

## MINUTES

### CRANBROOK MINOR BALL

#### AGM

Cranbrook Minor Ball Association held its Annual General Meeting on October 22, 2024 at 7pm at the Days Inn, Ball Room in Cranbrook BC.

**Present:** Dave Lacasse, Gordon Skulnec, Colin Stevely, Kirstin Palmer, Zac Banting, Jenna Lacasse, Jason Templeton, Steve Pannell, Amanda Broom, Stacey Weber, Aaron Shuttleworth, Seana Coolbaugh, Shaelyn Smith, Paul Mrazek in attendance. **Regrets:** Liz Hoodicoff, Kristin Palou, Jordon Patterson

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by Dave Lacasse

Motion to accept the minutes from the October 24, 2023 meeting by Paul Mrazek, seconded by Colin Stevely, carried unanimously.

Financial statements were presented and Seana Coolbaugh reviewed and discussed with the members.

Motion to accept the annual financial statements by Dave Lacasse and seconded by Jason Templeton, carried unanimously.

#### **President's Report**

- Stats from last year: 5-7 Softball – 9 8-10 Softball – 18 U13 Softball – 25 U15/17 Softball – 25
- Blastball – 33 Rookie Baseball – 17 9U Baseball – 67 11U Baseball -- 36
- 13U Baseball – 29 15U Baseball – 22 18U Baseball – 6 For a total of 287 which was up by 38 from last year and 2 above pre-pandemic levels
- For the 9U division, there was 3 ages in it. Next year will be going back to the 2 year 9 and 8 year olds.
- 11U Baseball: there will be a coaching shortage next year hopefully parents will step in to do it.
- Do want the 18U boys being able to play next year so need to recruit to make it happen. Golden and Invermere will be able to have one team each.
- Challenger division there wasn't one again, want to try and resurrect it for next year.
- Softball got some good momentum this year and looks like it will continue
- 1<sup>st</sup> year BC Minor Baseball – transition quite smooth. Gave the kids more opportunity to play in provincials. BC Minor is opening up a new position for the Kootenays.
- 13U AA went to provincials and finished 4th. 2 of the kids were picked up to go to Westerns.
- Umpires: very hard to get them this year. Coming up with different ideas to get more next year.

#### **Board Member Reports**

Jason Templeton – Vice President of Baseball

- The 15U schedule was a more balanced schedule. The midseason tournaments went off without a hitch. More discussion about playoffs or year end tournament.
- Rep Teams Jr team won more games this year than in previous years. Looks to the engagement and development of our players
- 9U division was a handful but it will be split up next year into the proper divisions

Jenna LaCasse – Softball Director

- Focussed on pitching on all divisions.
- Started playing against Elkford
- Had a big turnout for fall ball and got a couple of games in against Salmo and Castlegar.
- Pitching clinic last weekend and get more coming out next year

Kristin Palou

- The progress of the softball program this year was quite evident. Not only did we have rep teams traveling and competing against other teams in the area, but our house league was more structured and organized than it has been in the past.
- I had several seasoned players come up to me and mention that they wish that they had started learning the skills that our younger players are learning now.
- We used some of our older players as coaches for the youngest players, which not only gave them more responsibility, but helped them understand what it takes to run practices and give them more appreciation towards their coaches.
- We dipped our toes in this year with the rep teams and next year we want to step up this experience with adding a U11 division and the possibility of sending teams to Provincial championships.
- Last weekend we hosted a softball pitching clinic for all ages. The girls worked hard, were taught a lot about this challenging position and it has set us up with what to work on in the off season to make the 2025 season better for the whole community.
- Its exciting to see we are embracing the potential of our players and giving them more chances to experience what this game has to offer.

Paul Mrazek – Director of Rep Teams and Player Development

- Building new facility at Confederation park – been in the works for a few years. Tried a couple of people to be the leads but now we have Josh Lowden to lead this project. Having a multi use building for these fields will be amazing. The scoreboards are ready to be put up. The city is now doing letters of understanding about who fixes what. Once the building is built, we turn it over to the city so they are in charge of the taxes. We will be breaking ground in the spring.
- The development of the players are now being recognized for their achievements. For a small community it is amazing. The indoor program with Dave leading it is showing how much improvement is coming along.

- Coach development – Need to get the coaches clinic back next year. Schedule it into the calendar. Encourage coaches to go to Montana coaches clinic. Maybe have a West Kootenay clinic. Need to hear from the coaches about what they need to be better coaches as we want both coaches and players to have a positive experience. Softball clinic need to also do it for them.
- Dealt with handbook and less disturbances

Colin Stevely Vice Director of Baseball

- 13U went well, had 2 teams Kimberley hosted the 13U division.
- Rep went well

Kirsten Palmer– Director of Sponsorship

- sponsors 19 this year and hit it hard for next year.

## Elections

### Voted by Acclamation

(those acclaimed that were not there asked to have their name presented)

**President:** Dave Lacasse

**Vice President:** Jason Templeton

**Director of Baseball:** Colin Stevely

**Director of Softball:** Jenna LaCasse

**Vice Director of Baseball:** Gord Skulnec

**Director of Challenger:** Gord Skulnec

**Vice Co-Director of Softball:** Kristin Palou & Amanda Fanning

**Secretary/ Treasurer:** Jenna LaCasse

**Umpire in Chief:** Jordon Patterson

**Director for Rep Teams:** Jason Templeton

**Director of Player Development:** Paul Mrazek

**Director for Uniforms/ Equipment:** Steve Pannell **Director of Sponsorship:** Kirstin Palmer


**Director of Social Media:** Stacey Weber

### Other Business

- Having a 9U rep team rather than picking players and having as many kids that wanted to play is a better idea. High performance setting vs rep team. Executive will work with coaches at this age level to find a solution for this
- How to get more parents in as a coach.
- Blastball more drills.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 pm

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Dave Lacasse, President

  
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Jason Templeton, Vice President

We acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia