



Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Virginia

Baseball and Softball



MINUTES

March 16, 2025

Publix
10250 Staples Mills Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

In Attendance

Brandon Currence, State Commissioner
Phillip Larcomb, Secretary-Treasurer
Paul Coates, Asst. State Comm., Softball
Justin Sandford, District 3 Commissioner
D.J. Stewart, Asst. District 4 Commissioner
Pat O'Brien, District 6 Commissioner
Cohn, District 8 Commissioner
Robert Guagliardo, Baseball Advisor
Jordon Raynes GMBL Softball
Nick Slemple NKGSL

Dave Cogar, Asst. State Comm., Baseball Ops
Glenn Spangler, Asst. State Comm., Training
Brian Eamigh, Asst. District 1 Commissioner
Dennis Cobb, Asst. District 4 Commissioner
Matt Clark, District 5 Commissioner
Sheri Zimmerman, District 7 Commissioner
Steven Caleb Dunlee, District 10 Commissioner
Paul Link – Former Virginia State Commissioner
Forrest Mays VP Sandston
James Love Sandston President

Brandon Currence, State Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Invocation: Brandon offered the invocation, dedicating the day's business to the benefit of Virginia's baseball and softball players.

Roll call: Brandon Currence had the District Commissioners introduce themselves and give a brief description of the geographical locations they represent in the State.

Reading of the minutes: By unanimous vote, the reading of the minutes of the Fall 2024 meeting was waived.

Treasurer's report: Phil Larcomb reported that the State treasury contained, as of March 15, 2025, \$8,973.67 in the checking account, \$10,271.79 in a CD and \$67,097.76 in the mutual funds account for total cash and reserves of \$84,843.22. There were no liabilities. Forty-nine out of sixty-five leagues that are chartered have been billed. Anticipated 2025 liabilities will be the umpire training, trophies, rings, banners, and patches. Except for the 13-year-old state baseball contract, every state tournament contract has been billed. All outstanding State fees and remaining tournament contracts are due by May 1, 2025.

BUSINESS

Training Seminars: – Glenn Spangler will be coordinating the Tournament Director training to be held during the first two weekends in May 2025.

Chartering and Administrative: - Names of leagues showing as uncharted were announced to District Commissioners, who were asked to reach out to advise & support leagues completing that task as no insurance coverage exists until chartering is completed. Asked district commissioners to check with their leagues regarding 25+ year volunteers. HQ has awards for this. Reviewed the issues with getting commitments to host state tournaments. Issues verbalized included dates conflicting with the 4th of July holiday, lack of volunteers and the increase in localities wanting to charge additional site fees.

Umpire training review: Bob Guagliardo reported on umpire training provided in Glen Allen on Feb. 15th. The session was recorded and is now posted on the State website along with some module training videos. The members present agreed that the online training concept is a good first step in modernizing our training approach. There was discussion on splitting the State UIC role into parallel roles, one for baseball and one for softball. A by-law change and vote will be held at the Fall 2025 State meeting to add a softball UIC.

League Items for District Commissioners: – Brandon reminded the district commissioners to have their League Presidents check the Virginia website on a regular basis going forward as we approach the season for notices and updated information. Discussed league boundaries. District commissioners will work on these and get guidance on specific questions from the executive board.

Rappahannock Youth Baseball has been approved to move from District 9 to District 5. District eleven has one league (Wise Baseball) who is electing to leave for Little League. Therefore, District 11 is currently suspended and pending contraction. Discussion that we may discuss redistricting activities in the future.

2025 State baseball tournament host leagues and contract status: – Dave Cogar reported that host fees payments and signed contracts were due today and that four of the 11 State host leagues had met the deadline.

State softball tournament host leagues and contract status: – Paul Coates reported the softball contract will be billed once Glen Allen charter is commissioner approved at HQ.

2025 Virginia State tournaments: State tournament start dates are posted in the Virginia Babe Ruth website's Tournament Center:

<https://vababeruth.com/tournaments/tournaments.php> .

2025 Regional Tournaments in Virginia: – Virginia will be hosting the 10YO, 13YO and 16-18 YO regional tournaments. Additional SE Regional tournament locations are posted in the Southeast regional Babe Ruth website's Tournament Center: [Babe Ruth Southeast Region \(brlseregion.com\)](https://brlseregion.com)

Southeast Regional Meeting recap: – Brandon provided feedback on the Southeast Region meeting held on December 7-8, 2024, at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The meeting minutes are posted at https://brlseregion.com/meetings/files/minutes_120823.pdf Brandon highlighted the following from the SER meeting:

- Pitch counts are to be announced at the end of each half inning.
- Softball is moving the World Series to Florence, Alabama
- Umpires who are familiar with pitching machine will be used for Rookie Tournaments

Abuse Training: – Brandon reminded that all managers, coaches, and league board members as well as any person who has consistent and direct contact with players through league sanctioned activities, must have a national Verified Background Check and Abuse Prevention Training approved through Babe Ruth League, Inc. every two years.

Minimum Scheduled Game requirements: Brandon reiterated that Virginia has implemented a ten-game minimum schedule with the players participating in 50% of the league's games.

2025 rule changes: Caleb Dunlea led discussion of the change in softball age determination. Headquarters stated that this was implemented by the National Governing Body of Softball, however, the perception is that this is to cater to the travel league interests and will likely result in a decrease in participation, especially in rural areas.

Discussion of Softball rule 11.05 (4). This does not reference the exception in 11.05 (6). We need to clarify that the exception is still valid prior to tournament play.

Scholarship and grant programs: Phil Larcomb reported that three grants of \$1,500 each were awarded to Peachtree, Blacksburg and Charlottesville.

Fall Meeting Date:

1PM 28 SEP 2025

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Prepared by Phillip Larcomb, Secretary-Treasurer