

# Integrity of the Game Podcast Series

Chris Turner

Thanks again for sketching out this new podcast series. Below you'll find (1) a brief summary of how we approached your questions and (2) the detailed episode-by-episode responses. In short, we've drawn on our comprehensive Oklahoma USSSA dataset (2001–2025), the Shawnee Minutes Dataset, case studies like Firelake Ballfields and Bouse Sports Complex, and decades of field experience to ensure each topic is grounded in concrete data and real-world examples.

## Our Methodology:

- **Data Foundation:** We mined our Oklahoma USSSA dataset (2001–2025) for fee structures, team counts, and host revenues across counties.
- **Case Studies & Documents:** We integrated city meeting minutes (Shawnee, Choctaw), facility lease agreements, and contractor records to illustrate governance and financial flows.
- **Visualizations & Interviews:** Wherever possible, we'll incorporate charts (fee trends, budget allocations) and clips from district directors to bring the numbers—and the people—into the conversation.

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## Episode One: USSSA, User Groups, Fees, and Tax Dollars

We map every dollar—team entry, facility rental, concession fees—throughout the USSSA ecosystem, using our Oklahoma dataset (2001–2025). Listeners will see real figures from Firelake Ballfields to Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex, understand how unregulated cash operations erode transparency, and why that matters for scholarships, facility upkeep, and taxpayer trust.

## Episode Two: Breaking Down the Dollars

Step-by-step walk-through of our proprietary visuals: bar graphs of budget allocations, line charts of fee inflation over two decades, and county-level profitability heat maps. Case studies—like team count dips at Choctaw's Bouse Sports Complex—underscore why data-driven governance is vital for equity and sustainability.

## Episode Three: Two Types of Little League Play

Contrast “basic youth development” leagues (skill-focused, community-oriented) with the “Williamsport track” (competitive, all-star pipeline). We'll unpack age-cutoff rules, resource allocation, and volunteer training differences, helping parents and coaches choose—or blend—the models that best serve their athletes.

## Episode Four: Getting Involved in Community Politics

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A tactical guide to School Board and City Council engagement: tracking agendas, submitting comments, proposing items. We'll draw on the Shawnee Minutes Dataset and Choctaw case studies—advocating for turf funding or contesting fee policies—to show you how to build coalitions and secure transparent budgets.

## Episode Five: How to Get Your Youth Sports League Back

When governance or contracts go south, reclaiming your league requires a roadmap. Using the BCM Sports/Bouse negotiations, we outline auditing past deals, mobilizing parent-volunteers, crafting data-backed proposals, and presenting to municipal authorities to regain—and grow—your operational role.

## Episode Six: Wrapping It All Up

We'll synthesize our key findings—revenue flows, visualization insights, league models, civic tactics, recovery strategies—revisit major case studies, and offer a clear call to action: forming “Integrity Committees,” scaling our research framework to other states, and subscribing to our book-aligned series for deeper dives.

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## Streamlining & Extras

- **Combine Episodes Four & Five** into a “Civic Action & League Restoration” module to tighten focus.
- **Bonus Episodes:** Digital transformation in youth sports, advanced sponsorship strategies, vendor oversight best practices, and “Voices from the Field” interviews.

Looking forward to refining this when you're back in the office on Friday—let's build a podcast that's as data-driven and actionable as our doctoral work.

—Ken