



BLL Board Meeting

March 23, 2025

In attendance: Brooks Fost, Larry Horner, Jerry Cain, Stephanie Fost, Scott Flick, Zach Albright, Scott Caldwell, Eric Fenstermacker, Sam Chavanic, Laura Gemmati, Darren Lutz, Emily Reid, Wes Fouse, Josh Wensel

Others in attendance: Tom Brezler, John Heron

Called to order at 5:58 p.m.

B. Fost provided summary of circumstance—a player quit M&T and a player needs to be pulled up to have a full roster of 12. A waiver has been requested to pull up Max Heron, league age 8, from the minors. If waiver is approved by BLL board, it will be sent to district admin for review and then shared with East Region for review/LLI approval or denial decision.

B. Fost asked John Heron to discuss Max, after which, the BLL board will vote on providing a waiver. Horner will be responsible for notifying Heron of the decision.

Heron outlined that many know who Max is and his abilities and that he has a hard time playing sports with peers. He plays up in numerous sports—football, travel basketball, was 6 in 8U and 7 in minors in BLL. Heron expressed he wants Max to be the best version of himself and not become a safety issue. Heron said he knows Max can play at that major level.

Board thanked Heron for coming and Heron exited.

Fenstermacker spoke as Max's current active coach. He explained he has been around Max since tball and has seen exponential growth in him. Currently, Fenstermacker has kids on team that Max can't warm up with because of differences in abilities and it's a safety concern. Fenstermacker speaks of Max as a great kid ready for the majors.

B. Fost outlined that safety concerns fall on the team manager to assess and handle.

Horner outlined what he is requesting—a waiver process for Max to play with M&T due to his skill and abilities. Horner outlines Max is engaged and focused during times he's practiced with M&T. (M&T allows siblings at practice)

Flick outlined the conflicts that may occur pulling someone needing a waiver up when there are a 10-year-old and 11-year-old that could be pulled up. He expressed this isn't a concern of Max's abilities but concern about a waiver for a younger player when older players are available to pull up.

S. Fost requested the process for declaring for the majors be outlined and status of players who declared.

B. Fost explained that families indicate during registration what division(s) they would like to be evaluated for and this is confirmed at skills camp. Kids that say they are ready to move up are evaluated by majors coaches and coaches are provided with a list of their names. B Fost shared that seven players of age that indicated they were interested in the majors remained in the minors. One player has moved up to a majors team due to a player leaving and a second player chose to remain in the minors, leaving five of age players still available. Bylaws outline that Horner has 14 days to pull up another player.

Flick and Jerry both outlined that majors coaches would start assessing younger kids to pull them up before kids of age.

Gemmati and S. Fost both voice that this could set a precedence and cause more league age 8-year-olds to request waivers for the majors, regardless of skill.

Fouse asked how submitting multiple waivers would make BLL look to LLI. B. Fost explained that the district manager shared BLL could be questioned, and safety risks could come into play.

Horner expressed that he doesn't have safety concerns with Max.

VonGunden was unable to attend meeting and provided B. Fost with her thoughts. She expressed concerns and thoughts that no child under 9 should move to the majors. She encouraged thoughts about Max being seen as a leader in his own age group division.

Lutz shared history of others who could have played up, but no requests for waivers were made.

Horner expressed faith in Max's abilities and engagement.

Wensel discussed that the board voted not that long ago about 7s being able to go up to minors, so has questions about waivers for 8s in the majors.

Horner asked B. Fost to provide list of those who declared for majors that remain available. B. Fost provides names and ages of available players.

B. Fost asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Horner motioned for the BLL board to provide a waiver for Max Heron to move up from the minors. Fenstermacker seconded.

Three in favor and 11 opposed. Motion does not pass. Horner to notify Heron.

Horner asked for bylaw regarding 14 days to select a replacement player be rewritten because of ambiguity. Horner to rewrite bylaw and present at next meeting for board consideration.

Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.