

Tea Baseball Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 20, 2024 • 6 p.m. • Tea City Hall

MINUTES

Board Members:

Rob Schramm, Amy Smolik, Kevin McIntyre, Chris Vasecka, Mark Jelen, Cory Olson
Not present: Mitch Smith, Rick Willemsen

1) CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 p.m.

2) APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Chris, seconded by Kevin. Unanimously approved.

3) APPROVE THE TEA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Mark, seconded by Cory. Unanimously approved.

4) PUBLIC SPEAKING (5-minute limit per speaker)

5) REPORTS

A. Chase the Ace: Pot is currently over \$31,000. Best pot ever on 10/18.

B. Athletic complex updates: Rob attended a meeting with City employees Justin Weiland and Thad Konrad and City Councilors Jim Erck and Joe Weiss on Oct. 16. They talked about upgrades to Field A. The contractor the city is working with, Confluence, has numbers for big upgrades like turf, dugouts, fence, grandstand. None of them are in the City's 2025 budget, however. Rob's thought — the best way to get upgrades to Field A is probably to help fund it. So, nothing happening during this offseason. Possibly next offseason there will need to be ongoing discussions on what to do. Thad was straightforward about starting with Grandstand because logistically it didn't make sense to start anywhere else. What we don't have in Tea is 11u/12u (5th-6th grade) fields. Going to put plugs in Field D. Five fields can be 3rd-4th. Only 1 can be 5th-6th. As an association, he believes we need more fields for intermediate age group.

The City was open to adding plyo netting to sides, adding a portable mound for Field D the same size as A, and adding 70-foot bases on Field D. They cannot go to 80 feet, partially dealing with sprinkler heads to make the field bigger.

Regarding Tea hosting tournaments in 2025, council members wanted to know more information. TBA is looking at early May. TBA could host two divisions for State A (mid-July) but can only host 3rd-4th grades.

TBA needs to continue to push how bringing people to Tea impacts our economy positively and that improving our facilities impacts the quality of life of residents as well as visitors.

The HS Softball program would like to add a shorter fence on Field D (not snow fence).

C. Class A meeting/changes — Rob attended the meeting in Brookings on Oct. 13. The biggest thing is the switch from birth year to grades for 9u-12u, a proposal brought forward by TBA. This is for divisions through 6th grade. Teams will be allowed to sign a waiver to remain under the existing Jan. 1 rule for the 2025 season only. For 2026, everyone will go to grade level. For 2025, TBA will make the move to grade levels and 13u-16u will remain based on existing Jan. 1 rule.

It was also discussed to move 13u to intermediate field. Not every community can host games at this size, however. Rob thinks this is a ways away from happening.

For 2025, Class A is considering adding an A division and a B division for 3rd grade through 6th grade. An option could include discuss having 2nd grade teams playing in the 3rd Grade B division if they wish to play. Rob proposed that towns must have an A team to have a B team, but it is not an official rule.

Other changes/news: Class A is exploring the options for two sites for 2025 and will be doing two sites with 2026. TBA offered to host in 2026. Dakota Valley joined Class A starting in 2025.

2025 State Tournaments:

13u-16u — July 25-28

13u, Brookings

14u, Aberdeen

16u, Yankton

13/14u combined, Sioux Falls if enough teams

3rd grade-6th grade — July 18-20

As of right now Mitchell is hosting all these age groups.

Legion — usually the following weekend from 13u-16u

Junior Legion Rapid City (TBA will not have a Junior Legion in 2025)

Legion, Watertown

D. 9U-13U teams — In adjusting age groups to grade groups for competitive teams, we have full rosters. The 3rd grade team has some 2nd graders. Next season we should consider offering a 2nd grade team if there's enough kids to play in 3rd grade B division.

E. DEC updates — We are starting in the DEC on Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m. in November for arm care. Rob requested to have use of DEC for Tuesdays/Thursdays/Sundays starting in January for ages 7th grade and older. There is no access on non-school days. No paid 1-on-1 trainers allowed. Must have volunteer coaches present.

F. Chislic feed

First choice is Saturday, March 29 — no conflict, save the date. Plan B would be Saturday, March 15. Kevin will talk to the Legion and Squealers to confirm availability.

G. Annual Meeting —
Monday, Dec. 2 • 7 p.m. at the Legion

H. Sponsorship Committee — Rob has three volunteers who are stepping up: Amanda Treloar, Lesa Gilbert and Rachel Hangman. They will use the document previously prepared that outlines costs for various sponsorship options. Rob will create a Google Sheet to put together contact information for potential sponsors.

6) OTHER BUSINESS/FUTURE OUTLOOK

- A. Player fundraising — need some ideas. OPH not happening.
- B. Board member duties — available in the bylaws
- C. 2025 Budget — not on paper yet

7) NEXT MEETING DATE — Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at Tea City Hall

8) ADJOURNMENT: 7:44 p.m.

Motion by Mark, seconded by Cory. Unanimously approved.