



## AYSO Executive Board Meeting

March 20, 2025 @ 8:30pm PDT

### I. Call to Order – 8:30pm PDT

- Members in attendance: Terry Takahashi, Kellie Pruett, Patrick Shopbell, Tony D’Angelo, Shant Kamanjian, Brandi Lane, Dan Jeffries, Jonathan Gardner, Rolf Mauermann, Luke Powers, and Christina Scott

### II. Discussion Topic- La Canada Field Space for Region 13

- There is a lot of ill will between baseball and soccer families. We have dismissed or diminished what they have asked for.
- City of La Canada is overrun with gophers, so most fields are being attacked by gophers. This is making it hard for the city to maintain the fields.
- We would like to point out that Region 13 is not to blame for the bumpy fields, but AYSO is an easy “scapegoat” for why the fields are not pristine.
- Accusations that AYSO has trashed the bathrooms and thrown feces at the wall. AYSO gave some permits to SURF, so all “bad soccer behavior” has been lumped together. Ironically, SURF teams are still getting access to the field.
- Appears that this has been “brewing” for several years and baseball has taken over the commission and is promoting their own self-interests.
- Region 13 is submitting a letter of appeal indicating that AYSO players need access to the fields.
- Residents around FIS are not going to be pleased with the installation of portable lights or the struggle for neighborhood parking. This means AYSO will likely receive the brunt of the frustration from neighbors.
  - Concern whether the use of the portable lights will only fuel the anger and frustration of the area.
  - Might want to request a “city wide dialogue” about the use of portable lights to establish a clear FIS policy before AYSO requests using lights for practice. That way the policy covers all sports.
- There are 400 AYSO athletes in LaCanada. It’s important to stress that these are children from the community in our letter to the City Council.

- Another point was raised that there are many misperceptions about AYSO, which Kellie tried to correct in a letter. It was stressed that all of the “grownups” need to come to the table to find a solution to help the children.
- For over twenty years, AYSO Region 13 has tried to keep the younger La Canada players together in “school based teams” – so we may need to share with families that if we lose the fields, we will need to place La Canada players in open spots on Pasadena teams, which will be practicing on Pasadena fields.
- We don’t want to water down our program, so there may need to be fewer teams, which means some kids will not have a chance to play. This is critical to point out to the La Canada families, so they will be more likely to fight for field access.
- Quick recap –
  - Will send a letter of appeal in person within 10 days to the City Clerk
  - Taj will send the story to the local newspaper
  - Important NOT to attack the baseball people
  - Will try to rally the La Canada residents to speak to their City Council members
  - Important to consider “next steps” if the City Council says no

### III.Closing

- April 17<sup>th</sup> is the Joint Youths Committee Meeting where lights will be discussed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm PDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Scott