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MLB Works with Disability Advocates to Make Sites Accessible

It's that narrow window of time between the Super Bowl and spring training – which is probably why Major League Baseball announced a feel-good pre-litigation settlement agreement this week that two local lawyers had a hand in.

MLB and its Internet arm announced yesterday that they have made their Web sites more accessible to visually impaired fans. They didn't go to court over the issue, but Oakland civil rights firm Goldstein, Demchak, Baller, Borgen & Dardarian and Berkeley solo Lainey Feingold represented

advocacy groups for the visually impaired, who wrote MLB a letter in 2008 explaining problems they were having using the MLB and 30 club sites.

"Luckily, Major League Baseball was very receptive and they really just jumped right on these problems and started fixing them," said Goldstein, Demchak partner Linda Dardarian.

Among other improvements, MLB will expand access to online voting for this year's All-Star Game — a convenience that Jeff Thom, a Sacramento attorney and

president of the California Council of the Blind, said he appreciated.

"I will cast my own All-Star ballot for the first time instead of having somebody fill out a paper ballot for me," Thom said. "We were really excited by the level of commitment that Major League Baseball has shown."

I bet Thom, a big San Francisco Giants fan, was also excited about ace right-hander Tim Lincecum inking his two-year, \$23 million contract with the Giants this morning.

— *Kate Moser*