

# LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, DISTRICT 18

## MINUTES

BOARD MEETING – February 27, 2024

**ATTENDANCE:** Milan Mrakich, DA, Diane Bowen, Mike Goodrich, ADAs. Ray Aragon & John Seligman, Alhambra American, Eddie Martinez, El Monte National, Eric Horn, Northeast Los Angeles, Alberto Ocon, South Pasadena, Rick Bowen, Temple City National, Debbie Garcia, El Monte Eastern, Miguel Ruelas, Los Angeles.

**ABSENT:** East Alhambra, South El Monte, Temple City American

The meeting was called to order and held at the Temple City Community Center.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** The roll call was taken. New President, Rick Bowen, was introduced, from Temple City National.

**2023 SEASON ALL-STARS:** Diane reported on the TOC and All-Star Baseball winners for 2023. The South Pasadena Junior team who advanced to the Western Region in Oregon and the Temple City American 8-10 team that advanced to State and placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mike reported on the softball teams, with Alhambra American 9-11 advancing without play to state, the Los Angeles team who advanced from Section to State and the South El Monte Junior team that placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in State. District 18 hosted the 8-10 state softball tournament at East Alhambra Almansor Park and the East Alhambra team placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR ELECTION:** Milan had previously advised Presidents he would be stepping down from the DA position this next season. His term runs out at the end of April, and he will complete this 2024 season through tournaments. He has informed LL international he will not be running again. He discussed his personal and professional commitments and the reasons that have made it necessary for him to step down. Diane interjected that all the current and former presidents have been told repeatedly that they were qualified to become staff on the District Board, and eventually we hoped to have someone who would fill Milan's shoes. Diane and Mike Goodrich will help with a transition, and will stay on staff as needed. Presidents will be sent information from headquarters in which they will nominate someone as DA, and then LL headquarters will contact the nominee(s) to see if they are willing to either run for or accept the position. Milan discussed this further.

**REQUIRED SUBMITTALS:** Milan handed out the updated Required Submittals list. Alhambra American was asked to confirm their League Officers in the LL data center. Milan discussed Residency Waivers and IId and IVh waivers. Milan explained the bill he sends to leagues for Player Assessment fees is based on the LL data center Registration Data Summary (copy handed out), and obviously there are some discrepancies. Leagues should go into the data base and check what is shown under their league. Milan discussed the ASAP plan, and the deadline for incentives from LL. Leagues receive a 15% discount on insurance if they have an approved ASAP plan, and District will receive an incentive if all leagues' plans are submitted before April 1, 2024.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Milan discussed and handed out information regarding 2024 Significant Rule Changes (which were minor), a 2024 Resource Guide, Diamond Leader Training, USA Baseball Concussions and Abuse Awareness training, Sports Connect pricing, and 2024 LL and District Fees. Also LL training courses available

**RESIDENCY WAIVERS & INTERLEAGUE & COMBINED PLAY FORMS:** Milan briefly explained waiver and interleague and combined play forms. The March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will go over these in detail and at that time leagues should know who they will be interlocking or combining with. Milan also discussed boundaries and free territory that leagues can draw from. Residency or Out of Bound Waivers must be approved before players are placed on teams. (Handouts were given re these subjects.)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** Milan handed out and has emailed to Presidents a Calendar of Events list that should be good for the season. Milan also handed out information regarding Umpire Training (in person and virtual clinics) and LL Training and Development Programs available.

**2025 SEASON REGULATION II CHANGE:** Milan discussed the ramifications of Regulation II, taking effect in 2025, in which all NEW first-time players age 7 and under may register in any LL program without respect to eligibility of residence or school, and they are able to stay at the league for their entire career. He discussed how he felt this may be disruptive to our smaller leagues, and also to the larger leagues where they may not be able to accommodate an influx of players wanting to play in their league. How will leagues track an unbroken career at the same league? Which players should be turned away if leagues cannot accommodate players? It was discussed how many games it is possible for a local league to play during the season, and how to choose players from out of their neighborhood if they have to turn away players who live across the street if they sign up late. Many potential issues this will bring up were discussed, and it was the consensus that this probably isn't a good change, and questions were raised how this was decided at LL headquarters. It was also noted this was never brought up at the Congress Diane and Monica attended in 2022. In the past, this type of change was brought to and discussed by LL DAs and ADAs from around the world at a Congress.

**JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL:** Mike and Diane discussed the Junior District-wide Interlock. Mike is working on a schedule for March taking into account opening days and field availability and other issues. Presidents are asked for any information regarding breaks they may need for spring break, graduations, etc., and let us know, and Mike will work with the teams in an attempt to not have any forfeitures.

At the meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, Milan will focus on interleague and combined play, Certification issues and TOC and All-Star information.

**OPENING DAYS:**

TCN – March 1 @ 6:00 p.m.

TCA – March 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

SP – March 8 @ 6:00 p.m.

AA – March 9 @ 10:00 a.m.

EA – March 9 @ 9:30 a.m.

NELA – March 9 @ 9:00 a.m.

EMN – March 16 @ 10:00 a.m.

SEM – March 16 @ 10:00 a.m.

LA – March 16 @ 11:00 a.m.

EME – March 15 or 29 @ 6:00 p.m.

Written by Diane Bowen, District Secretary