



West Valley Slammers
Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 7, 2024

Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call

Nikki Pirotta (president), Lindsey Kouvaris (secretary), Jason Griggs, Brandon Rosato, Brandon Studley, Angela Heredia, Steve Eggers, Carrie Moreno, Jenny Rempel Megan Wikramanayake, Sarah Mudgett (via proxy to Megan Wikramanayake), JR Sandoval, Marcy Sandoval (via proxy to JR Sandoval), Mat Sims (via proxy to JR Sandoval), Michelena Goddard, Dan Fukuyama, Holly Carwana, Ben Skinner, Joe Rogove, Lisa Fukuyama

Two members of the public were present.

II. Confirmation of Quorum and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

III. Public Comment Time (2 min. per comment)

David Ordonez advocated for the Slammers A-ball program and spoke about the value he feels it has added to the league. He believes the league should continue to support an A-ball program. He also feels there is a great deal of interest in A-ball programs throughout the community.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- A. A motion made and seconded to approve minutes from Sept. 9. The motion was carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.
- B. A motion was also made and seconded to approve the minutes from Sept. 25. The motion was carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.

V. Cause for Applause

- A. Nikki thanked Lindsey for her work on editing and formatting the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. Megan offered kudos to Angela for staying on top of player safety during the recent heat wave.

VI. Financial Report

- A. Ben reminded the Board that reimbursement and payment requests should be submitted through the form to assist with work flow and record-keeping.

- B. Umpires are now being paid weekly through a newly established system.
- C. Ben, Nikki, and Joe postponed their Zoom call to discuss the budget due to fall breaks and other commitments. The League's former treasurer created an initial budget which they will build off of.

VII. Reports: Field Director, Operations & Safety Director, and Equipment Chairperson

- A. Equipment Report
 - 1. Equipment purchases have been approved and completed.
- B. Operations and Safety Report
 - 1. First Aid kits and ice packs need to be purchased and restocked. A volunteer is available to restock the items once they are ordered.
 - 2. We should establish a protocol for handling difficult weather patterns (excessive heat, rain, etc.) We can pull from the general practices of other sports programs (softball, soccer, etc.) as a resource.
 - a) There was brief discussion about whether All Star players should be subject to different standards since they have voluntarily signed up to play in the summer when it is always hot.
 - b) A suggestion was made to reach out to USA Softball and see if they have established (or plan to establish) protocols for tournaments during excessive heat.
 - 3. Angela will work offline to put together suggested protocols for inclement weather. She will share it with the Board at or before the next meeting.
- C. Field Maintenance Report
 - 1. Since Fall Ball is almost over, Jason is waiting to purchase the field maintenance equipment, which the Board approved via email, until spring.
 - 2. Jason reported that, generally speaking, coaches are not taking care of the fields. He has spent a great deal of time working on the fields to compensate. The league should consider how we can best utilize volunteers for routine field maintenance in the spring.
 - 3. Jason requested additional field support on game days as he cannot be here every weekend. In the spring, we should aim to have a Board member on site everyday there are practices or games.
 - 4. There was an attempted break-in to the blue double doors on Saturday. Coaches need to remember to lock up.
 - 5. With only three weeks left and rain on the horizon, we will postpone field maintenance days until Spring.

VIII. Fall Ball

- A. Fall Ball is wrapping up Oct. 27.
- B. The Alexis Briski Tournament (using Bagby fields) is postponed to summer.
- C. Traditionally, Bagby Classic has been on Father's Day Weekend. Last year it was changed due to planned construction at Bagby. Ideally, the tournament will go back to Father's Day Weekend. We will check with CSD about summer

facilities updates that could affect field usage and with USA Softball re: the timing of NorCals before we solidify the dates.

IX. Sponsorship

- A. The sponsorship drive will begin soon. We anticipate fielding roughly 35 teams this spring.

X. Fundraising

- A. We will be using 99Pledges, an online donation solicitation platform, to collect for the Hit-a-Thon. 99Pledges will take 10%, but those who have worked with it feel it is a worthwhile investment.
- B. Previously, bricks were offered as part of specific sponsorship levels. Bricks from last spring need to be ordered and installed.
- C. We need to establish a “big ask” that we are raising money for through the Hit-a-Thon.
 - 1. A suggestion was made to raise money for bleachers and/or a shade structure for the bleachers.
 - 2. Another thought is to sell Snack Shack “debit cards” for a discounted price (e.g., \$25 value for \$20 purchase price).
- D. Someone donated gloves to the league. A donation of fielding masks is also possible. These items can be distributed as needed.
- E. The annual equipment swap will return this spring. A recommendation was made to hold it earlier (e.g. before Opening Day) so players can have equipment for February practices.

XI. 2025 Rec Season

- A. Spring Select
 - 1. Nikki reached out to USA Softball about what rules will be in effect for Select and A-Classified next year. Not all of the details have been sorted out, but Vince was able to provide some early guidelines.
 - a) Select players must play rec in the spring to be eligible for Summer All Stars.
 - b) Select players cannot play tournaments after March 1 or they will forfeit eligibility for Summer All Stars.
 - c) Inter-league games and friendlies will be allowed.
 - d) A-Classified teams are tournament only.
 - 2. More details from USA Softball NorCal are expected in early Nov.
 - 3. Seasoned members of the board provided context for new members about the Select and A-Classified programs and explained how the programs operated within the League previously.
 - 4. Some members raised questions about whether spring Select is a value-add for the League. There was conversation about the possibility of fielding only A-ball and rec teams in the spring and forgoing Select.
 - 5. Several Board members advocated to wait on making decisions about spring Select until USA Softball NorCal has finalized their guidelines.
 - 6. The point was raised that delaying a decision on spring Select could result in girls trying out for A-ball instead.

7. The Board unanimously agreed to table further discussion of spring Select until the November meeting when more is known from USA Softball NorCal.

B. A-Classified

1. Arguments were made for why the league should field tournament-only teams. Many felt that doing so provides the most playing opportunities possible.
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve one A-Classified team for each of the upper divisions—10U, 12U, and 14U. The motion was approved unanimously.

Carrie Moreno had to leave early and assigned her proxy to Lisa Fukuyama.

XII. Review Bylaws Section 8 and Playing Rules

A. Bylaws Section 8

1. Details regarding how West Valley Slammers A-Classified teams will be structured and run will be discussed at a later date. No revisions were made to Section 8 of the Bylaws.
2. Lindsey will send a link to the draft document to the Board so that everyone can add their input before the next meeting.

B. Playing Rules

1. Game Summary
 - a) The Board agreed to move to a digital game summary system and to eliminate the carbon copy game summary forms.
 - b) The Board gave Lindsey permission via unanimous consent to draft language describing the new digital process based on Board discussion.
2. Playing Up/Down
 - a) The Board reviewed and approved the written language to support the play up/play down decisions that were made at the Aug. 5 meeting.

XIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

- A. Meeting date for November has been changed to Tuesday, Nov. 12.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Items Approved Via Email

- \$XXXX - Equipment purchases (paid via credit card)
- \$921.02 - All Star Uniforms
- \$400 - Service of Slushie machine/replace hot dog machine - approved by President
- \$1,715 - Umpire payment (not put before board because it was a budgeted expense)
- \$2,000 - New hand drag, new golf cart pull drag, new batter's box template

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 27

Fall games end

Nov. 12	Board meeting, 7 p.m
Nov. 30	Fall Stars season ends
Dec. 2	Board meeting, 7 p.m.