

Long Island Senior Softball Association

Directors' Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Larry Prosky, 1st Vice President, standing in for President Joe Pellechi, who was out of town.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Cougars reported that Joe Letta, manager of the Cougars, was dealing with a recurring medical issue, and the Knights reported that Al Cappelli is also ill at the present time. All of LISSA offers best wishes for the speediest and most complete recoveries to Joe and Al.

The Cougars hosted the meeting and provided all refreshments. Thank you. With Jeff Steinberg on a modified diet of two donuts maximum, Dave Lynch disappearing more each month, and Jay Savino absent, there were many donuts left over for our Burns Park hosts at the conclusion of our meeting.

Jim W conducted the roll call and all teams were present except the Dodgers, Kings and the Lions who were unable to attend. The managers were reminded that our August meeting would again be at Burns Park.

Jeff read the minutes of the June meeting, which minutes are posted on the LISSA website. A Treasurer's report was provided by Jim W covering June, and Jim noted that we had \$9,048 in our account as of the June month-end, with \$1,500 still owed to the Vikings for a "net" total of about \$7,500. Jim reminded all in attendance is that our financial goal is to end the year with as small a balance as possible.

Agenda topics –

Topic 1 – The All-Star game was a great success, with the exception of the post-game cookout, which presented several challenges further explained by Brian E. We need a better process to manage the cookout in terms of who is paying and who is not, how many attendees can be expected to guide food and drink purchases, etc. Two ideas being considered for 2026 are to have a food truck provide all refreshments or to have "bracelets" to clearly indicate who has paid and who has not. More discussion will follow well before the 2026 event.

Topic 2 – The Hall of Fame inductees were selected and voted upon on July 9, and, in all, ten players were elected along with John Reilly of the Tigers who was elected for outstanding service to LISSA. The ten players elected who will be inducted at our HOF dinner in September were Bill Kropac (Lightning), Ken Mahaffey (Lions), John McCormick (Seagulls), John Schmidt and Joe Farinella (Dodgers), John Farina and Jeff Steinberg (Stars) and Tony Cherry, Bobby Gannon and Dean Zupo (Vikings). Congratulations to all of the 2025 inductees.

Topic 3 – The HOF dinner will be held on September 18 from 5:30pm to 9:30pm at Verdi's in Westbury. Jim announced that we will have a DJ rather than a band this year, which will generate a cost saving of

\$400, but will still allow for dancing for any guests who wish to do so. Tickets will be \$75 each, and each team is obliged to purchase a minimum of four tickets. With so many teams having HOF inductees this year, we are hoping for a very solid turnout.

Topic 4 – the Awards Luncheon will be held on October 24, again at Verdi's from 11:30am to 2:30pm.

Topics 5 and 7 – Larry reviewed the schedule changes for the end of the season that have become necessary due to our heat postponement and other factors. For Divisions 1 and 2, the regular season will end on September 4, with the tournament taking place on September 9 and 11. For Divisions 3 and 4, the regular season will end on August 28, with the play-in game on September 2 and the tournament taking place on September 4 and 9.

Topic 6 - \$250 payments from each team are due and should be provided to Jim W no later than the August meeting. As a reminder, this fee has been charged in recent years in lieu of the \$300 charge for raffle purchases that had been in place prior to that.

Topic 8 – Starting in August, we have agreed to establish a “heat protocol” that will be put in place for any game dates where unusually hot weather or extreme “real feel” temperatures are expected. Under this protocol, which will be implemented across all of LISSA on a leaguewide basis, games on hot days will start at 9am rather than 10am to avoid playing during the hottest hours of the day. Our expectation is that the heat protocol will be announced ONE day before game days, based on the latest possible weather forecasts, and the time change will also be communicated to the umpires at that time.

Topic 9 – Due to the low response for our AED training in East Meadow on July 9, our plan is to postpone this training until the fall, perhaps in connection with the November meeting, to allow for better attendance and more leaguewide knowledge of how to use this lifesaving equipment. Several suggestions were made about potential fund-raising ideas to allow us to acquire more AEDs as a league than the two we have right now.

Topic 10 – As noted at the June meeting, the Town of Hempstead had originally decided to only reimburse us \$55 per game for umpires, even though our cost for umpires is now \$60 per game. ToH must have anticipated the nasty comments Jeff S was going to make in July, and they have now reconsidered and will reimburse us for the full cost of the umpires for 27 games per team. Please keep careful track of your team's games on ToH fields, in particular games NOT played due to weather, forfeits, etc., so we can be sure that we are reimbursed fully for the ToH games.

New business topic 1 – Jeff S updated the Board on the progress of the ByLaws Committee. Our current plan is to present our ideas for substantive ByLaw changes to the Executive Board on August 13. The Exec Board would then decide if the proposed changes should be presented to the full Board for further discussion and voting, most likely at our September meeting.

New business topic 2 – Ted B of the Bees informed all of his team's protest of their postponed games against the Kings scheduled for July 10. Ted also provided a written protest to Larry, which has already been shared with the Executive Board (which serves as our “Protest Committee”). For a variety of reasons presented at the meeting, the Bees are requesting that they be awarded forfeits for the

cancelled games, rather than rescheduling the games under our typical rainout procedures. A decision on the protest should be forthcoming shortly.

New business topic 3 – The rules on use of the designated fielder were clarified for all. The principal question was whether a player identified as a designated fielder needs to a) play from the very start of the game and b) play every inning of the game. The answer to both questions is “NO”. Further, any players who will be used as designated fielders (limited to two per game) must be identified as such and included at the bottom of the line-up card shared with the opposing manager prior to the game.

New business topic 4 – Dave L indicated that a player had approached him indicating possible interest in forming and leading an 18th team in LISSA in the 2026 season. We have discussed many times what a great benefit an 18th team would be for our alignment challenges and scheduling issues as well. Please continue to refer anyone interested in leading a new team to the Executive Board so we can assist them with the process before planning for the 2026 season begins. As noted at several prior meetings, the Monday make-up dates continue to be challenging for several teams, and an 18th team could help in this regard as well.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30am. Our next meeting will be on August 20, 2025 at Burns Park and the Pirates will be our hosts.