

Hardball Board Meeting  
High Plains Community Center Cafeteria  
January 31, 2024

Attendees:

Joe Smeraglino	Ryan Mann	Josh Lemon	Adam Dinihanian
Alex Biro	Joe Klein	Erik Melingonis	Jeremy Virgil
Luciano Verdura	Anthony Ayala	Paul Ballas	Joe Michel
Jay Jaffer	Mike Bouchard	Melvin Saunders	
Jeff Silverman	David Smith	Brian Remigio	

Start of Meeting: 7:01pm

*Meeting led by VP of Baseball, Joe Smeraglino*

Purpose of meeting:

- Give everyone the opportunity to hear what is being planned and how anyone can help
- Executive board meetings are closed door meetings and this is more of a town hall forum
- Gives the opportunity for open discussion to address any questions or concerns for the upcoming season
- The plan for meetings, going forward is to meet a week before OLL executive board meetings so anything discussed can be brought to the attention of the executive board, if needed.
- Send out meeting announcement one week before
- Intro of board members in attendance
- Intro of hardball members in attendance

Registration Update:

LY vs TY on 1/31

LY: Total – 274	TY: Total – 235
T-ball – 77, 10 teams	T-ball – 58
Coach Pitch – 56, 6 teams	Coach Pitch – 55
Rookies – 35, 4 teams	Rookies – 21
Easterns – 57, 7 teams	Easterns – 54
Majors – 49, 6 teams	Majors – 47

- Today is last day for early bird special with a \$20 discount
- Registration will close on 2/25
- See how final registration numbers come in over the next few weeks to determine amount of teams

Coach's Interest Meeting:

- Meeting was held on 1/17
- About 25 people attended
- Great questions from all
- One person signed up as a manager that night

Season Timeline:

- Week of 2/20: Hold Majors and Easterns manager interviews, if necessary

- 3/1: Majors/Easterns/Call up requests evaluations at The Grind
- Week of 3/4: Conduct Majors draft first and then Easterns
- Week of 3/10
  - Post Majors/Easterns rosters/have managers reach out to their teams
  - Conduct casual Rookies draft
    - Goal is to have 4 teams for Rookies division
  - Put coach pitch and t-ball teams together
    - Requests to play with friends will be honored in coach pitch and t-ball. If already registered and did not enter anything in that field, reach out to OLL email so we can align
- 3/17: All rosters established so equipment manager can get uniform orders in with 4 week lead time
- 4/1: 1<sup>st</sup> day to book fields for practice
  - Call the town to book school fields or High Plains. Old Tavern will be used in priority order (Majors, Easterns). Best bet is to book town fields by calling the town.
  - T-ball assign a day for practices at Old Tavern using Clementine field or team manager will book through the town

#### Other Notable Dates:

- 4/4: Coaches meeting, requirement for coaches and managers.
  - AED and safety protocols will be discussed
  - Structure of league and coaching tips
  - Gamechanger and scorekeepers
- Spring Break is Week of 4/15, no games but practices can be held if not traveling
- Start games on 4/22, not every team will play but this is when all levels will start
  - 12 games played in 6 weeks, one game during the week and one game on Saturday
  - Schedule will allow for 7 weeks and will go through Memorial Day in case of make ups
  - Will not schedule games after school ends
  - Playoff format for Majors and Easterns, games could be 3 days a week to stay on schedule

#### Opening Day:

- 4/27 opening day ceremony
  - On field team announcements
  - Food and baseball type games
  - Some teams will play in the afternoon time slot
- T-ball will have their own ceremony likely the following week

#### Tutorial videos on website:

- Take a look and make suggestions to add
- New tab on website for practice drills, pitching, batting etc.
- Anthony Ayala sent over some videos to Joe to upload

#### Field Improvements:

- Request will be put into the town to put more dirt on MLT pitching mound
- Grass is being grown out on T-ball field to look more like a baseball field. Field/baselines have been cut out to allow for proper growing
- Spring clean up day is generally in early April. Will get more details from Dino at next meeting.

- Good opportunity for OLL parents to get involved
- 4 batting cages available for use, will need netting put up
- Leaf blowing, clean up dugouts/bathrooms

Other Topics Discussed:

- Practices are expected but can vary by each level. Recommendation is 2 practices a week before the season starts, then 1 practice during the season.
- Goal is to have someone appointed at each level as your go to contact person. Able to go to them first with any questions, then can reach out to E-board members if necessary.
- Draft process: Team managers will get together in a room after evaluations take place
  - Manager's child skill level needs to be determined based on ranking system. Once that draft slot is determined, it then works like a typical snake draft
  - Majors: 12 year olds will go first, then 11 year olds go next.
  - Easterns takes on same draft process
- USA bat required, no USSSA bats. Check before games to make sure teams are using proper equipment
- Umpires and scorekeepers have a tough job. Treat them with respect. Umpire will always have the authority during games
- GameChanger – live streaming was mentioned. We have the capability to do it and will be looked into. Possibly have a holder for tablet/cell phone behind home plate to live stream.

End of meeting: 7:55