

SVLL Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 17, 2025

Location: Scotts Valley Water District

Time: 7:00pm

Board Members Present: Mark Paulsen, Chris Kramer, Ed McNamara, Steve Vignato, April Vignato, Jason Robideaux, Brie Robideaux, Heather Rossignol, Matt Rossignol, Stephanie Nygaard, Liz Kramer (via telephone), Jaclyn Downing, Greg Lukina, Kirstin McElrea, Omar Moreno, Carlos Hunt, Jody Smith, Travis Miller, Tim Ulen, Maggie Torres

Board Members Absent: Josh Gilbert, Devon Obert, Mike McKinney, Marnie Call, Matt Solis, Dani Paulsen, Shannon Van Every

Non-Board Members Present: Dent Earl, Robert Kluba

1. Call to Order

Chris K. called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

Greg L. motioned to approve the October meeting minutes. Heather R. seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. District Meeting Update

Chris K. presented an update from the District 39 meeting. Key takeaways:

- AED/CPR certification requirement for all coaches and umpires expected by 2027.
- Rules clinic scheduled for February 28 at 9 AM—mandatory for coaches/managers.

4. 2026 Registration Update

Mark P. provided a registration update. SVLL has 101 total registrations as of 11/17, consisting of: 23 T-Ball, 22 Single A, 18–19 for most other divisions.

5. Financial and Budget Update

Treasurer's report from Maggie T.:

- SVLL has \$108,000 cash on hand.
- Year-to-Date revenue: \$17,800 from registration and \$500 from sponsorships

- Major Expenses: banners, bank fees, livestream subscription, green waste disposal

2026 Budget update from Maggie T.:

- Budgeted Revenue: \$170,000 (vs. \$173,000 for 2025)
- Budgeted Expenses: \$161,000 (vs. \$153,000 for 2025), including \$30,000 for field improvements (vs. \$26,500 for 2025)

6. Key Season Dates

Mark P. presented key dates for the upcoming season:

- Field cleanup days: January 3 & January 10.
- Tryouts: January 17; Makeups: January 24.
- Drafts: the week following tryouts.
- Opening Day: March 7 (including Hit-A-Thon and Team Photos)
- First games: week of March 9.

7. Rules Committee Report and Changes to Majors Division Rules

Greg L. presented rule change recommendations from the Rules Committee for the Majors division. The Board approved the following changes:

- **Add to item #2 - General League Rules – Player Pool.** (Motion to Approve: Omar M.; 2nd: Tim U.; Approved by majority vote (11 yes, 5 no))

In lieu of rescheduling a game when a team does not have the minimum number of players available for a game, a manager/coach can elect to use the Player Pool to achieve the required minimum of 8 players needed to play the game. Below are the Player Pool rules.

a) Player pool Rules:

- i. All players are allowed to sign up for player pool via the Player Agent.*
 - ii. Players are only allowed to play in the division in which they are currently playing. Players are not allowed to play in divisions above or below.*
 - iii. Manager may request a player from the player pool. Player will randomly be drawn and assigned by the Player Agent for that game only.*
 - iv. Managers cannot request a certain player.*
 - v. Player pool players shall be only used in the event a team is aware they would otherwise only have Eight (8) Players. The Player Pool player must bat last in the batting order and shall only be allowed to play one of the three outfield positions*
- **Revise rule 2.v by changing “win/loss record” to “winning percentage”.** (Motion to Approve: Jason R.; 2nd: Ed M.; Approved unanimously)
 - **Make stealing signs unsportsmanlike conduct by revising 3.g to read as below.** (Motion to Approve: Omar M.; 2nd: Mark P.; Approved unanimously)

The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense.

- **Align with the district tournament and interleague rules of batters keeping one foot in the batter's box. Revise rule 3.h to read as below.** (Motion to Approve: Steve V.; 2nd: Jason R.; Approved unanimously)

After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

Exceptions:

- (1) - On a swing, slap, or check swing.*
- (2) - When forced out of the box by a pitch.*
- (3) - When the batter attempts a "drag bunt."*
- (4) - When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.*
- (5) - When a play has been attempted.*
- (6) - When time has been called.*
- (7) - When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.*
- (8) - On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.*

PENALTY: If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. Minor/Major Division: No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

NOTE: The batter may return their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

- **Require player trades to be completed the night of the draft and have parental approval. Modify 5.c to read as below.** (Motion to Approve: Tim U.; 2nd: Mark P.; Approved unanimously)

Following the completion of the draft, a manager has until they leave the draft room that day to execute a trade of a player(s). Players may be traded only within the Division in which they were drafted. All trades must be player for player only. Trades involving draft picks are not permitted. All trades shall be made through and with the approval of the Player Agent. All trades must be for justifiable reasons and be approved by the Executive Board. No communication of rosters to players or parents shall be made until the trades are approved or denied by the Executive Board. Trades for returning player(s) that are currently property of an existing Major team must be approved by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of each returning player prior to approval of the trade. If a trade is

a returning player for a new player, then only the returning player's parent(s)/guardian(s) need to approve the trade. Players acquired by an expansion team from the Expansion Pool will be considered new players. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of the returning player(s) must provide approval of the trade via email or other written form to the Player Agent before the trade is approved by the Executive Committee or else the trade will be voided and the players will return to their original teams.

- **Modify the expansion rules by adding the following rule 5.d.i.6.** (Motion to Approve: Stephanie N.; 2nd: Tim U.; Approved unanimously)

A manager is not allowed to place their son/daughter in the expansion pool to be drafted by the expansion team.

- **Assistant Coach and Managers' Kid Draft Position. Modify 5.f to read as below.** (Motion to Approve: Steve V.; 2nd: Jason R.; Approved unanimously)

Managers will provide the Player Agent/VP/President with the name of ONE assistant coach that is associated with a returning player currently on their team prior to the draft. The assistant coach will also be required to inform the Player Agent/VP/President in writing of their interest in being an assistant coach and working with a specific manager. That assistant coach is allowed to be present at the draft. A new assistant coach shall not be appointed nor approved in Majors (a property player division) until after the draft to avoid 'red-shirting' of players through selective coaching appointments. Prior to the draft, managers will indicate which round they would slot the manager's child. The Player Agent, and manager consensus, will determine whether the recommendation is appropriate or should be adjusted. Managers obtain those players in the agreed upon rounds even if they are a returning player. The assistant coach's child will be drafted per 5b.

- **Modify 5.i.ii to read as below.** (Motion to Approve: Tim U.; 2nd: Steve V.; Approved unanimously)

Any player refusing to be drafted up to the next level of play will be ineligible for post-season all-star participation unless an exception is granted to the player by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

- **Add to Item #3 – Game Specifics – Use of a Double First Base.** (Motion to Approve: Jason R.; 2nd: Omar M.; Approved unanimously)

SVLL Major Little League adopts rule 7.15 – Use of a Double First Base – as stated in the LLI rule book for Little League Baseball.

- **Add to Item #3 – Game Specifics – Extra Innings.** (Motion to Approve: Tim U.; 2nd: Stephanie N.; Approved unanimously)

When the completion of six innings, and the score is tied, starting in the top of the seventh inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. EXAMPLE: If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.

- **Add to Item #2 – General League Rules – Team Uniforms.** (Motion to Approve: Steve V.; 2nd: Stephanie N.; Approved by majority vote (19 yes, 1 no))

Teams must wear SVLL league issued uniforms for ALL games including regular season, playoffs, interleague, and TOCs.

- **Add to Item #2 – General League Rules – Practices and Games.** (Motion to Approve: Tim U.; 2nd: Steve V.; Approved unanimously)

Major division teams shall not have more than 4 official events per week before or after Opening Day. An event is defined as a game, a mandatory practice, and a non-mandatory practice coordinated by a manager/coach, or person affiliated with a player on the team. This rule does not extend to TOC or All-Star schedule. Sunday shall be the first day of the week.

- **Modify pregame warmups by changing 2.q.ii to read:** (Motion to Approve: Steve V.; 2nd: Jay R.; Approved unanimously)

Visiting team will be allowed to warm-up on the field in the slot 45-30 minutes prior to game time.

- **Add to Item #2 – General League Rules – 10-year-olds playing up in Majors:** (Motion to Approve: Omar M.; 2nd: Carlos H.; Approved by majority vote (18 yes, 2 no))

10-year-olds that wish to play up in the Major division must have participated in two (2) seasons at the AAA level to be eligible for the Major division draft. The player must be drafted onto a Major division team as 2 seasons of participation at the AAA level does not guarantee them a spot in the Major division. 10-year-olds who have not participated in the minimum 2 seasons at the AAA level may obtain a waiver to be eligible for the Major division draft with a majority vote from the Executive Committee. Parents/guardians of players must contact the Player Agent and President(s) a minimum of two weeks prior to the first tryout date to notify them of their intention for their 10-year-old to be eligible for the Major division draft. The Executive Committee will review the candidacy and provide a ruling prior to the first tryout.

- **Add the following rule to 2.p to disallow slap/slash bunting.** (Motion to Approve: Omar M.; 2nd: Chris K.; Approved by majority vote (12 yes, 6 no))

Slap/slash bunting is NOT allowed. Once a player shows a bunt they must either attempt to bunt the ball or pull the bat back. No swings are allowed after a players shows a bunt. If a

player shows a bunt, then swings the bat, the ball will be declared dead and the batter will be called out. All baserunners will return to the bases that they occupied before the pitch.

- **Add the following sentence to rule 2.a:** (Motion to Approve: Stephanie N.; 2nd: Carlos H.; Approved by majority vote (19 yes, 1 no))

Managers and coaches are encouraged to complete all required trainings by January 1. Managers who have not completed their required training by draft night will not be allowed to select a practice day/time.

- **Modify rule 2.p.i to remove “and NO PRACTICE SWINGS!!!”** (Motion to Approve: Tim U.; 2nd: Travis M.; Approved unanimously)
- **Update all language in the local rules that apply to scorekeeping to make the use of GameChanger mandatory. This includes, but is not limited to, items 2.l, 2.m.iv, 2.o.ii, and 2.o.v.** (Motion to Approve: Carlos H.; 2nd: Mark P.; Approved unanimously)
- **Remove rule 5.g stating “A player whose parent is managing in the next lower-level division, is not normally eligible for this draft.”** (Motion to Approve: Chris K. Moreno; 2nd: Carlos H.; Approved unanimously)

8. Change to Tee Ball Registration Rules

The Board voted unanimously to edit Tee Ball rule 1.a. to read as below.

League Age 5–7-year-olds; players league age 4 whose birthday falls on or before 2/28 of the current calendar year are eligible.

9. Special Resolution for Banking Approval

The Board voted unanimously for Scotts Valley Little League to add Mark Paulsen and Chris Kramer, Co-Presidents, as signers and key executives with control of the business on the Wells Fargo Bank Checking Account (account number 8242018813 and account number 7217379085) in Scotts Valley.

10. Adjournment

Steve V. motioned to adjourn, Tim U. seconded, and it was unanimously approved.