

Minutes for Softball Board Mtg September 18, 2026

Call to Order & Quorum Established

- Meeting Start time - 11:59 am
- Recorded by - Ken Silva, Vice President

Board Member Attendees:

[Ted Schneider](#), [Ken Silva](#), John Nicodemo, [Dave Swanson](#), [Jim Opyd](#)

- Absent: [Bill Parker](#)

Guests: Judd Pape & Brian Knight

Commissioner Reports

Red League - Craig Nelson and Don Raneri

- Winter coaching assignments were reviewed. Most coaches will return from the prior season, with some changes due to individuals deciding not to coach.
- The Red League had **56 registered** players at the time of the meeting, with a target of approximately 60 at the minimum
- Draft order has been established, including a reported change to the order.
- **150-foot line:** Red League does not intend to use the 150-foot line. The broader discussion was to place the 150-foot line in the general playing rules while allowing individual leagues to specify whether they will use it. White indicated it would follow Red. Blue intends to use it.
- A proposal to use an **11-inch ball** was discussed. Red does not want to adopt it.
- A possible change to the pinch-runner rule was discussed, so players could be asked whether they want a pinch runner rather than having to initiate the request. No formal vote was recorded.
- Sunday practice coverage will be reorganized. Five volunteers will rotate responsibility during the fall and winter, with Troy continuing to assist.

Hall of Fame/Paver Project: The proposed paver installation around the tower/flower areas remains on hold while costs are evaluated. The project is expected to go through the Long-Range Planning Committee as a small-project request. A drawing/mock-up is needed for the proposal.

White League - Chip Stanczyk, Ron Silberman & Jon Chlebeck

- White League reported approximately **56 registered players**, with a target of 66.
- New management/coaching assignments were discussed.
- White League will allow players rated **3.7 or higher** to register for the White draft. This is a new approach for the league.
- Players who are already registered, but awaiting ratings will be allowed to enter the draft.
- New players registering after the rating/draft cutoff will generally be placed on the appropriate substitute list rather than entering the draft.
- A possible shortage of shortstops was identified and will be monitored.
- The transcript also references a prior Board decision concerning "small ball"; White League understood the issue to have already been voted down.

Action Items

- Monitor White League registration and position needs, particularly shortstop.
- Complete outstanding player ratings before the draft.
- Prepare draft materials.

Blue League - Mike Kachurak, Jeff Smith & Bob Cary

- Blue League submitted revised 2026 rules, primarily clarifying existing procedures.
- Blue League plans to use the **150-foot line**.
- A significant rule change concerns a ball hitting the pitcher's screen: rather than becoming strike two after one strike, a ball hitting the screen will be treated as a **dead ball**.
- Other changes clarify substitutions, playing-time procedures, and the treatment of players who miss more than six games.
- Blue had approximately **80 registered players**, with 11 managers identified.
- Blue League intends to continue using the **12-inch ball** rather than the 11-inch ball.
- Because Blue must draft everyone who enters its draft, the commissioners discussed how to handle situations in which the final number of registrants does not divide evenly among teams. Two possible approaches were discussed:
 - Draft only enough players for full teams and place the remainder on the substitute list.
 - Draft everyone and have some teams share playing time among additional players.
- No final decision was made; the matter will be revisited once final registration numbers are available.
- Katy Iverson will sing opening day for Blue League on Monday, November 2, 2026 between games 1 and 2.

Action Items

- Finalize Blue League rules.
- Revisit draft-size/player-allocation issue at the next Board meeting before the draft.
- Continue registration efforts.

Saturday League Copper - Scott Kibbey, Bronze - Jeff Smith

- Copper and Bronze were discussed primarily in relation to manager assignments, registration/rating thresholds, and use of the club's general rules.
- Bronze will use the Blue League rules as its basic framework.
- The Bronze draft cutoff will depend on the number of players needed for the planned teams.
- Commissioners are continuing to finalize managers and player assignments.

Women's League - Mariln Leinberger

- The Women's League reported a tentative schedule of **12 games**, six doubleheaders.
- Three games are expected to be at Grand, with additional consideration being given to a round-robin event at another field.
- Proposed game times were approximately noon Fridays and 2:00 p.m. Saturdays.

An extensive discussion was held concerning whether women should be allowed to use **senior bats**

during women's games.

The discussion identified several unresolved issues:

- What constitutes an eligible "senior bat."
- Whether U-Trip, ASA, or other bat certifications would be permitted.
- Whether special bat identification/tape would be required.
- Whether a different ball would be necessary.
- Insurance and safety requirements.
- What penalty would apply if a prohibited bat were used in a regular league game.

The discussion emphasized allowing senior bats to be considered independently of the ball specification and insurance requirements.

The Board indicated the Activities Department and insurance considerations must be addressed before implementation.

Action Items

- Confirm acceptable senior-bat certifications.
 - Confirm insurance/Activities Department requirements.
 - Determine whether the existing 52-core ball will remain in use.
 - Develop the enforcement/identification procedure.
 - Bring the matter back for a formal Board vote.
-

Ratings Discussion

- The board discussed how frequently player ratings should be reviewed.
 - The general approach described was to review ratings around full season (Fall and Winter) drafts and address significant mis-ratings when identified, rather than routinely changing large numbers of ratings on a once a year basis.
 - Commissioners may provide input on players who appear significantly over- or under-rated.
-

Board Action Items

- Establish the club-wide framework for the 150-foot line and identify which leagues will opt out.
 - Continue evaluating senior-bat rules and related insurance/equipment considerations.
-

Secretary's Report - Ted Schneider

- The May 15 minutes were presented and approved unanimously, 5-0.
 - Motion by John Nicodemo
 - Second by Dave Swanson
- The July 17 impromptu meeting minutes were reviewed. Two corrections were identified:

- Clarify the operational-reporting reference concerning participation reports.
 - Correct the recognition item to identify Sue Goetz by her full name.
 - Following those corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously, 5-0.
 - Motion by Ken Silva
 - Second by [Jim Opyd](#)
-

Treasurer's Report - Dave Swanson

Current Financial Position

- Primary checking balance was reported at just under **\$6,500**. With our savings account balance at just over \$41,000.
- The permanent foul-line project, costing approximately **\$5,000**, has already been paid.
- Membership revenue collected was reported at slightly more than **\$23,000**.
- The difference between membership cash received and the budget-versus-actual figure was attributed partly to members paying during the current calendar year for the prior winter season.

Delinquent Membership Payments

- The Board discussed identifying members who registered, but have not yet paid.
 - 100 unpaid members
- Team Sideline has the ability to prevent registration by members with outstanding balances once the appropriate controls are activated.
- The Board did not implement this control during the current transition because of complications associated with moving from the previous registration system. It will be implemented in the very near future.
- The group discussed potentially enabling credit-card payments through Team Sideline in the future.

Credit-Card / Merchant Services

- Wells Fargo merchant services were discussed as a possible mechanism for accepting sponsor and membership payments.
- Transaction fees of approximately 3% were discussed.
- Existing sponsor agreements reportedly provide for sponsors to cover the transaction fee.
- The Board agreed this should be presented to the **general membership** for discussion rather than being implemented immediately.

Sponsorship Revenue & Budget

- Outstanding sponsor invoices were reviewed, including Petelin, Thunderbird and Goodman Dermatology.
- Susy's requires a new contract and invoice.
- The new central sponsor/master spreadsheet is being used to improve tracking and forecasting.
- The Board identified a recurring budgeting problem: some sponsors pay three years at once, which makes one year's results appear unusually strong which creates a shortfall in subsequent

- years.
- Going forward, sponsor revenue should be forecast based on the actual expected payment year rather than assuming all contracted revenue will be received in the current year.
- The Treasurer is expected to present the next budget at the following Board meeting, with formal budget approval planned for November.
- Membership revenue assumptions for the next budget are expected to be more conservative.

Sponsorship / Website Revenue

- The Board discussed sponsor visibility on the website exceeds what some current agreements specify.
- The group discussed limiting automatic website exposure to sponsors whose existing agreements cover this benefit.
- Additional website placement could become part of a paid advertising/sponsorship package.
- The Board discussed creating packages that could include signs, uniforms and website exposure, with appropriate contract addenda and pricing.
- The terminology in contracts should be standardized so the club consistently uses **"sponsor/sponsorship"** rather than alternating between "advertiser" and "sponsor."

Action Items

- Identify and follow up on unpaid membership accounts.
- Continue evaluating credit-card payment capability.
- Prepare the next-year budget using more conservative and payment-timing-based assumptions.
- Complete outstanding sponsor contracts/invoices.
- Develop potential website/advertising sponsorship packages.
- Standardize sponsorship terminology in contracts.
- Prepare materials for the general membership meeting explaining budget variances and sponsor-payment timing.

Director of Field Maintenance - Jim Opyd

Field Projects

- Permanent foul lines have been paid for and are moving forward.
- Field work was already underway, including removal of grass and preparation for the infield work.
- Gothic is expected to complete the infield regrading after the current field work.
- Field maintenance also includes:
 - Replacing/reworking nets and the hitting station.
 - Cleaning base boxes and stands.
 - Re-aligning gates.
 - Addressing equipment storage and locks.
 - Preparing practice equipment for off-site practices.
- A new combination lock was installed for the building door, with the existing combination retained for now.
- Off-site practice preparation is being coordinated with Parks and Recreation at Asante. The proposed practice schedule will be four weeks in October as follows: Tuesdays the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th to Red, Wednesdays the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th to Blue and Thursdays the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th to White.
- Blue League will have both fields 1 and 2.
- Practice times are 730-11am.

- Additional fields will be added as more players return to Grand.
- Additionally, a new hitting station/net as well as new bases will be added.

Paver / Recognition Project

- The proposed paver project around the Score tower/Hall of Fame/president recognition area remains on hold while costs are evaluated.
- The project is expected to go through the Long-Range Planning Committee process.
- A drawing/mock-up is needed for the project proposal.

Action Items

- Complete field work and coordinate with Gothic.
- Complete foul-line installation.
- Continue equipment/net repairs and cleanup.
- Finalize off-site practice field arrangements.
- Develop a drawing/mock-up for the paver project and submit the project through the appropriate planning process.

Director of Membership Services - John Nicodimo

Registration / Team Sideline

- Registration totals reported during the meeting were approximately:
 - Red: **56**
 - White: **56**
 - Blue: **80**
 - Saturday: **90**
- The club had approximately **349 enrollments** in the new system.
- Duplicate enrollments and excessive items being placed in a single shopping cart are the primary enrollment issues.
- The club will keep substitute-list enrollment open so new members or players who later need to move to a substitute list can add themselves.
- The Board discussed adding a notification mechanism when someone joins a substitute list.
- Several players awaiting ratings will be rated during the first offsite practice week and allowed into the draft, consistent with how the club has handled the situation in recent years.

Training / Help Sessions

- Team Sideline help sessions are planned for late September and early October.
 - September 28 - Gila Room 2-3 pm
 - September 30 - Pima Room 2-3 pm
 - October 5 - Agua Fria 2-3 pm
- The purpose is to help members register and become comfortable with the new system.

Website / System Transition

- The club is preparing to move the website/domain from the old system to Team Sideline.
- The transition must account for website traffic, video links, email and DNS routing.
- A warning/reminder communication will be sent before the transition.

- The exact cutover date remains to be finalized.

Action Items

- Continue monitoring duplicate registrations.
 - Keep substitute-list registration available and develop a notification process.
 - Conduct Team Sideline help sessions.
 - Complete remaining player ratings before drafts.
 - Coordinate and communicate the website/domain cutover.
-

Vice President - Ken Silva

Discussion / Updates

- Five cases of softballs will be ordered for the upcoming season.
- Two sponsors are replacing previous sponsors:
 - **Palm West Community Church**
 - **Priority Roofing**
- Palm West jerseys are completed; Priority Roofing jersey arrangements are being coordinated.

Picnic / Jersey Assignments

- Volunteers will be solicited for picnic setup and takedown.
- Emails will be sent out to membership to seek volunteers for setup/takedown.
- Tables and chairs have been arranged.
- Jersey assignments will be distributed to commissioners, with commissioners picking up the jerseys before drafts.

Action Items

- Order and arrange delivery/storage of five cases of softballs.
 - Complete Priority Roofing jersey arrangements.
 - Recruit picnic volunteers.
 - Finalize and distribute league jersey assignments.
-

President - Ted Schneider

Revenue / CAM Discussions

- The President plans to meet with **Jeff Hockman** during the first two weeks of October to discuss the club's revenue-sharing arrangement, membership pricing and sponsorship revenue.
- A preliminary outline will be circulated to the Board for feedback before that meeting.
- The Board also plans to discuss sponsorship rates, which have not been changed since 2011.
- The club is considering how website sponsorship and other advertising opportunities could create additional revenue.
- The President noted the club's current \$75 membership fee is comparatively high within the community and the revenue-sharing arrangement should be considered alongside the fee level.

Senior Bats / 11-Inch Ball

- The President indicated senior bats for women's games remain under consideration.
- Activities Department/insurance concerns must be addressed before implementation.
- The discussion also connected the senior-bat issue with the proposed 11-inch ball. Red and Blue do not want the 11-inch ball, and the Board has not adopted it as a club-wide standard.
- The matter is expected to return for a formal vote at the next meeting.

Coed / Reciprocal Agreement

- A proposed reciprocal agreement with Sun City West was discussed.
- Concerns include liability and the possibility that a reciprocal agreement could create an expectation where the softball club will make its fields available to outside groups.
- The President will take the proposal to the appropriate community/Activities contacts before signing anything.

Community / Facility Issues

- A request from the fire department to use the softball field for a future event was discussed. Availability and coordination with Activities will be confirmed.
- The Board also discussed a community survey concerning food and beverage services and encouraging softball members to participate and request food/beverage availability at the softball field.

Governance / Nominating Committee

- A new nominating committee has been established:
 - Dan Newman
 - Laura Johnson
 - Denise Gabila
- Dan has developed an outline of the committee's responsibilities.
- The committee intends to recruit not only future Board members, but also volunteers for committee positions, with the goal of developing a broader volunteer/leadership pool.

Action Items

- Prepare and circulate the proposal for the Hockman meeting.
- Meet with Jeff Hockman regarding revenue sharing, membership pricing and sponsorship rates.
- Follow up with Activities regarding senior bats and insurance.
- Address the 11-inch ball issue before the next Board vote.
- Review the Sun City West reciprocal agreement with the appropriate community officials.
- Confirm the fire department field-use request.
- Encourage members to complete the food/beverage survey.
- Nominating committee to begin recruitment activities.

Old Business

New Business

Next Meeting / Key Items for Continued Discussion

The next meeting should address:

- Senior-bat policy and formal vote
- 11-inch ball decision
- Blue League draft-size/player-allocation solution
- Next-year budget
- Membership fee/revenue-sharing discussion
- Sponsorship rate and website advertising structure
- Team Sideline/domain transition
- Paver project proposal
- Outstanding Activities/CAM approvals

John Nicodemo made a motion for the meeting to end. Motion seconded by Ken Silva. Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 1506 hours.

Next Meeting is October 16, 2026 @ 12:00pm