



California District 4

Little League – Intermediate League - Junior League –
Senior League – Challenger
September 15, 2020 District 4 Meeting



Meeting Called to Order: 7:06 pm, via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

Staff Attendance: Ted Boet, Geoff Shiu, Don Waddell, Liz Berg, Steve Harris, Phil Raines, Stephen Mohammed, Carla Moore, Jim Rose, Paul Rosky, Grayson Lawrence

League Attendance: Alameda, Albany, Antioch, Clayton Valley, Concord American, Continental, East County, Lafayette, Martinez, North/South Oakland, Pinole Hercules, Pittsburg, Richmond, Walnut Creek

District 4 Administrator: Ted Boet:

Welcomed - New league presidents: Colby Powell/ President and Nick Woodson/Vice President for Lafayette LL and Zack Torrey/Clayton Valley LL

Introduced the D4 Staff

Assistant District Administrator, Geoff Shiu:

Welcome – to everyone. Monthly meetings are important. You are a part of the best district. It is very important that you league presidents keep your membership up to date on what your league is doing as well as Little League Baseball. It is nice to see so many returning presidents. Please send your league's current contact information so we can keep in touch with you and your board.

DA Ted Boet – I don't believe when I introduced Mr. Shiu his actual title is Assistant District Administrator. If for some reason I am not around, or something happens he will take over just like in the president/vice president in local leagues.

Chief Umpire ADA, Don Waddell:

Glad that we can get together to get organized for the new season. This is my 25th season in District 4 and my 11th season on staff. I value my participation in the D4 staff and the things as a staff we can bring to your leagues I view as critical.

The core group of umpires in D4 met a few times during the spring and summer via Zoom just to maintain ourselves and stay connected. I am starting to organize for the season. Make sure your league has a Chief Umpire to represent your volunteer umpires. There is an article in the newsletter, please read it.

Volunteer Umpires - Working on how we can recruit and reconnect with volunteer umpires. I do know some umpires have decided not to come back for various reasons.

I am waiting for some direction from headquarters on how to move forward. I look forward to getting back on the field.

D4 Secretary, Carla Moore:

Welcome to our new season as it is. I will provide the minutes to you after each meeting. I am the editor of the D4 Newsletter, Ted will send it to you with other items he has after tonight's meeting. Board of Directors information please send to me and I will distribute to the D4 staff. Please email your Board of Director information to: sewcarla2@gmail.com, thank you

Challenger ADA, Stephen Mohammed:

Welcome everybody to our upcoming season. As Geoff said we have a great district staff that are here to help you. Please send Carla your league's contact information for your Challenger Coordinator. I am really looking forward to the new season. This is my 45th year in Little League, I look forward to working with everyone.

Safety Officer ADA, Liz Berg:

DA Ted Boet introduction – The 2019 winner of the National ASSAP Award, former President of Concord American LL, the district Safety Officer, and important to you Zack Torrey/Clayton Valley LL a duty I have assigned to her is to answer any questions Joe cannot answer Liz will be your point of contact.

Liz – I am currently on the board of Concord American. It is my 4th year on the district staff and the 13th or 14th season in baseball. This will be probably my most challenging year with trying to make sure we have the protocols and safety in the ASAP plan. I can answer any questions your league may have for the ASAP plan. I can help post season with All Stars. How to be a President. I am working to have protocols not only for COVID-19 but also Air Quality.



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Softball ADA, Phil Raines:

Recipient of the very first “Bob Beberg Award” that goes to coaching excellence within the district for 2019. Please send the contact information for your Softball Representative, I will then email or call them with updates for the upcoming season. I look forward to getting back to playing. My contact information is on the newsletter. I wish everybody luck on the upcoming season and that we can get some normalcy back. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Little League Baseball ADA, Steve Harris

DA Ted Boet - A new duty for Steve is to assist Colby Powell/Lafayette LL new president with any questions you may have or ideas you may not have.

Steve - This is a cautionary tale of unprecedented times. We will be patient with you, please be patient with us. Ted is diligent with keeping in touch with headquarters and Western Region headquarters, he will update the website, us and you.

Training Coordinator ADA, Jim Rose:

It is very unclear how things will play out. I do training and specifically Rules Training in February and March. I bring a traveling clinic at whatever location you may have. Can we do that this year? Possibly, by recorded sessions as well as Zoom meetings online. Everything is up in the air right now. I will be available at the beginning of the year to help you and your leagues.

Volunteer Coordinator ADA, Grayson Lawrence:

DA Ted Boet – Who for better or worse did not get to do a whole lot last year because once the season was canceled and the whole purpose of adding this position to the district staff was to allow someone to coordinate all of the volunteers for tournament time and the new Western Region Senior Baseball tournament which obviously did not take place. Back again this year to hopefully do more for us.

Grayson – Here to help organize volunteers, maybe do a District Volunteer of the Year Award; host the district tournaments in June; had some good ideas last year, we did not execute out them, hopefully we can this year, as the season progresses we will get more info out what these programs entail come February or March.

Senior Baseball Western Region Tournament Chairman, Paul Rosky:

The tournament did not happen last year. It was to be held at Laney College, now we have been approached by UC Berkeley to use Evans Diamond. We will wait to see how that plays out. I'm also the president of Oakland LL so I kind of understand what's going on both sides of the coin and really don't have any forecast for this year other than to wish you all good luck and hope we all get out there to play some baseball real soon.

District 4 Administrator: Ted Boet:

Introduce League Presidents – so you can put league to the face you see on the screen.

Alameda – Ron Matthews, 1994 started with the league, 1995 Safety Officer, 1999 President

Albany – Frank Knowles, 3rd year as president, been with the league 15 years coaching most of it; UC controls the fields and they are saying no for the foreseeable future

Antioch – Scot Pearson

Clayton Valley – Zack Torrey – hoping we can play some ball

Continental – Jake Spurlock, concerned about fields to play on, school district says no till March 1st

East County – Phil Davis, we're just waiting like everyone else

Lafayette – Colby Powell, year 10 with the league; 4 city fields available to us this summer, school district controls the other 2/3 of the fields we use so waiting for them to release them to us

Martinez – Phil Raines, we've been able to practice baseball and softball, other cities have teams renting our city fields must follow protocols set by the city

N/S Oakland – Paul Rosky, almost all fields closed by schools and Parks & Rec, anybody's guess if we play this year in Oakland

Pittsburg – Jerry Johnson representing the league, parks do not open until the end of January if they open for play



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Richmond – Mark Torres, works with Richmond Police Athletic League and Parks & Rec; all fields are closed; shooting for March 1st to begin practice. Don't really see playing until summer. There are travel ball teams around here, I'm worried about our kids seeing the teams practicing/playing and we aren't, they may go play with them. I am looking to Little League for help and ideas, what everyone else is doing.

Walnut Creek – Neal McSherry, back after facilitating 850 refunds; we have had some practice/summer session, groups from Dublin have been kicked of our fields, waiting to see what the new holds for us.

I appreciate all of you showing up tonight. Until the end of this year we will meet by Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, October and November, no meeting in December.

My observations:

1. Connect with your membership by email, by letter or flyer to all families, managers, and coaches.
2. East County LL got some games in, some leagues got practice.
3. I've been watching the numbers for our counties. By next Tuesday, the health departments of Contra Costa & Alameda and the Berkeley health department and the State will move us down to the next level of Red from Purple. As more counties move down, possibly the State will release a protocol for youth sports.
4. My best recommendation that I see of a possible season start date is April 1st and end date of Memorial weekend. It will be tight, but doable. Plan for later and it will be a bonus if you can start earlier.
5. League websites: your website URL address must have Little League in it. Starting October 1st, the new D4 website address is californiadistrict4littleleague.org.
6. Vaccinations – my belief by the time they are available kids are the last to get them. The order will be Health Care Workers, First Responders, High-risk long-term facilities, diabetics and overweight, seniors 60 and over, kids 7-12 are very low down on the ladder. It will probably take 5-6 months to get everyone vaccinated.
7. Refunds: Western Region understands that you're a business, you had expenses, knowing you may have a stalled season make this an agenda item now on how to handle it. Hopefully you can use what you purchased last year.
8. Alternative way to try-out kids:
Maybe only 20-30 people can be out there
Maybe an indoor facility if fields aren't open
Maybe use teams established last year and fill holes of those not returning, so you don't need full blown try-outs

Jake Spurlock asked about the A's Community Fund help. Ron Matthews responded that the A's want to help very much. Paul Rosky added: there is a new person running the community fund. Kaiser is now sponsoring the jerseys through the A's; it had been Black Bear Diner. Stephanie Gatewood is the new A's Representative.

Items to be e-mailed to the presidents:

1. District Budget
2. District Calendar – tournaments and clinics
3. September Newsletter
4. Lewis Cup – How it works
5. Operations Manual (a few updates) – will send an electronic version to all presidents and a hard copy to the two new presidents
6. Taxes are due January 15th, Fiscal year ends September 30th
7. TOC – is still the same time frame
8. Any info needed by Ted before the next meeting will be on the calendar.

Adjourned: 8:14 pm

Next meeting: October 20, 2020, 7pm via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions, DA Ted Boet will email the link