

Arrowhead Fast Pitch League Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
6:00pm Buffalo House Proctor  
October 19, 2025

Called to order at 6:00pm

Present: Kelly Goeb, Jacque Volk, Theresa Leopold, Jessica Larson, Dennis Peterson

Guests: Beth Eberhart (Northwestern), Lainie Goad (Barnum), Chris Metzger (Cloquet)

1. Summary of 2025 survey results.

- 8/10/12s results
  - Overall for all ages:
    - Umpires need more education
    - Need additional coaching support after the season begins
    - Like north/south, most not concerned with travel distance
    - Some coaches want to have more games
  - 8U specific:
    - Season should be longer,
    - should have umpires for playoffs,
    - some coaches feel playoffs are too much at this age, some like playoffs and playoff rules in July,
    - one coach reported the opposing coaches in July did not want to use playoff rules so they didn't play with them until playoffs
  - 12U specific:
    - Question was asked if we should play half the season with regular schedule and second half split into levels based on record for more equal competition. The results were pretty equal both ways, so not a definitive answer.
- 14/16/18U
  - Would like ability to share rosters as there is too much unknown sharing of players
  - Too much arguing among the coaches, takes away from playing time for the players
  - Would like to see two umps for every game
  - Question about splitting season in half, moving to an A/B format second half of season based on record - result was 50/50 in favor and against
- Board discussed many of these comments.
  - For 8/10/12s, we do offer an umping clinic preseason and have offered coaches clinics though very poorly attended. We will continue to offer these clinics and perhaps find a way to offer a "coaching mentorship" or another way to support coaches during season.
  - 8U playoffs - We can look into having a supervisor or ump at all playoffs. Teams have the option to not participate in playoffs if they feel they are not ready to be that competitive. Will encourage teams to play with playoff rules in July to continue to advance all teams.
  - Length of season/amount of games. Overall, the board feels extending the season into August interferes with family summer time and high school coaches are not allowed to coach after July 31 (older age groups). Any team can reach out to other teams to have scrimmages outside of the schedule if they would like to have more games.

2. Softball promotion. Theresa is working with the Northwoods League to host a game in Duluth at Wade Stadium. Work in progress.
3. Changes to rules for 2026. Air Quality Index of 175 or higher will result in games being postponed/cancelled. Air Quality Index will be from [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) and based on zip code for game location at 3pm on game day.
4. Changes to fees for 2026. No changes from 2025. Motion by Jacque, second by Jessica, passed
5. Dates for 2026 Season
  - February 15, 2026 - Community Leader Meeting
  - March 22, 2026 - Team Registration Due Date and Coaches Meetings
  - 8/10/12U. Start week of May 18, Playoffs week of July 13
  - 14/16/18U. Start week of June 1, Playoffs week of July 20
6. USSSA Rule changes. Age date changes to September 1 (instead of January 1). Will inform community leaders via email and at meeting on Feb 15.
7. Walk up songs. Several teams have been playing music between innings and/or walk-up songs for players. However there have been some complaints about the music being disruptive by not being turned off during an at-bat and some of the music being inappropriate. Motion by Theresa, second by Jessica to NOT allow music to be played after the official game starts. Motion carries.
8. Future meeting dates.
  - November 16 at 6pm at Buffalo House upstairs, starting with Annual meeting/election
  - January 18 at 6pm
  - February 15 at 6pm

Adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Goeb, secretary/treasurer