

DRAFT

BYBS (Berlin Youth Baseball & Softball) Agenda

Meeting: Monthly Meeting

Date September 17th, 2025

Location: on Broadway

Meeting start time 6:30 PM

1. Called to order

Justin called to order 6:35pm

2. Roll call

In attendance:

Board: Justin, Tanya, Mike, Kari, Casey

Membership: Parker, Pulvermacher

Excused:

Board: Jared, Micky

3. Membership input

None

4. Correspondence

Micky mentioned in email prior to meeting she's receiving emails from parents about tryouts

5. Discussion

i. Meeting Minutes

Kari made a motion to approve the minutes Justin sent out, Casey 2nd, all present were in favor, no neighs, this passed

ii. Treasurers Report

Micky sent report in in an email prior to meeting earlier finished paying ump

\$28,498.11 ending balance

There are a couple checks outstanding for umpiring that people haven't cashed

Kari made motion a to approve the report as was emailed out, Tanya 2nd, all present were in favor, no neighs, this passed

iii. Receipts from any recent orders (baseballs, softballs, sliding matt, etc.)

Sliding Matts

Micky emailed prior to meeting that she purchased 2 at \$114 each plus shipping, but mentioned that purchasing 1 for every team was cost concerning due to total cost being over \$1,000 so decided to just get 2 at this time and test them out.

Tanya suggested bringing to pitching practice to test them out once delivered

Casey mentioned option of using them in the gym during winter practices

Micky's text message said delivery scheduled for next week

Baseballs

Micky emailed prior that she got boys little league practice balls on sale

She indicated Boys/girls game balls & senior boys practice balls were not on sale

Desire was to buy them off-season at a discount

Practice balls were \$60 (normally \$80) per Dick's bucket for 24

Ordered 5 at \$316.39

Will keep watching for balls to go on sale

iv. Updates on umpire payouts from last season

Micky email she sent prior to meeting indicated this is complete

She also indicated all coaches gift cards were given out

v. Boys Tournament Team Tryouts Recap

58 boys tryouts

Approximate numbers looking like

13u 12 players

11u 12 players

10u 13 players

9u 12 players

8u 10 players

Discussion on the new format of tryouts this year included more statistic approach (previous years we used number ranking for different skills, this year was more raw data like yes/no did they know where to stand, yes/no did they hit the ball, yes/no did they field it cleanly, yes/no did they know how to tag up, etc.).

Discussion possibly sending a per-team summary to the tournament team coaches of what their team had as weakness/gaps, what they could work on in future practices, etc.

Examples opportunities for fundamental practice topics found during tryouts

8u – none of the players turned right after running to first base, 4 stopped directly on 1st

8u – all but 1 player ran immediately (did not tag up) with less than 2 outs on a flyball

9u – all but 2 players ran immediately (did not tag up) with less than 2 outs on a flyball

10u – 7 players did not turn right after running to first base

10u – 5 players ran immediately & did not tag up with less than 2 outs on a flyball

10u – 3 players missed all 5 soft toss pitches & had to use the tee

11u – only 1 player knew the difference between “wind-up” and “stretch” when pitching

11u – 2 players missed all 5 soft toss pitches & had to use the tee

13u – 4 players didn’t know difference between “wind-up” and “stretch” when pitching

13u – 2 players ran immediately (did not tag up) with less than 2 outs on a flyball

Justin mentioned that 7 boys that missed tryouts and Micky is working to schedule a new time with them. 5 are returning players, 2 are new players. Reasons they missed the tryouts included injury, illness, and just plain forgetting the date. Some players are being scheduled for Tuesday 9/23.

vi. City report (tournament dates, south diamond shed, orders of bleacher, field leveling)

Kari read out loud the email from Micky from the city

Micky mentioned in an email prior to the meeting that the city leveled a north diamond hole in the outfield.

The city is continuing to make small improvements, such as the aluminum bleachers \$6,000 in last year’s city budget

The board members were interested in the mention of a prior estimate for \$7,000 for scoreboard on south diamond. It was agreed this was interesting and within reach of BYBS especially with a sponsor and that we should pursue this topic further with the city.

The city email also suggested additional ideas to pursue in the future including new bases, more aluminum bleachers, new field rakes & drags, and a porta potty in early spring at south diamond.

The board discussed the idea of the porta potty at south diamond and thought this was also a good idea to pursue for tball, coach pitch, and just team practices in general at south diamond and to look into the costs and options. The high school currently puts a porta potty at north.

Justin briefly mentioned the idea of purchasing quick dry in advance of next season so we have some in case of important situations like rain during our tournament dates. The board did discuss perhaps we should have a conversation with the high school of how they purchase there’s and if we can collaborate for purchase with them.

Justin mentioned that the City previously had stated there was a pile of infield mix somewhere over by the campground under tarp that can also be used for regular infield maintenance that we

should take advantage of (e.g. keep raking, but also keep applying additional mix on key locations like the pitchers mound and home plate).

Tanya brought up and the board discussed again the North diamond mat under home plate regularly popping out of the dirt and kids getting caught on it and we agreed it would be a good idea to talk to the city about replacing or re-seating it into the ground.

Justin also brought up thinking about replacing home plate at South diamond since it is a dimpled plate that doesn't look clean and is concave/collects water.

The board discussed putting a more permanent fence on Klein, and discussed shortening the fences on north and south diamonds. The reasoning being the primary usage is Girls High School and little league, but the fences are too large and designed for Men's Softball. It was seen as a positive motivator for youth to have a diamond their appropriate length for an opportunity to hit a homerun. Currently we can and have used the temporary snow fences but were curious about the options available for more permanent changes especially if Men's softball is no longer occurring.

Tanya brought up girls tripping on the north diamond extra mounds, and the board discussed buying pluggable portable mounds for north & south, and perhaps even Klein depending on the cost. It was discussed to get non-tasseled plugs to both lower the likelihood of vandalism but also decrease distractions during games. It was discussed that portable mounds are likely what other nearby cities are using where we can take out and put in only the mound needed for the current game. Mike made a motion to do cost estimates on pluggable mounds, Casey seconded, all present were in favor, no neighs. Casey agreed to research the costs of pluggable mounds and their equipment required.

The email from the city mentioned no response about the moveable concession trailer yet (but it was discussed also not to move forward with the concession trailer)

vii. Updates on Boys Tournament Team Coaches (specifically 8U)

No action on finding an 8u coach yet.

The board discussed the idea of giving coaches a deadline to pick their tournaments and if they can't find any by that date then the board will find and pick tournaments for that team. The reasoning being that there were some issues in the past of tournament registrations happening too late in the year or too close that it made it difficult for parents the plan ahead for the summer and known which weekends are required.

Justin mentioned that he received this week the email for registration already for the 2026 Waupaca boys baseball tournaments, ages 7u through 12u. The board agreed, if this is a tournament that has been seen as favorable by the coaches, that we should probably pursue registering all appropriate teams as soon as possible.

viii. Updates on Fall ball/Practices/Clinics/etc.

Mike said the girls pitching practices are now on the schedule, 1 this month and 2 more next month, there is a sign up genius on facebook to register.

Justin mentioned the idea of "fall banana ball" (similar to last year's "family ball") and is still considering scheduling this coming up in the fall.

ix. Updates on Coaching Philosophy charts

Micky mentioned in her prior email she is still working on this. Mike also said he is willing to help and clean up/review it. The board briefly discussed expectations for minors majors seniors,

skill sets, knowledge, but also “rotation of players” vs “staying in the same spots to prepare for high school”, etc. The board discussed the desire to send the final output to the coaches & parents before the first practice, or perhaps even as early as during the registration process.

x. Updates on taking down the batting cages

Justin said last year we did it oct 14 due to forecasted early snow.

Discussion was had about tagging the corners better so it's easier to put up next year.

The board agreed upon October 4th 10am to schedule. Casey & Justin said they were available and we would advertise it on facebook for more helpers.

xi. Updates on Pitching Machine wheel issue

In Micky's email she mentioned that Russ L found the pitching wheel that needs replaced in the pitching machine in the shed and is willing to replace it after purchase. Kari made a motion to purchase \$345 + shipping for pitching machine wheel, Casey 2nd, all present were in favor, no neighs, this passed. Micky will order it.

xii. Reminder: Planning for Boys May Scrimmage Tournament

No updates

Mike mentioned and Justin noted, idea was briefly discussed of an “MVP” handout like Justin saw in previous tournament, where each coach each game gets to hand out an “MVP card” to the other team and the winner of that MVP card gets a free prize from BYBS. Just an interesting idea.

xi. Reminder: Planning for Girls June Rec League tournament

There was a meeting on the 8th to Mike, Casey, Tanya, Micky, Coach Jill, discussed high level the girls tournament. Some notes include Majors Minors Saturday, Seniors Sunday. The strategy was to fill teams by inviting Waushara league first to commitment then open up to other C level rec teams. Don't want any travel teams and for certain no all star teams. Format would be round robin for minors and majors. Seniors would be bracket play. 3 game minimum 5 game max. Minors 4 team, Majors 5 team, Seniors minimum 6 teams. Rule format stick with Waushara league rules. Timed games 1hr 15 minutes, coin flip, max run rules (per game and per inning). Concessions would have no alcohol. Volunteers is still TBD. Briefly discussed awards concerns of cost, and desired to at least have a first place award. Discussed MVP hand-out idea mentioned above also. Initial entry costs discussed perhaps around \$250 seniors, \$200 majors, \$150 minors initial thought (may have to bump ump, but that doesn't take into account Berlin not paying). Fundraiser chuck a duck was discussed and desired. One idea was to get buy-in from high schoolers to help and have some profit go to a collaborative project with them as an incentive to get them to help. One idea tournament sponsor as a whole, or sponsor for each field just for the tournament. Birth Certificate discussed but it's more clear to define that its by Grades not ages. Fields (Saturday minors only Klein, majors on north / south, but could get by with 2 fields, Sunday seniors need all 3 diamonds). This impacts the number of umpires needed. Both north & south diamonds full concessions. Umpires (discussed needing good umpires for seniors), and telling the teams that we will have high school umpires ahead of time so they know. Field Maintenance was discussed and Casey and Mike would be doing all the diamonds, Coach Jill too. Justin briefly mentioned he wasn't too concerned about breaking even on cost but thought the struggle may be on finding volunteers/umpires, and filling the registration spots with teams as a large tournament has a lot of moving parts. Tanya and Mike mentioned their concern that they are waiting on the city to approve the date before they can start advertising.

xii. Reminder: Discuss decision on Boys Minors for Ripon/Waushara

No updates

Tanya mentioned discussion on concerns of field usage for practices and games.

xiii. Reminder: Planning for Registration including websites & yard signs

The board discussed have Fall “commitment” pre-registration for tournament team players/parents. The idea being there would be a sports engine website where they must commit to things like “attending 80% of practices”, “attending 80% of games”, “giving advanced 2 week notice of any absence like family vacation, camping, other sports, etc.”, “making their best effort to be available for baseball”, “understanding that if they can’t commit the coach has the right to fill their team spot with someone else”.

It was also discussed the idea of the parents “committing to helping with the home tournament” since it is for their kid’s team (e.g. concession, field maintenance, umpire).

It was discussed the desire to get the tournament weekend schedules for the summer out as early as possible (perhaps April 1st) and maybe even have a re-commitment at that time, to ensure that parents/players will be available those weekends and coaches have ample time to find replacements if not. It was discussed if that’s not feasible then at least during the pre-commitment website showing the parents “what it was like last year” so they have an idea what they are committing to.

It was discussed if there should be a down payment (perhaps \$50) or a pay-50% or pay-in-full option during this pre-commitment prior to Thanksgiving. The board members discussed how other clubs (volleyball for example) and other cities they’ve seen requirements of paying 50% within 4-6 weeks of tryouts so there is precedent for doing that. It was also mentioned the idea of if they pay-in-full early (Thanksgiving) that they could get a “discount” such as \$10 off. To do that it was mentioned by Justin that we’d need to have the prices for 2026 set.

It was also discussed whether or not we want coaches to have a commitment to the coaching philosophy that BYBS has. Doing an actual website with a checkbox to click was discussed but discussion indicated that probably wouldn’t go over well, so as an alternative we will continue to do what Mike/Micky were already planning of an email to all coaches that contains the “coaching philosophy” and indicating for coaches to “please review and let us know if you have any questions”, thus more of a soft commit.

Micky in her prior email said she’s working on yard sign design for registration day to put up a key locations in Berlin.

Mike initially brought it up and the board discussed about league-wide practices for both girls & boys. It was generally agreed this would help early in the season to get the coaching philosophy across, as well as teach the players core fundamentals. Some ideas were floated around such as having practice need be “1/2 league wide” and “1/2 with your team”, or else having 1 night a week “league-wide” and 1 night a week with the team. Some benefits of the league wide practice (e.g. All minors girls teams practice together, all majors girls, all minors boys, all majors girls teams) was that everybody has the same opportunity to learn core fundamentals, the coaching philosophies can be aligned, and there are good opportunities then for scrimmages when applicable. It was discussed a little about who would “coordinate/plan” the “together” portion of practice and whether it would be 1 person or perhaps better a “rotation” of coaches (e.g. once coach is responsible for one week, the other coach for the next week).

6. Board Member Updates

Kari brought up the Concession Trailer she found online for \$4,500 and it was discussed the pros and cons to such as purchase. The usage would be things like South Diamond concessions, brat fry, farmer’s market, etc. In a similar topic, it was discussed the options of having a permanent or

portable building or talking to city on cost to replace the south diamond building that is already there. Kari mentioned she did research and found for a trailer no permit was required to be used at our "home location" (e.g. south diamond) for games. And then it could also be used for up to 3 off-site fundraisers (like farmer's market, etc.) but if it goes over 3 then it requires a permit. After discussion the board decided to not move forward at this time, but instead still keep pursuing the idea of something at South Diamond like a building or shed.

7. Future Agenda Items/Meeting

Confirmation by the City on the weekends for the 2026 tournaments

Date for the next meeting

10/15/2025 6:30pm at Masticola's Casey will ask (remind him) for location

8. Adjournment

Mike made a motion to close, Kari seconded, meeting ended 8:36pm