



## SLPSA Roundtable RECAP

September 25th, 2023, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Centerview Elementary Cafeteria

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p>Board &amp; Attendee intros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thank you to the ~25 families who attended!</li> </ul>
<b>State of the Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing &amp; Financially Healthy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 100 Summer athletes (15% increase YOY) and 90 Fall athletes (12% increase YOY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 30% of fall registrations were all together new or returning fall only athletes</li> <li>▪ Of those that didn't return – conflicts with other sports and commitments in the fall BUT based on the summer survey results many reported intent to return for next summer</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Back to 3 10U teams (first time since 2019) and seeing growth in 12U as well</li> <li>○ Financial Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working through how to combat increases in costs across the board (umpires, league fees, tournament fees, field space etc..)</li> <li>▪ Would like to revisit financial planning for the Panther Classic; it is very popular and helps offset tournament fees for our teams but also has the potential opportunity to bring in more revenue for the organization in total</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Board Member Turnover &amp; Revised Roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 roll off this summer; 3 more set to roll off in December</li> <li>○ 4 new members join; 2 more set to be voted in within the coming months</li> <li>○ 2 open roles (At Large) – actively seeking volunteers!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Notable Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Field space access; especially with growing numbers</li> <li>○ Coach recruitment (volunteer &amp; paid)</li> <li>○ Addressing the wide range of athlete development needs and varying family expectations (level of play, competitiveness, training approach, program costs etc..)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>2023 Season Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Successes – a few examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 teams earning a bid to Nationals (NAFA/Monsta)</li> <li>○ 6 teams qualifying for state</li> <li>○ 12U Blue 2<sup>nd</sup> at Andover</li> <li>○ 10U Red receiving sportsmanship awards at CR tournament</li> <li>○ 10U Blue taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in Panther Classic</li> <li>○ 14U Blue 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Bronze at NAFA</li> <li>○ 3 teams in Fall State Tournament go on to the Championship game in Consolation Bracket</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Panther Classic Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expanded to include 8U this year</li> <li>○ Positive feedback from coaches who participated</li> <li>○ Continues to be popular and were able to “sell out” early in the year</li> <li>○ Opportunity to consider ways to leverage the event to drive more revenue for the organization (currently brings in modest revenue but potential opportunity to generate more)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Summer Survey Results &amp; Areas of Opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Positive experiences around team camaraderie and coach interaction</li> <li>○ Mixed reviews around level of play</li> <li>○ Appetite for more player development opportunities; some willingness to pay more if needed</li> <li>○ Desire for continued connection to SLP HS program (athletes &amp; coaches)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facilitated Group Discussion/ Q&amp;A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are some of your favorite highlights from the past year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaches did a great job of integrating players of all levels</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coaches and ability to build cohesive teams through teambuilding</li> <li>▪ Positive impact on player skill development</li> <li>▪ Coaches' ability to rotated players and pitchers</li> <li>▪ Enjoyed A level of play at the 12 and 14s level; feel better competition helps players get better <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14s specifically felt this level was better aligned to what they are experiencing during the High School season</li> <li>• Mixed feedback from 10s families; while many noted the higher level of play was beneficial, there were also some challenges from a mental confidence perspective</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Tougher league competition helped with tournament play</li> <li>▪ Supportive parents</li> <li>▪ 12C team was an opportunity for youth to build confidence and have fun without the pressure of higher competition; it is important to have A-C levels of play</li> <li>▪ Mental health tools that Annabell shared with pitchers during clinics; would like to see this presented to broader audience including coaches and parents</li> <li>○ What was most difficult about this past season? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Slim number of practices before the season started; understand a lot of this was due to field conditions/weather</li> <li>▪ Lack of field space for practices; delayed practices due to HS games, shared space etc..</li> <li>▪ Additional development needed for pitchers/catchers – especially at 10U <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home practice information could help this to support development between scheduled practices</li> <li>• Need to introduce pitching/catching to 8U kids sooner</li> <li>• Pitching/catching clinics often had low attendance even though many signed up</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Small team sizes at 10U made things hard with absences; often playing with 8 girls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also discussed the trade-off being having bigger teams/less playing time and having to cut athletes and those younger age levels isn't ideal</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Opportunity for more connection with the High School team (coaches/athletes)</li> <li>▪ Challenges with Centennial Fall Ball league for 8U; consider new options for next year</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>2024 Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items in In-progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Earlier Tryouts &amp; Coach Identification</li> <li>○ Pre-season development/winter training</li> <li>○ Tuition reassessment &amp; 2024 Budget development</li> <li>○ Alternative field space exploration (indoor &amp; outdoor)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• More work/discussion needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early season training (coaches &amp; athletes)</li> <li>○ Spring team formation approach &amp; evaluation process (level of play, 16U/HS team, etc.)</li> <li>○ Volunteer Hours/Fundraising requirements approach</li> <li>○ Connection with the HS program (new coach to be identified soon!)</li> <li>○ SLP Softball Gear (Uniforms/Spritwear Store/SLP Softball Apparel)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facilitated Discussion/ Q&amp;A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What seems most exciting about what you heard? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The focus on finding additional field space and training opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Where is more focus/work needed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fundraising/grants for additional fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could consider a big event (bags tournament/BINGO) for a fundraising push to upgrade fields.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Level of play; could we have families indicate level of interest within the registration form (consider this athlete for play at highest level, does not want to be considered for highest level of play, consider for all levels)</li> <li>▪ Define/provide more transparency around approach for Fall teams</li> <li>▪ Consider Fall tryouts that would carry into summer teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative perspective was shared from a few families around how they appreciated the more laid back/developmental nature of fall as an opportunity to give softball a try.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some athletes likely wouldn't participate in fall if a tryout was needed as they don't know if they'll be committing to summer and noted the experience would be very intimidating for brand new players</li> <li>▪ Interest in 14u being able to play up to create a higher level of play and consistency with the High School program</li> <li>▪ Determine if there will be enough interest for 16U team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to act quickly as we lose girls to club</li> <li>• Fast follow with email to gauge interest for next year as well as to gauge interest in dome ball over winter months</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ More support for girls/families and coaches around the mental health/mental aspects of the game; Iceberg sport/Sophies Squad are popular organizations that were mentioned</li> </ul>
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**Next Board Meeting: October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM via Zoom. Email [slpsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:slpsoftball@gmail.com) to be added to the invite!**