

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, DISTRICT 18

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING – February 18, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Milan Mrakich, DA, Diane Bowen, Mike Goodrich, ADAs. Ray Aragon, Fernando Ortega, Alhambra American, Jaime Garcia, East Alhambra, Eddie Martinez, El Monte National, Christina Rodriguez, South El Monte, Eric Horn, Northeast Los Angeles, Alberto Ocon, South Pasadena, Michael Chen, Temple City American, Rick Bowen, Temple City National, Debbie Garcia, Teddy Rodriguez, El Monte Eastern.

ABSENT: Los Angeles.

The meeting was called to order. Milan reported that no rule changes were made at Congress.

REQUIRED SUBMITTALS: Milan went over Required submittals NELA needs to update their officers on the LL database. The District fee is due now from EMN and EME. Approved waivers were noted with some pending.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/TOURNAMENTS: Milan went over the district and tournament date information, and will try to keep to this schedule. Tournament dates should be approximately the same as 2025 dates, leagues should close by JUNE 6, TOCs will begin JUNE 7. Leagues are advised they can run special tournaments at any time and just need to file a special games request with Milan, and outside teams must meet LL insurance requirements re liability.

2026 JDP BACKGROUND CHECKS: Milan reminded presidents the data center was reset October 1st for Mandatory JDP background checks, and Abuse Awareness training, which have to be done each season. Managers and Coaches must complete both before they can manage or coach, and it is required prior to opening games, and a requirement for tournament participation. Handouts for JDP checks were provided in November. Diamond Leader training is only required once. A list of the number of background checks, Abuse Awareness training and Diamond Leader trainings done by each league is on the required submittals list.

2026 CHARTER COMMITTEE WAIVERS: LL will put approved Residency waivers automatically in the league's data center. Milan recommends *all existing waivers (pre-2026) in the league's possession be scanned and permanently retained in the league's database file cabinet.* As previously advised, the Charter Committee at LL headquarters make all decisions regarding waivers, i.e. rule waiver, draft procedures, residency waivers, etc. Leagues must justify their reasons for waiver requests. If both presidents agree it most likely will be approved, if both presidents do not agree it most likely will be disapproved without a legitimate justification for requesting the waiver.

LEAGUE CONSTITUTIONS: Constitutions need to be updated each year and uploaded to the data center and saved in the League file cabinet on the data base.

INTERLEAGUE & COMBINED PLAY REQUESTS: Leagues combining play (such as softball teams, and other divisions where one league gives players to another league because they do not have enough players to form complete teams), need to fill out the combined play forms in the data center. Leagues interlocking with other District 18 teams do not have to fill out forms, but if interlocking with leagues outside District 18 they must fill out forms on the data center and make sure the other league accepts the request so that Milan can approve. Three leagues may combine play. There are no paper forms, it is all done through the datacenter.

2026 WESTERN REGION TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION: Milan has emailed presidents listing Regional tournaments which are still seeking hosts.

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: The presidents voted to limit entries to two teams per division per league. How many teams entered will determine the schedule. South Pasadena will not participate in TOCs.

JUNIOR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL: Mike and Diane discussed game schedules and requested copies of all interlock schedules be provided to them. Mike is available to help with schedules if needed. The following leagues have Junior Baseball: SP-6, AA-2, TCN-2, TCA-1, NELA-4, EA-2.

Alberto has provided open dates for leagues to sign up for games at SP junior field. Teams will pay umpire fees when scheduled as the home team, regardless of what field they play on, except at SP. SP will cover umpire fees for games at the SP junior field. SP requires managers to use gamechanger and each team shall send their gamechanger i.d./log-in information to Alberto, Mike and Diane before games begin. SP will reach out to outside district teams to fill their schedule after February 25th.

Junior Softball teams will be one each from SP, EA and AA.

Leagues are reminded teams must play a minimum of 12 regular season games (forfeited games, preseason scrimmage games do not count). Junior players must play in a minimum of 8 games during the season to be eligible for tournaments. Teams must be able to document games played with Gamechanger or scorebooks/lineup cards if questioned at tournament time.

OPEN DISCUSSION: There were some questions about the data center. Certification requirements were discussed. Opening Day information was collected and will be posted on the District 18 Website. As usual, D-18 staff will try to attend Openings.

The next meeting will be WEDNESDAY, March 18th. No meetings were held in January.

Written by Diane Bowen, District Secretary