### Town Hall 8.11.2025

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

- Bylaws are up on Summit website & BOD minutes will continue to be posted
  - o BOD meetings happen quarterly
- Incident Reporting form & Feedback Form are up on the website
- Structure change on the BOD
  - The BOD is going through apps for Treasurer and VP of Operations, interviews coming up soon. We are hoping to announce these filled roles by the end of August.
- With the structure changes, we have split up Social & Service, alternating months in which they hold their events.
  - Quinn McFadden is managing Social social@summitsportsleague.com
  - Brandon Dazzo is managing Service <a href="mailto:service@summitsportsleague.com">service@summitsportsleague.com</a>
- We are brainstorming the idea of future membership packages you sign up for a year's worth of leagues and different membership levels would have different additional perks. The Board is still working through details.

**Question:** What are the parameters around the incident reporting form and the feedback form? **Answer:** The feedback form is meant for anyone who has any ideas and suggestions for how to improve Summit. The incident form is for injuries, disputes, and ways for players, refs and managers to document when situations happen. It's also another way to track yellow and red cards. The BOD is building out guidelines for players, captains, managers, and refs on how to utilize the incident reporting form.

**Question:** What are different BOD short, medium and long term goals for your role? What would you like to do for the next few years?

## **Answer:**

(Steph) Continuing to grow the league is our priority. How are we able to set ourselves up for success now in order to grow numbers in the future. By implementing processes like the incident reporting form and feedback form will allow us to handle more members in the future. We are also looking at building out a membership program for the league to broaden possibilities for what our members could have access to and give us more financial strength to give back to the community.

(Eli) Trying to really focus on awareness and access to information about SSL. Also wanting to work toward a single registration open and closing date to make it easier for members to register for our leagues- however this is still being discussed.

(Gaelen) Really aiming at organizing everything across the board. Through our documents, platforms, meetings, and more. Streamlining everything to make sure we are taking full advantage of our time, resources, and energy together.

**Question:** Is Summit considering growing to more nights of the week? More variety of programs and sports? What can the community do to help and support those goals?

**Answer:** We would love to have additional sport opportunities, as well as integrating our sports different sports leagues with community/social events. Billiards, Pickleball, Cloth Dodgeball, etc. Anyone who is interested in building out a league, we would love to have those conversations of what it looks like. As strong members, continuing to spread the word of Summit Sports League and encourage your friends to show up and sign up goes a long way in keeping

**Question:** What happens if you show up to sub and no team needs a sub?

**Answer:** To help make sure that doesn't happen, sign up as a guest star through our google form and they can be contacted through the form, so when teams need subs there's a list of people to reach out to. We will be sure to share this out with our team captains. People can also utilize our Facebook group and chats to ask if anyone needs a sub before they show up to play.

**Question:** Other Denver based sports leagues do a great job of awareness with shirts, jerseys, etc. Are you all thinking of that?

**Answer:** The Summer 2025 swag giveaway for players is a Summit t-shirt. We are also building out a Summit merch online store which will give people a way to create team shirts, etc.

Question: Noticed a shift in Sunday no-sting in starting earlier every season. Is there a reason for the start time coming earlier? Can we stick to a more-consistent schedule available?

Answer: DPS sometimes affects what time we start, and we have to put in those requests 2-3 months before the season starts. We heard feedback from our rec players that their games were finished around 9 p.m., making it too late for them to go to Tight End. We decided to shift everything up an hour, so everyone would be able to play and go to Tight End. With the creation of the VP of Operations role, we are hopeful that they can look into registration numbers to see if we can have some leagues playing at the same time for players who can't play in both. For example, No-Sting Advanced can play at the same time as No-Sting Recreation.

**Question:** Is there a reason we don't switch Advanced and Beginner time slots more? **Answer:** We worked to be consistent in timing for players, as some were getting confused on their starting time. Our ultimate goal is to have 9 teams per division when able to have four courts in use and then one team to ref. Unfortunately, we don't know the numbers until just before the season starts since so many people register at the last minute.

**Question:** Thoughts on the new member experience? Things like subbing and learning how to play. Being new can be intimidating. What ideas do you all have to help new people feel welcome to Summit and learn dodgeball?

**Answer:** Advanced is a draft, but recreation is a buddy draft, and always will be. We like making sure that as people are signing up for recreation dodgeball, they have the opportunity to sign up with a buddy. We also can do a better job of advertising our guest-star option for people to just attend for one-off night instead of a season-long commitment.

We recognize, and have learned from you all that when you have a committed captain, it drastically improves the experience for new members. We are looking into building out a captains training as a way to give captains guidance on welcoming new players to the team and to the community. We can make it a consistent practice for captains to receive their team lists ahead of time in order to connect with their teams. Open Play has been seen as a great way to welcome new players, go over the rules, and meet other members of the community. Also looking towards skills & drills nights for players. With our ABCD League, we play fun and games at the end of recreation to help build camaraderie, allowing people let their guards down and then all go to 99ers together after.

**Other ideas from the group:** Other leagues used to have a welcome party before each season, to socialize, learn rules, etc. This could be something that Summit starts. DGFFL does a "draft party" for everyone to be welcomed to the community and the league

**Question:** How are you collecting data to analyze member retention, how are we being strategic in using that to help our growth?

**Answer:** We have all the data on LeagueApps, we have to take the time to build that out and come up with a plan to execute the next steps. It is on the BOD radar to pull that data and build out strategies.

**Question for the audience:** With hiking being canceled and no one signing up for the service event, any idea of why people aren't signing up?

## **Answers:**

- Timing (summer is harder since people are traveling), consistency, and there not being any incentive to go.
- I joined Summit to make friends, but that can be hard, even after playing for more than a
  year. Shaking up the structure on how we play can lead to more ways for everyone to
  meet other people. The more that can be facilitated by the league allows for those to
  grow.
- Possibly look at assigning a new player with an existing player as a "buddy". Having a "buddy" for social/service events.
- Fun & Games was so much fun at the beginning of this past season.
- In other leagues, the first losing team gets a free pitcher at the sponsor bar. If we can build that comfortability on the court, then we can build it off the court.

- Summit's first social engagement was Pride, so some members may not know what all we are offering. Would love to see a shift to where there are more off-court community events.
- Streamlining announcements through our captains as someone may be more inclined to attend if other members of their team are attending.
- Can we arm great captains to be true leaders of their team? Building community, teaching, guiding new players to learn the play of the game. Can there be an incentive for captains to continue doing what they are doing?

**Question:** What if advanced players who want to be rec captains?

**Answer:** We can work with our advanced players who want to help out with rec. In ABCD recreation, our managers will split responsibilities for one person to ref and the other to coach and give suggestions to the teams that are playing.

**Comment:** I love being a rec captain, but also want to play advanced, but part of me would rather keep being rec so I can captain and lead a team. Are there any incentives for captains to support them in being a leader? I also put together a rules digest for my team to understand the basic rules. Building a way to work themselves slowly into the league and growing with their leadership. There are clear examples on the board with almost everyone on the board who has gone from player to captain to board member.

**Comment:** I haven't played Sunday's in a while, but the last time I did, I was the only one at the bar after advanced ended, and was the only one at the bar. For context, in Climbing, there are free drinks/shots for new players at the bar after they attend. Is this something that can be continued for dodgeball as well? Focusing on player experience and retention is important.

**Question:** How is the board handling the workload with all the new stuff going on? Need any more help from other community members?

**Answer:** Once we are able to bring on the VP of Operations and Treasurer, we will finally have a full board present to be able to handle the workload. Looking at the workload, we feel confident in the new structure to be able to support growth.

**Question:** Are there committees, and ways for people to support some of the Director roles? **Answer:** Looking at the director roles, are there areas of the organization that are of interest to you, and could lend a hand to help. Anyone interested in helping should reach out to the board member whose job they'd be interested in assisting with.

**Question:** What are the term limits in leadership, and are there any changes since the previous administration?

**Answer:** We are in the process of updating our Bylaws. If the BOD approves the new changes at our next meeting, the following will go into effect:

- All Board Members will serve a minimum one-year term with the option to extend for up to three-years total with vote approval by the ELT. To extend their term, Board Members need to notify the ELT before 60 days of their annual term ending.
- Members of the ELT are required to serve a minimum of two years with the option to extend for up to three-years total with vote approval by the BOD. Quorum is met with a 65% vote of eligible members. This does not include the individual of which we are voting on.
- Board Members are welcome to re-apply to their position at the end of their three-year team for another three year term. They will be considered along with any other candidates that apply.

**Question:** Any consideration about having player memberships come with voting rights? **Answer:** There was a recent move to make voting rights go to all board members. Previously only four individuals had voting power. This change makes it so all ten board members have voting power. We'll see how that goes, and based on that, we'll decide whether to expand it to community members.

**Question:** Please elaborate on the duties of each division manager.

#### Answer:

Dodgeball League Managers (No-Sting, ABCD, Foam):

- Create the teams, host the season itself, build out the schedule, make sure all equipment is ready and available each week, set up the courts, take down, etc.
- Recruitment is a main role as well to make sure we are hitting our registration goals.

## Dodgeball Division Representatives:

- Those division representatives make sure everything runs smoothly and handle minor issues
- They help manage captains, share our announcements every week, and assist in building community.

# Bouldering Managers:

• Manages dates/times, venues, materials, QR codes/score sheets, name tags. Also makes new players know climbing safety.

**Question:** Are captains responsible for entering their scores into League Apps? I don't know if this has been conveyed in the past.

**Answer:** Currently there are different expectations for different divisions, and we are hopeful that the new VP of Operations role will make this consistent across the board. No-Sting League Managers or Division Representatives enter the scores on the back end. For ABCD and Foam, captains are expected to enter scores themselves.

**Question:** I am concerned that our sponsor bar does not have food options. I know they don't own the space, but it has been brought up by several other members.

**Answer:** Tight End has pizza now! But hoping for another option for Wednesdays after this current Foam season. Andrew, Director of Fundraising, tries his best to make sure that our sponsor bars have food.

**Question:** Any plans for a tournament format to increase competition in a fun way? **Answer:** We love the idea of having a fun tournament across ALL Summit to learn new skills, foster community, and learn more. It could be designed with random teams based on rankings across all divisions. We also partner with Denver Parks & Recreation for their annual Holiday charity tournament, another great way to meet new people, have fun, and give back to the community.

**Question:** Tournaments are a great way to build engagement and learning, but the barrier for entry is so high as it's not something people are aware of what to do. How can it be set up for people to feel more welcome to come?

**Answer:** We can work on building a calendar of events/tournaments across the country that are happening throughout the year. Including recommendations on which tournaments to start with if you are going to your first tournament. We can look into ways to help facilitate conversations of people who are traveling to tournaments. <u>Dodgeball Hub</u> is a current website that has a great list of dodgeball events. <u>Dodgeball.live</u> is a great way to watch dodgeball play happening all year round.

**Question**: Any talks on a Youth Dodgeball league?

**Answer:** Our insurance provider does not allow us to partner with youth - but this is something we would love to if we are ever able.

**Question:** Why is the cloth league during intermediate foam?

**Answer:** It wouldn't bring in enough money to pay for a venue, so we are using venue space that we are already paying for. If we did this on Sundays, the ball switch from no-sting to cloth could be difficult. We do not want the pop-up seasons to overlap in the future.