

Highland Village Area Baseball and Softball Association

Board of Directors Meeting

2221 FM 407 Suite 119-334

Flower Mound, Texas 75028

EIN:75-2754912

Type of Meeting: Regular

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Doubletree Ranch

Meeting Facilitator: Aaron Rhodes, Executive Vice President

Secretary: OPEN Position

Call to Order:

Executive Vice President Aaron Rhodes called the Board of Directors meeting to order on April 3, 2025, at 7:37 PM.

✓ Motion to begin meeting by Aaron Rhodes

Seconded by Walt Temshiv

Members Present: *(V) indicates participation by MS Teams.*

Aaron Rhodes — Executive Vice President - League Administration

Walt Temshiv — Vice President - Softball

(V) Steve White — Vice President - Storm Baseball

(V) Cindy Wiederrich — Treasurer

Blayde Burris — Director of Fields / Scheduler

Ayden Burris — Director of Rules & Umpires

Jeff Halstead — Director of Interlock & Premier

Sam Smith — Director of Equipment & 9U/10U Baseball Commissioner

(V) Shawn French — Director of Registration & Web Services

Mike Gonzalez — Blastball/5U/6U Commissioner

Joe Lococco — 7U/8U Baseball Commissioner

Teresa Rhodes — Director of Media

Members Absent:

OPEN — President

OPEN — Vice President - Recreational Baseball

OPEN — Secretary

OPEN — Director of Sponsorship/Fundraising

Patty Bolton — Concession Stand Manager

Graham Koonce — 11U/12U Baseball Commissioner

Jon Dahlvig — 13U/14U Baseball Commissioner

OPEN — HS Baseball Commissioner

OPEN — Softball Commissioner

Introduction of Guests Present:

Cory Legner, Daniel Ortmeier, Jeff Nelson - Varsity Financial Foundation

Kara Boone

Alexis Burris

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

✓ Motion by Aaron Rhodes to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, via Microsoft Teams.

Seconded by Walt Temshiv

Passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1) Vice-Presidents' Reports:

➤ Softball Report, Walt Temshiv

HVA hosting 16U All-Stars - June 7-8, 2025

Midseason Touney 16U - May 17-18, 2025

➤ Storm, Steve White

Nothing to report.

➤ Rec Baseball, Aaron Rhodes

Tryouts for All-Stars; If this weekend rains out, we will reschedule asap.

2) Financial Update:

➤ Treasurer, Cindy Wiederrich

- Working with and setting up an arrangement with Benney Keith for the concession stand. It will take a couple of weeks to see how it will all be set up.
- Current account balance: ~ \$152,000
- Outstanding payments from the All-Stars Tourney 2024 have been resolved.
- General Ledger - Scheduled upcoming purchases can be made.

3) New Grievance Form/Policy, Aaron Rhodes:

➤ The new **“Grievance, Compliment, Suggestion” form** is live on the website. Incoming submissions/reports will be handled by Shawn French and the Secretary. They will delegate handling issues, etc. The City had previously requested that a system be set up for grievances by the public.

➤ General Board Meetings will be announced to the public. Anyone who wants to address the Board with any concerns will have three (3) minutes each to do so.

➤ Teresa Rhodes, Director of Media, shared a compliment received via Facebook post - **10U Rec Softball** - The parent expressed appreciation for “... an act of kindness and great sportsmanship from the HVABSA softball team”

4) Reports and Presentations:

Varsity Financial Group – Cory Legner and Daniel Ortmeier presented. They own/run D-Bat Academies. Discussed rising costs of little league organizations everywhere as well as issues finding volunteers. These often create barriers to putting development back into the program.

- They have been looking for an opportunity to help youth organizations grow baseball and softball.
- VFG Sports Foundation (“VFG”) is a 501c3 created to help recreational youth baseball and softball organizations grow and thrive. Currently working with FMYSA and has been a sponsor in the past with HVAVSA. VFG’s goal is to put together a larger buying-power group to get costs

down (ie. Baseballs, etc). They want to be a supporting group to help make improvements to the fields and enhance local youth organizations.

- **Opportunities (Daniel Ortmeier)** – Curious about what Highland Village is looking to do?

For example:

- Coaches clinics (MLB initiative)
 - Development programs
 - Business/Financial side support
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- **Jeff Nelson, FMYSA** – Jeff has relationships with other organizations and has joined the Foundation’s team. The goal is to find out what HVABSA needs/wants.
 - Example: 125 umpires in his group, OTP - continue to work with Ayden Burris to cover any games over the capacity of HVA umpires.
 - Example from FMYSA: New wind screens \$8,000 cost. The City of Flower Mound did not have money in the budget. VFG donated wind screens by reimbursing the funds to FMYSA.
 - Jeff is happy to help as a resource for organizing/running concessions, scheduling, or however he can be of service.
 - “We should work together as sister-cities for the betterment of the area and the youth programs.”

- QUESTIONS and ANSWERS (VFG):

Question: **What is the trade-off? What is HVA side?**

- Provide additional value for our members/players (ie. Summer camps)
- Their “ask” is for one person on the HVABSA Board for VFG (no voting rights).

Question: **What other leagues are you involved with in this capacity?**

- FMYSA is the only one that can be named right now. We want to build the model for other areas by adding HVABSA to the initial group of organizations..

Question: **Is there any cap of the groups you want to work with?**

- No cap. We want to develop processes and protocols.
- Hypothetically – 5 organizations locally and then we can move to areas like Allen.

Question: **Improvement standpoint – What is it like moving forward?**

- The timeframe is up to HVABSA.
- Furthering discussion about needs – anytime and ongoing.

- **Input from Aaron Rhodes** – Money is tight for us and for the City. Improvements such as nets for the batting cages and turf on pitching lanes are needed. Capital improvements are good for the city and safe for the kids. VFG Foundation can be an added incentive for the City to keep HVABSA at Unity due to the added investments VFG can provide to the City. (ie. Contracts for 5 years instead of 3)

5) Director Reports:

➤ **Shawn French** (website) - All-Star link up on site for Sports Connect to collect sign-ups/info. Coaches will only need names at tryout; everything will go from Sports Connect to Coaches. Sports Connect will contact players to confirm if they made the team or not.

➤ **Teresa Rhodes** (media) - Requests pictures, stories, etc that we can share on social media. Currently sharing posts from area high schools for events (MHS, FMHS, LHS, Guyer). Plans to implement new interaction with social media such as “Mic’d Up” at the fields. Open to any other suggestions.

➤ **Ayden Burris** (umpires) - Nothing to report.

➤ **Blayde Burris** (schedules) -

- Coach Clinics – provide support to coaches in rec, coaches prepping kids to the next step (tourney/all-star, etc).
- All-Stars – tryouts listed on “weekly breakdown” in addition to website.
- Rainouts – DH teams, we need to reschedule one; Single game teams, we need to not reschedule; He will send out more information and closer to the end of the season we’ll have to look at standings.

➤ **Blayde Burris** (fields) -

- City will work on plate area on Red.
- Red/Green/Yellow – aerate and fertilize in front of home plate.
- Red turf mat – lay the back on the foot of the mound; pitch from the back.
- Green turf mat (Coach Pitch) – lay the back a foot in front of the lip of the mound.
- NEW CODES/LOCKS - fields, shed, and scoreboard.
- Reminders: Lock boxes on Purple; Return scoreboards to lockbox.
- Request to Board Members at the fields – check scoreboards, turf, L-screens not on grass, etc.
- City is going to fence Yellow to 10 feet. They will look into adding Purple to 10 or more feet, and new gate to close it off to walk-ons.

➤ **Sam Smith** (equipment) -

- Everyone has their equipment; we have plenty. Sheds need to be cleaned out.
- Input from Jeff Nelson: Tracy Black, FMYSA, has a donation opportunity to share with victims of floods in North Carolina. There are also inner-city groups more locally such as Dallas.

➤ **Jeff Hallsted** (Interlock) -

- Premier schedule has been tough because it is shorter – 6 games in 7 weeks.

3) Commissioner Reports:

➤ **Mike Gonzalez** (5u/6u/blastball) -

- Asking for more blastballs. Looking for options to replace more balls.
- 5/6u – Last fall - fewer teams so combined. This spring using new 6u rules – catcher gear needed.
- Some gear put into boxes on Purple dugouts so all can use it. Rules laminated and hanging in dugouts (1/2 remaining). Also provided extra equipment in dugout boxes for the new coaches of young age groups; we may need more of that to continue to provide.
- Jeff Nelson – asked how much catcher gear 6u needs. He will get with Mike or Blayde to donate.

➤ **Joe Lococo** (7u/8u) -

Options to consider for preparing Coach Pitch athletes to be more ready for Kid Pitch. Perhaps scaffold games ie, the first 4 games all coach pitch; the next 4 coach assisted; the last 4 are primarily kid pitch.

➤ **Graham Koonce** (11u/12u) - No notes.

6) Open Business:

- **Meeting. minutes:** Not posted online, but books are available to view
- **Netting issue:** Aaron, Blayde, and Walt met with the City to discuss the list of items.
- **Concession Stand:** passed health inspection.
- **Fields:** City said if the field is unplayable, coaches will make the decision based on the safety of the players. If the on-call City guys can make it out to fix/drag, they will. Still unclear how this is going to work, but go through Blayde for him to communicate with City.

7) New Business:

- ✓ Motion by Steve White to nominate Sam Smith for VP of Recreational Baseball
Seconded by Aaron Rhodes.
Passed unanimously.
- ✓ Motion by Aaron Rhodes to add Sam Smith as a signer for the HVABSA Chase bank accounts.
Seconded by Walt Temshiv.
Passed unanimously.
- ✓ Motion by Cindy Wiederich to nominate Alexis burris for Secretary.
Seconded by Sam Smith.
Passed unanimously.
- ✓ Motion by Walt Temshiv to nominate Kara Boone for Commissioner of Softball
Seconded by Mike Gonzalez.
Passed unanimously.

8) Open floor for any new field issues:

- Walt Temshiv will follow up with Phil Schmidt re: Softball issues (turf, etc).
- Walt Temshiv shared that a cap is being added to the Grey field for safety.
- Request for location of Storm baseballs - Sam Smith confirmed they are in the shed.
- Request for Storm lineup cards (triplicate) - The Board will look into reordering for baseball and softball.

9) Next Meeting for Board Elections:

- The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1st, at 7:30 pm, at Doubletree Ranch with an option for MS Teams participation.
- Aaron Rhodes will reach out to the officers individually. He will post if there are any open positions. The office of President will be left open until the annual meeting in July 2025.
- Steve White is currently covering the Sponsorship role. We need a person(s) in that role. Please be on the lookout for people with experience and/or drive to build community connections and bring in sponsorships.

10) Announcements:

- Sam Smith - All-Star team schedule recommendation - participate in 3-4 out of the 5 tourneys.
- Aaron Rhodes - All-Stars Tournament Director (6/13-6/15) and MSM Tournament Director (6/10-6/11) will be Blayde Burris. Conversations are just starting with Corinth and Trophy Club.

- Steve White - Thanked Aaron for everything he has done to clean up things behind the scenes. He has done a tremendous amount of work and is doing a great job. “There are good things coming,” and Aaron has helped to get that all going.
- Question from Joe Lococo - Looking ahead to Cooperstown. If we want to participate, what are the rules? Do we have to participate?
 - Blayde Burris – The League owns the certificate required to participate, and if we don’t send a team, then we lose the certificate/opportunity to attend forever.
 - Steve White - Our goal is to continue to research and then discuss details at the next board meeting with everyone.

NEXT MEETING:

05/01/2025 General Board of Directors Meeting (Elections) at Doubletree Ranch, 7:30 pm.

- ✓ Motion to adjourn by Aaron Rhodes.
 - Seconded by Blayde Burris
 - Passed unanimously.

Adjourned 04/03/2025 9:06 pm