

FLBA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 9, 2026

Location: American Legion

Start Time: 6:31 PM

Attendees

- **Board Members Present:** Brandon Henry, Mel Hicks, Matt Lindholm, Palaim Westerberg, Ann Madden, Lori Harms, Rick Tedesco, Jeremy Trapp, Tyler Kroschel
- **Board Members Absent:** Kevin Bullis, Bub Lovas, Aaron Soule
- **Visitors:** Courtney Haus, Jeremy Braulick

Meeting Proceedings

1. Administrative

- **Call to Order:** 6:31 PM
- **Agenda Additions:** Invoice for field payments (\$25/field) submitted by Lori and Ty.
- **Minutes Approval:** Motion to approve the July meeting minutes made by Ty, seconded by Jeremy. **Motion passed.**

2. Financial & Governance Reports

- **Treasurer's Report (Lori):**
 - July report unavailable due to a bank system switchover.
 - Recent balance check was ~\$80k.
 - Umpires have been paid; field prep and coach reimbursements are pending.
 - Approximately \$4,000 in expenses remain for the 2026 season.
- **FLAAA Report:**
 - Equipment budget update: \$8,280.04 remains for lawful purpose purchases, which must be spent by the end of 2026.
 - Mel will double-check specific submission deadlines and seek clarification on submission rules.
 - *Note:* Lori recommended holding major payments briefly until the bank transition completes.

3. Operations & Field Updates

- **Schumacher Scoreboard:**
 - Discussion regarding taking the old hardwired scoreboard from Schumacher. Main concerns include power access, physical protection, and logistics.
 - Board noted that the current scoreboards at Fenway are rarely used. Brandon suggested managers assign designated scoreboard operators.
 - Option raised by Ann to place the scoreboard on Field 3 at Forest Lake Sports Center (KK). Brandon will check with the City of Forest Lake.
- **Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) Update (Ty):**

- Season wrapped up successfully with no major updates.
- **Forest Lake 14A Team:**
 - Recognized as "Team of the Month" (posted online).
 - Achieved ~78+% score for "Respecting the Game" (FLBA Elite Status).

4. Coaching Updates & Feedback

- **Coach Dinner Recap:**
 - Hosted at Champions last Sunday with 6–7 coaches attending.
 - Luke Opsahl suggested creating a 9U AAA Tournament to offer another opportunity to advance to State. (*Deferred to Fall Retreat*)
- **Coach Exit Interviews (Scheduled for August 12th):**
 - **Feedback & Discussion Points:**
 - *Age Dynamics (Ann):* Older age groups may need a shift in structure (e.g., more player responsibility, reducing youth-focused chants).
 - *General Feedback (Rick & Courtney):* Overall positive experience, though Courtney noted a lack of skill development continuity (same practices run all season). Ty noted this is common when filling last-minute coaching spots.
 - *Roster Management (Brandon):* Addressed A-level team challenges and balancing cutoffs during tryouts to retain as many players as possible (e.g., evaluating narrow gaps vs. steep drops in tryout scores).
 - *Visitor Feedback:* Noted challenges during tough seasons with lower-tier players making frequent in-game errors. (*Deferred to Fall Discussion*)

5. Player Evaluations & Tryout Systems

- Tyler received 12 head-coach evaluation forms.
- **Discussion:**
 - Ann raised concerns that head-coach evaluations are subjective, prone to personal bias, and less accurate than objective statistical tracking or having assistant coaches co-sign.
 - Ty, Lori, and Brandon noted that bookkeeper stats can also be subjective, and that evaluation forms serve primarily to fill in contextual gaps rather than strictly dictate tryout scores.
 - Travel Director is present during tryout processes. (*Deferred to Fall Discussion*)
- **Coach Refunds:** Forthcoming pending deadline confirmation.

6. Apparel & Equipment Purchases

- **Hats & Uniforms (Ann):**
 - Sample hats were reviewed and approved by the board (similar to 2026 style).
 - Turnaround time is 2 weeks; hats will be ordered earlier next season. White pants discussed to better match the hats.
 - Cost: \$19.75 per hat (Small/Medium).
 - **Motion (Lori / 2nd Mel):** Approve \$6,000 for hat orders. **Motion passed.**
- **Catchers' Gear:**

- Discussion on replacing worn/missing catchers' gloves, primarily focusing on ages 9–12 (most players supply their own by age 13).
- **Motion (Mel / 2nd Jeremy):** Approve up to \$1,500 for catcher's gloves. **Motion passed.**
- **Tees:**
 - **Motion (Ty / 2nd Rick):** Approve up to \$300 to purchase 3 light-up tees for younger age groups. **Motion passed.**
- **Flexi Balls:**
 - Beat-up inventory needs replacement (12 dozen total needed at ~\$100/dozen).
 - **Motion (Lori / 2nd Jeremy):** Approve up to \$1,500 for flexi balls. **Motion passed.**
- **Pitching Machine Baseballs:**
 - **Motion (Lori / 2nd Mel):** Approve up to \$500 for 4 dozen pitching machine baseballs. **Motion passed.**
- **Dummy Batters:**
 - Board reviewed purchasing 3 fake batters (\$1,000 total).
 - **Motion (Jeremy / 2nd Ty):** Approve up to \$1,000 for 3 fake batters. **Motion passed.**

7. Communications & Committees

- **Board Applications:** 2 applications received to date; actively seeking more candidates.
- **Fall Ball:**
 - 10U will field a team.
 - 9U disbanded; players entered as free agents.
- **2027 Planning:**
 - Board will review Ann's list of role descriptions.
 - Tournament ordering will be scheduled for November.
 - Committee of board parents to be established during the Fall Discussion.
- **FLAAA Community Night:** Mel is looking for 4 additional players for the softball game.

8. Visitor Q&A & Upcoming Events

- **Field of Dreams Tournament (2027):**
 - Proposal to send the top 12U or 13U team to the Field of Dreams Tournament (3-game guarantee + skills contests). Jeff Kiel's team attended previously with great feedback. *(Deferred to Fall Retreat)*
- **Board Elections Overview:**
 - Openings: At least 2 guaranteed seats.
 - Process: Informal Q&A session; newly elected members begin their terms in October.

Motions Summary

Item	Proposed By	Seconded By	Amount	Status
Approve July Minutes	Ty	Jeremy	—	Passed
Apparel (Hats)	Lori	Mel	\$6,000	Passed
Catcher's Gloves	Mel	Jeremy	\$1,500	Passed
Training Tees (3)	Ty	Rick	\$300	Passed
Flexi Balls (12 Dozen)	Lori	Jeremy	\$1,500	Passed
Pitching Machine Balls	Lori	Mel	\$500	Passed
Fake Batters (3)	Jeremy	Ty	\$1,000	Passed
Adjourn Meeting	Jeremy	Lori	—	Passed

Action Items & Fall Retreat Agenda

- [] **Brandon:** Follow up with the City of Forest Lake regarding the Schumacher scoreboard installation at KK Field 3.
- [] **Mel:** Clarify FLAAA lawful purpose reimbursement details and cutoff dates (\$8,280.04 remaining).
- [] **Lori:** Finalize bank transition and process outstanding field fees, umpire costs, and coaching reimbursements.
- [] **Board / Committees (Fall Retreat Topics):**
 - Review tryout score cutoffs (evaluating narrow gaps vs. lower-tier drops).

- Re-evaluate coach evaluation forms (adding assistant coach sign-offs / statistical metrics).
- Structure modifications for older age brackets (freedom/responsibility shifts).
- Potential 9U AAA Tournament addition.
- 2027 Field of Dreams Tournament participation.
- Establish parent/board planning committees for 2027 operations.