

Guilford Little League — Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, November 3, 2025 · 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendees

Chris Frey · Nick Balsamo · Mark Ashby · Kate Scharf · Stephanie Quarato · Megan Lucas · Jeff Rice · George Norden · Mike Bizzario · Tom Scharf · Bill Bodin · Adam Bernard · Kevin Dennehy

1) Administrative Updates

- **Website:** Chris updated the GLL website with new board members.
- **Board Recognition:** Chris officially acknowledged **Adam Bernard's** addition to the board.
- **Eligible Voters:** Kate, Mike, George, Megan, and Adam were eligible voters for this meeting. (Tami and Sean also eligible but not present.)
- **Clarification:** Travel coaches and assistants are **not eligible** to vote.

2) Softball Bylaws

- The Board reviewed proposed **softball bylaws** (baseball deep dive completed previously).
- **Initial Vote:** Unanimous approval to adopt; however, decision was **tabled pending further review**.
- **Discussion:** Stephanie noted language needed tightening around levels, citing feedback from parents about very young players at the AAA level.

3) Spring Season Registration & Fees

3.1 Opening Registration

- **Proposal:** Open registration **December 1**.
 - *Kate* supported as an ambitious but achievable goal.
 - *Approval of softball bylaws* required before that date; a **proxy vote** may be needed.

3.2 Early Bird & Discounts

- **Proposed Discounts:**
 - \$25 **early bird** discount (ends **Feb 1**)
 - \$25 **sibling** discount
 - Discounts are **stackable** (confirmed by Chris).
- **Early Bird Deadline:** February 1; registration cutoff **February 15**.

3.3 Fee Schedule Discussion

- **Benchmarking:**
 - *Discussed fees from other in-town programs (i.e. basketball and lacrosse) to provide context for the decision.*
- **Initial Proposal:**
 - TBall/Minors A: \$150 early bird → \$175
 - AA: \$175 → \$200
 - AAA/Majors: \$215 → \$240
- **Discussion:**
 - *George* questioned the need for increases — Chris explained higher **equipment and administrative costs**; last year's near breakeven included field upgrades.
 - *Bill* suggested exploring **concession revenue** to offset costs.
 - *Megan* proposed lowering **TBall** fees to attract new families.
 - *Stephanie* noted Madison's softball is cheaper.
 - *Kate* and *Bill* raised concern about **AA retention**, suggesting improved programming for that level.
- **Revised & Approved Fee Schedule (Unanimous Vote):**
 - TBall/Minors A: \$150 early bird → \$175
 - AA: \$160 early bird → \$185
 - AAA/Majors: \$215 early bird → \$240
- **Promotion & Communication:**

- Chris proposed signage around town and PTO outreach.
- *George* volunteered to design signs and explore **sponsorfunded signage**.
- **Tentative Opening Day:** Week of **April 20**; ceremony likely ~**April 25**.

4) Financial Updates

- **Banking:** Chris, Greg A., and Mark working to update **account signers**.
- **Reimbursements:** Receipts to be sent to Chris, Mark, and the official GLL email.
- **FY25 Summary:**
 - Revenue ≈ \$141K; Expenses ≈ \$142K.
 - Any surpluses absorbed by field improvements and hosting allstar events.
- **FY26 Planning:**
 - **Main revenue:** Registration fees.
 - *Bill* will model **revenue projections** based on new fee structure and projected operating costs to guide equipment and field investment decisions.
 - **Budget vote** may be needed prior to next meeting.
- **Equipment Needs:** Standard replenishment (catcher's gear, baseballs, tees).
- **Clinics & Concessions:**
 - *Stephanie* mentioned *Andrea* may host a clinic with the LLWS softball team — pending financial details.
 - *Bill* requested input on clinic plans to better project expenses.
 - Concession plans TBD; potential town rental costs if Bittner stands reopen.
- **Mentorship Clinics:** *Kevin* asked about budget implications; Chris/Kate noted minimal expected cost.

5) Umpires & Fields

- **Umpire Costs:** ~\$25K (up ~\$3K YoY), reflecting more games and multiple umpires per AAA game.
- **Facilities Updates:**
 - **Lakes Cage:** Location TBD; *Stephanie* to forward prior communications to Chris.
 - **Bittner Cage:** Planned between Fields A & B — installation pending.
 - **5Year Plan:** Dugout upgrades, turf for lighted field, moving bullpens to **46 feet**, and fence review at **Bittner B** (*Chris* to follow up on Adam's suggestion).
- **Equipment Return:** *Kate* proposed implementing **equipment deposits** due to incomplete returns. Board agreed.
- **Winterization:** *Adam* to remove banners after Majors finals and prepare fields for winter.
- **Swag Sales:** Plan to sell existing surplus at Opening Day — no objections.

6) Events & Programs

- **Player Evaluations:** Tentatively targeting around **mid March 11 based on last year** at Sportsplex (pending basketball playoff dates).
 - *Kevin* and *Stephanie* to finalize scheduling once basketball dates confirmed.
 - Softball majors may require less time based on numbers.
- **Yard Goats Game:** Scheduled **May 17, 2026** vs. Red Sox affiliate (1:10 PM).
 - Includes pregame parade and photo, with 1–2 first pitches possible.
 - Down payment submitted.
- **Softball LLWS Team Recognition:** *Stephanie* shared updated design efforts; *Mike B.* leading coordination.
- **Fall Ball:** *Kate* reported season went smoothly.
- **Gear Swap:** *Megan* to resend reminder email.

7) Next Meeting

- Tentatively **Monday, December 8, 2025** at Community Center (to be confirmed).

Decisions

- Softball bylaws tabled for additional review.
- Spring registration to open **December 1**.
- Approved revised **fee schedule** and discount structure.
- Agreed to pursue **equipment deposit policy**.
- Confirmed **Yard Goats Game** for May 17, 2026.

Action Items Summary

# Action	Owner	Due
1 Refine softball bylaws language and circulate for proxy vote	Stephanie Quarato / Chris Frey	Before Dec 1
2 Develop FY26 revenue model and budget draft	Bill Bodin/Mark Ashby	Before next meeting
3 Plan field winterization and banner removal	Adam Bernard	Before winter
4 Book Community Center room for Dec 8 meeting	Nick Balsamo	ASAP
5 Send gear swap reminder to Chris	Megan Lucas	ASAP
6 Design and coordinate signage for spring registration	George Norden	Before Dec 1

*Minutes prepared by **Nick Balsamo**, Secretary.*