

# **Bear River Little League Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 18, 2024, 4:00pm, via Zoom**

1. Call to order/roll call/thank you cards:
  - 1.1 Call to order: 4:07pm.
  - 1.2 Roll call, present: Jenn Lukenbill, Eliza Schissel, Matt Zilch, Wendy Stclair, Holly Williams, Charlie Bowers, Chris Murtey, Rayna Hess, Tony Ciafardoni, Brittany Duckett, Gianna Cooley, Anthony Talbott, Tyler Smith, Zac Quentmeyer, Meg Swinney, Bob Sharpe, Rosa Corrales, Jim Hudson, Scott Parsons, Mat Cena, Ali McKibben.
  - 1.3 Thank you cards needed: Church that gave us drinking fountains. Foster and Sons for dropping off dirt for new fields.
  
2. Review/vote in January 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes: Bob motions, Matt seconds, none opposed, minutes passed.
  
3. Presidents Report (Jenn):
  - 3.1 Thank you to Chris for going to Interleague Meeting in Jenn's absence. Thank you Tony for going to Presidents Meeting Thursday night so we could have a BRLI representative in attendance.
  - 3.2 Presidents Meeting recap:
    - 3.2.1 Website platform: All D11 leagues currently use Team Sidelines to host our website, communications, registrations, etc. Beginning next year, Little League International (LLI) wants all leagues to use Sports Connect. Because our leagues are familiar with Team Sidelines and know how to use it, and it is less expensive, we do not want to change. Josh (president of Nevada City) does the game scheduling and wants to keep using Team Sidelines. At meeting, D11 asked all leagues to transition to Sports Connect. They want us to start using it by fall to get used to it before spring. There will be trainings for board members who use it often. It is double/triple the cost. LLI website says it is encouraged but not mandatory, which conflicts with D11 telling us it is mandatory. Western Region is pressuring Jerry (president of D11) to pressure leagues to convert so that LLI can make more money. (Through partnership with Dick's Sporting Goods, LLI stands to make more money if more leagues use Sports Connect.) We are pushing back. All D11 presidents told Jerry that we would only use Sports Connect if D11 pays for the increase in cost. Jerry asked leagues to raise registration fees to cover the additional expense. Presidents refused. Stay tuned.
    - 3.2.2 Assessment Fee: D11 is going to keep per-player assessment fee at \$7. (It was increased several years ago from \$5 to \$7 per player.) By March 7th we need to mail Jerry a check for \$7 per player.

- 3.2.3 Safety Plan: Due in March. Jim has already completed it. It needs to include registration numbers, which Jenn is unable to finalize until all assistant coaches have signed up as volunteers online and been assigned to teams. Tara is going to ask managers this week to ask their assistant coaches sign up. Board members who are managers: tell your assistant coaches to register. Register yourselves if you are an assistant coach.
  - 3.2.4 Volunteer Dinner: Will be May 11th at Lake of the Pines around 5pm. It is for board members (and plus one) of all leagues in D11. Jenn will make sure there are no games scheduled that night. Various awards are given out.
  - 3.2.5 D11 Rules Clinic: A clinic was held today in Rocklin and an additional clinic will take place March 17th at Magnolia. One coach or manager per team must attend. Tara will notify managers.
  - 3.2.6 New LLI motto: "Community, Fun, Inclusion, Integrity, Teamwork, Character, Courage, and Loyalty."
  - 3.2.7 LLI patches: In order for leagues to save some money, Jerry is not going to require LLI patches on jerseys for regular season this year. At \$3 per patch, BRLL will save \$1,500. Patches will be mandatory for All Stars because it is a requirement in LLI blue rulebook. Josh will preempt any leagues from playing in protest if opposing players are not wearing patches by asserting that presidents have decided as a collective whole to not require them. We are not able to ask leagues to sign off in interleague agreement their acceptance of our district patch policy.
- 3.3 Interleague Meeting:
- 3.3.1 Chris attended in Jenn's place.
  - 3.3.2 Leagues determined how many teams they have in each division for purposes of scheduling games. Josh (Nevada City) and Jamie (Auburn) ran the meeting.
  - 3.3.3 Our board had previously voted not to interleague with Grass Valley, but because Penn Valley and Nevada City do not have upper division teams, the three leagues combine players to form teams. if we do not play Grass Valley, we also do not play Penn Valley or Nevada City, and our teams would have to travel further down the hill to Rocklin, etc. for games. Josh, in overseeing teams of players of combined leagues, will ensure fair play.
  - 3.3.4 Our BRLL AA teams will play Grass Valley, Penn Valley, and Nevada City. (This is a change from last year, when our AA teams played only each other.) Our AAA teams will play Grass Valley, Penn Valley, Nevada City, and Sierra Foothills. Our Majors teams will play Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Sierra Foothills. Our 50/70 team will play Auburn, Foresthill, Sierra Foothills, and the combined team of Grass Valley, Penn Valley, and Nevada City. Our Juniors team will play Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Auburn.
  - 3.3.5 Josh is working on schedule right now and it will be available within three weeks.
  - 3.3.6 All board members must register online as a volunteer so Jenn can run background check. You do not have to do Live Scan (federal scan with

fingerprinting) if you have done it previously. Every year board members, managers, and coaches have to have background run through JDP for Little League. (Live Scan is a California requirement; JDP is a LLI requirement.) Must take follow-up action (per email instructions) after registering as volunteer online. If you have registered as a manager or coach, you do not have to additionally register as a board member.

#### 3.4 Strict volunteer positions:

3.4.1 Each team can have two assistant coaches, one team mom, one scorekeeper, one pitch counter, and two field people. Other people can assist in those roles but will not get volunteer hours.

3.4.2 Can not switch off with another parent mid-way through season. Only one will get hours. Last year Jean had many assistant coaches to serve as back-ups because several of them were firefighters and could be called away, but only two of them got hours. Manager can choose to have extra coaches background checked so they can assist if regular assistant coach is absent.

3.4.3 Tony T. asked how 50/70 team should handle field prep on other leagues' fields, since we don't have a home field for 50/70 games. Jenn will ask Josh how he wants to handle it. We will offer to help with field prep but they might prefer to do it themselves.

3.4.4 If a parent needs to resign from their role (if their child quits the team, for example), let Jenn and Megan know and they will figure out how to handle it.

3.4.5 A team mom wanted her younger child to be in dugout with her, but it is not allowed, since child is not covered under insurance and could get hurt in dugout. Non-negotiable. Players AA and younger can be wild and need constant attention from team mom. She would not be able to give enough attention to players if caring for her other child.

3.4.6 Assistant coaches or parent who is background-checked can fill in for team mom in dugout.

3.5 Interleague rules posted: Presidents agreed on interleague rules. The rules are posted on our website under downloads. Every manager AA and higher should print them and put in their manager binders. Jenn will put master copies in score shed. There is now a 50/70 rules document.

#### 3.6 In-game Coordinator:

3.6.1 We are supposed to have an in-game coordinator at every game, in every division, to enforce rules, safety, parent behavior, treatment of umpires, etc. If an incident requires escalation, coordinator would contact Scott (for umpire issues), Jim (for safety concerns), etc. We have not done this previously.

3.6.2 We need to have master schedule of all games and have in-game coordinator assigned to every game. For most games a board member is already there due to their child playing.

- 3.6.3 Scott clarified that the in-game coordinator does not have to be a board member; it just cannot be the manager or assistant coach of that game. In-game coordinator is different than “board member on duty” position.
- 3.6.4 Will need to determine which teams do not have a board member and work to assign parent to the role.
- 3.7 Things to vote on: By-Laws:
- 3.7.1 Bob suggested wording for TOC selection. We only have two majors teams this year so both will go to TOCs, but we would like to finalize policy for use in future years.
- 3.7.2 Chris suggested that if there are two teams who are #1 and #2, it would be in the managers’ best interest to avoid playoff game in order to not disqualify pitchers prior to tournament play. He suggested coin flip instead.
- 3.7.3 Tony T. suggested having odd number of games between BR teams so there will not be a tie in head-to-head standings. Bob suggested if the interleague schedule has an even number of games, we could hold an additional game between our teams off the record. Then we would not need to rely on other leagues’ willingness to make up cancelled games with our teams in order to determine standings. We could do a coin flip to determine home team. Jenn and Tony T. said it would need to be an official game on the books because district would need to determine who is #1 and #2 seed, because seeding impacts other leagues. Best to schedule third game during season, rather than right before tournament, so pitchers are eligible for tournament play. Chris suggested adding the tie-breaking game in-season (before it is known to be necessary) just in case it will become necessary. If one team had already beat the other team twice, the third game could be cancelled.
- 3.7.4 Chris motioned to add new wording to by-laws, Meg seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Jenn will type up and send to us for review before adding to by-laws.
- 3.8 Upcoming Calendar Items:
- Mon., Feb. 26, 6pm, Magnolia A06: Team Mom Meeting.
  - Sun., Mar. 3, Majors Field or Magnolia small gym: Umpire Clinic.
  - Sun., Mar. 10: BRLL Board Meeting.
  - Sat., Mar. 16, 6:30pm, St. Joseph’s: Presidents Meeting, incl. UIC, Safety, PA’s.
  - Sun., Mar. 17, 1-4pm, Magnolia A06: Rules Clinic for AA and higher. One person per team must attend.
  - Sat., Apr. 6: Opening Ceremonies.
  - Sat., Jun. 8: Closing Ceremonies.
4. Treasurer Report (Rayna): Sent out report and posted online. Account balance is \$54,508.06. Big expenses coming. Matt ordered \$1,400 in equipment that is not reflected in balance.

Uniforms will be ordered this week. Tony mentioned trying to buy shed. Fundraising and sponsorships are going great.

5. Softball (Holly): Interleague meeting went well. AA through Majors will interleague with Foresthill and Auburn. Juniors team will only interleague with Foresthill because Auburn has no juniors team. Holly responded to email from Hangtown. We have one junior, one major, two AAA, two AA, and one farm team, totaling 77 softball players. Practices have been limited so far due to weather. Because tryouts were canceled due to rain, Charlie would like to know dates of upcoming practices so he can attend to observe players. Holly will get him practice schedule.
6. Fundraising:
  - 6.1 (Brittany): Would like to pass out information about next fundraiser to team moms during upcoming team mom meeting. (It will be a blackout calendar fundraiser for kids to do as a team, with \$1 for first, \$30 for 30th, etc.) Megan has team mom contact info and will notify them of upcoming meeting on February 26th at 6pm at Magnolia.
  - 6.2 (Gianna): Got an email of an opportunity to fundraise by selling popcorn. Should we pursue it? Jenn said Gianna is going to get thousands of those emails for selling chocolate, popcorn, etc. It is not worth Gianna's time. Would get very little participation from parents and generate very little revenue. Gianna asked if other leagues have picked their Rivercats day yet. Auburn is going to do Giants game instead. Jenn doesn't think Nevada City is doing Rivercats this year. Jenn will text other presidents to ask.
  - 6.3 (Jenn): Moonrakers event was awesome. Phenomenal job and true team effort. Thank you to Gianna, Brittany, Tara, Rayna (got the DJ), Scott's wife, and everyone else who helped. It was a ton of fun. Jenn and Chris suggested making it an annual event. Rayna reported it made just under \$3,000 with essentially no expenses. Brittany sent DJ a thank you card and ordered him a sponsor banner.
7. Facilities Report
  - 7.1 Field Closures (Bob): We need to communicate when field is unusable. Jenn and Bob are at fields every day and will report field conditions to Tyler. They discuss closures on facilities group text. Jenn or Tyler will update website every day. Tyler closed fields through Friday.
  - 7.2 Portapotties (Bob): Proposed putting portapotties back at minors and softball field in mid-March. Tyler suggested putting single potty at minors now, but wait on high school potties (for softball) until after time change. Our potties at majors field are being used by highschool baseball and lacrosse players and their parents, Magnolia parents at school pick-up, and variety of other people, sometimes waste management or highway patrol. Jenn is preparing email to send to Nevada Joint Union that she is going to run by Rusty at PRUSD first for his feedback. It is going to be pointed about the fact that the high school

is using it and not financially compensating us for it. BR baseball is supposed to pay us every year and they have never once paid. Every year Jenn requests payment and they give an excuse for not paying, such as they no longer have a booster club, but they will hold a collection from parents, which they have never done. Jenn has asked Chad (lacrosse contact) how they will reimburse us. After Rusty makes suggestions, Jenn will send the email to BRHS Principal Roberts and Superintendent Frisella of PRUSD.

7.3 (Tyler): New magnetic breakaway bases are ordered for the two softball fields (JV and Varsity). Bullpen mats are hung at majors field on home and visitor dugouts and at backstop of turf field. Thank you Tony for getting tractor running. Turf bases are now stored at turf field in the container on third base side. (It is BRLL's container and opens with the usual Connex key.) Field Cleanup dates set. Tony has grass coming. Needs to try to get access to JV batting cage on high school side that they are not using. Going to evaluate condition of Arete field to determine if suitable for practices. Majors mound and home plate are covered with tarp to protect from rain. Just closed fields through Friday. Going to remake all eight TOC and All Star banners (new and past), in vinyl because fabric ones are not durable. No sense in moving mat back and forth. Does not think it will be stolen right away but can put hole in mat to chain to fence. Best to store flat and not roll up because it will not lay flat again once we roll it. There is a home plate that is in the score shed that 50/70 can use. The light on the third base side that toppled over is functioning; the bulb filaments were not damaged but the protective glass is shattered. Jenn said we are not responsible for replacing broken lamps. Chad (lacrosse contact) has contacted someone to fix them. Jenn said we need to coordinate with BRRPD, Chad, and Junior Bruins before moving if we want to relocate them. Will coordinate with Jim because juniors are on field at same time. Jenn says we have fuel worked out with lacrosse for lights. Tony T. was told to replace fuel every other Thursday and will continue to do so. Lacrosse fills up tanks on alternate weeks. Lacrosse leaves field by 5:30 and doesn't use lights. We should be the only organization currently using lights. Will only need lights another month until time change. Rayna said soccer uses lights most nights; are they contributing fuel? Jenn will ask Melissa at BRRPD if soccer program contributes fuel; does not know their arrangement/contract with BRRPD. We are responsible for only two lights and BRRPD provides fuel for the others. Charlie says to bring a 10-gallon tank and fill each light with five gallons, enough that fuel does not run out when lights are in use. Not necessary to fully fill 25-gallon tanks. Jenn reported that Dave gave us permission to use the high school batting cage. Tyler would like to order a net for the cage (cost is \$750 for purchase and delivery). Suggests that BRLL pay for and provide net, share with high school, keep locked up. Talked to Russell about extra turf because he previously asked Skylar to get enough pieces to turf cage to slow down balls. This second cage is great option for juniors and majors baseball, but especially for softball who does not currently have access to a cage. Rayna supports spending money on a net; it is a cost-effective way to provide more practice locations. We currently have enough funds. Bob has a lead on a used net from a friend with a pitching machine. He

thinks it is regulation size, 70 foot long for a 12 foot by 12 foot cage. Bob will get it from his friend this week and will evaluate size and condition. Rayna motioned to purchase new net, Holly seconds, motion passes to purchase net if needed. Expenditure has been approved as back-up option if the donated net will not suffice.

7.4 New Field (Tony C.): Dirt is finally here. We will cut tee ball field as soon as we have dry weather. Hoping for dry day in next few weeks. Or else we will do it during field workday. Still working on getting another shed for storage.

8. Snack Shack (Rosa): Clearing out, cleaning, and making changes in shack. Has not involved Ali yet because she is still conceptualizing changes. Ali is going to help out with opening for early games when Rosa is still at work. Rosa is planning new menu items. Gabe is helping set up menu and prices. He met with T-Bones about purchasing meat for specials, since T-Bones has already given donation. When we do specials, we will put up sign that meat is from T-Bones, so customers understand the high cost. Going to clean up snack shack on cleanup day. Would like Tyler to meet her there because she will need instructions for new machine and help moving shelving. She has an electrical contact if she needs to alter electrical work. When game schedule is posted she can start getting volunteers signed up. Rayna said we have a parent (Mike Casada whose son is in AA) who is a great cook and wants to donate two huge pots of chicken tortilla soup with toppings for us to sell at Opening Day.
9. Volunteer/Membership (Megan): Finishing up jersey orders. Still pulling in volunteer info from managers. Getting Opening Day and Field Prep shifts set up. Let her know if we need anything beyond the usual.
10. Membership (Mat): Mat has email set up and is fielding a few questions. We still have people who are registering. Jenn will walk him through how to pull up new registrations for following up about missing paperwork.
11. Player Agent (Charlie): Draft and tryouts are done. Thank you for everyone for input. Input helped make it successful. Heard feedback that it went super smooth. As of right now if anybody signs up for AAA, pool play will be in effect for assigning player to team. Will go to softball practices to evaluate and sign off on players. Jenn thought it was the smoothest tryouts we have ever had in her nine years.
12. Coaching (Tara): Tara not present. No update.
13. Volunteer (Megan): Volunteer roles for tryouts are posted.
14. UIC (Scott): Scott: Got clinics scheduled for this year. D11 had one today in Rocklin. Hoped our umpires would go but none of them did. Scott went to recruit umpires at training to come up hill to work our games. Sent out mass email to our junior umpire list for rules clinic

and mechanics clinic on March 3rd. So far only two people have responded. Jenn will ask BRHS to post opportunity and put wanted ad in their high school newsletter. Tyler will try to get word into their JV team Band app.

15. Safety (Jim): Safety plan is finished.
16. Equipment (Matt): Gear bags are put together and stacked up by division. Just need to distribute them. Will set an evening date this week, Wednesday or Friday, whichever is drier. Learned that AA will be traveling this year so they will need additional catchers gear to take to games. Will need smaller stuff to fit them. Will talk to Lindsey and Holly to make sure softball has what they need. Have enough chalk to start the season. Unloaded a whole mountain of it in the Connex box over the summer.
17. Open Issues: Distribution of practice times at majors field (Zac):
  - 17.1. The method of teams picking practice times has caused congestion for AA division. This year majors is practicing 5-7pm instead of 7-9pm (like in past years), which pushes AAA teams to minors field, which leaves little opportunity for AA teams.
  - 17.2. Jenn clarified that last year majors had every 5-7pm and 7-9pm time slot. (There were three majors teams last year, instead of two teams this year.) Tony, Charlie, and Jenn each had a 5-7pm and 7-9pm practice.
  - 17.3. Tony T. explained that majors has priority on majors field (it is their field), but last year they did share field for an hour overlap with another majors team last in order to create availabilities for AAA teams on majors field. Tony sees only a couple solutions for the field: either confine all AA teams to minors fields and have them double up, or have teams on majors field double up. Try to keep any one team from dominating the 5-7pm time slot. Zac clarified that he was not advocating for AA to use majors field.
  - 17.4. Jenn gave history that when she began on board, AAA wasn't allowed on majors field. AAA began using majors field only a few years ago, when there were too many AAA and AA teams to share minors field.
  - 17.5. Matt thought it made sense for older kids (majors) to practice later than the younger kids; Tony T. agreed.
  - 17.6. Tony T. asked if we could use the unused portable lights at turf field at minors field. Invest in portable generator. Charlie said they belong to high school and they use for cheer.
  - 17.7. Jenn brought up that AAA gets to have games at 5pm but Majors will have three games each week from 7:30-10:30. By the time you get to majors, you have earned the 5-7pm practice slot, and the earlier practices are a reprieve from the late games. Jenn said practice times will not change this year but we can consider changes for next year. Reminded that once games start, all practice times go out the window. AAA will have little access to majors field for practices once games start.



- 17.8. Tony T. suggested mandating doubling up teams on fields for practices, with each team taking an hour in the infield and an hour in the outfield. There are not enough hours in the week to give each team several two-hour windows to use exclusively.
  - 17.9. Jenn's perspective from having coached each year since tee ball is that majors are the most important years in little league. Majors are officially the "little league" division, with the world series.
  - 17.10. Zac asked that, once games start, will we keep the same pecking order in choosing available practice times on minors field, and what will that leave for AA? Zac asked if we are fully utilizing majors field with daily practices from 7-9pm. Majors field is only in use from 7-9pm on Thursdays.
  - 17.11. They try to stack games each night (three to four nights a week) with AAA game 5-7pm and majors field 7:30-9:30pm.
  - 17.12. This year we allowed AA for the first time to use majors field during open slots, generally 3-5pm.
  - 17.13. Tyler said to use frustrations with undesirable time slots as a motivator to have coaches and parents help to do field work to develop more fields for use (such as the Arete field). Arete field is great for softball because there is no mound. Tyler suggested using corners of turf field on Saturdays for tee ball games.
  - 17.14. Zac understands that majors gets priority but is also concerned about what is best for the league, noting that the majors teams will be better if, when the players were in lower divisions, they had ample practice opportunities and time on infields. Board members encouraged to come up with ideas and solutions to discuss again at March meeting.
18. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.