



Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association
Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday
9/23/2025
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 – 6:00 pm
 - b) In-person: Terisa, Carly, Mike M., Jen, Damen, Jeff, Andy, Mike G.
 - c) Remote: N/A
 - d) In attendance:
 - i) Bryan Wittier
 - ii) Aaron Fortner
 - iii) Kari Junker
 - iv) Nicole Wriskey
 - v) Kyle Kraemer
 - vi) Sabrina Buivid
 - vii) Katie Thomas
 - viii) Joe Schneider
 - ix) Brand Kampelion
 - x) Craig Alberg
 - xi) Tom Sebu
 - xii) Noah Schumacher
- 2) Review and Approval of August Minutes
 - a) Motion to approve – Mike G.
 - b) Second – Mike M.
- 3) Treasurer's Report
 - a) SAFA MN Fall Softball Tournament gate fees were distributed
 - b) Checking: \$16,591 and Savings: \$18,921
- 4) Fall Ball Update
 - a) 8U: started with two teams and moved one to 10U due to birthdates. The remaining 8U team has been having a good season.
 - b) 10U: feeling good about their records and seeing some very good pitching.
 - c) 12U: Black and Red are a few games under :500; the losses have been vs. "A" teams. These two teams are "B" teams as they include all different levels. 12U Red is subbing one player to 12U Black due to basketball tryouts.
- 5) 12U Evaluations
 - a) Registration is now closed. There are 35 players registered for 12U.
 - b) 4 coaches have applied to coach in 2026 season. Those will be selected upon evaluations.
 - c) There will be outside evaluators for 12U – we will likely select either the St. Croix Valley Dome.
 - d) We will likely have 3 teams – two 12 player teams and one 11 player team.
 - e) Pitching evaluations were completed on September 11th. 10 players tried out for pitching.
 - f) Out of the 10 players who tried out to pitch, 5 players are "ready" to pitch at this level. The remaining 5 players need to work extra hours over the fall/winter lessons to ensure there is enough pitching for three teams. Do not believe pitching is at "A" level for 12U.

6) Budgets

- a) As we are preparing for 2026 budgeting, we are currently estimating the following number of teams:
 - i) 12U: 3 teams for summer '26
 - ii) 10U: 4 teams for summer '26
 - iii) 8U: 3 teams for summer '26

7) Activities Director: Nate Cox

- a) There have been complaints from Mountain Biking team about parents driving their cars back to the fields. However, we have seen SAFA players almost hit by the High School Mountain Biking players riding their bikes in the back.
- b) Damen discussed having a dedicated shed area or space for SAFA teams to store equipment so that coaches don't need to walk all of the gear back to Field 2 or Field 3. Discussed having trailers that can be used.
- c) All locks are changed so no one can drive their cars back onto Field 2 and 3 with the gear.

8) Coaches Training

- a) SAFA sent out an email on mandatory coaches training.
- b) Jen to post on Facebook.
- c) Inclusive of 3 sessions:
 - (1) Offensive/Hitting
 - (2) Defensive – infield & Outfield
 - (3) Coaches training – best practices, strategies, etc.
- d) More training dates will be added in winter/spring – we will have options for 10U and 8U coaches. We will repeat options in the winter/spring.
- e) Registration will be through Sports Engine so everyone will sign up through this tool.
- f) Terisa shared that some of the concepts taught at SAHS Winter Training - Little Ponies has been too advanced for 10U and 8U ages. As a coach, teaching some of the concepts down to these younger age groups. How can the training be tailored to this younger training?

9) Winter Training

- a) Winter training will begin with all levels to start end of October/early November across 12U, 10U and 8U. Each month of the winter, we will do 5 sessions per month. It will be roughly 3 hours – 1 hour per age level. The coaches will be asked to help with the training sessions. Gyms will be booked by early October. We will build registration for winter training. The winter training sessions will be the same as the coaches training.

10) Open Forum

Open forum discussion – question: where will the sessions be?

- a) Board discussed: the coaches' training will be at SAHS. The winter training will be at Stillwater schools.

Open forum discussion – question: how will training sessions be run?

- b) Board discussed: before the winter training sessions we will cover what will be included so that coaches who are helping will know what is going on.

Open forum discussion – question: will pitching and catching training be included in winter training?

- c) Board discussed: there will be training completed for pitching and catching—we have a lot of girls, so we believe that girls need their own personalized 1:1 pitching and catching training.

Open forum discussion – question: for winter training, how much gym space are we trying to get? Can we get extra space for pitching/catching training sessions ahead of the first training.

- d) Board discussed: the middle school in the main gym and the hitting space/cages in the back gym. For the specialized stuff, we can either use synthetics at the high school or the middle gym at the Stillwater middle school gym school. If there is enough interest in players signing up for pitching/catching training, we can look at adding another hour.

Open forum discussion – question: what does the timing look like for 10U & 8U tryouts with winter training.

- e) Board discussed: Terisa shared there can be winter training, followed by tryouts and then Terisa noted the importance of teams practicing together post teams being formed, so there is some dedicated time prior to getting outside. Damen said that Carly and Terisa can work together on a plan to build a plan/timeline to map out

Open forum discussion – comment: the district is willing to advertise for us. We just need to provide them with the flyers and they will send it out for us. We just need to provide them with the flyers/advertising. Question: since we have not had tryouts yet, would we open it back up?

- f) Board discussed: There is concern that we need to ensure everyone has awareness about SAFA; since 12U hasn't selected teams yet, there is opportunity to open up registration again and ensure potential players are aware. In addition, there was discussion that we should email the 10U players from last summer, a blast to the link with the age calculator to ensure people understand where their daughters belong. Perhaps if SAFA sends an email out via PeachJar as a "last call" email, that will help.

Open forum discussion – comment: what are the fundraising opportunities outside of the raffle? There is an opportunity to have more thoughts on something new for fundraising.

- g) Board discussed: there is an opportunity to look at new ideas.

Open forum discussion – comment: is there a thought on having new board members added, like a training coordinator? Can we have a point person assigned to these new ideas/initiatives?

- h) Board discussed: Yes, we've had someone reach out (a parent) and ask for their help to take the lead on We cannot change our bylaws until January.

Open forum discussion – comment: who is in-charge in winter training? How will it be coordinated with the different age levels?

- i) Board discussed: The board oversees winter training. Each age level will have 1 hour of training for winter training.

Open forum discussion – comment: how will the board support the coaches throughout the season?

- j) Board discussed: During the coaches' training we will cover ideas on what needs to be covered at each level so coaches understand what they need.

Open forum discussion – comment: can someone provide a list of training resources and what we need to learn at each age level? How can the players have consistency and knowledge of what we do at practices? Could there be coach mentoring available?

- k) Board discussed: There are a lot of coaches in the program who have experience, and we should have them exchange ideas. We could create a "coaches' corner" where coaches can exchange ideas on coaching, what is working, etc. We will review coaches training during the winter training.

Open forum discussion – comment: are we going to be able to have a "B" team talent that play "A" team.

- l) Board discussed: We are talking to Tom Bye on 12U. We believe we can move down potentially in summer 2026. Based on the pitching tryouts this fall, we do not believe there are 12U "A" pitchers. The board has observed obstacles for pitching with the current 12U team.
- m) As a board we can do a better job listening to coaches who have experience. We also need to ensure our 10U teams have the broken out between "A", "B" and "C" levels. For the 10U "A" team, gives the girls high level competition.
- n) The "B" level is the most challenging level—sometimes, "B" teams are associations are the highest team. However, then you have programs like Stillwater where there are many "B" players.

Open forum discussion – comment: last year was a perfect storm, we worked with Leah and she departed, we had most of the "A" players who went to Boom, etc. We like Down 'N Dirty – because we like pool play and bracket. It was hard to play pool and then right into bracket play.

- o) Board discussed: When there are opportunities to play 12U Open, those can be looked at, but they don't have as many 12U Open tournaments. As a reminder, a 12U A team must play an A/B tournament (or open if available), they can't play in a B/C tournament.

Open forum discussion – comment: what is the process for securing fields?

- p) Board discussed: Scheduling is taken complex. For fall, we have run into issues with fall soccer taking over the outfield for field 2 and field 3. The school and SCVAA soccer games that run into the field 2 and field 3. Only certain fields are allowed for SAFA to book, as SCVAA has priority at places like Elementary Schools and Lucy Winton athletic fields. Lake Elmo Baseball took over all Oak-Land fields this year. Through the first week of June, Varsity fields and the high school teams take precedent. In years prior, there were issues scheduling Tri-County league games the evenings of Varsity or JV games on certain fields and those games go long and then delaying Tri-County league games. This is getting worse next spring/summer with the delayed start times in the 2025-26 school year and we will continue to work on field scheduling. Tri-County league game schedules are not available until mid-April and are scheduled with other associations based on field availability.

Open forum discussion – comment: will SMS be able to improve their West softball field? Is it possible for us to use the Oak-Land fields?

- q) Board discussed: We will need to have families/parents help with maintenance softball field for SMS fields. Oak-Land fields are TBA. We are waiting on field decisions on Oak-Land. We have struggled without having that available.

Open forum discussion – comment: I coached 12UB softball and I don't understand how its random scheduling for softball

- r) Board discussed: Jeff confirmed it is random scheduling.

11) Next Meeting

- a) October 15th or 22nd, 2025

12) Adjournment – 7:34 pm

- a) Motion to approve – Terisa
b) Second – Carly