



October Board Meeting Agenda

October 20th, 2024

7:00 PM, Zoom

Our Mission: To offer a community-based fastpitch softball program that allows opportunities for all Spring Lake Park female athletes to learn and enjoy fastpitch softball.

Our Vision: Provide a fastpitch softball program that teaches fastpitch softball fundamentals in a fun and supportive learning environment by promoting team play, providing individual skill development opportunities (physical & mental), and developing competitive teams regardless of age or level of play.

Call To Order

1) Welcome & Role Call (Tanya)

Present	Board Member	Present	Board Member
X	Tanya Hartwell, President	ABS	Carlo Faccini, Player Development Director
X	Mike Raymond, Vice President	X	Rich DiVito, Website & IT Director
X	Josh Good, Treasurer	X	Brad Hunt, Brand & Marketing Director
ABS	Stacy Nugent, Secretary	X	Kristi Cobbs, Community Liaison & Fundraising Director
ABS	Amy Bennett, League & Team Schedule Director	X	Sarah Jordahl, Director at Large
X	Zac Humphrey, Program Director		OPEN, Director at Large
X	Sarah Gatlin, Panther Classic Tournament Director		OPEN, Director at Large

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

Additional Attendees: Bree Minor, John Garcia

2) Review & Approval of October Agenda (Tanya)

Any additions?

Motion to approve as is

Motion: Rich
Second: Sarah G
Vote: All Approve

3) Review & Approval of September Meeting Minutes (Tanya)

Any updates/revisions?

Motion to approve as is

Motion: Kristi
Second: Rich
Vote: All Approve

Financial Updates

1) Treasurer's Report (Josh)

Treasurer's Report

- October Financials update

Discussion Notes:

- Overall looking financially healthy; seeing some shifts by month compared to LY due to fall clinic coaches payments and fall team coaches payments
- SportsEngine cost is going up from \$595 to \$799 for next year
- We also purchased some used catchers equipment to have on hand

Next Steps/Board Lead/Timing:

- **Josh/Tanya** to finalize 2025 budget draft for review in November meeting

Old Business

1) Fall Events (All)

Quick plug for the 10/26 Halloween Event! Get your athletes signed up and help spread the word!

Discussion Notes:

- Agreed to donate candy for the event

Next Steps/Board Lead/Timing:

- **Kristi** to coordinate candy donation with Chris
- **Tanya/Brad** to send last push communication

New Business

1) SLP HS Softball Youth Night (Tanya)

Chris let me know there is desire to continue using the UNW facility for the 2025 SLP HS Softball Youth Night event and is looking for support from the youth program again to help fund.

- Exact date is TBD but requested he consider a Friday evening or do it prior to when league night games start for the youth program
- Last year's event seemed to be well attended and received positive feedback
- SLPSA contribution for facilities in 2024 was \$488
- Proposing we approve up to a \$500 contribution towards the facilities costs for this event

Motion to approve up to \$500 contribution towards facilities costs for this event

Motion: Sarah G.

Second: Mike

Vote: All Approved

Next Steps/Board Lead/Timing:

- o Tanya to communicate approval to Chris
- o Kristi to connect with Chris on event logistics closer to

2) 2025 Spring Season Discussion (All)**Registration & Evaluation Logistics Updates:**

- Evaluators: Chris Bangle has agreed to help again and is aligned to keeping payment flat to last year (\$2000 total; breakout TBD but likely to be \$500 to Boosters for HS athlete participation and the rest split between the coaches participating)
- Registration: Rich is working on getting the link open; ideally will have ready by the end of the month

Spring Season Discussion Topics for October

- **Coach Identification:**
 - o Zac to check in with existing coaches in advance and provide updates on their intent to coach in the spring
 - o Next Steps include coaches interviews in November and a Board vote on potential coaches (for those identified) in December so they can have early input on team schedules

Discussion Notes:

- o Overall, parent coaches are hesitant to sign up early as they don't want it to impact their athletes team placements
- o For this season, we'll identify age group coaches and then assign them to teams after evaluations
- o Existing Coaches:
 - o Confirmed willing to Coach:
 - Mike Raymond (12U)
 - Aaron Mortenson (14U/16U)
 - o Will not be returning: Anthony Vertalino (14U)
 - o Undecided/To Be Confirmed:
 - Brian Swanson (8U)
 - Connor Stolz (10U)
 - Derek Ruff (10U)
 - Anna Nagle/Karen Higgins (12U)
 - Ashley Assaf (12U)
 - Mike Jeziorski (12U)
 - Jer Johnson (14U)
- o Potential New Coaches:
 - o Kristina Hunt (10U)

- Ashlyn Peterson and Kiley Alguire (requested 14U but thinking younger would be a better fit)
 - Jackie Oliver (TBD on age group)
 - Tom Doran (8U)
- **Pitcher/Catcher Evaluations:** If we're moving forward with this, we should include in the registration communication so let's discuss and align on how we want to approach. LY schedule was as follows:
 - Saturday:
 - 10U: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
 - 12U: 11:00 AM - 12:30PM (this is likely to be our biggest age group)
 - 14U/16U: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
 - Sunday:
 - 14U/16/HS: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
 - 10U: 11:00 AM - 12:30PM
 - 12U: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Discussion Notes:

- Discussed adding a question to the registration to get feedback from parents around what their priority is for evaluations (ie. pitcher/catcher vs. overall skills) to help inform team placements
- Aligned that the core objective of this is to give coaches visibility to where athletes are at based on any skills development they did in the winter so that they can make educated decisions as it relates to team placements; we don't necessarily feel they should have impact on their scores
- If we offered during pre-evaluation practices, we should extend the existing practice to accommodate vs. asking athletes to come a separate time; participation is optional

Motion to include an opportunity for a pitcher/catcher "showcase" within the pre-tryout practices vs. during evaluation days

Motion: Mike

Second: Josh

Vote: All Approved

- **Team Plans:** It seems like there is appetite to provide a "base" structure for team practice and tournament schedules but allow for flexibility once teams are formed to adapt to the individual team needs (ie. drop a tournament and reinvest those dollars into other training). If this the approach we'd like to take for this season, I would like to officially put it to a vote so we can communicate it in advance. Here is a stab at the "base" plans based on last year.
 - 8U
 - Do we consider MN Softball (pitching machine) or do we want to go back to the Soderville League (coach pitch)?
 - Do we consider bumping our 2nd year 8Us up to 10U C if there are enough of them?

- Season Length: Season starts when the weather is nice enough to get outside and goes through July; proposing no pre-evaluation practice this year
 - Practices: 1 per week
 - Games: 1 per week
 - The goal - sounds like they ended up having 2 with Soderville LY and received feedback from families that it was a lot
 - MN Softball had games on Wed LY; Soderville was Mon/Wed
 - Tournaments: 2 guaranteed
 - Panther Classic
 - 1 TBD Invitational Tournament; consider June timing
- 10U
 - Season Length: March - July; indoor practices start week of March 24th
 - Practices: 1-2 per week
 - 1 per week while indoors
 - 2 per week when no league night games
 - 1 per week during league game play
 - Games: 1-2 nights per week
 - 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
 - State & Nationals if qualified
- 12U
 - Season Length: March - July; indoor practices start week of March 24th
 - Practices: 1-2 per week
 - 1 per week while indoors
 - 2 per week when no league night games
 - 1 per week during league game play
 - Games: 2 double headers per week (Mon/Wed)
 - Tournaments: 4 guaranteed
 - Panther Classic
 - 2 TBD Invitational Tournaments
 - State Qualifier
 - State & Nationals if qualified
- 14U/16U
 - Season Length: May - August

- We need to be more intentional about training opportunities for those athletes who aren't playing high school. How do we find out how many this impacts and maybe start them earlier?
- Practices: 1-2 per week
 - 2 per week when no league night games
 - 1 per week during league game play
- Games:
 - 14U: 2 double headers per week (Tue/Thur)
 - 16U: 2 double headers per week (Mon/Wed)
- Tournaments: 4 guaranteed
 - 3 TBD Invitational Tournaments
 - State Qualifier
 - State & Nationals if qualified

Discussion Notes:

- Debated the pros/cons to coach pitch vs. machine pitch; ultimately felt that machine pitch was a more consistent experience for our athletes (games vs. tournaments) that the schedule with MN Softball would help address some of the feedback received from the end of season survey; aligned to move forward with MN Softball for 8U next season
- Discussed the potential of moving our 2nd year/more experienced 8U players up to 10U - C level for the 2024 season. We've seen other organizations doing this and helps introduce athletes to live pitching sooner. Aligned that we would move forward with this strategy should we have enough players to do so. We will also add a question to the registration to gauge interest/feedback from parents. Need to make sure 8U families interested in 10U are clear that they should plan to attend evaluations.
- We don't need to offer a pre-evaluation practice for 8U
- **Summer Skills Clinics:** Based on the discussions from our last few meetings and the Roundtable event, it seems like we're leaning more towards integrating specialized skills training into practices vs. offering them separately. If this is the case, I'd like the group to discuss and vote on it so that we can get ahead of planning for next season as it fundamentally will change how we implement our practice schedule and will take some time to work through.

Discussion Notes:

- All were aligned that we'd like to try and evolve our approach to specialized skills trainings to incorporate them within regular practice times (vs. separate as we've done in the past)
- Focus skills could include hitting, pitching, catching, throwing form, game IQ
- For timing - we had great feedback on front loading the season with clinics this year so would love to see how that could work with this format. Are they heavier up front but then have a few sprinkled in throughout to "maintain"? For 8U, pitching could likely be introduced later in the season as it isn't as critical at the start.
- Don't think they necessarily have to be only one team at a time; could consider age group practices for some skills (ie throwing) while others may require smaller groups. Also can play with training durations - some may only require 30 minutes while others could take longer.
- Needs by age groups may vary; ie could likely use high school athletes to help with the younger groups vs. more experienced coaches to help with the higher level athletes

- Need to better understand cost implications; consider expense across age groups comparative to registration costs

Motion to approve moving forward with an integrated skills training approach (vs. stand alone) for this season

Motion: Sarah J.

Second: Sarah G.

Vote: All Approved

- **Core Fundraising Offering** - Get in the Game Raffle:

- Half of our families want a buyout option so we plan to include a \$100 fundraising fee at the time of registration; do we want this to be per athlete or per family?
- Families will have the option to participate in the raffle (\$5/20 tickets) to earn their money back; let's discuss how we want to position the financials around selling additional tickets
- We will still continue to look at other fundraising opportunities throughout the year however this would be the only ask of families outside of volunteer hours at the Panther Classic

Discussion Notes:

- Aligned to the buyout being per family (vs. by athlete)
- Aligned that any additional tickets sold beyond 20 would to the benefit of the organization as a whole (vs individual families)
- Discussed the potential of some sort of incentive for the team that sells the most tickets; would want to be considerate of the value of the prize knowing some people may opt out due to personal/religious reasons. Could we get the prizes donated? Confirm details to be communicated during the February kick off meeting.
- Discussed keeping the prize structure the same; would order a few more tickets to try and sell some at the panther classic and to accommodate a ticket selling contest

Future Spring Season Agenda Topics/To Dos:

- Overall Evaluation Criteria/Skills Assessments (Nov Meeting)
- Athlete Evaluation Performance Scorecards (Nov Meeting)
- Game Changer Use for all teams
- Field Maintenance (Ongoing + Game Prep)
- Spring Spiritwear Store (Dec Meeting)
- Raffle Fundraiser Ticket Sales Incentive

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **Amy** working on alt locations for pre-evaluation practices

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Closing Notes/Reminders:

- End of Season MN Softball Meeting: November 6th at 7PM
- Next Board Meeting: November 17th at 7:00 PM via Zoom

- [Strategic Plan Workstreams](#); reminder that initiative leaders are responsible for facilitating next steps with committee members and bringing updates back to the broader Board

Motion: Mike

Second: Josh

Vote: All Approve

Potential Future Agenda Topics:

- Future Financial Planning Discussion
- Revisit Board Roles & Responsibilities
- Coach Certification Tracking
- Panther Classic 2025 Planning/Alternative Panther Classic Sites

Appendix A | 2024 Board Meetings

Day	Date	Location
Sunday	January 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	February 2, 2024 (Ad Hoc)	Zoom
Sunday	February 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	March 24, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	April 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Gatlin Residence
Sunday	May 20, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	July 1, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	July 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	August 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	September 22, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	October 20, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	November 17, 2024 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	December 15, 2024 @ 7:00pm	In Person (TBD)

Appendix B | Important Dates

Event	Dates	Location
SLPSA Summer Season Registration	1/2-1/31	
MN Softball Director Meeting	1/22 (2/19 reschedule)	7:00 PM Medina Entertainment Center
Summer Parent Meeting	2/5	7:00 PM via ZOOM
Summer Team Evaluations	3/2 – 3/3	Westwood Middle School
Summer Team Selections Communicated	3/4	
Teams Registered with Big West	4/1	
SLPHS Season Starts	3/11	
SLPHS Tryouts	3/18 – 3/22	
Big West Coach Schedule Meeting	4/8	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	5/17	SLP HS Fields
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	6/6	Spring Lake Park
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
Club Evaluations can begin	8/5	
MN Softball Fall Ball Meeting	9/6	Medina Entertainment Center

Fall Ball Weekend #1	8/24 – 8/25	
Fall Ball Weekend #2	9/7 –9/8	
Fall Ball Weekend #3	9/14 – 9/15	
Fall Ball Weekend #4	9/21– 9/22	
Fall Ball State Tournament	9/28 – 9/29	
Fall Roundtable Event	9/30	
MN Softball Year-End Directors Meeting	TBD	Medina Entertainment Center

Appendix C – Board of Directors Roles

Name	Current Role	SLPSA Board Appointment Date	Current Role Appointment Date	Role Expiration (2 year term for Officers)
Tanya Hartwell	President*	August 2022	July 2023	July 2025
Mike Raymond	Vice President*	November 2023	December 2023	December 2025
Stacy Nugent	Secretary*	August 2023	September 2023	September 2025
Josh Glood	Treasurer*	September 2023	December 2023	December 2025
Amy Bennett	League & Team Schedule Director	September 2023	September 2023	-
Zac Humphrey	Program Director	December 2023	February 2023	-
Sarah Gatlin	Panther Classic Tournament Director	December 2023	December 2023	Intending to roll off July 2025
Carlo Faccini	Player Development Director	October 2023	September 2024	-
Rich DiVito	Website & IT Director	August 2022	October 2022	Intending to roll off July 2025
Brad Hunt	Brand & Marketing Director	April 2024	April 2024	-
Kristi Cobbs	Community Liaison & Fundraising Director	September 2023	September 2023	-
Sarah Jordahl	Director At Large	April 2024	April 2024	-
Open	Director At Large			
Open	Director At Large			

**Officer roles have 2 year term limits per SLPSA bylaws*