

# Board of Director's Meeting SGVBUA

8/10/2022

Roll Call

## Board Members:

**Jeremy Hamlett** – President – present

**Louis Ortiz** – Vice President - present

**Tim Triplett** — Secretary\Treasurer - present

**Kendall McCarthy** – Instructional Chair – present

**Phil DiPrima** – Assignor – present

**Will Fortner** – 1<sup>st</sup> term – absent

**Jason Plourde**– 2<sup>nd</sup> term- present

**Johnny Villegas** -2<sup>nd</sup> term - present

**Jack Johnson** – 1<sup>st</sup> term – present

**Steve Rose** –1<sup>st</sup> term - present

There were technical issues. Tim started the meeting. **Tim said the minutes were motioned and approved. The agenda was also approved.**

## Open Forum:

- Nothing.

## President's report – Jeremy Hamlett:

- Skipped – Jeremy had technical issues.

## VP's Report – Louis Ortiz

- Nothing to report.

## Secretary\Treasurer report - Tim Triplett:

- Tim said the BOD insurance is coming up at the end of September. That is the only expense coming up. He has not received any dues for the 2023 season. He said this week or next week we should probably get an email out letting members know they can start paying dues. Jason asked if we decided the amount for dues. Tim said he thought it was the same. He didn't remember that it was an item to be discussed. He said if someone wants to change it, it should be made an agenda item. Jason said he thinks it should be discussed because it could be part of the reason why we don't have a higher active participants. Tim said if everyone is ok it can be added as the last item on the agenda.

## Assignor's report – Phil DiPrima:

- Phil said he has half of his assigning fee invoices out to the membership. He has about 50% more to do. When he comes back from vacation middle of next week he will start working on them and he hopes to have all that out to everybody, by the end of the month.

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### Instructional Chair report – Kendall McCarthy:

- Kendall said he and Jeremy spoke and they both want to start our meeting early, like October. They were thinking October 15<sup>th</sup>. They chose a Sunday because there are umpires that do travel ball, but more than likely all of us would be off on a Sunday. We want to streamline to make it easier on all the umpires to be certified. We want to lower the number of classroom meetings. We could have three classroom meetings, the very first meeting would be a three hour credit and it'd be a Barbecue at someone's home. The assignor would speak, and the instructional chair, and we give all the umpires what our expectations are for the season. There would be two mandatory classroom meetings with the total class credit of six hours, that's in addition to the very first Barbecue meeting. The meetings that would be mandatory would be the nomination meeting, mechanics and rules, elections and final updates for the season and if anyone were to miss any of these two meetings, they would have to be replaced by attending one of the two makeup meetings. The mandatory test and class credit would be the classification exam. They don't think we would give them credit for the study guide being that it is not one you really have to pass. There are many other opportunities to get the 18 hours and the new members 21 hours, so they didn't want to load that up by applying three hours to the study guide. Kendall will have 2 field clinics, probably end up having more, but one on a Saturday, one on a weeknight and he will have to work with Phil to get a field for that. The mandatory field clinic is another three hours. We are working with the board of directors to approve fall ball games. Members would get three hours credit for attending and participating in a fall ball game, even if you showed up and you participated or observed the pregame and you stay there, and you observe the post game, you would get three hours for that. You have to attend a board approved fall ball game and be present for the pregame and postgame. The board of directors would approve a study guide meeting and the new comers meeting and the makeup classes of two hours. Kendall would like to solidify some actual dates that he could send out to the membership for regular meetings, but he has to send it to the board for approval first. The first one he would like the 15<sup>th</sup> of October so maybe we can discuss that.
- He had a long talk with Tomlinson today. Kendall asked if anyone opposed meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday, not the 15<sup>th</sup>. Phil said he can not do any Saturdays or Sundays between Labor Day and Christmas. Kendall asked if we should move it to a weekday. Phil said he was just asking if we would be able to pull off cooking and feeding everyone during the week. Kendall said he didn't know why we wouldn't be able to do it during the week. Tim said he didn't understand why we are trying to move it to a weekday. If people can't attend, they just can't attend. The whole point of the BBQ was to get together on a weekend. Kendall said he knows we can't accommodate everyone, but he thinks Phil is necessary at the first meeting. Tim said Phil is important but if he can't make it on a weekend, he can send his information to someone, and they will have to present it. He said people work during the week. We had wanted it on the weekend to try to get more people to come and create some comradery. Tim said in his opinion we should leave it on the weekend. Louis said he agreed with Tim, getting people to a BBQ during the week will be tough. Kendall asked if the board was good with October 16<sup>th</sup>, a Sunday. Tim said Kendall should submit the whole schedule for approval instead of one day at a time. Kendall said he will email the schedule to the board on Friday. Phil said he thinks approving the first meeting at the next board meeting doesn't give people enough time, only one month to let people know about the meeting. He thinks we should approve the first meeting date tonight and approve the rest of the schedule next meeting. We can tell members about the BBQ and let

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them know the rest of the schedule will be out in 4-6 weeks. Tim asked for a motion. Kendall said first meeting, BBQ meeting will be on **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**. Location TBD. **Jack approved and Johnny seconded**. Steve said he would rather see the meeting on a weeknight. He abstains. **Everyone voted motion passed 5-1**. Kendall will get the rest of the schedule out to the board by Friday. Jack said the BBQ could be held at his house. Tim asked if there needed to be a revote with the location and Jeremy said no. Meeting will be held at Jack's house. Jeremy said he did think the board should discuss dues so we can send out the information regarding dues along with the information regarding the first meeting. Kendall said he would include the first meeting in Oct in his weekly update email. Jeremy said it should come from Tim, the first meeting date and the dues.

- Phil said he has some concerns regarding the offseason fall ball games that will be used for training. He asked are these going to be any kind of off season fall ball games, or do they have to be high school only so that they're following some kind of semblance of high school rules. Jeremy said he was thinking about tapping into what Phil has in the fall and if the board thinks those calibers of games would be worthy of what we're trying to talk about, then those could be the board approved games that we would be referencing. Phil asked if Jeremy was talking just offseason high school games, or local 14 and under games, 14 and under are pretty competitive and he asked if we are good with that. Jeremy said he is good with that because we've done some 14 games that are better than some varsity games. Jeremy said Phil could pick some games that could be those approved BOD games, for people to work and get paid and get credit or for folks to go do the pregame, watch the game, do the post-game and then get the credit. Phil asked if we should hold off on that until after the October 16 meeting to give the members a window of time after the first meeting through the last Saturday before the regular season starts. Jeremy said he agrees, we shouldn't offer anything before the first meeting. Phil said he is not in favor of allowing our members to come and sit in the stands for three hours between sitting in a pre-game, sitting and watching and sitting in a post game and getting credit for it, they should have their butts on the field. The amount of legwork that's going to go behind that is quite a bit. Phil said he needs to make sure that we're going to always have somebody that's willing to get on the field and work the game and he needs to be compensated assigning fees for this or somebody else will have to take on the task of assigning officials to show up to the games. Jack asked if Phil was referring to a rotation. Hypothetically, seven people show up, you do a rotation every two innings or something like that, where they rotate in and out type thing. Phil said that's entirely up to however it's going to be handled that day. We have seven guys showing up to PHS on a Saturday, let's rotate them. We must have an approved observer there from the board, who can facilitate that rotation. If we have a game at PHS on a Saturday, and we have seven guys show up and six are in civies and the other one in uniform, we have one guy doing a one-man game, what good is that. He has to make sure there's somebody on the field. Jason asked Phil if there is a possibility that he can get two guys working the game, and then we can do self-assign. Where you sign up for that game and those guys can be the guys that come in and evaluate or something like that. Phil said he would need somebody to be self-assigned to the plate to make sure they're going to do the plate and understand, they may have to do all seven innings. Jason asked Phil can he put that on the assignment to the west coast umpires and then once he gets that assigned with his guys and he has two people that work it, then put the self-assign and let guys show up and evaluate. Phil said he doesn't foresee any of these board approved dates that he is going to have a nonmember assigned to the plate. He thinks it's

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important that we have a member of our unit officiate the game, because they need to be insured. They need to know the rules because this is a unit function. He can't have a little league guy who's not in our unit show up and do a plate while we're all sitting there watching or working the game, he thinks there's some liability there. Jason asked isn't that what we want, to get that guy from little league to high school. Phil said he doesn't know any of those guys. He's been doing this for a long time, and he has quite a few guys that work rec ball for him that do not work high school. At this moment in time there isn't anybody that's looking to make that transition. It's always an opportunity and he is always talking and asking and advocating for the unit people to get into high school baseball and softball. Phil said he isn't going to cover any of these games with nonmembers of our unit. Jason said he agrees and thinks Phil should be compensated. He thinks it should be discussed. Jeremy asked Phil since we are changing the meeting structure and making it less classroom and making it a little bit easier for folks to get in, if he thinks that'll help attract some of those higher-level rec guys that aren't in high school now to maybe get in because we are making it easier to get certified. Phil said he thinks it's possible. Tim asked how many games we are looking to have assigned. Phil said probably from the end of September early October, all the way through the last Saturday in February before the start of the season, there will be games, except for Christmas and New year's weekend, somebody's going to be playing. Johnny asked is it our members that are going to be assigned these games and in the hopes that we can attract more people are making it easier for our members to get time in on the field is that what the purpose is. Jeremy said we're just trying to make it so there's less classroom meetings, just for any everybody in general. In particular the thought process is to try to attract some of those high-level Rec guys that like Phil said aren't doing high school because traditionally there's six in person meetings and you have to jump through all these hoops. Jeremy said he is trying to reduce the hoops so we can maybe attract more folks that are already capable and just transition them to the high school field. He said he hadn't thought about what Phil brought up right now, which is a good point about having nonmembers out there, so maybe we need to tweak this. Maybe it should be that it's our current members that are able to get that time on the field working. He said he also hears what Phil's saying about folks in shorts while somebody else's working, but maybe with the new folks that are interested or nonmembers, maybe we limit it to one or two at a game that they can be there, observing. Then there's the discussion with our members that work the game, trying to meet Phil halfway. Johnny said the other big problem that we have in recruiting new members is the time of our games, the high school games. There's a lot of people, even with members we have now, they're coming from a job that they work and some of them just can't make that 3:00, 2:45 time. Kendall asked if we should table fall ball until we clean it up. Phil said he thinks so unless we want to sit here and go through it all right now. He thinks there needs to be more discussion and have a better understanding of who can get hours from working these games and how we're going to handle the assignment piece of this. He would rather see our unit work whether it's the whole game or two innings. Tim said he agrees. He asked how much the games pay. Phil said \$80 a game for 7 innings and \$100 a game per 9 innings. Jack asked if it's per umpire and Phil said they are only asking for one umpire, no one has asked for 2. Kendall said if we were to eliminate the participation in the fall ball games and the members participated in everything else that would give them 15 hours. That leaves them three hours short of certifying. He has quite a few classes that could be taken online to get hours. He and Jeremy briefly talked about concussion, whether or not it should be mandatory or not, but that's something the board

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needs to decide on. It would be every three years for the concussion and many of the officials who do other sports have already taking that class. It's already credit there, but there are other classes - heat related illnesses, cardiac arrest, are some really, really good courses to be taken online for free that can be done now. He has to wait to make sure all of our officials are signed when the first preseason game is available, so we are not worrying about who can't work games because they aren't certified yet. Jason said he knows Phil is really good at trying to match umpires with the level. He asked if the fall ball games, aren't they already matched with guys in our unit. Phil said for the most part, yes, but there's not a lot of the members in our unit going out and working those games. He said there's less than 10 that are going out and working one fall ball game at 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock in the morning. The other members are doing basketball or football or they're working travel ball tournaments somewhere else, they're doing out of town or whatever. For him, with our schools there's not a lot of our guys that are out there doing fall ball every weekend. Jason said he thinks Phil should be compensated for setting it up to where you have a game where there's two of our officials, not his rec ball officials, and post that so people can go on the self-assign on arbiter and they can watch those guys. Yes, it would be ideal if those guys got on the field, but if they can't get on the field, or if they choose not to get on the field that's the least another way that they can get hours for certification. Kendall said the frustrating thing for him as the instructional chair is we're in a new world here, as Jeremy said, we have to make the process as easy as possible for members to get their 18 hours because they can just say screw it, I'm just going to do travel ball, I don't want to show up for five or six meetings. Kendall suggests offering that they take some of these online classes and he is more than willing if someone in our unit is doing a travel ball game for Phil and they let him know or any other board member know so we can observe them and give them credit for being observed. We have to make life easier. Jeremy asked Phil if we have rec ball guys that might be able to transition over and they do a game and one of us went to observe them, would he be okay with them getting the credit and then he doesn't have to worry about that liability piece, because they would have been working that game anyways for him. Phil said yes, that is doable. Jeremy asked Phil if he would still need the assignor fee or would that happen from that individual taking the game. Phil said it would happen from that individual taking the game. Jeremy said maybe that's the route we take, if those new folks do want to get in, their doing his game that they would have done anyway, so it takes away the liability, Phil has his assignor fee so he's not doing this extra work for nothing. Then it gets one of us out there to observe them and then that gets them credit. Phil said that answers the question as far as a nonmember and how we give them opportunities to get involved, get certified, and get hours. That's a great idea. He thinks the only question is, our members who are currently certified, who will be coming back, just to be able to show up and watch rather than show up and get on the field. Jeremy asked Phil if he is opposed to that. Phil said he thinks what's going to happen is there's going to be about 8 to 10 umpires that are going to be on the field working and everybody else is going to be sitting on their ass watching and bullshitting. Jason said when everybody sitting, they are not necessarily bullshitting but it's a time to learn what to do and what not to do. It brings up discussion points. Phil said he gets it and there is value in that, he just doesn't see it. Jason asked if it is work certification. Tim said why don't we do this like we used to do scrimmages. We can divide that money up or we can keep it for the unit. We used to do scrimmages before the season started, we just had eight people show up to a scrimmage we had people come in, we had an observer, even though the schools paid us the money went to the unit. We had a pizza

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party afterwards. Just have everybody work, we don't need to have people just showing up to watch. He agrees with Phil, he would rather have put people on the field. Johnny said we can put someone in like every other inning. Everybody works. Jason asked if we could self-assign through Arbiter. Phil said that is doable. Tim said he doesn't think we should self-assign. We need to push it and if we're going to push it, we push it, we say these are the dates, we need bodies and we assign those dates. With self-assign we may run into an issue where it was only one person who self-assigned. Phil said you're giving people the opportunity to make their own schedule here in the offseason. Phil said for him to just go in there and say Tim's working November 12 and you may not be available that day you're going to decline the game, and then he has to find something else for you to do. Phil thinks the self-assign feature works better right now in the offseason and if it comes up to where there's only one guy assigned to the game, well then, he's just going to go work the game and it will be a paid game for that official and then he can keep the game fees. Phil will charge a \$5 assignment fee for it and whether or not we decide to give that official hours for doing a one man game or not that's a different story. Jason said he thinks if we sell it, if you want to get hours, instead of being in the classroom, then come and work games. If you work those games, then if there's more people there, you get hours instead of being in the classroom. He thinks if we do self-assign, we're going to get a lot more people. Jeremy said if we go back to the scrimmages, we're taking away from the flexibility that we're trying to create with this new schedule. We're going back to the mandating a day say November 12 that they have to be on the field, as opposed to saying we have BOD fall ball for three months pick a weekend that works for you, you can get paid and get hours. He thinks going to scrimmages takes away from the flexibility that we're trying to create. The other compromise, more directed at Phil, how about if we only do two person games. Two guys are working it, they get paid, and then there's two people that are there observing. One for the plate and one for the base, so they're specifically watching those positions. They're there for the pregame, they specifically talk pregame for those positions, they watch the game. The base guy watching a base guy, there's Tim watching the plate guy, and then after we have conversations with our counterparts. We're getting away from the bs scene and maybe we just limit it to two guys work the game, they are going to get paid and get hours, like you're getting your cake and eat it too. This might be more productive if we only limit it to two people, there's someone watching the plate, and someone watching the base. Jason said he thinks this is a great idea and asked Phil if there is a way to limit the self-assign to two people. Phil said we can limit the self-assign, but he isn't opposed to say we have five guys that sign up for a particular game, to allow them all the opportunity to rotate base and plate. It could be five playoff officials; they may just want to run a three man all day. He doesn't think we just limit it to a two-man game, but we're going to have plenty of games in the fall and the winter for us to determine these board approved offseason game for hours. Then we will have to make sure we have it covered, then we can just limit it to the number of people 2,4,6,8 umpires and if it's full it's full you got to go to a different one. Jason said he thinks that's a great idea, it gives people exposure with the three-man game. Maybe some of the higher games, like Monrovia, say we're going to do a three-man game, it's self-assigned. If we don't get three-man, they only paid for one man so then having a one-man game, no big deal, that's normal to them. If we can get three-man, then those three guys will get hours for classroom time instead of getting paid. Phil said the money could be collected and sent to Tim as a donation to the unit. Phil said that is doable. Jack said we gather the \$80 fee and if there are two umpires then they get 20 bucks a game if there's three umpires

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they get 20 bucks for the game, the rest goes to the league or will get split between the league and Phil for the assignor fee. So at least the guys are getting their gas covered going to and from the game. He thinks that might encourage some of the lower end guys to at least go to those games. Phil said he thinks that becomes a financial and administrative payroll nightmare for us. Phil said he thinks if a guy gets stuck doing a one-man game, let him keep the fee. If he decides he wants to donate it to the unit, so be it. If it's two or more, the fee goes to the unit it's that simple. Kendall said, right now, in order for a member to be certified, they have to do a fall ball game because there's no other opportunities to get the extra three hours to get 18. They attend three meetings, the field clinic and take the classification exam and that's 15 hours. There has to be another way to get the additional three hours to certify and it not be a mandatory fall ball game. Jeremy said there is still 2 make-up meetings. If someone doesn't want to work, they can attend a make-up meeting. Jeremy said they do all the other stuff they are at 15, if they don't want to do fall ball and they just do one of the two makeup meetings. Once we approve a study guide session if they go to that study guide session, they can get their hours as well, so I think we're good flexibility wise. Tim said he is totally behind exactly what Phil just said regarding one man, one person gets paid, two persons three persons, it comes back to the unit. If it's a one person, it is probably one person because it couldn't get assigned so they deserve to keep the whole fee. If there's more than one, more than two or three, it'd be good if we can get an observer out there. He agrees trying to do the payroll thing, trying to divvy up money, that's going to be a nightmare. Phil asked we do not want to make an offseason or call it a preseason scrimmage mandatory, then we're just kind of giving them an option. Jeremy and Tim agreed, no mandatory scrimmages. Jeremy said he hadn't thought about it but if someone didn't want to do games, they could get all their hours without doing a game. We're making it easy if you want to just go to class, you can go to class, if you want to get on the field, you can get on the field. He doesn't know how much easier we can make it to try to get guys interested in doing this stuff with us. Jeremy will have some follow up with Phil and Kendall. They will try to flush a little bit more of this out and then they will bring it back again at the next board meeting. Phil asked if we're changing our instructional calendar, do we need to update our bylaws. Our bylaws are pretty specific on what our instructional calendar is. Jeremy asked if it was date wise. Phil said our bylaws are very specific on what the instructional calendar should be, not dates, but the number of meetings. Jeremy said he would need to dig into that, he hadn't thought of it. Jeremy asked if we are still comfortable with the 16<sup>th</sup> as the first meeting. Tim said it could be a unit meeting so it wouldn't matter.

- Kendall said there are new rules coming out, but the new rule book won't be available until September. Kendall discussed some of the changes.

### **Discussion Items:**

- **Unit Dues** – Jeremy asked Tim if dues are \$105. Tim said yes. Jeremy asked Jason what he wanted to discuss. Jason said last July we decided to bump up the dues, and then we had a lot of people that complained so we lowered dues. He thinks that for the people that are returning members, and that are partial members, the late fee, what are we going to do. He doesn't know what the fees are. Tim said last year, we did not bump up to dues. All we did was make it if they paid us late, it went from \$105 from \$125. If they paid later than the third date, dues went to \$145. Our dues have been the same for the last three years. Jason said we need to discuss the late charges. Tim said we dropped the late charges and made it \$105 across the board in the middle of the season. We dropped those late charges and we just charged everybody \$105. For

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those people who paid the \$145 or \$125 they were to receive a credit for that additional \$20 or \$40. And for associate members that fee has been \$80. Tim said that is a full member \$105 and \$80 is an associate member who works other units. We will not supply a kit for them at all okay. Jason said that's perfect. Jack asked if he sends a check tomorrow for \$105 his fees are covered. Tim said yes. Jason said he talked to Richard I. who was a full member with us and became an associate member. The membership where he went their dues were \$75 and they didn't have as many guys as we had, they had less guys. He thinks it was Foothill Citrus. Jason asked if there any way that we could drop the fees to maybe possibly get more people involved. Tim said we can do anything we vote on, but he doesn't recommend dropping the fees. Jeremy said he doesn't think we should drop them either. Tim said he doesn't think we should even explore dropping the fees until our membership has increased to a steady amount. Our membership is still down and us dropping the fees it's just not going to help us as a unit when we have only 40 - 45 umpires. Jason said that he said when he was going to run for this, he was going to try to figure out how we could maybe drop fees and he's asking the question because that's what he said he would do, and if it can't happen, he understands. Jack asked what the current balance is. Tim said it is \$4300. Jack said if he remembers that is what our annual expenses come in at, about \$3500 or so. Tim said he doesn't have the information in front of him but that is correct, it is about there. Jack said he would concur that we keep the fees the same. Jeremy asked if everyone is ok with Tim sending out the email letting the unit know about the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> and that dues are \$105 and people can start paying.

- Jason asked about awards. Jeremy said it wasn't on the agenda. Kendall said the BBQ would be a good time to give them out. Jason asked if we need to give out awards for last year. Jack asked if this is a board decision or group decision. Jason said he thought it was a board decision. Jeremy said he checked the agenda and it's not on there and since it is almost 8:00 so we can put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Jason said we have to make sure Phil is at the next meeting because he is the reason we didn't discuss it at the first meeting we had at Jack's. He said if we aren't going to give out awards, we can take the money we have set aside for awards and put it somewhere else.

### **Action Items:**

- None

**Next board meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:30pm.**

**Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.**