

Integrity of the Game vs Economic (Politics) Impact, The Oklahoma Business Plan

Caleb,

Youth sports in Oklahoma are held together by the thread of a dollar bill, the dry ink on a facility lease agreement or a handshake that's often motivated by politics or finances.

That's a pretty big statement and not speculation, assumptions or creating a narrative for a particular outcome. Perhaps, trimming the fat off of a piece of the puzzle so it will fit into a specific spot it was never intended for...

This being my first season within a State Leadership role is not my introduction into youth sports locally or on a national level. My Journey started in 2005, most know my why but fail to understand the process to become the expert here in Oklahoma. I cannot give much professional advice as to experience across the country other than research... The State of Oklahoma... I am an expert!

2023-2024 presented two new pieces to the 2022-2023 Oklahoma Little League (annual carryover) puzzle or the Oklahoma Culture adding 3 new Charter's and a new Assistant District Manager. The 4 new pieces to the Oklahoma Little League puzzle are different with 2 new additional charters in Durrant & OKC that fail (inexperienced with no leadership) to get off the ground and 2 pieces that have weathered the storm of time consuming decades of knowledge and experience working with other youth sports programs. This facilitates sharpening their skills, instilling patience, building character and protecting their integrity for their piece of the puzzle.

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Oklahoma Little League 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) was put into action upon the last out recorded during the 2023 Regional Tournament in Waco, TX. Tulsa Int., Little League's Traditional Williamsport Quest begins with the annual "Proceed Without Play" (except 2003). The 2024 CMP adds three new charters in Deer Creek, Durant and Oklahoma City. On the surface they appear to be the same as equal charters. Scratching the Charter's surface would reveal all three Charters are completely different in experience, work ethic, goals and financial stability.

As Oklahoma Assistant District Manager, one of my roles identified by the State District Manager was the coordination for new charters. As a request for information was submitted via the public it would eventually filter back to our State District Manager. Those requests for Oklahoma Little Leagues local chartering help would be forward to me to follow up on and provide onsite consultations. A process I enjoyed and have become the salesman for new charters. Since assuming this role I have developed relationships with those parties in Durant, Tishomingo, Moore, Deer Creek, Yukon and Shawnee, OK.

Durant, OK., I visited with my point of contact and scratched the surface for the area and my point of contact, I question his motives, integrity and past. This individual displayed a low level of interest over time with no access to facilities. As time would reveal he would be associated with a questionable youth basketball league's finances.

Tishomingo, OK., I visited with my point of contact and scratched the surface for the area and my point of contact, a partnership is desired with Durant and Ardmore as my point of contact was facilitating a future meeting. This is significant for the Ardmore, OK., area as they are receptive and will be inheriting 8 turf infields this winter at their 2 quad 8 field softball complex.

Moore, OK., I visited with my point of contact and scratched the surface for the area and my point of contact, this onsite consultation may have been the most crucial discovery in my professional career and positively identifies with pinpoint accuracy, The Oklahoma Business Culture. This validates my Doctoral Study, *"Integrity of the Game vs Economic (Politics) Impact, THE Oklahoma Business Plan"*. The Oklahoma Little League was on the brink of providing a Moore, OK., official Little League charter but I do not foresee any future possibilities unless the State of Oklahoma Legislature initiates an oversight program.

Deer Creek., I visited with my point of contact and scratched the surface for the area and my point of contact after the application for a new little league charter process had started. As I learn my new role as the Oklahoma Little League Assistant District Manager through the eyes of Deer Creek's Holly Looman, I quickly understand their struggles in communications with the State of Oklahoma Little League District Manager, Mindy Abbott. Initial concerns were of the most importance and time sensitive to ensure Deer Creek's Charter could "Officially" offer Little League International baseball and

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softball for their community beginning in 2024 vs 2025. This forces Deer Creek to engage with Little League International Williamsport and Little League Southwest Regional Waco with crucial chartering time sensitive documents requiring Oklahoma State District Manager's approval and signature on all required documentation.

Holly Looman, through our discussions overtime, displayed crucial integrity and could conceptually outline the Oklahoma Youth Sports Business Culture without knowing anything pertaining to my Doctoral Research. Finally, I've stumbled upon an individual who intimately understands the Oklahoma Youth Sports Business Culture, the ripple effect with all the struggles and challenges only a transplanted Oklahoman would fully understand. Transplanting is appropriate simply because Oklahoman's that are aware of the culture are the ones who facilitate the culture who have different goals, processes, procedures and the ripple effect rewards that it provides. As Holly and I work together towards resolving Deer Creek's issues while attempting to provide a 2024 season of play Deer Creek gathers momentum with local primetime news coverage for bringing Little League to the Deer Creek area that includes parts of the Oklahoma City area. Great advertisement and local momentum builds for the Deer Creek Charter. As Holly and I would continue to work together our responsibilities would require more focused attention to be given to the immediate task at hand. Holly's continued efforts to provide a legal legitimate Deer Creek Charter was significantly hampered by multiple requests for local help with no response from the State of Oklahoma Little League District Manager. Now a narrative begins and a picture begins to be painted with the

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perspective reflective negatively on Deer Creek that's unprofessional. This leads me to believe that the 2024 Deer Creek Charter was not going to be an "Official" piece of the 2024 Oklahoma Little League CMP that would eventually facilitate a "Proceed Without Play" for Tulsa Int., Little League Charter to Waco, TX., Southwest Regional Little League Tournament Play.

I myself, spend significant personal resources, time and effort with the City of Moore, OK., Parks and Recreation Director, Sue Woods. Sue's grandson would be an official 12U player for the 2024 Little League Season of play. This is the mindset of those who have access to facilities here in Oklahoma that's initially sparked by personal rewards or the ripple effect. The Oklahoma Little League Culture continues to facilitate the 12U destination league but in reality nobody knows why their local community can't get on ESPN. Every youth baseball and softball league in the State of Oklahoma is mostly perceived as "Little League" as they all advertise publicly with "Little League" in their title, user-group or legal business name, confusing. This question will be a big topic of discussion here locally in Oklahoma around the end of July - 1st of August timeframe as the 2024 coverage begins on ESPN. Scratching the Moore, OK., surface would validate the foundation of my study. What used to be an educated speculation now becomes indisputable and reinforces "Integrity of the Game vs Economic (Politics) Impact, THE Oklahoma Business Plan".

Yukon, OK., I visited with my point of contact and scratched the surface for the area and my point of contact, who initially had interest via investment opportunities with little to no commitment to a community based program. Of recent developments, the City of Yukon City Manager was terminated a few weeks ago with a new Mayor who I have had an onsite visit with specifically about the Oklahoma Youth Culture. The Oklahoma Little League is on their Youth Sports CMP 2025-2026.

Shawnee, OK., I visited with my point of contact and scratched the surface for the area and my point of contact, who is formulating all the requirements for chartering via Jordan in Williamsport. As I visited with the proposed chartering board, Lauren, initiated the process to receive information via the official Little League website. This has been documented via email and audio conversations between Southwest Regional (Blaine), Oklahoma Little League District Manager (Mindy), Oklahoma Assistant District Manager (Kenneth) that I have yet to receive any notification from Little League regarding the proposed Pottawatomie County Little League's request to charter and that's in my county of residence. I'm patiently awaiting an official invite and a seat at the table as a Little League representative with Pottawatomie County Little League as this is the most productive route. I am in the process with my Non-Profit 501c3 of acquiring a university campus (All Facilities) of what was known as St. Gregory's University, Shawnee, OK (Pottawatomie County). Lauren, who I have been visiting with, has concerns and boundaries as she seeks "Little League " as a community member and volunteer vs her role as an elected City of Shawnee Elected Official.

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Is it truly the desire of Oklahoma Little League to bring on new charters or to expand Oklahoma Little League? Early on I questioned why Tulsa Int., Little League had not experienced much growth over the last 25 years. My Doctoral Study would reveal that after doing some investigative research, LaFortune Park would be included as a complex within my research hosting USSSA Tournaments on the weekends. As research continued, I would later find out that whoever was leasing FaFortune Park was also leasing 3 other sports complexes from the City of Tulsa, OK (\$1 per complex per year = \$4 per year for 4 complexes = 19 fields). This would further reveal a total of 19 fields in Tulsa, OK., Tulsa Int., would have access to and facilitate exponential growth over the years. With all 4 complexes identified within my Doctoral Research, I can connect the dots between weekend USSSA Business Model Tournaments that facilitate the demise of our Oklahoma Youth Sports Culture and with a stranglehold on Oklahoma Little League, The Ripple Effect. Through more research I have identified supporting evidence in a lawsuit filed within the State of Florida, State of Florida AG vs USSSA - RICO. With the latest court filing sent to me via plaintiff's attorney the includes the State of Oklahoma Youth Sports Culture and the Oklahoma USSSA State Director, Wally Fortuna, page 33. The Oklahoma Business Culture is further solidified and has infiltrated Oklahoma Little League.

Research continues as a social media post goes viral and peaks my concern as the narrative describes a Texas team disqualified by being too competitive. I've publicly

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talked about my journey officially starting April 27, 2005 but in reality HIS Plan started in 1999 with a team called the Shawnee Braves. In 2003 these 11U/12U boys were introduced to Oklahoma Little League in 2002 as then Oklahoma State District Manager, Pat Locke, recruited Shawnee Youth Baseball as an Official Oklahoma Little League Charter. In 2003, the Shawnee Braves were crowned the Oklahoma Little League State Champions and were making plans to travel to the Southwest Regional Little League Tournament but were disqualified as "Too Competitive". Little League International failed to provide any substantial evidence or communicate with the Shawnee Braves. Yes, the Shawnee Braves were indeed a competitive team as that was reflective of their head coach, Kenneth Crawford. This team did nothing wrong or warrant actions put in place, lacking professionalism with no communication upon "Official" notification. Was I bitter? Absolutely, only since becoming "Oklahoma Assistant District Manager" facilitating Oklahoma Little League was through my Doctoral Research and Study. Now, with a full understanding of exactly what is needed here in Oklahoma that can provide a solution to the Oklahoma Youth Sports Culture, oversight protection, Little League International is the only legitimate choice in my professional opinion.

Discussions with Coach Gregory Harper, Ft. Worth, TX Disqualified Team. I reached out and scratched the Ft. Worth surface with integrity identifying dots but not knowing if they connect at the present moment in time. As every conversation has two sides of a story we often admit that the truth is somewhere in the middle. I have a pretty good understanding of what's happened in FT. Worth and we can discuss that in detail if

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needed in the future. But for now, in comparing apples to apples and oranges to oranges what Tulsa Int., has facilitated over the years is egregious in any comparison to Ft. Worth or with my personal experience in 2003 with the Shawnee Braves.

Where do we go from here with integrity and providing a legitimate opportunity for the Oklahoma Little League? How far do we need to kick this can down the road? Do additional dots need to be connected between the Tulsa Int., Head Baseball Coach, current Berryhill, OK Public Schools High School Baseball Coach, Founder of a Sportsmanship Foundation via his son's compassionate side on ESPN display. That player, I believe, is the young man I visited with personally while observing the 2024 Oklahoma Little League State Tournament. He was more than willing to openly discuss his experience in Waco, TX., and his experience for the All Star Tryout Process that year. At the time, I had no idea who he was and in fact gave him a Brian Crawford Memorial Baseball Bracelet with some discussion on Brian, but as the curtain is drawn back more is revealed and more dots start to connect.

Where do we go from here and how long does Little League International kick the can down the road? Who will protect the future of Oklahoma Little League and ensure an International Little League Tournament program has Oklahoma Integrity? How does one justify Ft. Worth and allow 2024 Tulsa Int., to continue not only as a team but a legitimate charter? These are answers that I patiently await from Little League International and anticipate a prosperous Oklahoma Little League Future.

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In the event Tulsa Int., is DQ'd it will create a huge buzz and demand local if not national media coverage. I foresee this facilitating exposing the Oklahoma Youth Sports Culture and connecting all the dots publicly. I can stand on my Doctoral Research, Study and the Journey that has brought me to this point and time. Honestly, if you were scratching the surface for my journey one would feel they have a great understanding from just our little league interactions. Respectfully, Little League International is just coming to the table. My story, my journey will have a public platform very soon but I have vowed that this will all come out on HIS timing. It's been a long time... Will today be HIS day, next week, next month or next year? I just keep researching...

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Kenneth Crawford

+1 405 642 9592

BCMSports.net