



## **NJGSL COACHES MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: 1.31.2026**

**Time: 9:00 AM**

**Location: Unidos Library**

**Start Time: 9:02Am**

### **Attendees:**

#### **Executive Committee:**

- Debbie Anderson** –Co-President
- Nicki Pacheco**– Co-President
- Amber Sepulveda**– Vice President
- Jenna Pace**– Treasurer
- Kelly Bettencourt** – Secretary
- Sara Tavizon**– Member at Large
- Theresa Robles** –Snack Shack Coordinator

#### **Subcommittee:**

- Becky Willems**- 6U division Rep
- Kris Lowe-Hobbs**- 8U division Rep | Umpire Coordinator
- Lauren Pryatel-Tucker**- 10U division Rep | Communications: Website and Social Media | Halloween Bash Coordinator
- Megan Valdez**- Opening Day Coordinator
- Cierra Codron**- Opening Day Coordinator
- Ryan Fennie** – Equipment Coordinator
- Caroline Johnson**- Sponsor, Fundraising, and Spirit Wear

#### **Other Attendees:**

**Gasper Tavizon, Keith Botta, Michael Bettencourt, Joe Hall, Ramah Kerruish, Heather Oja,**

Kelsi Shyder, Jeff Quinn, Paige Hanes, Nick Rossmiller, Matthew Bresee, Ashley Walker, Kristen Gutierrez, Brodie Scherba, Jordan Hernandez, Sam Hopkins, Joe Giovannoni

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## **2. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

### **Meeting Norms**

Meeting norms were read by Debbie Anderson:

- Honor start time.
- Set a timekeeper and adjust agenda as needed.
- Listen respectfully; one person speaks at a time.
- Follow the agenda and stay on track.
- Silence cell phones and remain present.
- The Board will seek input from attendees.
- Unrelated topics will be placed in a “parking lot” for later discussion or future agenda inclusion.

**Agenda Adjustment:** Added jersey discussion (Coach Alex).

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## **3. Approval of January 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

N/A

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## **4. Reports of the Board**

**Vice President Report – Amber Sepulveda**

- **SafeSport Certification:** Required by February 5 for anyone participating on the field, including team moms and assistants.
  - Individuals may complete certification after the deadline but must do so prior to participation.
  - Umpires may request proof of SafeSport certification and may remove non-compliant individuals from games.
  - SafeSport certification period runs September 1–August 31 (clarification to be confirmed).
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## **5. Coaches Binder & Season Review – Debbie Anderson**

### **Key Dates**

- **February 2:** Equipment Collection
- **February 9:** First Practice (Coaches must communicate expectations with parents)
- **February 15:** “Rep It Out” Clinic (20 participants per session; additional session may be added if needed)
- **February 28:** Mandatory Clean-Up Day
- **March 14:** Opening Day
- **March 23 & 25:** Picture Days
- **May 11–16:** Spring Flight (8U, 10U, 13U Playoffs)
- **May 18:** 13U All-Star Game

### **Game Days**

- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

### **Coaches Checklist**

Briefly reviewed and included in coaches' binders.

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## **6. Division & Rules Updates**

### **Scorekeeping – Sara Tavizon**

- 8U and older divisions require scorekeepers.
- Home team must submit scores and pitching information (first and last name, innings pitched) to Division Representatives within 24 hours.
- One pitch equals one inning pitched.

### **League Philosophy – Alex**

NJGSL follows player development standards aligned with positive sportsmanship values. Emphasis is placed on effort, learning, respect, and growth. While competitive play is valued, youth development remains the priority.

- Coaches should communicate with parents if a player needs additional support.
- Position concerns due to safety should be addressed through meetings and goal-setting with parents.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported to the Board. Coaches may sit a player for conduct reasons; suspensions require Board involvement.
- 8U coaches must ensure proper player rotation.

### **Rule Highlights**

- Coaches are responsible for knowing all league rules.
- Pitching rules: Refer to Rule 3.7.1.
  - 8U: Coach's foot must be on the mound.
  - 6U: Foot must be within the circle.
- Drop third strike applies only to 10U and 13U.

- Conduct: Coaches are responsible for behavior of coaches, parents, and players.
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## **7. Open Discussion**

### **T-Ball Start Time**

- Proposal to move T-Ball start time one hour later.
- Motion by Gasper; seconded by Debbie.
- Vote to occur at next meeting.

### **Jerseys – Alex**

- Jersey sizes must be confirmed by Friday, February 6.
- Coaches to confirm roster sizes (including assistant coaches).
- Up to four coach sizes allowed per team.

### **Sponsorships – Caroline Johnson**

- Request for updated list of registered sponsors.
- League needs seven additional team sponsors:
  - Home Run Sponsor: \$500
  - Grand Slam Sponsor: \$800
- Two Diamond-level donations received.
- Upcoming fundraising dates:
  - March 5 (State Line) – 10% of sales donated
  - May 13 (The Garden) – 10% of sales donated

- Potential Giants Field Day fundraiser; commitment to ticket minimum required.

## **Practices**

- Practices begin at 4:30 PM or 5:00 PM (school site dependent; Debbie to confirm).
- Coaches to notify Alex if unavailable on specific days.

## **Napa High Softball Clinic**

- Napa High Varsity Softball Team to host clinic (Tentatively April 1–2) for 8U–13U.
- Additional details to follow mid-February.

## **Umpires – Kris Lowe-Hobbs**

- Goal to retain current umpires and expand recruitment pool.
- Discussion of growth strategies.

## **Opening Day – Megan Valdez**

- 23 teams; 23 raffle baskets needed.
  - Assistance needed for raffle coordination.
  - Seeking National Anthem singer.
  - Programs printed by Minute Man Press.
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## **8. Next Meeting**

**March 5, 2026 – 6:30 PM**

Location: Unidos Library

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## **9. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Sara

**Seconded By:** Debbie

**Motion:** Passed

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.