

Buck Thomas Complex (Moore) – Oversight of MYBA Tournament Fees

This lecture presents a detailed analysis of the operations, oversight failures, and financial implications of youth tournament activities at **Buck Thomas Sports Complex**, located in **Moore, Oklahoma**. The facility is city-owned but was long operated by the **Moore Youth Baseball Association (MYBA)** under conditions lacking financial transparency, contractual oversight, and public return on investment. This case illustrates how **private tournament directors profited substantially** from public infrastructure while avoiding the scrutiny and accountability expected of such arrangements.

Cross-Referenced Datasets and Case Materials:

- **Hidden Valley Dataset (2016–2023):** Reveals that Buck Thomas Complex hosted USSSA events generating over **\$2,840,527.19** in team entry fees.
 - **MYBA Director Financial Records:** MYBA Tournament Director ***** personally grossed **\$553,643.32** in team entry fees during this same period—without clear reporting to the city or issuing 1099s.
 - **City of Moore / Parks and Recreation Department Communications:** Internal concerns raised by city staff over lack of financial control, improper field allocations, and limited facility access for non-MYBA teams.
 - **Looker Studio Integration:** Dashboards now visualize year-by-year tournament income, fee rates, and team counts for all MYBA events, making historical revenue flow auditable for the first time.
 - **Dissertation Chapter 9 (Data Scope):** Documents how this facility became the focal point for evaluating director enrichment and municipal negligence statewide.
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Key Findings:

- From 2016–2023, MYBA operated tournaments as if on private land, despite being a **tenant on a public facility**.
 - No consistent lease documentation or financial reporting was provided to the City of Moore during this period.
 - MYBA operated as a 501(c)(3) but did not publicly disclose tournament earnings, subcontractor payments, or tax documents.
 - Parents, teams, and third-party vendors were often unaware of the city’s complete detachment from tournament gate revenues, concessions, or scheduling.
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Legal and Structural Oversight Issues:

- **Lack of transparency and municipal revenue share:** The City of Moore received little to no verifiable income from MYBA’s tournament operations despite providing maintenance, lights, and insurance coverage.
 - **IRS Compliance Risks:** Evidence suggests MYBA failed to issue 1099s to subcontractors, which violates nonprofit financial regulations.
 - **Equity concerns:** Other local teams and leagues had reduced or no access to the fields during peak seasons because of MYBA’s monopolization of dates and gate control.
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Reform Recommendations:

1. **Immediate audit of MYBA’s financial records (2016–2023)** by the City of Moore or an independent CPA.

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2. **Create a performance-based lease agreement** for all youth organizations using public sports facilities in Moore.
 3. **Publish event-level data publicly** using Looker Studio dashboards, modeled after the BaseballHeaven.net format.
 4. **Implement a city-controlled registration system** for tournaments to allow visibility into gate fees, vendor activity, and team counts.
 5. Require **annual IRS Form 990 submissions** and 1099 issuance compliance as part of any future lease renewal with nonprofit entities.
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Broader Implications for Oklahoma:

The Buck Thomas Complex serves as a **primary case study in municipal neglect and director profit extraction** from public fields. It demonstrates how easy it is for tournament directors to operate unchecked when cities lack audit mechanisms or enforceable lease contracts. Your research shows that a statewide reform framework—based on your dissertation’s methodology—is now critical.

Conclusion:

This case is not about a single director or a local disagreement—it is about a **systemic failure of oversight** that allowed a public asset to be used for private gain over multiple years. The data uncovered in the Hidden Valley Dataset, combined with Looker Studio visualizations and internal municipal correspondence, provides a clear call for Moore—and cities across Oklahoma—to **reclaim public authority** over youth sports economics. This lecture anchors the financial and ethical framework for your dissertation’s broader argument: youth sports in Oklahoma have outgrown their recreational origins and now demand professional standards of governance.