Mankato Peppers Softball

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Peppers Performance Facility

Officers

President:
Ryan Kapsner X
Vice-President:
Dan Grack X
Secretary:
Kelly Biedscheid
Treasurer:
Brenda Stevermer X

Positions:

Tournament Director:
Phil Tostenson X
Organizational Coordinator:
Ashley Staunton X
Finance Manager:
Katie Faugstad
Concession:

Social Media Coordinator:
Emily Hudspith
Umpire Coordinator:
Rose Veldhuisen

Members

Jamie Aanenson
Bob Elsen X
Ryan Altmann X
JJ Helget
Mike Kirchoff X
Brittany Schloesser XCV
Kelly Terrell

Next meeting Scheduled:
11/18/26 @ Peppers Facility

Agenda

• Welcome and introduction Call to order 7:02 p.m. Brian Davis and Bryan Haley were present as potential new board members. Both stated why they are interested in joining the Board.

• Adoption and/or correction of the minutes of the last meeting – **Voting Item** No questions – **Brenda motioned to approve, Mike second. All in favor. Motion passed.**

• Financial Report – **Voting Item** Katie was unable to make the meeting. She did send financial report and Ryan will circulate those around for review. A lot of our net income is because of sponsorships. All leagues have met or exceeded last year's budget based on financial reports. Brenda is working on comparing budgets to help committees work on budgets for next year. Uniform invoice is still needed. Brenda is working with Good Times to work through that.

Committee Reports

• Tournaments - **(Phil)** Phil has everything listed online. Teams are registering for all of them except for the Showdown because those teams aren't formed yet. Seeing some new teams coming through. Phil and Maddie will continue to post on socials and email coaches. Phil will work with JJ to make sure all teams get registered for our tournaments before they get too full. We are listed as a host site for 14u Monsta again next year if we want to do it again. Phil will reach out to Claudia to get sites reserved. Phil will also put down 8u state to see if we can be a host site again for that. Phil is working on tournament budget. Classic will be sanctioned with both USSSA and MN Softball. We'll do gift bags again next year – teams really enjoyed that. We'll find out if Snell is interested in donating those again.

• Umpires - **(Rose)** Rose did well last year and got good feedback from umpires. There isn't a need for a change and she wants to continue to do it. Ryan will talk with Brian DeVos. We need more umpires and there's definitely a shortage.

• Concessions - Nothing new.

• Equipment - Fall ball bags came back. Still waiting on 2. All travel teams have their bags. Will need to relook at those in the spring to make sure nobody needs anything. Need to get some more Tanner Tees (something decent). Megan and Mac are running some clinics and will let Brenda know if they need any additional equipment for those but nothing new needed yet.

• Performance Facility - (**Dan**, Mike, Brenda, Ryan A) The buildout of the pitching area is going slow but it's going. They had to move a water line and cut some concrete. Need to put some steel walls in and ceiling, take the rest of the electrical down, send in the electrician to do lighting, HVAC, and then turf. It's taking more time than initially planned but all is good. The 3 lanes work well, and players can pitch in the hitting lanes for the time being. Dan will order turf this Friday. Dan will talk to 24/7 to get the Portolite pitching mats ordered. Those will be ordered once a plan is in place with the backstop. Need to make it so the balls don't get chewed up. Still some minor things to do in the main hitting area as well. November is the projected timeline for completion. We need more water for the facility – Brenda will talk with Jim at HyVee to get some more.

• Jerseys/Apparel - (**Brenda**, Kelly T, Brittany, Mike) BSN has sent all tops and pants to Brenda. Just waiting on Champro so try-ons can get scheduled. Once logos and setup are approved, then we can order. Waiting on OFC to approve size of logo. Goal is to have jerseys ordered soon. Belts and socks will be ordered through Play It Again. We have a large clothing order coming in for Christmas. LOTS of new items for online ordering and buying at the facility. Lots of choices in kids sizes and colors as well. Bag orders go until November 5th. Reminder emails will get sent the week before ordering closes.

• Summer/Dome Travel- (**JJ**, Dan, Ryan A, Kelly T, Bob) Travel coach meeting went well – good turnout. Only 1 couldn't make it and that will be made up with Ryan K. Good discussions and questions. Still in need of 14A head coach – we need everyone to canvas our resources to find more candidates. We've interviewed a good handful, but nothing came to fruition. 14A and 16A are still in need of top level pitchers. Word will be sent out again in early 2027. Bob's team added a solid pitcher and Mya's team as well. 8u tryouts are next – Phil will make a team and register them for tournaments early. Propose that we look at February for 8u tryouts to give more time to meet with coaches and set tournament schedule. All background travel coaches checks are done. 2 need to complete concussion. Biggest priorities are finding a 14A head coach and getting 14u and 16u pitchers. Discussion was had on how 8u tryouts should look. Would be good to get 8u in the offseason training rotation as well. Coaches know to start making tournament spreadsheets and the board will help them start registering. Coaches should consider delegating a "team manager" to make sure emails are being monitored and received – hopefully nothing gets missed. Coaches have been given lots of information to help. A 14u and 16u team have been penciled in for Mankato Dome Ball. It's on the website that 12u could play and we will find out if 24/7 will make a 12u league. Jamie is going to sign up his 10U team up for Turkey Trot Dome Tournament and possibly one other. Time with Bethany has been reserved for travel players to use. We have dates out to West Softball and East Softball to take some dates to help at Bethany and also do some winter clinics. Coaches have been encouraged to come to offseason training sessions to learn some things from the trainers. If coaches would like to schedule a practice with their team, they should reach out to travel coordinator. The facility will be busy this winter so no more than once a week for a team would be good. Fundraising opportunities are continuing to go on to help with offsetting player fees and raise some individual team funds.

• SSL/Lil Peppers/Fall- (**Kelly,** Mike, Brittany) Nothing much going on – bags have been returned. Committee Chairs should be set for next year. Would be nice to keep the same as last year. Ryan K would like to see a Board member or two from In-House and/or Lil' Peppers. Right now it's all travel families on the Board – would be nice to get a couple from In-House or Lil' Peppers.

• Marketing/Social Media- (**Emily**, Brenda, Kelly B, Ashley) Social media continues to get great responses. Posts will continue to be sent out. Off-season training posts will be blasted out as well to help promote our trainers. Website is 90% done. Maddie ready to launch. Need to work through how it fits with Sports Engine and current registrations. Every committee will be in charge of their respective page and get Maddie the information. Emily continues to do posts – make sure to get information to her and she will get it sent out. There will be a "get to know my board" questionnaire for the new website and social media. Sponsors will be posted as well so they get some traction and attention.

• HOF/Foundation - (**Brenda**, Kelly T, Brittany) Nothing going on with HOF. Brenda will push out for alumni.
• Sponsorships (**Ryan K**, Bob) Dr. Pepper has our request, MEI, Western Specialist. The Venue donated a large amount. Keep trying to get in front of people to get some sponsorships. Sponsorship spreadsheet should be gone through to determine who should be billed for next year on a renewal sponsorship from last year. Need sponsor yet for center hitting cage, the dugout area, and a "bullpen" sponsor. Chick Fil-A might be interested in doing something also. Bob has a contact there.

• Camps/Development - (**JJ**, **Kelly B**, Ryan A, Bob, Jamie) Winter training sessions are up and going. Working on trying to get more traction on hitter/pitcher dual. Megan has done them before at Sibley Park.

• Gambling/Fundraising - (Kelly B, JJ, Dan) The gambling side is slow. Dan will work with Megan to set up meetings, etc. with area bars but he wants to get facility done first. It will be a big priority in 2027 to get some recurring revenue. Pam from WowZone would like to get involved with us too. Next Wednesday is the last week for Bingo at WowZone. HyVee card sales are going well – Aisles Online might not be working so will need to check into that for next time.

Old Business

New Requests- Discussion and voting items

Annual Board Meeting December 16 @ 7:00 – ask Emily to do a post – will be at Facility

Potential new board member introductions Done at beginning of meeting. Both are still interested. **Bryan Haley – Ryan A motioned to add Bryan Haley to the Board, Brenda 2nd. All in favor, motion passed. Brian Davis – Dan motioned to add Brian Davis to the Board, Brittney 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.** Welcome to our new members!

Adjournment – Voting Item Brenda motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45, Dan 2nd, all in favor. Motion passed.