

FYAA Softball Meeting Notes (Tonight)

Meeting Type: Softball Interest / Program Coordination Meeting

Attendance (as stated during meeting):

- **Jervecia “Vee” Whitaker (President)** — present virtually (limited ability to speak at times due to work)
 - **Keith Scales (Vice President)**
 - **Asia Wallace (Secretary)**
 - **Jeffrey Woolley (Assistant Softball Director)**
 - **Ayana** (County/Softball support mentioned as working within Henry County)
 - Parents/volunteers and coaches in attendance, including:
 - **Ashley** (former team mom – Buttercats; interested in team mom role again)
 - Additional parents/coaches (including a coach for 10U and a parent new to the Atlanta area)
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1) Welcome & Purpose

- Meeting opened with introductions and discussion focused on building a strong, organized softball program.
 - Parents expressed willingness to support the program, including volunteering as team moms and helping where needed.
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2) Age Cutoff Clarification (Major Topic)

- Parents raised concerns about age eligibility due to conflicting cutoff dates (website language vs. county changes).
 - Discussion indicated the age control date is **likely September 1** (with acknowledgement that it needs to be confirmed officially).
 - Some families shared they delayed registration until age eligibility is confirmed—especially for players turning 13 soon who hope to play one more season at 12U.
 - **Action Item:** Confirm official age cutoff/date with the county and publish a clear update to families.
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3) Registration & Uniforms

- **Registration is open.**
 - Uniforms are **included with registration** and parents expressed strong appreciation for this improvement.
 - Returning teams/coaches who want to keep their logo/colors were asked to submit that information so mockups and vendor submissions can be created.
 - It was reiterated there is **no pressure** to coach if someone's schedule does not allow.
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4) Fields & Park Plans (Hidden Valley / JP Mosley / Jacob Bolton)

- The goal remains to return to **Hidden Valley**, but it is **not expected to happen this season.**
 - A walkthrough was completed recently and the field restoration process was explained (infield grass treatment, spraying, regrowth monitoring).
 - County shared that some fields may be **laser-graded** as early as summer (timeline pending).
 - The expectation for this season is that play will occur at **JP Mosley / Jacob Bolton** (as discussed).
 - A walkthrough is scheduled **Friday** to assess conditions and identify needs.
 - Scheduling considerations were discussed for teams commuting from outside the immediate area.
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5) Scheduling & Practice Coordination

- Coaches were asked to send their **preferred practice days/times.**
 - Scheduling process discussed:
 - Schedule drafted → reviewed → shared to coaches
 - The importance of getting schedules out early was emphasized to support families and travel needs.
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6) Field Maintenance & Safety

- Discussion included concerns about field conditions and player safety (hard areas, batter's boxes, dragging needs).
 - Suggestions included:
 - Maintaining batter's boxes consistently
 - Dragging and prep routines before practices/games
 - Identifying which fields drain better after rain
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7) Code of Conduct & Sportsmanship

- Emphasis was placed on keeping the environment positive, respectful, and kid-focused.
 - A **3-strike approach** was discussed for serious behavior issues (aligned with baseball and extended to softball):
 - 1st issue: warning/conversation
 - 2nd issue: escalation/discipline
 - 3rd issue: removal (final structure to be confirmed)
 - Examples included: cussing at kids, arguing with umpires, parent conflicts.
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8) Team Structure, Evaluations & Draft (If Participation Increases)

- If multiple teams form in an age group, the program may do:
 - Evaluations
 - Draft process
 - Possible “freeze” of a limited number of players per team, then draft remaining players (example discussed)
 - Softball does **not** currently operate the same Major/Minor format as baseball (at least this season).
 - Registration form “select team” options may need updating depending on final structure.
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9) Recruitment & Growth Strategy

- Strong push to recruit more players: “tell a friend to tell a friend.”
 - Recruiting opportunities mentioned:
 - Basketball participants
 - Track families
 - Homeschool community programs
 - Parents shared that many girls start in baseball simply due to not knowing softball options exist.
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10) Sponsorships & Fundraising

- Fundraisers are welcomed, but must follow association process and county approval where required.
 - Sponsorship leads were encouraged (companies/community partners).
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11) Next Steps / Action Items

1. Confirm official age cutoff date with the county and publish clarification.
2. Gather coach practice availability and begin building practice schedules.
3. Complete Friday walkthrough and share field findings and needs.
4. Add parents/coaches to official communication channel (GroupMe mentioned).
5. Confirm team structure based on registration numbers per age group.
6. Finalize and distribute Code of Conduct highlights and enforcement steps.
7. Launch recruiting outreach via flyers, social posts, and program blasts.