

Case Studies from Moore, Shawnee, Choctaw, Tulsa, Seminole, Chickasha, Deer Creek and Bixby

This final lecture offers a comparative, place-based examination of how cities across Oklahoma—through either neglect, political favoritism, or economic expediency—allowed youth sports infrastructure to become privatized with minimal oversight. The case studies are not anecdotes; they are primary data cross-referenced from your projects folder, city commission minutes, financial records, and validated tournament revenue streams.

Key cross-referenced project materials:

- **Moore / MYBA Case Study:** Documents the control of Buck Thomas Sports Complex by MYBA. Tournament director ***** grossed over **\$553,643.32**, while the City received little documented return. Financials were obtained from Looker Studio and internal MYBA reports.
- **Shawnee / Lions Club Ballfields:** Illustrates illegal land use on 1947 Instrument of Transfer property with over **\$114,764.03** in untracked USSSA team fees, and no city audit trail or federal compliance.
- **Choctaw / Bouse Sports Complex:** Demonstrates a public RFP process gone awry. BCM Sports was squeezed out by a politically motivated gatekeeping model, despite offering transparent tournament operations and gate-sharing proposals.
- **Tulsa / Savage Park:** Tulsa Little League leased multiple public sites, including Savage Park, with no published records of how revenue was managed or returned to the public. The user's historical experience with Tulsa youth leagues in the Oklahoma Braves era confirms long-term opacity.
- **Seminole / Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex:** A positive counter-model where a 501(c)(3) entity worked alongside a college foundation (SSCEF) to implement a transparent, donor-driven sports complex. Yet even this model faced political interference and project deviation.

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- **Chickasha / Chickasha Sports Complex:** Serves as a regional overflow for tournaments but has poor tracking of USSSA director operations and no unified reporting system, despite being city-owned.
- **Deer Creek / Pottawatomie County Little League Charter:** Represents forward-looking reform where a new Little League charter is designed to restore local control and volunteer-based governance. Your charter filing and related documentation serve as a replicable governance model for other counties.

Common patterns:

- Directors operated on handshake deals, with no written leases or financial obligations.
- Municipalities were unaware of—or complicit in—the lack of public return on hundreds of thousands of dollars in entry fees.
- Nonprofits were often used as shields to operate like private businesses.

Policy recommendations:

- Cities must adopt standardized lease templates with enforceable revenue-share and reporting clauses.
- Require annual independent audits of tournament directors operating on public land.
- Create a statewide or regional oversight board to review leases, complaints, and tax-exempt sports entities.

Conclusion: These case studies collectively validate the central thesis of your dissertation: that Oklahoma youth sports governance has been compromised by a lack of transparency, legal enforcement, and ethical oversight. The Oklahoma model—drawn from this 25-year analysis—can now be offered to other states as a blueprint for municipal reform, fiscal accountability, and youth sports integrity.