

KNOCH YOUTH BASEBALL
February 2026 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Name	Position	Present	Absent	Name	Position	Present	Absent
Justin Thompson (JT)	President/ TWP Rep	X		Josh Harbison (JH)	Twp. Liaison		X
Steve Tuzikow (ST)	V. P.		X	Jamie McSwaney (JM)	Colt/Legion		X
Melissa Stobert (MS)	Secretary	X		Alex Hager (AH)	Pony		X
Tom McDougall (TM)	Treasurer	X		John VanLenten (JVL)	Bronco	X	
Josh Harbison (JH)	Field Maint.		X	Mike Hedglin (MH)	Minor	X	
Jennifer Brose (JB)	Concessions		X	Cory Tucek (CT)	Farm	X	
Zak Sobotka (ZS)	IT/Web	X		Dave Eldridge (DE)	T-Ball	X	
Angie Shoop (AS)	Sponsorship	X			Tax Preparer		

JT opened meeting at 6:36 PM – Minutes from 1/22/26 meeting reviewed and approved.

MONTHLY UPDATE –Justin Thompson (JT) reported:

Public attendance: Alex and Rhett Stobert and Maureen Hedglin

Alex and Rhett Stobert – presented a proposal to establish a competitive Saxonburg travel program with the program consisting of 4 teams (9/10U, 11/12U, 13/14U, 15/16U). Mission to provide local families with a high-quality travel baseball experience that prioritizes long-term player development, strong coaching, and meaningful team success. Goal to provide Saxonburg youth the opportunity to play alongside one another throughout childhood/adolescence without losing high level players to AAU organizations, keeping the KYB program strong and competitive. With many of Saxonburg’s most talented players leaving the organization to join outside (more competitive) programs, Saxonburg baseball has been faced with fragmented talent, reduced continuity between youth, middle school, and high school teams, decreased excitement and connection within the Saxonburg baseball community, and competition against lower-level teams with volunteer-based coaching structures. Alex and Rhett’s goal is to reunite local talent and elevate competition.

Maureen Hedglin – presented the annual All Abilities game information. Date tentatively set for June 12 at 6:00 PM. Will need shirts and hats.

Jefferson Township reached out with a proposal to create an agreement re: bathrooms. Their proposal consists of baseball and softball paying 75% and the township paying 25% of maintenance costs. For similar bathrooms, the soccer league has to pay 90%. The cost of maintenance was not shared/determined, so not certain of what 75% looks like. Saxonburg baseball would be billed quarterly.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Tom McDougall (TM) reported:

Registration fees are tracking nearly the same as last 2 years – generating the same amount of money.

CONCESSIONS – Jen Brose (JB) reported:

Need to move on getting a fryer ordered no later than the end of March; will need a mid-level commercial (\$1000ish) fryer.

Jen will establish menu pricing for final review at the March meeting. At the March meeting, we will need to discuss percentage of concession sales the All Star teams receive following their home tournament weekends. At that time, Jen will provide a couple different scenarios to look at and review.

FIELD MAINTENANCE – Josh Harbison (JH) reported:

Spikes for ABI were purchased and received.

Batteries are needed for almost all machines.

TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVE – Justin Thompson (JT) reported:

Bathroom proposal (see above in monthly update section)

Sebco Pool repairs got approved. Sebco pool will not be open this year. Set to reopen 2027.

WEB/IT/SOCIAL MEDIA – Zak Sobotka (ZS) reported:

Registration will likely wind up at 190+

There may be some additional registrants for Pony league once middle school cuts are made – perhaps enough for 2 pony teams.

Discussed need or lack thereof for an youth umpire clinic this year. There were some complaints last year with youth umpiring games, especially at the Bronco level. IF youth umpires are used, they should be at least 2 years removed from the age group they are umpiring. High school kids must be utilized at the Bronco level, if not Patch umpires. Obtaining high school umpires is difficult due to their high school baseball schedule. Will consider 1 Patch umpire for all games, as opposed to utilizing 2 youth umpires per game.

Decision made to NOT offer an umpire clinic this year.

Field clean-up will be March 21 with a backup date of March 28th. Zak will post this information.

Zak needs dick's coupon information – Angie needs to confirm date

Zak will create a list of needed coaches clearances for commissioner

Upcoming dates: Bar bingo March 14; Opening day May 2; Golf outing May 15

SPONSORSHIP – Angie Shoop (AS) reported:

Has a couple more teams to fill – awaiting a few people to get back to her

Need 3 total sponsors for bronco – need these sponsors quickly because jerseys need ordered next week.

Bar bingo- March 14. All Board members to volunteer.

10 games and 50/50 (maybe two 50/50); all cash; pizza, pretzels, chips, hot dogs (sell at low cost); will not sell drinks, allowing the VFW to profit from liquid sales.

LEGION/SENIOR COMMISSIONER – Jamie McSwaney (JM) reported:

No update

COLT COMMISSIONER – Jamie McSwaney (JM) reported:

No update

PONY COMMISSIONER – Alex Hager (AH) reported:

Scheduling meeting with ARL will be on the 28th. 9 kids registered to date.

BRONCO COMMISSIONER – John VanLenten (JVL) reported:

Coaches: J. Vanlenten, Dave Jerome, M. Hedglin

Need to get ABI out on the field soon

Same hats as last year, but need to review jersey options.

Still looking for an outside team to participate with us – Freeport is doing ARL; Mars only wants to do exhibition games; Butler Twp is interested but if this falls through, we will just do ARL.

MINOR COMMISSIONER – Mike Hedglin (MH) reported:

Player evaluations will be this Monday, Feb 24 at the Primary School gym; Coaches arriving at 5:30; kids at 6:00 PM

Having coaches watch/observe players and using numbers from last year

CT, Mars, East Butler, and Freeport have all committed to playing with us.

We may now be running into too many teams; asked Freeport to see if they would be willing to host Mars teams

Mike is concerned that we don't do much for practice opportunities for in-house once games start; we typically only offer preseason practices;

Discussed other options: coaches can schedule additional voluntary practices if there is field availability; may be able to have sign ups at the batting cages; may be able to combine practices with other teams

Dave Eldridge: wants to break up practices; teach fundamentals gradually, i.e. practice basics first half of season and then move on to outs, etc. for the second half of the season

We will use Mark-IM (embroidery and screen printing in Butler) will be utilized for uniforms.

Draft to be held Wednesday the 25th

Still looking at getting step poured

Zak is worried about a concrete step due to potential for injury

Need to brainstorm alternatives to concrete

Minor coaches: Thompson, Hedglin, Schnur, Torrez, Rinaman

FARM COMMISSIONER – Cory Tucek (CT) reported:

There are 49 kids signed up; will have 5 teams

Evaluations are February 26th and the draft will be March 2

Workout: March 5, 12, 19

Coaches: Dave Spader, Glenn Sharrer, Cory Tucek, Jim Proz, Ryan Derbis

Patch umpires will be needed for playoffs

T-BALL COMMISSIONER – Dave Eldridge (DE) reported:

Clinic: March 7 – 21 kids registered

19 kids registered to play - a lot of 4 year olds; 50% are new this year

Discussed storage shed and storing equipment at Concordia – there are things stored there that haven't been used. Is the plan to keep this storage shed or is there a possibility that we could put a storage shed at St. Luke's since t-ball utilizes these fields. It's challenging to get fields ready and maintained without equipment on the premises. The cost of the storage shed rental at Concordia is \$37.10 per month, which is less expensive than moving it. Dave will see what, if anything, St. Luke's is willing to do/help us with in regards to storage on their property.

VICE PRESIDENT – Steve Tuzikow (ST) reported:

Middle School tryouts: 2 days in school gym and 2 days in the Russelton bubble; 7th and 8th grade will be separate when in the school gym; grades will be combined on days in the bubble

Concordia has committed to another \$4000 to support the Middle School team.

All stars: all home tournaments are scheduled; 13-14 registration is still open

New Business Not Noted Elsewhere & Open Forum:

Proposal and all abilities – see above in monthly update section

Further discussion regarding travel team proposal:

Proposal would need to be discussed at the March meeting with public attendance. Voting would then occur at the April meeting.

KYB's non-profit status may present a problem, although it may work due to proposal to give a lot back to the organization (in-house registration fees, all concession sales, tournament registration fees) – will need to explore the legality of everything. Tom to reach out to insurance company and accountant.

Angie, Tom and JT request a cost analysis – Board agrees due to non-profit status of KYB.

Reviewed proposal's plan to keep kids playing in-house and not replace regular all-stars – it would replace outside AAU organizations; kids could choose to continue playing regular all-stars/travel

Mike H. with concern regarding cost; suspects there are also hidden costs; unaffordable for multi-player families; feels kids would be forced into the program; feels KYB is very solid and current travel ball has been working; concerned about kids choosing to play this level and regular all-stars which would be too many games/tournaments, too rough on pitching/player's arms

John feels good proposal; may be better for older kids since that's when KYB participation drops off

Josh and JT shared cost of AAU ball being between \$3000-\$4000.

Cory shared knowledge of Penn Trafford community ball entering AAU tournaments. Cost is \$500 but coaches are volunteers.

Dave expressed concern about insurance.

Board agrees that the concept of 2 age groups together is a good idea. Perhaps families could fundraise to help offset the cost of playing.

Josh is concerned that no matter what is proposed, it's going to continue to be challenging to keep kids playing for Saxonburg

Cost analysis needed by March 5 for private/closed meeting: 6:00 PM

JT ended meeting at 9:15 PM

Next meeting (Open): March 12 @ 6:00 PM @ Jefferson Twp. Building