send out communications to those that need payment - or it will be added onto next season's fees**
- For 2026 season Treasurer to track and will reach out to coordinators to reach out to parents

M&M Update

- Season complete
- Equipment turn-in on 7/23 from 6-7pm for M&M
- **Action Item: Joe and Lawrence will reach out travel coaches as their seasons end**

Quad City/In-House

- Season complete
- Equipment turn-in 7/23 from 6-7pm for QC

Travel Update

- Season goes through this weekend
- **Action Item: Lawrence and Mike to look at registration dates for tournaments**

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- **Action item: Lawrence and Mike working on a handbook for travel coaches (recommended practice lengths, number of practices per week, and throughout the season)**
- Will continue to have travel coach meeting at beginning of the season - good response this year
- Tay contacted coaches to let them know about nominating players for MYAS - would like to see more nominations in the 2026 season
- Maybe next year pair a veteran coach with new coaches to help throughout the season
- Feedback was having single A teams was beneficial for players
- **Coach & Parent Survey: Action Item: Dan & Tessa to review surveys and Dan to send out communication**

Handbook - waiting to update until we have tryouts worked out

- On hold for tryout info
- **Action Item: Tay checking current handbook for number of coaches/volunteers per team and will send to the board members**

Team Photos Update

- For 2026, offer pay to ship to players/families directly versus BLBA board member pick-up
- **Action Item: Tessa to ask sportline if they do free coach/kid buddy pictures**

Equipment Update

- Equipment pick up 7/23 for QC and M&M, travel as their seasons ended
- **Action Item: Tay to bring MN Twins donated equipment to shed during equipment pick on 7/23**
- Could use some additional left handed catcher gloves (9's, 10's, 11's) - checking MN Twins donated equipment prior to searching
- Should we consider a team bats for 11 and under? - checking MN Twins donated equipment prior to considering

Volunteer Coordinator Updates

- **Action Item: Stephanie to create a potential cancellation policy and potential core hours for tournaments**
- Potentially create "core hours", and add shifts as tournament gets closer and we have more needs
- Had 42 unfilled spots during for our second tournament

Apparel/Uniform Updates

- **Action: Tessa reach out to squadlocker about credit for BLBA**

Election Update

- Committee: Stephanie, Lawrence, Henry, Joe

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- **Action Item: Dan to send out email to current association members with link to application form**
- **Action Item: Ashley checking for previous 2024 board application**
- **Action Item: Tay will post to facebook and website once email is sent out**
- **Cut off board applications on August 6th**
- **Elections at next meeting August 13th**
- August meeting is the voting for M&M, VP, Apparel, and Secretary
- **Action Item: Dan scheduling middle school media room with board meeting to follow elections**

Community Involvement Updates

- Coffee fundraiser brought in just over \$500
- **Action Item: Tay looking at highest selling individual and highest selling team**
 - **Gift Card for Grand Slam for the individual and team players**
- Tay looking into more grants for the 2026 season - applications opening in August/September
 - **Action Item: All board members come to the August meeting with ideas of what we should request on applications for the 2026 season**
 - **Ideas:** Covered dugouts, scoreboards, additional mounds
- Potentially add a sponsorship at large position if interested to help BLBA focus on fundraising and grants available

Tournaments

- Completed three weekends of tournaments
- Potentially offer fruit, or granola or healthy options
- Positive feedback overall for tournaments
- **Action Item: Tay pricing out rings for 2026 tournaments**

Evaluations - Board Updates

- Evaluation Who:
 - SCSU, Flexx, and Mash in consideration for evaluations in Jan/Feb 2026
 - Clinics would be in January, so tryouts would be late January/early February
 - **Action Item: Tessa to reach out to MASH St. Cloud to ask about potential tryout dates: January 24th, January 25th, January 31st February 1st**
 - MOTION: Nikki motions to use MASH as evaluators for the 2026 baseball season. Ashley seconds motion. All if favor Aye 10 Nye 0 Abstain 1
- Evaluation How:
 - Table until September meeting
 - **Action Item: All Board members bring proposals on how teams are formed for the 2026 season to the September meeting**
- Next Meeting: August 13th - Election Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm