



Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association
Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday
10/22/2025
6:00 pm
Acapulco Restaurant

Purpose

The Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association (commonly referred to as Stillwater Fastpitch) was established in 1984 to promote the development of a quality, competitive level of girls fastpitch softball in the St. Croix Valley Area. This program is committed to the development of potential Stillwater Area High School (SAHS) softball players

- 1) Call to Order
 - a) Time – 6:01 P.M.
 - b) In-person: Mike M., Carly, Jen, Damen, Jeff, Mike G.
 - c) Remote: N/A

Attendance:

- Joe Schneider
- Nicole Wriskey
- Nick Haag
- Tom Suba
- Sabrina Buivid
- Noah Schumacher
- Bryan Wittwer

- 2) Review and Approval of August Minutes
 - a) Motion to approve – Carly
 - b) Second – Mike M.
- 3) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Only big expenses this month are for winter training
 - b) Checking: \$14,525 and Savings: \$18,900
- 4) Board Processes
 - a) Application for board members is live – go to StillwaterFastpitch.com to fill it out, apply and WHAT POSITION you want to volunteer for. In our bylaws, the basics are outlined: board nominates and then vote and approval of members. As seen in the bylaws, it is in one year.
 - b) There was a question from a parent on whether he was interested in being a 14U coordinator (and potentially helping support the
 - c) Changes in bylaws happen once per year – January.
- 5) 2026 Planning
 - a) Winter Training
 - i) Pitching – players must have outside training with pitching coaches on a weekly basis outside of SAFA offering. 8U – SAFA will not provided time associated with pitching for 8U.
 - ii) Catching – 8U – could use some support and have trainer Sophie help with younger level.
 - iii) Overall – I had a discussion on 10/19 with Sophie, work on individual skills with all girls. Encourage softball IQ with older girls so they understand background. Examples: Bunt coverage, Stealing coverage, baserunning.
 - iv) If VAA girls want to sign up for winter training, that is okay. Hopefully after additional training, they choose SAFA to continue their development.

- v) 8U – if you are 8U, should you be signing for 8U list, or should they sign-up for 10U.
 - (1) 12 – 8U
 - (2) 22 – 10U
 - (3) 20 – 12U
- b) SAFA Parent Meeting for 2026 Season
 - i) Would like to set parent meeting date right away
 - ii) Previous years - Terisa/Carly hosted 2-3 8u/10u parent info meetings
 - iii) Last year - had small turnout for each session
 - iv) Look at Stillwater baseball model - HS coach spoke
 - v) Host ONE pre-season parent meeting for all levels (8u/10u/12u)
 - vi) Review our mission statement
 - vii) Player/parent expectations
 - viii) Review communication chain if any concerns
 - ix) Preview season: equipment, expected travel, overview of typical schedule for each level
 - x) **STRESS THE COMMITMENT THIS IS TRAVEL BALL. NOT VAA.** Softball is the priority in spring/summer. Not soccer, AAU basketball, swimming, etc.
- c) SAFA Summer 2026 Registration
 - i) Open 10U and 8U registration now
 - ii) Begin working on St. Croix Valley Dome availability
 - iii) We need to have non-parent evaluators
 - iv) Would like to have 10U and 8U evaluations on the same day
 - v) Open once we secure an evaluation date
 - (1) Can we book dome/gym space now and get registration open early this year
 - (2) Have eval date posted and acknowledged on the registration forms
 - (3) Notes about what happens if you can't attend; no makeup dates again this year, use previous season Coach input
 - (4) Clear criteria for moving "up"
- d) Tournaments 2026
 - i) Older age level:
 - (1) Out-of-town tournament options for older age
 - (2) Great for team bonding for players and families - especially if early in the season
 - (3) No extra cost for the association – but extra cost for families
 - (4) If we schedule in advance, the coach can schedule hotel blocks and get info out to families once teams are formed. Similar as SAHA Terisa's 10U team did an away tournament in summer 2025.
 - (a) Great team building - families really enjoyed it, highly recommended
 - ii) 8U: increase to two tournaments in addition to state per feedback from 2025 coaches. Increase cost of registration to cover.
 - iii) Eagan Down n' Dirty Tournament - avoid all SAFA teams in an open tourney.
- e) Uniforms
 - i) Feedback from last year's uniforms:
 - (1) Front and back of jersey did not match. Looks like lacrosse or old track uniform tops
 - (2) Black on black gets hot (especially during 5 back-to-back Sunday tournament games)
 - (3) Numbers on pants- makes replacing pants midseason hard when they get torn up from sliding. Propose new uniforms. Not all black. Keep sleeveless top.
 - (4) NEW design/style
 - (a) Connect with high school coach/booster club. Design jersey that models high school uniform. Shows alignment with SAFA and HS team.
- f) Coaches Apparel
 - i) Can we provide shirts and hats again to coaches
 - ii) What vendor to use - Modern Envy did shirts/hats for us last year
 - iii) Feedback on hats/shirts was very positive in regard to design/quality
 - iv) Begin design process NOW for approval to have items for coaches at the START of the season
 - v) Shirts/hats arrived at the end of 2025 season
 - vi) Many coaches made their own/purchased their own
 - vii) Design - does it need official SAFA logo. Get sizes from coaches right as teams are formed to submit order ASAP.
- g) Spirit Wear

- i) Neil/Threadheads: see if we can do another warmup jacket order this season- same style/design as 2025 season.
- h) Gyms – Spring
 - i) Carly asked if there is available space when weather is poor in April. Board replied that it is up to school and difficult to schedule if not further out in advance.
- 6) Bylaws and/or P&P
 - a) We will meet in the next 60 days to evaluate bylaws
 - b) 12U tryout process will be driven
- 7) Equipment
 - a) Summer equipment – only 8U level has returned equipment
 - b) Fall equipment – only one team has returned
- 8) Next Meeting
 - a) November 12th or November 19th

Open Forum:

- *Discussion – question: For evaluations – have you ever thought of using the Lumberyard?*
 - a) Board discussed: No. Outfield would be impossible and there is very little room for grounders.
 - *Discussion – question: Neil said he would open up an order for SAFA rain jackets over the winter if people would like to order.*
 - a) Board discussed: Sounds good.
 - *Discussion – question: Would it be possible for SAFA 14U to combine with Mahtomedi, North St. Paul, etc.*
 - a) Board discussed: Yes, its basically “14U Open” – where they can play anywhere.
 - *Discussion – question: I got a lot out of the coaching session on Sunday. How can I ensure my player can see these drills?*
 - a) Board discussed: You will be doing this same training that Sophie is teaching at coaches clinic will be at the winter training so kids and coaches will get a chance to show.
 - *Discussion – question: How is scoring done? How does the scoring weight work?*
 - a) Board discussed: The evaluators use iPads for scoring (1-10) across each area of focus (hitting, bunting, grounders, pop flies). If a player has a high score in one area, like Bunting – but poor in other three areas, the Board will see this difference in the scoring and look into it within the software.
 - *Discussion – question: Will there be opportunities for the teams to get together after tryouts?*
 - a) Board discussed: There are winter training opportunities for the teams. The players would get together as a team after training but before the season starts.
- 9) Adjourn – 7:10 P.M.
 - a) Motion – Mike G.
 - b) Second – Carly