

# Washington State Little League

## Meeting Minutes

Fall State Meeting • Saturday, October 11, 2025 • Dayton, WA

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### SECTION 1: MEETING DETAILS

| Organization            | Washington State Little League   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Meeting Type            | Fall State Meeting               |
| Date                    | Saturday, October 11, 2025       |
| Location                | Best Western, Dayton, WA         |
| Host District           | District 5                       |
| Meeting Called to Order | 9:07 AM                          |
| Meeting Adjourned       | 2:26 PM                          |
| Quorum                  | Met — 12 of 13 Districts present |

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### SECTION 2: OPENING CEREMONIES

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Little League Pledge
- Various district pins to trade are on the table in the back.

#### Voting Note:

Only District Administrators (DAs) may vote unless a proxy has been formally designated.

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## SECTION 3: ATTENDANCE

### Districts Present (12 of 13)

| District | DA             | Status    | Additional Representatives                                                                       |
|----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D1       | Doug Sheldon   | Virtual   | Jason Becker                                                                                     |
| D2       | Pat Ryan       | In Person | Brittany Freeze (ADA), Allison Ryan (ADA)                                                        |
| D3       | Glen Dickason  | In Person | Loris Gies (ADA)                                                                                 |
| D4       | Ann Leggett    | In Person | Darrin Leggett (WA Softball State UIC)                                                           |
| D5       | Brennan Moore  | In Person | Tiger, Alicia                                                                                    |
| D6       | Melanie Heaton | Virtual   | —                                                                                                |
| D7       | Cammie Pekonen | In Person | —                                                                                                |
| D8       | Brian Marantz  | In Person | —                                                                                                |
| D9       | Bob Toigo      | In Person | Tonya, Steve Allen, Rob Little (State IO), Janice Christensen (Little League Board of Directors) |
| D11      | Susan Tucker   | In Person | Bill Kosmas (WA Baseball State UIC)                                                              |
| D12      | Kim Betzsold   | In Person | —                                                                                                |
| D13      | JP Pittman     | In Person | —                                                                                                |

### Districts Not Present (1 of 13)

| District | DA              | Note                                           |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| D10      | Charles Heitman | Not in attendance – No representative or proxy |

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## SECTION 4: APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from the **March 25, 2025** meeting were reviewed.

- **Motion to Approve:** Cammie Pekonen (D7)
- **Seconded:** Bob Toigo (D9)
- **Discussion:** None
- **Result:** Motion passed unanimously

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## SECTION 5: OLD BUSINESS

### 5.1 Umpire Meeting Report

*Presented by Bill Kosmas (WA Baseball State UIC) and Darrin Leggett (WA Softball State UIC)*

A virtual umpire state meeting was held approximately two weeks prior to this meeting. Ten (10) of thirteen (13) districts were represented.

#### **Post-Season Regional & World Series Honorees — Baseball**

- Gary Wilder – Junior Baseball Regional
- Bill Kosmas – Senior Baseball Regional
- Tim Neesham – Senior Baseball Regional
- Chris Mathis – World Series (Williamsport)
- Dennis Williams – World Series (Williamsport)

#### **Post-Season Regional & World Series Honorees — Softball**

- Eddie Angel (D3) – Junior Softball Regional
- Carl Koonz – Senior Softball Regional
- Bob (Robert) Wolf – Senior Softball Regional
- Jason Becker (D1) – Major Softball / Little League Softball World Series

#### **Stu Hartenstein Training Program**

Bill reported that Stu Hartenstein's training program has measurably improved umpiring quality over the past two seasons, including significant improvements to strike zone consistency (actual strikes vs. perceived strikes). Darrin noted that the softball strike zone is called tighter at the World Series level and requires a different approach for softball umpires.

#### **UIC Mentoring Program**

Six (6) UICs volunteered to mentor new UICs, with emphasis on the state tournament period. Current volunteers include Bill Kosmas, Darrin Leggett, and Jason Becker, with three additional UICs to be determined. Focus areas include scheduling, training, and process during the state tournament period. Bill will distribute the UIC participant list and meeting minutes to all Districts.

## Umpire Clinics

- **Moses Lake** (hosted jointly by D5, D13, and D12): 24 umpires trained over two days; attendees came from out-of-state.
- **Seattle clinic**: Sold out within one week of posting; also drew out-of-state attendees.

## Train-the-Trainer Clinics

- D11/D1 region hosted a clinic in Everett.
- D4/D6 region hosted a clinic in Vancouver; approximately half of attendees were from Oregon.

## ID Camp Discussion

The West Region Umpire Alumni Association may fund Washington State umpires to attend ID camps (estimated cost: approximately \$1,000 per umpire). There is currently no Northwest ID camp planned. Mark Bernstein at Little League International Headquarters will be contacted to discuss costs.

Key discussion points raised:

- **Bob Toigo (D9)**: Asked why some umpires are selected for multiple World Series assignments — explained that repeat selectees are typically serving as Crew Chiefs.
- **Darrin Leggett**: Expressed concern that the current WS selection process discourages future umpires from pursuing ID camp attendance. Retention is a significant issue.
- **Brian Marantz (D8)**: Asked about the DA recommendation process for umpires (DAs should continue recommending umpires for ID camps); offered the Woodinville NAF complex at no cost as a potential facility for a future NW ID camp.
- **Susan Tucker (D11)**: Asked how DAs can best support their umpires.
- **Loris Gies (D3)**: Suggested exploring whether Washington State could establish an umpire scholarship program to offset ID camp costs.
- **Ann Leggett (D4)**: Raised the question of how to create and fund a PNW-specific ID camp.
- **Darrin Leggett**: Will prepare a cost analysis for a potential PNW ID camp.

## End-of-Season 4-Crew Clinic

Umpires expressed desire for a pre-postseason regional clinic focused on 4-man crew mechanics. No formal decision made; follow-up at Spring Meeting.

## **Additional UIC Requests**

- UICs requested more frequent inter-district meetings; a spring meeting will be scheduled.
- Request to limit state tournament scheduling to no more than four (4) tournaments per weekend (11 total state tournaments in Washington).

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## **5.2 State Tournament Reports**

*Reports given by respective host District Administrators*

### **Baseball 8-10 (D7 — Cammie Pekonen, Bar-S venue)**

Children had an excellent time. Several teams (approximately 5) attended a local Fish Sticks minor league baseball game. The Pin Trading table was a significant hit with players and families. Tournament ran smoothly overall.

### **Baseball 9-11 (D13 — JP Pittman, Medical Lake)**

JP presented a slideshow recap. Highlights included a Family Night featuring access to a pool and water park, an umpire dunk tank, and a BBQ. Tournament rings were provided to participants. Overall a very successful event.

### **Major Baseball (D6 — Melanie Heaton)**

Went well overall with three protest lines filed during the tournament. Managed positively with no major issues.

### **Intermediate Baseball (D3 — Glen Dickason)**

No significant issues reported. Tournament ran smoothly.

### **Junior Baseball (D2 — Pat Ryan)**

Excellent tournament overall. Highlights: full-service concessions, Junior State tournament shirts and sweatshirts available for purchase, strong support from the local host league. One umpire scheduling issue arose but was covered by D2 umpires. All games had four umpires with the exception of one game which had three. District 2 won the Junior Baseball State Tournament.

### **Senior Baseball (D5 — Brennan Moore)**

Went well. Innovations included a digital Canva tournament program, a Snake River scenic backdrop for team photos, and online shirt ordering. Umpire coverage was provided mainly by D11 and D12 umpires. Most games had 2–3 umpires. One umpire did not finish due to extreme heat conditions.

### **Softball 8-10 (D4 — Ann Leggett, Columbia Little League)**

Very busy concession operation. Strong umpire crew, including two umpires from California. Several rules issues arose during the tournament:

- A 5-run rule request was raised and addressed.
- Pink balls were used per current rules.
- A courtesy runner rule issue was adjudicated.
- One 90-foot field was used with a chalk outfield configuration.
- A sign-stealing concern was addressed during the tournament.

Modified double elimination bracket was used (tournament shortened by three days). One team raised a concern about the total length of stay required at the tournament site.

#### **Softball 9-11 (D1 — Doug Sheldon)**

Tournament was held on four turf fields. Format used pool play (four or more games per team) followed by single elimination. Tournament ran Saturday through Tuesday. It was noted that a minimum of two or more fields should be reserved specifically for pool play to ensure proper logistics. Darrin Leggett offered to share a recommended pool play bracket format with other Districts.

#### **Major Softball (D10 — reported by Glen Dickason on behalf of Charles Heitman)**

Nice fields, tournament ran well.

#### **Junior Softball (D8 — Brian Marantz)**

Plenty of swag and giveaways for participants. Tournament went very well overall.

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### **5.3 Junior Softball World Series Report**

*Presented by Steve Allen*

- **Tournament Dates:** August 2–8, 2025
- **Celebrity Game:** July 31, 2025
- **Opening Ceremony:** August 1, 2025
- **Total Games Played:** 27

#### **Notable Highlights:**

- Governor Bob Ferguson and Warren Moon were among celebrity participants.

- Strong City support; professional mascots were in attendance.
- Tournament was held during Seafair weekend — the Blue Angels flew over the complex during play.
- A BBQ event was held for players, families, and guests.

**Opportunity Identified:** More promotion and public outreach is needed to increase attendance at future World Series events. The City remains a strong and supportive partner.

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## 5.4 Regional & World Series Reports

### Intermediate Baseball Regional — San Bernardino

Brian Marantz (D8), Bob Toigo (D9), and Cammie Pekonen (D7) assisted at this regional tournament. A significant incident occurred involving a player with a glasses/equipment issue at a security checkpoint. A Nicaraguan citizen (player) was detained by ICE, sent to a Tucson facility, and classified as an "unclassified person." The team manager remained with the player throughout. The player's family subsequently relocated back to Nicaragua. Brian Marantz reviewed the BC records but noted that visas are not typically checked at that level. The player's visa had been invalidated by an executive order and was later determined to be valid. Follow-up with Little League International regarding ICE guidance and visa requirements for Intermediate Baseball is needed (see Action Items).

### World Series (Williamsport)

Went well overall. Reminder issued to all DAs: if you cannot attend a World Series event, please call ahead so that tickets can be released to others. Janice Christensen (LL Board of Directors, D9) reported that the 2025 World Series was recognized internally as the most successful in Little League history.

### Senior Baseball Regional

Bill Kosmas (D11) and Tim Neesham (D12) served as umpires. Brittany Freeze (D2) volunteered for her third consecutive year. Liz Berg (D2) created the digital tournament program.

### Junior Baseball Regional

Joe Winniford (D2 UIC) served as umpire evaluator.

### Senior Softball Regional

Darrin Leggett served as tournament evaluator.

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## 5.5 Challenger Program Report

*Written report from Bev provided in the meeting packet*

- D4 and D6 combined districts for their Challenger program (Ann Leggett).
- D2 organized a Challenger game at Cheney Stadium (Brittany Freeze).

All Districts encouraged to review the written report included in the meeting packet.

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## 5.6 Mariners Days / Little League Days

*Discussed by Bob Toigo (D9) and Brian Marantz (D8)*

Volunteers are expected to participate in the pre-game parade; some attendees bypassed the parade and went directly to the suite without volunteering. This should be corrected going forward.

Bob Toigo and Brian Marantz collectively paid \$2,000 for suite food as Mariners did not provide sufficient refreshments. Glen Dickason has spoken with Mariners organization representatives regarding communication and logistics going forward.

### **Art Mickelson Award (Player Award)**

The restart of this award was supported by the Mariners. The WADA committee votes on the recipient, but the process is not widely publicized. This year's award was presented to a player from Seattle Central (D7). All DAs are encouraged to engage their leagues in the nomination process.

### **Little League Youth Baseball Volunteer Award**

DAs should nominate a deserving Little League volunteer from their district. The Mariners will provide a direct link for submissions to all DAs.

### **Bob Hellinger Volunteer of the Year Award**

Recognizes one outstanding adult volunteer from Washington State.

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## SECTION 6: NEW BUSINESS

### 6.1 2026 State Tournament Rotation

| Division              | Host District | Location / Notes               |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Baseball 8-10         | D8            | Woodinville                    |
| Baseball 9-11         | D1            | Lynndale                       |
| Major Baseball        | D5            | TBD                            |
| Intermediate Baseball | D12           | TBD                            |
| Junior Baseball       | Host Needed   | D3 declined; seeking volunteer |
| Senior Baseball       | D6            | Confirmation pending           |
| Softball 8-10         | D7            | TBD                            |
| Softball 9-11         | D2            | TBD                            |
| Major Softball        | D11           | Sedro-Woolley                  |
| Junior Softball       | D9            | Kirkland                       |
| Senior Softball       | TBD           | No host confirmed              |

#### Action Needed:

Districts willing to host Junior Baseball or Senior Softball state tournaments should contact the State Director. D6 to confirm Senior Baseball hosting.

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### 6.2 State Tournament Requirements / Tournament Packet

Glen Dickason (D3) has prepared a draft tournament schedule/script for review. All DAs are asked to review the packet and provide feedback before the Spring 2026 Meeting, at which time a vote on formal adoption will be held.

#### Affidavit Question

Should corrections to tournament affidavits using white-out or cross-outs be accepted? Discussion held; no formal vote taken. DAs to consult with their tournament directors.

#### Manager Pre-Tournament Check-In

It was strongly encouraged that the DA, Tournament Director, and UIC conduct an in-person check-in on the day of the tournament with all team managers.

### **Birth Certificate Policy**

Per Little League International instructions, photocopies of birth certificates should not be retained in player packets due to privacy and security concerns. Some DAs expressed a preference for keeping copies on file for age verification. Janice Christensen (LL Board of Directors) advised that Districts should comply with LL International guidance and remove retained copies.

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### **6.3 JDP / Background Checks — Transition to SportsConnect**

Direct access through JDP is being discontinued. Beginning in 2026, all volunteer background checks will be processed through **Stack Sports / SportsConnect**.

**Suggestion from Brittany Freeze (D2):** Create a basic volunteer link accessible to non-player-attached volunteers (e.g., concession workers, scorekeepers) that allows them to complete both the background check and upload their Abuse Awareness Training certificate without requiring a full league account.

#### **Action Needed:**

Finalize the SportsConnect background check process and distribute instructions to all Districts before the 2026 season.

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### **6.4 Social Media Issues**

Several social media-related concerns were discussed:

- **D10 Major Baseball:** Social media bullying occurred during the state tournament, including boasting posts about winning that crossed into inappropriate territory.
- **Car Chalking:** Slanderous and offensive messages were found chalked on vehicles during the tournament, including content calling a person "illegal."

- **Game Changer App Issues:** Attempts were made by parents to use the Game Changer platform to advocate for an umpire's removal. Cameras were initially banned from the fence, then allowed with district staff actively monitoring the chat feed.

DAs are strongly encouraged to enforce regular season social media conduct rules consistently and to communicate expectations to families early in the season.

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### 6.5 Portable Mounds

Use of portable mounds requires prior approval from Little League International and/or the West Region. Any portable mound used must match the required field and diamond dimensions. **True Pitch** portable mounds were identified as a recommended product.

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### 6.6 State Director / State Coordinator — Election Discussion

Discussion was held regarding the process and eligibility requirements for electing a State Coordinator. Key question raised: Must the State Coordinator be an active (or former) District Administrator?

| Motion Made | That the State Coordinator must be or have been a District Administrator.   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moved By    | Bob Toigo (D9)                                                              |
| Seconded By | Brennan Moore (D13)                                                         |
| Result      | <b>TABLED — Deferred to the Spring 2026 Meeting for further discussion.</b> |

Additional discussion: The potential benefits of incorporating Washington State Little League as a formal entity were explored. Benefits would include legal liability protection for officers and the ability to host events such as ID camps. Incorporation would require establishing Treasurer and Board positions. No formal action taken; DAs encouraged to research and bring perspectives to Spring Meeting.

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### 6.7 State Directory

All Districts should submit updates to their contact information to Glen Dickason (D3) for inclusion in the updated State Directory.

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## 6.8 Treasurer / Finance Training Sessions

Washington State will host two virtual Treasurer and Finance Training sessions for league presidents and treasurers. Format: 1st hour — training presentation; 2nd hour — open Q&A.

| Session   | Date                        | Time     | Format |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Session 1 | Saturday, November 8, 2025  | 10:00 AM | Zoom   |
| Session 2 | Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 7:00 PM  | Zoom   |

Glen Dickason (D3) and Brian Marantz (D8) are coordinating. Glen will send the Zoom link to all DAs for distribution to their local leagues.

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## 6.9 West Region / Welcoming Tournament

Discussion was held regarding Washington State sponsoring or co-sponsoring a West Region tournament to provide player swag and establish a formal welcoming experience for out-of-state teams. A **Welcoming Committee** for players and a **WR Hospitality Committee** for umpires should be considered and developed ahead of any hosted West Region events.

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## 6.10 D11 Leadership Update

Susan Tucker (D11) announced that her successor as District Administrator will be **Amy**. Susan will retain responsibility for D11's state tournament commitments during the transition.

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## 6.11 D5 Assessment Fees

Raised by JP Pittman (D13). Discussion was held regarding assessment fees. No formal vote taken. Follow-up at Spring Meeting.

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6.12 Spring 2026 Meeting — Future Meeting Date

|          |                                              |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|
| Date     | Saturday, April 11, 2026                     |
| Time     | 1:00 PM                                      |
| Location | Woodinville Resource Center, Woodinville, WA |
| Format   | In-person with Zoom option available         |

SECTION 7: MOTIONS & VOTES — CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

*This section consolidates all motions voted on during this meeting.*

| Motion # | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Moved By            | Seconded By         | Result                                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1        | Approve minutes from the March 25, 2025 State Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Cammie Pekonen (D7) | Bob Toigo (D9)      | Passed Unanimously                       |
| 2        | Draft a proposal and letter to other NW Region states (ID, OR, AK) and Congress requesting establishment of an ID camp in the Northwest. Susan Tucker (D11) to write cost proposal; Glen Dickason (D3) to draft letter to other states. Effort to involve Kit, Stu Hartenstein, LL Board of Directors, and Pat Wilson. Suggested host facility: D8 NAF / Woodinville complex. | Brian Marantz (D8)  | Bob Toigo (D9)      | Passed Unanimously                       |
| 3        | State Coordinator must be or have been a District Administrator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Bob Toigo (D9)      | Brennan Moore (D13) | TABLED — Deferred to Spring 2026 Meeting |

SECTION 8: ACTION ITEMS — CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

*This section consolidates all action items identified during this meeting.*

| # | Action Item                                                                                                        | Owner                                   | Target Date / Notes |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Draft NW Region ID Camp proposal for Congress and letter to other NW states (ID, OR, AK, and WA). Involve Kit, Stu | Glen Dickason (D3) & Susan Tucker (D11) | TBD                 |

| #  | Action Item                                                                                                                                                             | Owner                                   | Target Date / Notes                         |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|    | Hartenstein, LL Board of Directors, and Pat Wilson. D8 NAF / Woodinville suggested as host facility.                                                                    |                                         |                                             |
| 2  | Distribute UIC Mentoring Program participant list to all Districts                                                                                                      | Bill Kosmas (D11)                       | As soon as available                        |
| 3  | Distribute State UIC Meeting minutes to all Districts                                                                                                                   | Bill Kosmas (D11)                       | As soon as available                        |
| 4  | Share pool play bracket format with other Districts                                                                                                                     | Doug Sheldon (D1)                       | TBD                                         |
| 5  | Review State Tournament packet and provide feedback to Glen Dickason                                                                                                    | All Districts                           | Before Spring 2026 Meeting (April 11, 2026) |
| 6  | Submit State Directory contact updates to Glen Dickason                                                                                                                 | All Districts                           | TBD                                         |
| 7  | Coordinate and host Treasurer / Finance Training — Session 1 (Nov 8 @ 10 AM) and Session 2 (Nov 13 @ 7 PM); send Zoom link to all DAs                                   | Glen Dickason (D3) & Brian Marantz (D8) | November 8 & 13, 2025                       |
| 8  | Schedule Zoom meeting for selecting 2026 State Tournament dates                                                                                                         | TBD                                     | Before Spring 2026 Meeting                  |
| 9  | Confirm host Districts for Junior Baseball and Senior Softball state tournaments                                                                                        | Open / State Director                   | TBD                                         |
| 10 | Clarify ICE / immigration guidance from Little League International; confirm visa documentation requirements for Intermediate Baseball                                  | TBD                                     | TBD                                         |
| 11 | Finalize Art Mickelson Award, Little League Youth Baseball Volunteer Award, and Bob Hellinger Volunteer of the Year Award process; obtain nomination link from Mariners | Mariners Liaison / State Leadership     | TBD                                         |
| 12 | Finalize SportsConnect background check process and distribute instructions to all Districts                                                                            | TBD                                     | Before 2026 Season                          |
| 13 | Confirm 2026 umpire clinic dates (Moses Lake and Seattle)                                                                                                               | TBD                                     | TBD                                         |
| 14 | Determine whether Train-the-Trainer umpire clinic will be held in 2026                                                                                                  | TBD                                     | TBD                                         |

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## SECTION 9: ADJOURNMENT & CERTIFICATION

Meeting adjourned at **2:26 PM**