

Lakewood Junior Baseball  
Special Meeting May 14, 2024  
Called to order 6:37 PM

Board members present Mike Jacobs, Jennifer Walterscheid, Ed Emmitt, Brittany Freeman, Bill Sanders as well as Juan Garcia.

Reason for meeting was discuss Juan Garcia's involvement with LJBA in 2024 after BOD received an email from Angie date April 28, 2024.

Juan explained that his team had hoped to move to a higher level of competition for the 2022 season. Juan had a parent meeting with the 2021 roster and parents voted to move to Playball. However, the communication between Juan and Playball broke down, so they tried to move to Diamond Club. There were not enough remaining players to fill out a full team, so the team broke up and the players played for various club teams because a team could not be formed in either Playball or Diamond Club. At the same time, Juan's family moved to Littleton and his son played for Dakota Ridge.

Brittany discussed 2021 13U Garcia roster and mentioned that only 2 players returned to 2022 13U team (they played up to 13U the year before and were eligible to play 13U again).

Angie sent an email in January of 2022 informing some parents that a 14U team was not available at LJBA. Mike pointed out to Juan that communication with the league was not very good and put the league in an uncertain state. Juan acknowledged the criticism and agreed he should have been more open about their intentions.

The group discussed the requests for Juan's return in the fall of 2023 that Angie refused, but requests were not brought to the full board. Juan stated that Angie will not have a discussion with him.

All present members feel that players who want to play in the league should be able to play, specifically referring to Ezra Garcia. Juan stated that he was attending Ezra practices and observed that Ben Kinghorn was inexperienced in teaching fundamentals. Mike recounted that he had reached out to Ben who verified Juan's observations, acknowledged that Juan has a wealth of coaching experience and knows how to communicate with the kids and requested that Juan be allowed to coach with him.

Ben joined the meeting at 7:25 and weighed in on the discussion and stated "Coach Garcia knows all the fundamentals" and feels it might be better if Ben is the "communication and logistics" guy for the team while Juan takes the lead "coaching" role due to his previous experience and coaching presence.

It was moved and unanimously agreed that we should allow Juan to coach, that even assuming the circumstances were not as rosy as discussed, or if the two families that did return were disgruntled about the experience, there is not enough to bar him from coaching going forward. The agreement was to enable him to immediately begin assisting in coaching practices but like all other coaches needs to register and complete all requirements (background and certificates) before coaching on-field in games.

July 9<sup>th</sup> next scheduled meeting.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:05 PM