Commissioners Clubhouse Chat
Wednesday, August 26, 2026

SLIDE DECK

WELCOME

- Housekeeping
  - Everyone will be muted to start to reduce background noise
  - Use the chat or unmute yourself
  - Time for questions/discussion at the end of each section
  - We'll send a recap email after this call that includes the resources we share today and the call recording
  - Make your display name your name and league name
- Review our team– they will introduce themselves when they speak for the first time
  - For Bailey's leagues, she is planning on returning to work in October! Big thank you to Mikayla, Stephanie and the whole team for covering her projects and leagues while she's been out!
- You can find tons of helpful resources on Commissioners Clubhouse at jrgcommissioners.com, especially the Bullpen Bulletin page

TOP PRIORITIES

- Thank you, Commissioners, for all your hard work this season– one of our most successful seasons yet with over 29,000 players across 88 leagues!
- Here are the top 3 things you should be focusing on right now– these will guide what we talk about today:
  - Wrapping up the 2026 season
  - Beginning to plan for 2027
  - Resting and celebrating a job well done!

2026-27 TIMELINE

- Here's our ongoing timeline as we wrap up the 2026 season and begin preparing for 2027. We'll dive deeper into some of these topics in a moment.
  - This will be our last Commissioners Clubhouse Chat of the year, but we'll resume in January.
  - August (now): Wrap up season (exit interview with Ambassador; submit inventory and end of season evaluation)
  - August 31: Ambassadors' last day
  - September: Complete 2027 League Agreement
  - October - November: League meetings
  - December: Ambassador position posted
  - January: Commissioners Clubhouse Chats resume
  - February: Commissioners Camp (in-person at Oracle Park!)
  - April 1: Registration opens
  - Late April/early May: Ambassadors begin
  - Late May/early June: Your league's preseason meetings (First Pitch Meeting, Volunteer Meeting and Coaches Clinic)
  - June 7: Season begins

    - Week of July 26: Season ends (final Saturday = July 31)

AMBASSADORS

- Thank you for another successful season of working with our AmeriCorps Ambassadors!
- We had a record season with the largest AmeriCorps Ambassador cohort to date!
- This Monday, 8/31 is our Ambassadors' last day of service.
- Please take a moment to make notes for yourself on what went well and what you would like to improve next year on your working relationship with your Ambassador.
- Speaking of, let's talk about Ambassadors for next year: we are grateful to confirm that have another year of AmeriCorps funding secured for 2027!
- This funding will allow us to once again host 175 Ambassadors serving 300-hour terms across our leagues and programs.
- Having such a large cohort this year has brought a lot of energy, capacity, and opportunities, and, of course, a few challenges as we've learned how to best support and coordinate a group of this size.
- As we look ahead to next year, we'd love for you to start thinking about what worked well with having multiple Ambassadors and where there may be opportunities to make the experience even stronger.
- What did your league find most helpful about having additional Ambassador support? What would you do differently next year to make the most of their time and capacity?
- Please come to your league meeting ready to share these reflections so we can learn from one another and identify ways to make next year's Ambassador experience even better.
- When it comes to hiring for 2027, please think about who could be a good Ambassador in your league next season. We aren't in your community every day, but you are!
- We only get 30 minutes to get to know them in a Zoom interview, but you have the opportunity to recommend people you know or ask your community for recommendations.
- Think about current/former staff members or volunteers, young adults who grew up in your programs, college students/recent graduates, parents, teachers, etc.
- Also think about the places you can advertise– local social media groups, high schools, colleges, newspapers, community bulletin boards, etc.
- We'll post the position around December and will email you as soon as it goes live.
- For returning Ambassadors:
    - We will send them the posting for themselves and to share with their friends/colleagues when it goes live.
    - If they reapply, we will confirm that both you and their Regional Ambassador thought they were a good fit to rehire.
    - If so, we will make sure their availability still works for the position via a phone interview and will offer them the position.

SHARING FEEDBACK FROM 2026

- There are a few different opportunities for you to share your feedback about the 2026 season:
    - The Commissioner End of Season Evaluation, which is due 8/28– please submit this if you have not already! We need 1 per league and will continue following up with those who haven't submitted yet.
    - League meetings, which we will schedule 1:1 via Zoom in October - November.
- Here are some different areas we would love your feedback on:
    - Working with Ambassadors and how we can improve hiring/training
    - Technology, including LeagueApps, the Junior Giants App and Ankored background

checks
    - The items we provide, including equipment, uniforms and incentives
    - The Junior Giants program in general and how we can make it as streamlined as possible for league organizers to run and participants to follow along
- On the flipside, will provide you the feedback that your participants shared in their end of season surveys, as well as your league's demographic numbers, before your league meeting.

SUPPLIES/INVENTORY

- It's also time to submit your end of season inventory if you haven't already! This is due on 8/28.
- We absolutely need 1 response for every league!
- It's extremely important that your inventory is accurate because we use it as the starting point for your 2027 orders.
- For example, if you put that you have 500 youth small jerseys, we won't send you any next year!
- Therefore, don't guess or put 0, 5 or 10 for every answer. We can tell when this happens!
- Please also be very careful with typos. There is a big difference between having 10 of something vs. 100!
- Please only include items that are usable for next season (i.e. don't include a helmet that is no longer safe to use or an equipment bag that is ripped).
- Here's what to do with your remaining supplies:
    - Save for next season: All usable baseball/softball equipment, uniforms and hats/visors
    - Donate/toss: Printed materials (Practice Plans, fliers, etc.), equipment that isn't usable
    - Use for recruitment or extra prizes next season: baseball cards, water bottles, backpacks and medals
        - Note: baseball card binder sleeves can be used in 2027
- If you ever need help clearing out old supplies, let us know! We can share it with another local league or we have a contact who sends gear that is no longer usable to the Philippines.

LEAGUE AGREEMENT

- Believe it or not, it's almost time to begin planning for 2027! Here is our process:
    - We will send you the League Agreement along with our suggested player/team projections for each division based on your 2026 numbers in early September.
    - You will submit your League Agreement in September (specific dates to come).
    - We will schedule your 1:1 league meeting for sometime in October - November to gather feedback and finalize your 2027 player projections.

JUNIOR GIANTS PROGRAMS

- Now let's talk about our important programs within Junior Giants since we know it's about more than just baseball/softball!
- Strike Out Bullying Contest
    - We are excited to celebrate this year's winners– they will be recognized at the Giants Strike Out Violence Day on Friday!
- Willie Mac Award
    - We had a great showing of Willie Mac Award Winners at Junior Giants Day at the ballpark on 8/15.
    - Next, they will join us for a lunch on the field at Oracle Park in the fall when they will each receive their wooden bat award.
    - The date is TBD but we will send a save the date once it's confirmed!
- Game ChangeHER Award

    - Thank you for nominating your volunteers, Commissioners and Ambassadors for our Game ChangeHER Award!
    - We are in the final stages of selecting our second cohort of winners and will announce them soon!

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW?

- While we aren't in each of your individual communities/agencies to know every step you need to complete at the end of the season, here are some things you can be doing now to set yourself up for success.
    - Submit your end of season evaluation and inventory if you haven't yet (due Friday)
    - Thank your Ambassadors for a great season as they officially offboard
    - Prepare to submit your League Agreement and schedule your league meeting
    - Congratulate yourself on a job well done!

CLOSING

- This is our last Clubhouse Chat for the year but we will resume in January.
- Remember, if you ever want to schedule a 1:1 call with your GCF staff contact outside of our group calls, never hesitate to reach out! We are here to help.
- Thank you for coming and for everything you do!
- We're going to stop the recording now, but we can stick around if anyone has any last questions.