



SYBA Board Meeting Minutes

- **Date:** October 19, 2025
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** The Bowl, Clubhouse Room

I. Key Decisions & Motions

1. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion passed, **all votes in favor.**
2. **Crossbar Platform Transition:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the transition to the Crossbar platform for SYBA sports management software. The motion passed, **all votes in favor.**
3. **Team Competition Level Framework:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed team placements and competition levels for the upcoming season (see minutes for details). The motion passed, **all votes in favor.**
4. **SHED Training Program:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the SHED training program proposal as presented by the Development Committee. The motion passed, **all votes in favor.**
5. **Whiffleball League Budget:** A motion was made and seconded to approve a \$1000 budget to establish a new whiffleball league. The motion passed, **all votes in favor.**
6. **GameChanger Subscription:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of GameChanger subscriptions for Travel Directors. The motion passed, **all votes in favor.**
7. **Tournament Fee Increase (email submission):** Katie Johnson motioned to increase 2026 tournament fees by \$25 for teams (9s and 10s to \$475, 11s and 12s to \$500). The increase was proposed because the current fees are on the low end compared to other tournaments, and the new fees will help cover costs (especially with two umpires used for semi-final/final games). The motion passed, **majority of votes in favor.**
8. **Legion Coaching Change:** A motion was made and seconded to seek new coaching for the Legion program for the upcoming 2026 season and forward. The motion passed with the **majority of votes in favor** (R. Schmitz, J. Lenz, B. Grefe, R. Dueth, and T. Jones abstained).

In Attendance:

- Shane Hofmann (President)*
- Kyle Rice (Vice President)*
- Rob Deuth (Treasurer)*
- Jason Lenz (Travel Director)*
- Blake Grefe (Travel Director)*
- Brent Vannier (Umpire Coordinator)*
- Jason Mousel (In house Director)*
- Ryan Schmitz (Community League Coordinator)*
- Katie Johnson (Assistant Tournament Director)*
- Tatum Heil (Assistant Tournament Director)*
- Tyler Menden (Fields)*
- Sean Dolan (Secretary)*
- Tracey Domke (Social Media Director)*
- Mark Amundson (Communications Director)*
- Billy Wermerskirchen (Fundraising)*
- Trevor Jones (In-House Director)*
- Christina Tibbets (Field and Facilities Director)*
- Sarah Lewis (Social Media Director)*

Not In Attendance:

- Eric Schmitz (Varsity Baseball Coach)*
- Sean LaCoste (Assistant Equipment Director)*

II. New Business & Discussion Topics

A. Financial Report (R. Deuth)

Rob Deuth discussed current state financials. Key items included:

- Quicken software has been renewed for the year.
- Umpire expenses are currently being processed.
- The Savage Dome is being rented for all age groups.
- Legion expenses included pull tab funds and costs for the end-of-season banquet and field paint.
- The Omaha account has no activity to date, as expected.

B. Crossbar Platform Final Review (S. Hofmann)

Following the vote to approve the transition, the board discussed implementation.

- The setup is estimated to take 4–6 weeks. The existing SportsEngine platform must remain operational during this period.
- The goal is a full transition by January 2026.
- Shane Hofmann will coordinate with Crossbar to schedule training, after which board members will be assigned build-out tasks.
- Board members expressed interest in the platform's editability, chat features, and "Dibs" (volunteer tracking) functionality.

C. Team Competition Level Framework (Grefe/Lenz)

The board discussed and approved the team competition levels. B. Grefe stated tournament registration should begin next week.

- **Proposed Levels:**

- **9U:** 9AAA and two 9A teams (potentially upper/lower). This is based on approximately 50 potential players.
- **10U:** 10AAA / 10A
- **11U:** 11AAA / 11A (transitioning from AA)
- **12U:** 12AA / 12A (same as last year)
- **13U:** 13AA (transitioning from AAA due to player attrition) / 13A
- **14U:** 14AA / 14A (based on coach polling)
- **15U:** To be determined.

D. SHED Training Program Proposal (Development Committee)

J. Lenz presented the proposal on behalf of the Development Committee.

- **Program Structure:** 3-week in-season training (April) and 6-week pre-season training (starting February).
- **Scope:** Open to players 9U–14U, covering pitching, hitting, and fielding.
- **Cost:** \$120 per player, with SYBA subsidizing the remaining program cost. The unsubsidized cost for 90-minute sessions (Feb–April) is \$15,800.

E. Development Committee Plan The committee also outlined broader development goals:

- **Coaching Development:** Designing a structure to include SHED training and Varsity Coach training for both in-house and travel teams.
- **Player Development:** Designing a structure to include practice plans and improved pitch count rules.
- **New Younger Player Opportunities:**
 - **Whiffleball League:** A 4-week league, free to families, will be established for 4–5 and 6–7 year-olds, including a hat and t-shirt. The board approved a \$1000 budget for this initiative, which will be open to boys and girls.
 - **Player Pipeline:** The intended flow is Whiffleball \$\\to\$ Teeball \$\\to\$ In-house.

F. Logo Update (Fundraising Committee) S. Hofmann noted that SYBA does not own its current logo and must address the issue.

- A bid for \$1000 for professional design was obtained from Valley Sports via Billy W.
- Trevor Jones (with assistance from Mark Amunson) offered to design the new logo at no cost to the association.
- Rob Deuth stressed this is a high priority due to the Crossbar rollout and equipment purchasing.
- **Design Criteria:** Colors (Red, Black), Character (Saber Tooth Tiger, similar to Nashville Predators logo), Name (SHAKOPEE), and other elements (Baseball or Bat).

G. Equipment Replacement Plan (Field Improvement Committee) T. Menden reported that most field tarps are in poor condition (approx. \$500–\$800 each).

- A replacement plan will begin with fields for older players, replacing equipment for 2 fields per year (tarps and L-screens). T. Menden will present a specific purchase request next month.
- R. Deuth will create an accrual plan, rolling the cost into registration fees and placing funds into a capital account to create an annual equipment refresh budget.

H. Gym Space Update (Christina T) Christina T reported that a tentative schedule is available but not yet shareable.

- The current schedule only runs through March, making it difficult to book tryout times.
- Christina T is pushing to secure the Field House for all tryouts, as the East gym will not work for In-house tryouts.

I. Field Clean-Up Communication (Christina T)

- T. Menden noted the city is working to close the Westminster fields.
- T. Menden requested Christina T remind the city in April (post-frost) to hammer down the pipes in the batting cages to make them functional.
- **Communication Protocol:** All requests to the city *must* go through S. Hofmann, who will contact the city representative.

J. Miracle Field Update (S. Hofmann) S. Hofmann reported the field is 90% complete and only needs dugouts.

- The project was led by the Lions Club.
- SYBA will manage registration through the Glowmies program once construction is complete. SYBA holds no financial accountability for the field.

K. New City of Shakopee Policy (S. Hofmann) S. Hofmann outlined a new formal, written process from the city for capital improvements. The policy includes submission deadlines (May 1 for financial impact, Oct 1 for no financial impact) and a multi-step approval process through the City Council.

L. MASH Tryouts (B. Grefe) B. Grefe noted that, as previously approved, SYBA has booked 9 hours at MASH for tryouts. This decision was made to improve the tryout process based on significant family feedback.

M. Legion Coaching Position The board discussed the Legion coach position, noting the coaches agreement was in place for the 2024–2025 seasons and requires reevaluation for the 2026 season.

- **Decision:** The board has decided to seek new coaching leadership for the Legion program for the upcoming 2026 season. A search for a new coach will begin.
- **Rationale:** This decision was reached after reviewing extensive community feedback on the player experience. After discussing this feedback and the program's long-term developmental goals, it was determined, in agreement with the Varsity Head Coach, that this change was the best path forward for alignment with the high school program.
- **Next Steps:** A conversation will be scheduled with the Legion coach to discuss the board's decision.

III. Action Items

1. **S. Hofmann:** Communicate next steps for Crossbar training and develop an implementation plan to be operational by January 2026.
2. **K. Rice:** Present a formal plan at the next meeting for the teeball/whiffleball league rollout.
3. **B. Grefe:** Contact the Softball Association to gauge interest in a joint teeball/whiffleball league.
4. **T. Jones & M. Amunson:** Design a new SYBA logo in vector format, per the board's criteria, by October 24, 2025.
5. **T. Menden:** Review inventory and present a specific purchase request for the 2026 season (tarps, L-screens, baseballs, catcher's gear, etc.).
6. **Development Committee:** Finalize and execute the approved SHED development plan.
7. **Travel Directors (Grefe/Lenz):** Propose a plan to use Crossbar for State Tournament funds and develop an official SYBA policy regarding state tournament expectations for coaches and families.