

Hidden Valley - Integrity of the Game

The Evolution of a Statewide Youth-Sports Research Architecture

Comprehensive Doctoral-Level Executive Summary / Book Chapter

Pre-Draft 2016-2024 | AIUSSSA 2001-2024 | Hidden Valley Integrity of the Game 2001-2026

Prepared September 5, 2026. The current HVIIOG CSV governs quantitative reporting; the audio transcript governs the history of the research process. Federal pleadings are used as contextual evidence, and allegations are not presented as adjudicated facts.

Executive Abstract

HVIOG began with a practical question about Buck Thomas Park in Moore, Oklahoma and evolved into a statewide historical reconstruction of Oklahoma USSSA baseball and softball. The project progressed through three generations because each prior method exposed a limitation that required a new solution. Phase I manually reconstructed visible 2016-2024 records. Phase II expanded historical access to 2001 and used AI-assisted extraction, but exposed 6,574 divisions with unresolved team-count displays. An interim estimation method was tested and rejected. Phase III began after deeper portal hyperlinks revealed exact underlying information for many apparently unresolved records, prompting a division-by-division rebuild. The current dataset contains 20,316 division records, 5,335 identified events, 165,212 teams and \$36,339,630 in advertised team-entry fees. The evolution itself is part of the validation because uncertainty was confronted by changing the method rather than concealing the uncertainty.

1. Origin of the Research

The transcript places the origin in conversations with Moore Parks and Recreation about Buck Thomas Park, Little League and a possible BCM Sports role. The researcher's prior experience at Bouse Sports Complex in Choctaw shaped his concern with user-group agreements, concession rights, tournament operators and facility economics. Rather than deciding from anecdote whether Buck Thomas was an opportunity, he attempted to reconstruct actual USSSA activity. The public portal contained events, directors, venues, divisions, teams, advertised entry fees and game information, but it did not provide a usable historical export. The first research problem was therefore architectural: how could fragmented public records be transformed into a defensible historical dataset?

2. Phase I - Pre-Draft 2016-2024

Phase I was the manual-reconstruction era. The researcher transcribed USSSA activity event by event and division by division, initially for Buck Thomas baseball and softball and later statewide. The process proved that dispersed public portal records could be reorganized into facility history, director activity, sport comparisons and advertised entry-fee analysis. The audio recording recalls approximately \$14.6 million in team-entry-fee activity in this generation; that historical total explains the evolution but is superseded by the current HVIOG dataset. The challenge was labor intensity, lack of export capability and limited visible historical seasons. The solution was a structured event-division spreadsheet. The result was a shift from one facility to a statewide systems study.

3. Systems Expansion

Once the Buck Thomas reconstruction proved useful, directors could be followed across facilities, events could be mapped to satellite venues, and activity could be reorganized by municipality, county, season and sport. This systems insight is the foundation for the later facility reports, director profiles, municipality/county analyses, public-school studies, umpire models and economic-impact work. Those products are not disconnected case studies; they are analytical views generated from a common event-division architecture.

4. Phase II - AIUSSSA 2001-2024

Phase II began when historical URL patterns opened USSSA seasons back to 2001. AI-assisted extraction increased scale and made a long-run Oklahoma reconstruction possible. The expansion also exposed a major evidentiary problem: thousands of divisions displayed a question mark for team count and the obvious event page could show N/A. An interim model assigned representative team counts and average fees to unresolved baseball and softball divisions. The researcher rejected that method because thousands of estimated or phantom teams could not support the desired doctoral-level standard. Completeness was not allowed to outrank defensibility.

5. The 6,574-Division Crisis and Breakthrough

The 6,574 question-mark divisions became the central methodological crisis of Phase II. The breakthrough occurred when the researcher noticed that a deeper hyperlink opened information that appeared absent at the higher portal level. Actual teams, entry fees, minimum games and related event details could be recovered. The recording describes these as portal 'onion layers.' For formal publication, the supported conclusion is that the interface could make historical information difficult to discover without deeper navigation; interface complexity alone is not proof of intentional deception. The solution was to abandon the estimated-team architecture and start over.

6. Phase III - Hidden Valley 2001-2026

Phase III is the reconstruction and verification era. The researcher reports manually reviewing all 20,316 division records and associated fields over a period of years. Exact public-source values were used where recoverable; calculations were made transparently; standardized models were applied where direct records were unavailable; and unknown categories were preserved for future evidence rather than populated with unsupported values. HVI0G is therefore not AIUSSA plus two seasons. It is a third-generation research architecture created after the method materially changed.

7. Current Authoritative Baseline

The September 5, 2026 CSV contains 20,316 divisions and 5,335 identified events: 14,569 baseball divisions and 5,747 softball divisions. It contains 165,212 teams and \$36,339,630 in advertised team-entry fees, consisting of \$20,872,737 baseball and \$15,466,893 softball. The model contains 424,234 minimum games, 777,569 modeled umpire assignments and \$31,095,360 in modeled umpire compensation. It identifies 423 facilities or combinations, 242 tournament directors, 236 municipalities or combinations and 88 counties or combinations. Modeled gate is \$68,189,690; modeled concessions are \$34,094,845; modeled gross event activity is \$138,624,165; and modeled economic impact is \$92,808,682. Corrected modeled sanction fees total \$2,046,025: \$1,645,900 Oklahoma team sanction fees plus \$400,125 national event sanction fees.

8. The 65-Column Architecture

The CSV is a research schema, not a conventional accounting ledger. Identity and traceability fields preserve event, season, division, director, status and source links. Participation/pricing fields preserve minimum-game guarantee, advertised entry fee, displayed status, teams entered, total team-entry fee, standardized players and event duration. Facility/geography fields connect events to normalized facilities, addresses, municipalities, counties, state and public-school status. Officiating fields model minimum games, umpires per game, total assignments, standardized pay and total umpire compensation. Event-economics fields model fans, admission, gate, concessions, gross event activity and event net. Sanction fields model team and event fees. Economic-impact fields model day trips, overnight stays and total impact. Placeholder fields preserve future capacity for facility rental, lease income and stay-to-play evidence.

9. Evidentiary Classification

Public-source/reconstructed fields include event identity, director, facility, sport, season, dates, stature, division, advertised entry fee, recovered team count and source URLs. Direct calculations include arithmetic derived from source inputs. Standardized models include players per team, spectator ratios, admission, concession ratio, umpire compensation, sanction fees and economic impact. Operational understandings requiring documents include State Tournament remittance splits, director-retained portions, state-office receipts, regional receipts, national-office receipts and rebates. Unknown/placeholders include facility rental, lease income, stay-to-play, tax treatment, 1099/W-2 treatment, deposits and accounting records unless independently documented. A modeled dollar is not inherently weak; it becomes misleading only if its modeled status is concealed.

10. Conservative Modeling Philosophy

The transcript explains a standardized ten-player roster assumption for team events, two adults per player for the fan model, \$5 admission across the study period, a concession ratio rather than receipts, and \$40 per umpire assignment across 2001-2026. Economic-impact assumptions distinguish local league activity from tournament travel. These models are designed for consistency and comparative analysis, not as claims that every modeled dollar can be traced to a receipt or bank deposit. Future publications should label modeled and standardized values prominently.

11. League Activity and Public Benefit

The current CSV contains 1,345 League Play divisions, 618 League Preseason divisions, 49 League Postseason divisions and 23 League Tournament divisions. These exact dataset categories override spoken shorthand in the recording. The policy question is whether taxpayer-supported facilities primarily produce recurring local participation opportunities or disproportionately serve tournament activity. HVIIOG can quantify the activity pattern; conclusions about public benefit require additional policy, lease, participation and community evidence.

12. Director Classification and Contractor Structure

The federal Second Amended Complaint states that sanctioned and hosted events may operate under USSSA Directors who are independent contractors and not employees, or by USSSA employees. It describes state and local representatives as typically independent contractors and alleges that state directors and event coordinators may earn portions of registration/entry fees, gate fees and concession fees. This supports a critical language standard: a listed tournament director is associated with advertised event activity, but HVIIOG alone does not prove that the director personally received or retained the entire amount. Future profiles should distinguish event director, area director, state director, regional leadership, national role and affiliated business entity.

13. Oklahoma, Wally Fortuna and USSSA Midwest

The updated federal filing expressly describes a USSSA Midwest structure and alleges that a regional organization was inserted between national USSSA and state/local directors. Paragraph 54 places Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma in one component directed by Wally Fortuna, identified as Rick Fortuna's brother. For HVIIOG, Wally should therefore be treated as an organizational node rather than merely another tournament-director name. Events directly displayed under Wally and statewide Oklahoma activity occurring within a state/regional structure associated with his leadership are different measures and must not be conflated. The filing analyzed here does not name Choctaw or Bouse Sports Complex; those connections require independent evidence.

14. Sanction Fees and the Financial Ripple

The corrected HVIIOG model identifies \$2,046,025 in combined state and national sanction fees. The federal pleading independently identifies registration and sanctioned-event fees as USSSA revenue categories and alleges a separate incident involving approximately \$25,900 in sanction fees associated with a Global World Series. That does not validate HVIIOG's exact historical rates, but it validates sanction fees as a material research category. The oversight question is whether organizations receiving volume-dependent revenue maintain adequate classification, accounting, reporting, conflict-of-interest and oversight controls.

15. State Tournament Entry Fees - The Next Onion Layer

The researcher's operational understanding is that Oklahoma State Tournament entry fees may be substantially remitted to the Oklahoma State USSSA Office even when an independent director is displayed, with the listed director retaining only a portion. This is crucial because director reports should not convert advertised event activity into personal receipts. State Tournament activity should be separately audited to determine allocation among local director, Oklahoma State Office, regional structure, national organization, facility and other recipients. Until documentary allocation records are

obtained, the correct language is 'director-associated advertised team-entry-fee activity,' not 'director income.'

16. Validation of Existing Research Products

HVIOG provides a common relational foundation for Baseball Heaven facility reports, director reports, municipality/county studies, umpire analyses, public-school studies and statewide summaries. HVIOG validates event activity, relationships and modeled scale. Separate public records validate leases, invoices, utilities, contracts, facility ownership, tax treatment and actual transfers. Federal pleadings provide contextual evidence and investigative leads but should not substitute for primary Oklahoma records.

17. Congressional and Regulatory Oversight Value

The research supports a more precise oversight question than simply asking how much youth-sports activity occurred. The question is how a national sanctioning organization, regional/state structures, independent-contractor directors and taxpayer-supported or community facilities interact financially and administratively. Relevant records include director agreements, classification documents, sanction-fee schedules, State Tournament remittances, regional/state allocation records, national-event rebates, facility leases, gate and concession agreements, insurance, conflicts policies, books and records and audit procedures. HVIOG should not assert that taxes, information returns, wages, deposits or reporting were absent unless records establish that fact.

18. What HVIOG Does Not Prove

HVIOG does not by itself prove who deposited every entry fee, who retained every gate dollar, how every official was paid, whether every payment was reported for tax purposes, or whether any person violated a law. It does not convert modeled assumptions into receipts or federal allegations into Oklahoma findings. It establishes the activity universe from which those questions can be investigated: events, divisions, teams, prices, directors, facilities, geography, game demand and source links.

19. Recommended Phase IV - Organizational Money-Flow Reconstruction

Phase IV should preserve the 20,316-row event/division dataset as the activity spine and add a transaction-allocation layer. Recommended fields include recipient legal entity and role; director-retained share; Oklahoma State Office share; regional/Midwest share; National USSSA share; team and event sanction amounts; State Tournament remittance; national-event rebate; gate and concession recipient; facility payment; umpire-pay source; insurance/payment source; payment processor; bank/deposit evidence; 1099/W-2 evidence where applicable; contract/lease source; invoice source; and confidence/evidentiary classification. State Tournaments should receive a dedicated audit.

20. Final Conclusion

The three-phase evolution strengthens the project. Phase I proved feasibility. Phase II expanded historical reach and exposed the danger of unresolved estimates. Phase III replaced those estimates through deeper portal verification and produced the current statewide architecture. The federal litigation adds independent organizational context for contractor classification, sanction revenue and Oklahoma's placement within an alleged Midwest structure. Those allegations do not prove misconduct in Oklahoma, but they validate why state-office, regional, national, director and facility money flows are legitimate subjects for documentary research. The governing principle should be: let the dataset establish activity; let documents establish transactions; let transparent models estimate scale; and never allow an inference to be presented as a verified receipt.