

## Town Hall 11.13.2025

### Updates from the Summit Sports League Board of Directors (BOD)

- Membership follow-up from last Town Hall
  - With our current platform, we aren't able to handle this process within our current systems. We are still looking into options, but won't be initiating that any time soon. Please stay tuned for updates!
  - As we move forward we'll grab community feedback as we see what happens.
  - If you have played in other leagues that have a membership style set up, let us know so we can learn from you!
- Increase of registration fees - Due to a steady increase in venue costs (20% increase from Summer 2024 to Summer 2025) we have decided to increase registration fees. This is our first increase since Summit began in 2022. This is in order to stay afloat as a business and to provide our members with the best experience possible on and off the court.
  - Early bird fee - \$60 - first 2 weeks of registration
  - Standard fee - \$70 - middle time period
  - Late fee - \$80 - last week of registration
- Upcoming Events:
  - DP&R Holiday Tournament
    - Saturday, December 6, 2025
  - Beer Bust @ Buddies
    - Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 3:00-7:00pm
  - Gala, tickets on sale!
    - Friday, December 12, 2025

**Question:** Is there a better way to do the guest sign up and payment? It seems when I'm ready to pay someone isn't ready or when I'm not ready someone is asking. I've had times where I have come in and paid on Venmo but the person is practicing so I do not want to interfere and vise versa. I've also been yelled at for paying and grabbing a wrist band. I've also paid and then came up immediately after a match and asked for proof when I don't have my phone on me to show. As well, there are times when I immediately walk in the gym and the first thing said to me is "did you pay" not even a hello. It puts me in a sour mood. I will not lie.

**Answer:** Want to make sure there is a designated person to be there and collect guest star fees during game play. Additionally, we are working with our bank for a new system for payment collection. We are thinking of moving away from venmo, and move to a card reader.

**Idea:** Refs could be a great person to hold the card reader and collect the payment, give our wrist bands, etc, and make sure that people are good to go as guest stars.

**Question:** Wanting to make dodgeball more accessible for people to try dodgeball out. Guest stars and the open plays are the only ways to get players to try playing dodgeball. Any

suggestions for how the guest star payment could be more accessible for players when trying things out, or make your first guest star time free.

**Answer:** We are definitely looking into what those different options could look like and a way to incorporate “first time” discounts when it comes to playing and even registering for a whole season.

**Question:** I didn’t know that there was a guest star sign-up sheet. How can we make sure that is more accessible for players? And that there is a guest star list?

**Answer:** There should be a list shared with captains as a way to find guest stars. *That has not been available for me this season.* We can make sure that gets communicated out to your team. We want to make sure that guest stars sign up for liability purposes. We are planning to add the guest star list to the website so it’s an easier way for people to sign up as a guest star.

***Ideas/Comments:***

- From working the table at Pride, a lot of new players were more interested in the guest star option to try one time, and not have a high-commitment option.
- Adding a note to the captains guide for guest stars to arrive a little earlier to learn the rules, sign the waiver, pay, and know what team they are playing on.
- Could there be a guest star package/option to be a guest star for the season and if there could be an option to “buy three get one free.”

**Question:** Sub fees - I've never understood why we charge fees for subs. The spot is already paid for (if Alex is absent and Brandon shows up to sub for him, Alex has already paid to play for that night so why is Brandon also paying?). The sub is doing the team a favor and we're making them pay for it. I haven't seen it in the other adult league sports I've played. It has the feel of the league just extracting extra money where they can. (I understood that sub fees have likely been part of the business model for a while so you do probably count on a statistically minimum amount and it's not all actually "extra", but it still feels that way). Asking my friends to come sub for us because we're missing players, and then telling them they will also need to shell out some money in order to do me that favor always feels icky. Enough so that I've just covered the fee for people who aren't regular members of the league so that I didn't have to tell them they would have to pay to do me a favor. I also recognize that there's a lot of angles here (getting rid of sub fees means we have to increase regular fees for everyone, it's not "fair" for Strawman Sam to sub all season and not have to pay anything, \$5 is cheap, etc.) but I'd just be curious to know how the rest of the league feels about it.

**Answer:** We do want there to be a way to regulate that, so people are not just staying as a guest star and instead signing up for a full season. We are planning to discuss this at our board meeting on Monday to see if we are able to cut guest star fees as a whole.

**Questions:** When you say the Summit business? What does that mean? When it comes to finances, how is Summit doing?

**Answer:** We have to have a steady income in order to stay afloat as an organization to make sure we can continue providing these leagues to our community. We post the annual budget, and could post tax returns, so it's available for members to see. We will continue to look into how we can share our finances and budget on our website.

**Question:** I know this is something that won't change but when people are signing up for a season and plan on missing 4 weeks or half the season maybe just sub. This Fall 2025 has been horrible especially with the Advanced league and Captains being gone the majority of the season.

**Answer:** Making the guest star list more accessible can assist captains in finding subs throughout the season. If a captain is missing a lot of the season, please be sure to inform your division representative. We want to make sure that our captains are present throughout the season.

**Ideas/Comments:** May find some other creative solutions to fill up teams for absentee players. Sometimes play is less on a weekend when there is a tournament happening, and maybe there is a chance to gather more intermediate subs to join the advanced league to try it out.

**Question:** Is climbing a part of the financial structure as dodgeball? Or is it separate?

**Answer:** We view all of our divisions as separate financial entities. Climbing, ABCD, Foam, and No-Sting. We want each division to financially support itself. If we see that one division needs to expand space, we will find ways to be able to continue to grow organically. We want to make sure all of our divisions can be successful, and when we start to hit capacity limits, we will begin to explore options for more game play.

**Question:** Will there ever be an option to play just in rec no matter your level? Comp isn't always fun.. For the way in which Summit has created different divisions within our leagues (Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner,) how are we continuing to build a strong *larger* community to keep everyone included. How can we have an at-large community while still allowing people to be competitive or be recreational in how they'd like to play.

**Answer:** This has been something that has been brought up at our last Town Hall, and we are still thinking about. A possible Summit tournament - that way rec players can meet more intermediate/advanced players. Talking to our players who are captains and we see out there trying, building the community and conversation with players can help continue to have people come out and play.

**Ideas/Comments:**

- Even a way to stagger games so that way multiple different levels are playing at the same time, and games are just staggered. With different skill levels, then a rec game can be on a court next to an advanced court.
- We want to continue to expand our social and service events, and how we can get our members to attend those events and build that community as a whole.

**Question:** Have there been thoughts about kick-off parties and/or “mandatory” captain events to build community and social?

**Answer:** We used to do these initiatives, and have found that with four different divisions and multiple nights a week, the “kick-off” events seemed more common and then lead to attendance dwindling. We’ve moved to doing larger quarterly events to help build that community and welcome party. Looking for ideas on spring/fall events - feedback is welcome.

Also we are still working on a “Captains Duties” guide of some sort - hopefully Summit can allocate money to the captains for social stuff. Thinking about doing a quarterly “kickoff event” could be a way in which we are kicking off ALL divisions for one season could be a way to bring it together.

### **Ideas around mentorship:**

- Thinking about the culture of Summit, we know that there are pro’s and con’s to the different leagues within the dodgeball leagues throughout the season. In the city I moved from, there are no skill-level divisions, and a brand new player plays with (and against) a player who has been playing for years. What I loved about that was the mentorship that came through from playing with more advanced players who helped me get better at playing dodgeball, and then I was able to do that as I continued to get better.
- I think Summit could move in this direction to help build that connection which will lead to higher signups and retention.
- I would add that I would pay more for a mentorship program to have someone I can go to to learn skills from.
- If there was a way for a mentor to be a coach for a rec team?

**Question:** For rec players in the room, would you be interested in a no-skill level night where anyone is welcome to play on random teams?

**Answer:** Yes! I think it would be fun to experience, and I think the Advanced players would be aware of what they are signing up for and would be those mentors to help players grow.

**Question:** Open Plays are a great way for players to practice their skills, learn new things, and allow new members to the community to learn dodgeball for the first time.

**Answer:** We do have Skills & Drills as a way to engage the community in that way during Sunday no-sting. It would be helpful for more advanced players to assist with skills & drills to build that mentorship for newer/rec players. Moving forward, we are looking to start every season with an Open Play.

**Question:** Late registration fee? We get a lot of new players who come to Open Play and then want to sign up, it stinks that they are getting stuck on the “late fee cost” when they weren’t familiar with Summit before.

**Answer:** Knowing our registration numbers are needed for us to make sure we are not paying for extra venue space that we won't be using throughout the season before registration ends. This is the reason why we are starting a late registration fee. We want to make sure that brand new players at Open Plays don't get stuck with late registration costs, and could create a special discount code just for brand new players. This would be something that we could build out in league apps for Division Leadership to share during Open Play.

**Question:** The break between seasons is long. Could Open Play be moved up so that it is happening during the "normal" registration timeline.

**Answer:** Some people like the break, other people want to go right into the next one. That's why we tried doing pop-up sports like cloth dodgeball for people who still want to continue playing to have an option. We are open to suggestions, but so far the feedback on this is 50/50 on having or not having a break.

***Ideas/Comments:***

- Having more Open Plays throughout the season could allow people to have those "REMIX" opportunities.
- We would also have to pay for the gym in those off periods, so if people wouldn't come, that wouldn't be able to sustain it financially.
- Ideas for pop ups in break periods are welcome. Players are willing to travel to the suburbs every now and then too if our venues downtown are more expensive.

**Ideas on all-year REMIX style play:** Atlanta is membership based, so it's around the clock to play, and will take a poll around holidays to see if people will want to play. It is a monthly subscription that allows you to play on a monthly basis, but it allows me to play around the year to make the membership work.

Three nights a week

- The first three weeks of the month are "REMIX" style, so you just show up and get put on a random team and play.
- The last week of the month is a structured team where you play normal round robin and tournament style play.

**Question:** Sometimes we don't have enough refs - how do we get more? A lot of people don't want (or know how) to ref, even when their team is off of play and being asked to ref.

**Answer:** We need more people to learn how to ref. When you sign up, especially for intermediate/advanced, you should be prepared to ref. We also are paying refs, and have to consistently understand our finances.

**Comment:** I don't think there should be an expectation to pay to ref, if people want to support and play, then they should be active members of the community to help ref to make the games run smoothly.

**Question:** In Fall Intermediate Foam, we were told that if we hit a certain registration amount, we would have four teams for the season. We hit that number, and then we still only had three teams. We were told that this was a reffing situation in being unable to find refs. It's frustrating that we were told different information, having our expectations set for the season, and then they were not met when the season started.

**Answer:** It's a numbers situation to make sure all the teams are even and we can fill the courts. We could consider a "waitlist" after we reach the a capacity for teams to allow for more players and teams to join.

***Ideas/Comments:***

- Can we make our leagues consistent with registration numbers so players are aware when we hit certain registration amounts, then a certain number of players will be on a team. IE. Foam Intermediate will be 6 player teams, so even if we get 24 players, there will be four teams and we will find refs. We won't worry about no-refs and create a fair amount of teams so the expectation of play is there.
- We should set an amount of registrations and FILL those numbers rather than just hoping people sign up.
- When it comes to reffing, it comes with a message from leadership where we can just ask players to come and ref. Without any expectation of payment as we move forward. There are players (like me) who are in the community who would be willing to come out and ref, meet new players, etc.

**General Feedback:**

- Communication in general could be better across the board. We have monthly emails and one big facebook chat. Could we move to a platform that allows for larger communication and separate channels for different topics.
- Having printed things that are available and ready at the entry for all of our sports. Maybe little bulletin boards each week for different things to sign up for and be aware of.
- For something like a gala, it feels icky to charge members for something that we are giving out awards for. In other leagues I've been a part of, the end of season party is something that players don't pay for to go, but an open end-of-season party with season awards, etc.
- We are working with Andrew, our Sponsorship & Fundraising Director to look into sponsorships so we can help cover these costs and we don't have to charge our members anything for that.

**Question:** Hello. Recently cheating (not going out when hit) has become a frequent thing I have noticed when playing the game. Dodgeball is about integrity and it's tough to call someone out when you see it. I don't talk over the court but it is very frustrating when you do an amazing foot

shot and the person just doesn't go out. Is there anything that can be done about this. Some sort of penalty or yellow card? It's starting to feel like a he said she said mentality. I know this is one of the draw backs to dodgeball but it's even happening in advance divisions which should not be allowed. THANK YOU REFS THOUGH it's SO TOUGH TO SEE EVERYTHING

**Answer:**

We hear your frustration. What you are describing is one of the classic challenges in dodgeball which is the honor system. You are correct that the game moves very fast and referees can't see everything, but moving forward we can implement a few steps in order to mitigate this challenge. Yellow Card implementation. We can discuss with our refs to start taking more action on a warning and penalty system. It's true that dodgeball can feel like "he said, she said" when disputes arise. But introducing a structured penalty system, even just warnings can shift the culture. Players will think twice if they know there are consequences beyond just being called out. Lastly, we also recommend filling out the incident report, so we can track specific players and/or teams when it comes to complaints and address it that way as well.

**Question:** What is Summit doing to help foster a healthy environment when it comes to its players? There have been a few instances on Sundays that some players are showing unsportsmanlike behaviors that are making the environment feel less enjoyable overall.

**Answer:**

We appreciate your concern and want to reassure you that Summit takes sportsmanship and integrity very seriously. To help foster a healthy environment, we have implemented a yellow and red card system that allows referees to address unsportsmanlike behavior directly during games. In addition, we require incident and feedback forms to be filled out whenever issues arise, which enables us to track and review patterns over time. This process ensures that if a particular player or team consistently demonstrates concerning behavior, we can take appropriate action to protect the integrity of the league and the enjoyment of all participants. Our goal is to create a fair, respectful, and inclusive community where everyone can compete at their best while still having fun.

**Question:** Not sure how this could/would be approached, but there is an Intermediate No-Sting team that displays poor sportsmanship (attitudes, not high fiving at the end of games, flipping off other teams). We are a close knit community where people should feel comfortable coming to play a simple game and escape for an hour or two. This isn't the first season some of those players are doing so, and we'd like to see action taken if the behavior continues.

**Answer:**

We recommend filling out the incident form to put this on record as we will also have a discussion with the captain and action steps moving forward if the behavior continues. This feedback should also be shared with your Division Representative. This is not the type of sportsmanship that we want to see throughout any of our divisions, and we appreciate you bringing it forward.

**Question:** There should be an incentive for Captains since it seems to be struggling to find them. It could be a percentage off registration or some incentive. I also know people were asked to captain that probably weren't the best choice due to skill level and being absent most of the season.

**Answer:** This is a great suggestion and something we've heard before. We will have our VP of Operations and League Management teams come together to discuss ways in which we could build up our captains program.