

DDMBA Annual General Meeting

Date: November 25, 2025

Time: 7pm

Location: CHP – Forest and Harbour Rooms

Annual General Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order – 21 attendees
2. Approval of the AGM Agenda – Motion Steph Handerek 2nd Ken Zwicker
3. Approval of Minutes from the previous AGM of November 5, 2025 – Motion Jason Snyder
2nd Jeff Scott
 - Previous AGM Documents can be found at <https://www.ddmba.net/content/ddmba-agm-documents>
4. President's Report
5. Vice President's Report
6. Report - Treasurer/Registrar
7. Competitive Coordinator Report
8. Recreation Coordinator Report
9. Umpire Assignor Report
10. Association Club Reports: CH, DD, EP, PL, HP
11. Nominations for Executive Positions
12. Election of Executive Positions
13. New Business – Open to Floor
14. Adjournment

Presidents Report – Jeff Van Mulligen

REGISTRATION

2025 represented our largest player registration ever with 1356 (+61 over 2024) players joining us across 75 teams (+5 over 2024 including a U14 AAA Girls team)

Registration continued to be very strong at the introductory ages of U5 and U7 and based on past experience with the success of the Blue Jays we expect to see a spike in registration next year in the younger age groups and developing parental support which is a great sign for years to come.

However, with increased registration numbers also comes the **need for more fields** to allow the teams to practice and play an adequate amount of time. The DDMBA catchment area is at its limit. Steph Handerek and I met with the Deputy Mayor, Tony Mancini and Councillor Trish Purdy plus HRM Staff regarding Field Conditions, Field Bookings and potential new field development this summer. We gained an understanding of the challenges at the HRM for bookings, were advised that Parks and Fields budgets are the first to be cut to ensure more critical services are maintained and advised that they support the creation of a new field complex but financing it 100% from the HRM would probably never happen.

I started to make inquiries with local MLA and MP's regarding funding, met with the province regarding development grants, and hope to be included in the Federal **Canada Community-Building Fund in the future. This program offers \$250,000,000 to the province of Nova Scotia until 2029. This will require a dedicated and coordinated effort from the Association Board, membership(parents) and government representatives from the municipality to Federal government levels.**

Competitive Tryouts were completed with again a record number of players registering. I need to take responsibility for the errors, misinformation and overall confusion regarding player grouping and progress during the tryouts as the entire process is incredibly complex and time consuming. Losing Brian as a resource was a huge hit to the organization, but I do need to recognize the assistance of Steve Greer, Jeff Reeves, Rob Gillis, Joel Stevens, Troy Sampson, Mike Shouldice and all the volunteers for their help in getting tryouts completed.

EXECUTIVE/SPECIAL PROJECTS

DDMBA was blessed with an **excellent Executive and Board again in 2025**. Each member performed their role at a high level and were very responsive to issues/inquiries from membership. After the 2024 AGM, 3 critical roles were left open at the start of the year. I volunteered to the board in January 2025 as president, Jim Scott extended his role as registrar as no applications were received, and Jamie Alders volunteered as Rec Coordinator to get the season going. Our long-term Competitive Coordinator, Brian Secord, resigned in March to due personal reasons and the board and membership would like to recognize his outstanding contribution to the DDMBA and Arrows program.

Special projects moving forward –

- **Dugouts at Little Brazley**
- **Grant funding for new pitching machine and shed at the Beazley Cage**
- **Fundraising for the design and costing of new field complex to present to the Province of Nova Scotia**
- **Fundraising for more field boxes to store liners and drop-in bases at fields with high utilization**

DISCIPLINE/CRC/VIP

From a **Discipline standpoint**, the President chaired the **Discipline Committee** with Vice President **Brandon Purcell**.

The 2025 season was uneventful with a few intra-team player discipline/sportsmanship issues dealt with internally with team issued suspensions.

We had to have discussions with parents and coaches regarding alcohol and smoking at the field and were advised by BNS that a coach required a one day suspension for arguing and subsequently being ejected by an Underage Umpire.

A reminder to our spectators, coaches, staff and guests that Alcohol consumption and smoking are prohibited by both the DDMBA and HRM as it violates our Code of Ethics and HRM Bylaws. We strive to provide a safe, healthy and fun environment to our players and this behaviour contradicts that.

Our discipline policy needs an update and rewrite as situations arose this year with no clear path to discipline offenders (fans)

From a **Safety standpoint**, the **DDMBA Criminal Record Check policy** was followed again. The difference in 2025 from 2024 was Baseball Nova Scotia stored the CRC's and Associations monitored compliance

In prior seasons the system of compliance predominantly used "myBackCheck" which did continue in 2025. However, the **VIP coaching platform** was again passed along to members who were able to use the on-line platform system to have member CRC's paid for 100% by the VIP program after coaching courses were viewed on-line. The VIP program also awards gifts/swag after program completion.

MOVING FORWARD/THANK YOU

The **Executive/Board would like to thank** all the club presidents, coaches, managers, treasurers and volunteers for their individual and collective efforts throughout the season.

I would like to extend a **personal thank you to Executive members** who are who are stepping back from their roles including **DDMBA Registrar Jim Scott, Recreation co-ordinator Jamie Alders, Vice President Brandon Purcell** and **Cole Harbour President Brian Hurdis** who have each volunteered several years of service to make baseball in DDMBA better for the kids. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated and have not gone unnoticed. You have left your organizations in a better position than when you started. Thank you!

A few points I to leave with DDMBA membership:

- The DDMBA will continue to grow in the future but requires a dedicated and coordinated effort to grow the infrastructure to support the players and offer a consistent development path
- I believe Club and Executive members perform their role because they want to help make the baseball experience better for the kids and leave things better than they found it – please listen to them as they really do know what they are doing. As a new member to the board I learned to trust their experience from the past to guide me.
- BNSUD does a great job of providing umpires to us each year. Our fans, parents, coaches and players need to recognize that their level of competence grows with experience. If we continue harass and abuse umpires, we'll have less umpires available, leading to even worse outcomes. Please enjoy the game, don't comment or argue calls at the plate or field. Enjoy the game!

Report – Vice President Brandon Purcell

Brandon was unable to provide a report

Registrar Report – Jim Scott

We registered over 1,300 kids this year!

Below is a historical breakdown of DDMBA registration, 2025 was another growth year with an increase of over players, 5% over 2024. Registration started fast and remained steady all spring, moving players around and trying to find spots with the increased numbers space was very tight.

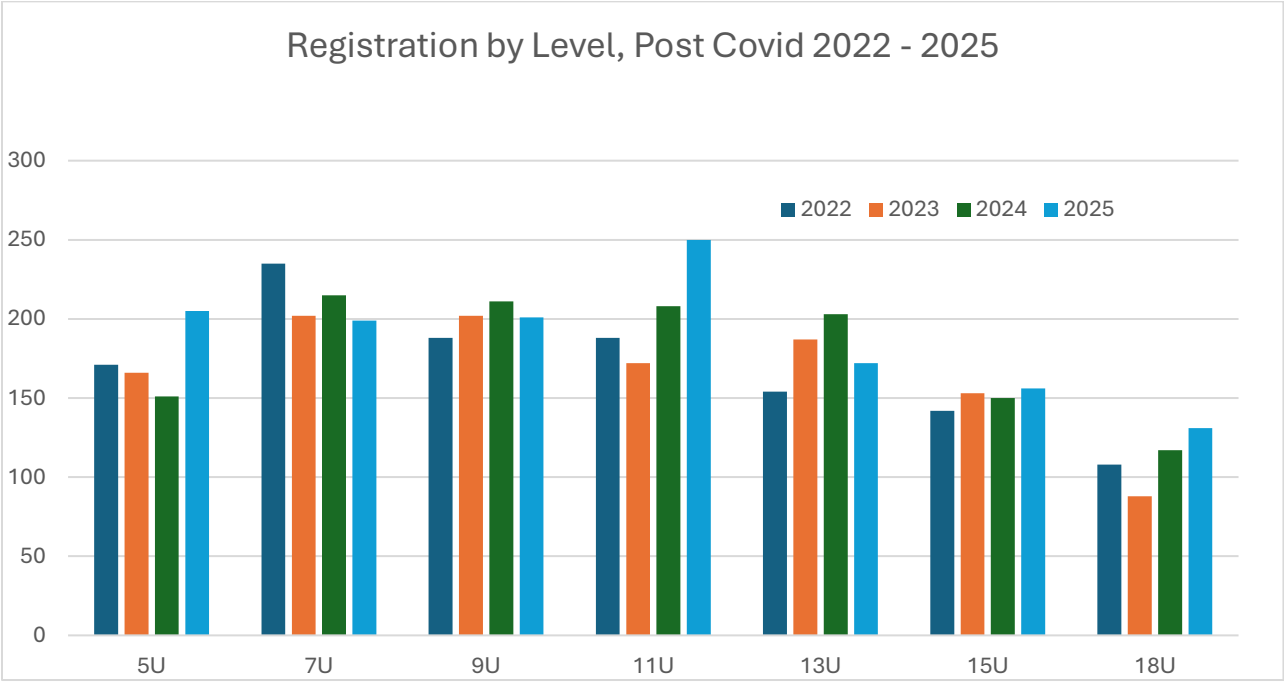
Overall the percentages per age group have remained very consistent over the last few years even with the overall increase in player counts.

That said we do have a relatively large group of U11's moving to U13 next year and small but still significant in U15 to U18's.(*assuming all players return)

| Year | 5U | 7U | 9U | 11U | 13U | 15U | 18U | Challenger | Totals |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|--------|
| 2017 | 117 | 193 | 228 | 230 | 174 | 94 | 55 | | 1,091 |
| 2018 | 162 | 178 | 225 | 220 | 189 | 132 | 46 | | 1,152 |
| 2019 | 138 | 163 | 191 | 200 | 172 | 125 | 72 | | 1,061 |
| 2020 | 57 | 100 | 109 | 141 | 130 | 95 | 81 | | 713 |
| 2021 | 117 | 173 | 155 | 160 | 150 | 124 | 94 | | 973 |
| 2022 | 171 | 235 | 188 | 188 | 154 | 142 | 108 | 11 | 1,197 |
| 2023 | 166 | 202 | 202 | 172 | 187 | 153 | 88 | 20 | 1,190 |
| 2024 | 151 | 215 | 211 | 208 | 203 | 150 | 117 | 40 | 1,295 |
| 2025 | 205 | 199 | 201 | 250 | 172 | 156 | 131 | 42 | 1,356 |

Registered Players By Level %

| Year | 5U | 7U | 9U | 11U | 13U | 15U | 18U | Challenger | Totals |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|--------|
| 2017 | 11% | 18% | 21% | 21% | 16% | 8% | 5% | | 100% |
| 2018 | 14% | 15% | 20% | 19% | 16% | 11% | 5% | | 100% |
| 2019 | 13% | 15% | 18% | 19% | 16% | 12% | 7% | | 100% |
| 2020 | 8% | 14% | 15% | 20% | 18% | 14% | 11% | | 100% |
| 2021 | 12% | 18% | 16% | 16% | 15% | 13% | 10% | | 100% |
| 2022 | 14% | 20% | 16% | 16% | 13% | 12% | 9% | | 100% |
| 2023 | 14% | 17% | 17% | 15% | 16% | 13% | 8% | | 100% |
| 2024 | 12% | 17% | 17% | 17% | 16% | 12% | 9% | | 100% |
| 2025 | 16% | 15% | 15% | 19% | 13% | 12% | 10% | | 100% |



| 2025 | U7 | U9 | U11 | U13 | U15 | U18 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Porters Lake | 80 | 24 | 32 | 26 | 23 | 3 |
| Cole Harbour | 138 | 77 | 95 | 76 | 69 | 54 |
| Diamond Dawgs | 105 | 57 | 50 | 39 | 39 | 40 |
| Eastern Passage | 59 | 26 | 50 | 26 | 28 | 29 |
| Humber Park | 26 | 15 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 408 | 199 | 252 | 167 | 159 | 129 |

| 2026 | U7 | U9 | U11 | U13 | U15 | U18 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Porters Lake | 66 | 30 | 22 | 29 | 29 | 12 |
| Cole Harbour | 93 | 82 | 86 | 86 | 78 | 72 |
| Diamond Dawgs | 77 | 53 | 61 | 41 | 38 | 53 |
| Eastern Passage | 39 | 36 | 27 | 50 | 29 | 28 |
| Humber Park | 22 | 17 | 11 | 16 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 297 | 218 | 207 | 222 | 174 | 166 |

| Expected Change | U7 | U9 | U11 | U13 | U15 | U18 |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Porters Lake | (14) | 6 | (10) | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Cole Harbour | (45) | 5 | (9) | 10 | 9 | 18 |
| Diamond Dawgs | (28) | (4) | 11 | 2 | (1) | 13 |
| Eastern Passage | (20) | 10 | (23) | 24 | 1 | (1) |
| Humber Park | (4) | 2 | (14) | 16 | 0 | (2) |
| Total | (111) | 19 | (45) | 55 | 15 | 37 |

Treasurer Report – Jim Scott

Total registration fees with Tryouts, Clinics exceeded \$340k.

Major items of note:

We increased fees this month by \$10 per level, our fees are in line with other associations in the area, and our intention was to offset increased costs seemingly everywhere.

Umpire Fees over \$50k but this was \$6k less than our estimate (12 home games X full umpire rates per each team) with essentially no rainouts after June. Much of the amount underestimate is due to single umpired games. Jamie also scheduled an unusually high number of tournaments, fees for those are a flow through and not reflected on the statement.

Credit Card costs, over \$6k CC's continue to be more and more popular, we set the recovery rate at 2.8% which seems to be the sweet spot as it covered the cc costs plus the monthly fee our provide charged almost exactly.

BNS Insurance was right on expected based on registration numbers.

Recreation playoffs costs down over last year as existing field contracts were leveraged instead of issuing new contracts specifically for the playoffs.

Finally, the Arrows finished the year with ~\$k6 in reserves before accounting for the current fall camp registration which started a few weeks ago.

We had a tryout savings due to not using OLR, that was used towards additional equipment for the Arrows program. Next years tryout costs might be significantly different as we consider not using Skillshark software for tryout performance tracking.

2025 DDMBA PL

| | Humber Park | Porters Lake | Cole Harbour | Diamond Dawgs | Eastern Passage | Arrows | Tryouts | Clinic | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Registered Players | 66 | 183 | 447 | 279 | 212 | 127 | 278 | 90 | - |
| Teams | 2 | 6 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 10 | | | 55 |
| Income: | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Registration Revenue | \$ 12,272 | \$ 36,272 | \$ 94,547 | \$ 56,937 | \$ 47,123 | \$ 34,101 | \$ 24,426 | \$ 38,825 | 344,743 |
| Family Discount | | | | | | | | | - |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | |
| Uncollected: | \$ (410) | \$ (1,050) | \$ (2,148) | \$ (2,477) | \$ (1,310) | \$ - | | | (7,395) |
| Misc Credits | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Credit Cards Charges/Recover | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Association Net Adjustments | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Gross Funds for Distribution | 11,862 | 35,222 | 92,399 | 54,460 | 45,813 | 34,101 | 24,426 | 38,825 | 337,348 |
| Cost of Baseball: | | | | | | | | | |
| Game / Player Variable | | | | | | | | | |
| Umpire Cost, Regular Season | \$ 1,496 | \$ 3,175 | \$ 16,571 | \$ 8,126 | \$ 11,975 | \$ 8,611 | | | \$ 49,955 |
| Opening Day Umpires + Assignor | 110 | 306 | 458 | 466 | 354 | | | | \$ 1,695 |
| BNS Insurance/Admin | 2,610 | 7,237 | 10,836 | 11,033 | 8,384 | 4,710 | | | \$ 44,810 |
| Arrows Equipment / Fields Rental | - | - | - | - | - | 15,810 | 22,755 | 35,318 | \$ 73,883 |
| Rec Playoffs | 627 | 1,738 | 2,603 | 2,650 | 2,014 | - | | | 9,632 |
| Rec Coordinator | 130 | 361 | 540 | 550 | 418 | - | - | - | 2,000 |
| Umpire Assignor | 140 | 480 | 1,685 | 800 | 1,160 | 700 | | - | 5,205 |
| Other Rec Costs | 14 | 38 | 58 | 59 | 45 | - | | | 213 |
| Arrows Storage | - | - | - | - | - | 3,252 | | | 3,252 |
| BNS League Fee | - | 800 | 1,600 | 800 | 2,000 | 4,000 | | | 9,200 |
| Total Variable Costs | \$ 5,127 | \$ 14,136 | \$ 34,350 | \$ 24,485 | \$ 26,350 | \$ 37,083 | \$ 22,755 | \$ 35,318 | \$ 199,845 |
| Fixed Costs | | | | | | | | | |
| IT Costs | \$ 76 | \$ 224 | \$ 584 | \$ 351 | \$ 291 | \$ 211 | \$ 151 | \$ 240 | 2,127 |
| Accounting/System | \$ 71 | \$ 211 | \$ 549 | \$ 331 | \$ 274 | \$ 198 | \$ 142 | \$ 225 | 2,000 |
| DDMBA Bank Fees | \$ 35 | \$ 105 | \$ 273 | \$ 164 | \$ 136 | \$ 98 | \$ 70 | \$ 112 | 994 |
| Office & Admin | 35 | 104 | 271 | 163 | 135 | 98 | 70 | 111 | 988 |
| Allocated Fixed Costs | \$ 218 | \$ 643 | \$ 1,677 | \$ 1,010 | \$ 836 | \$ 605 | \$ 433 | \$ 688 | \$ 6,109 |
| Surplus / Deficit | \$ 6,517 | \$ 20,443 | \$ 56,372 | \$ 28,965 | \$ 18,627 | \$ (3,587) | \$ 1,238 | \$ 2,819 | \$ 131,394 |
| Distributed To Associations | \$ (5,000) | \$ (18,000) | \$ (57,000) | \$ (28,965) | \$ (18,630) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (127,595) |
| Balance Due | \$ 1,517 | \$ 2,443 | \$ (628) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,332 |

Report – Arrows Coordinator Steph Handerek

1. The Arrows would like to acknowledge the achievements of former Arrows player Ty Doucette and congratulate him on his selection by the Cincinnati Reds in the 10th round (294) of the 2025 Major League Baseball draft in July of this past year. Ty began his competitive baseball career as an underage player in 2013 with the Arrows 11U AA team and would go on to play with some great Arrows teams before moving on to bigger things. The Arrows wish Ty the best of luck with the Reds organization and his professional career.

2. The Arrows went through a leadership change as the 2025 season was commencing. The Arrows would like to thank Brian Secord for his commitment to the Arrows and thank the competitive committee that steered the organization during the transition with new leadership in place just as the tryout phase was wrapping up.

3. Try-outs took on a different look in 2025 and the Arrows have taken the feedback and will look to improve upon the process for 2026 with more involvement from the parent associations and a more condensed evaluation window.

4. There were 11 Arrow teams that competed in the Bluenose league in 2025, including a trial of a 14U team in the Bluenose Leagues all female division. The Arrows plan to expand our program offering in 2026 to include teams at all levels of play.

- a) 11U AA.
- b) 11U AAA.
- c) 13U AA.
- d) 13U AAA
- e) 14U AA Girls(trial)
- f.) 15U A.
- g) 15U AA.
- h) 15U AAA.
- i) 18U A.
- j) 18U AA
- k) 18U AAA.

5. 2025 Arrow achievements included:

- a) 11U AAA – Provincial Champions
- b) 15U A – Provincial Champions

- c) 18U AAA–Provincial Champions
- d) Arrows Player Anthony Casavechia was selected minor umpire of the year by BNS
- e) As previously mentioned, former Arrows star Ty Doucette was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds.
- f) Former Arrows player Tyler Boudreau signed as a free agent with the New York Yankees.

6. The Arrows are offering Winter Camps once again at OLR in new year however, based on shrinking enrolment and rising costs to these camps, we will be looking at other options moving forward.

7. The Arrows would like to thank all the coaches, volunteers, players and families that helped to make 2025 a success and we are looking forward to a great 2026 season.

Recreation Coordinator Report - Jamie Alders

The DDMBA 2025 season had 55 recreational teams in 2024 from ages U9 Minor to U18, and two U18 team from Halifax Minor Baseball Association.

This season started off with preseason games between all the clubs in June, then moved into regular season games. I feel it would be beneficial for more pitching education prior to the regular season starting at the club levels. Once team and coaches get into playoffs, they should have a better understanding of the rules at every age including adhering to pitch counts and rules regarding them as dictated by BNS and Baseball Canada.

DDMBA was able to secure player of the game cards thanks to Domino's Pizza this season for over 1200 players (rec and rep). These were used throughout the regular season for the POTG awards but did not receive them until the season had started which resulted in some teams not receiving them.

Umpire Report – Jamie Alders

This summer was another busy time with our highest number of assignments. The assignments were up 28% over last year. We got some luck with great weather which decreased the amount of reschedules.

The year became extremely busy and the scheduling complex when BNS awarded provincials for 8 levels that had to be assigned along with rec playoffs. Some weekends we had 60 plus games to cover, which can be difficult when we have 10-15 umpires playing in those games. I'd like to thank all the umpires who stepped up and took on these assignments and made my life

a little easier.

Here is a break down of games assigned the past 3 years, you can see the increase of umpires needed to cover larger amounts of games. Even with all these games we still had a major increase in games that were done by a single umpire. Not sure why this happened but I think as lot of our umpires played u15 so there were a lot of conflicts.

| GAMES | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------|------|------|------|
| 1+ | 64 | 70 | 68 |
| 5+ | 57 | 64 | 65 |
| 10+ | 47 | 53 | 55 |
| 15+ | 33 | 41 | 44 |
| 20+ | 22 | 25 | 36 |
| 25+ | 12 | 14 | 27 |
| 30+ | 9 | 7 | 17 |
| 35+ | 7 | 3 | 13 |
| 40+ | 3 | 1 | 11 |
| 45+ | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 50+ | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 55+ | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 60+ | 0 | 0 | 3 |

I'd like to use the extra money that is allotted for the umpires to create a program where we have senior umpires being paid to attend and train new umpires' games. There is absolutely no training from BNSUD except the initial course. The umpires need more support, and we will continue to lose them if we don't provide adequate training and unfortunately, we can't count on.

Cole Harbour Report - Brian Hurdis

Cole Harbour Baseball – President's Report

Good day DDMBA, fellow presidents, and members of the association. My name is Brian Hurdis, and I've had the privilege of serving as President of Cole Harbour Baseball. Today, I'm excited to share a recap of our past season—our accomplishments, challenges, and the growth we've seen over the last year.

Season Overview

Like previous years, we started the season strong with high registration numbers across all divisions, from U5 to U18.

Now, like many associations, we faced challenges—team formations and coach availability were at the top of that list. But thanks to the incredible dedication of our volunteers, we made it work.

Early on, some divisions looked like they'd have oversized teams because of limited coaches. But in true Cole Harbour fashion, volunteers stepped up. They took on coaching roles, created teams, and ensured every kid had a chance to play.

Some teams ended up smaller than expected, but we used call-ups from younger divisions to fill gaps. That not only solved the problem—it gave younger players valuable experience. And with new coaches joining us, our executive and seasoned coaches were there to support them with practice plans and advice.

The result? Every level thrived this year. The framework we've built is strong, and the future looks bright for Cole Harbour Baseball.

Division Highlights

- **U5** – Three groups, about 25 players each. Thanks to our coaches, these kids had a fantastic start—the seed of baseball has been planted!
- **U7** – Three large teams, and the highlight was a first-ever jamboree organized by Lauren Gordon and family. It was a huge success and even brought in teams from other associations.
- **U9** – Two major teams and four minor teams. Lots of fun, learning, and growth. One major team even entered the Red Bird U11 tournament and made it to the semis! With small U11 rec teams, U9 players had plenty of call-up opportunities—and they knocked it out of the park.
- **U11** – We started with some disappointment around the Arrows tryout process. I owned that, and we're working to improve it for next year. Beyond that, U11 had a great season. Two A teams competed in the Bluenose League. The Black Cardinals sweeping a skills competition and making it to the finals of a tournament this summer. At the rec level, five teams battled hard—Green won Tier 3 playoffs beating the Grey cardinals, and Red Cardinals took the Tier 2 championship.
- **U13** – Two A teams and four rec teams. Both A teams finished strong in Bluenose League, and the Black Cardinals lost a marathon 16-inning final in Moncton. Rec teams also shone, hosting the Red Bird Classic where Grey made the finals.
- **U15** – At one point, we thought we'd only have one team—but volunteers stepped up, and we fielded three competitive teams. Blue Cardinals made the City Championship finals, and the other two reached semis.
- **U18** – Two teams, both competitive, both making it to the semis.

To all our coaches and volunteers—thank you. Cole Harbour Baseball doesn't exist without you. Coaching isn't easy, but when it's in your blood, it's rewarding. Some of our coaches even started indoor programs this winter—that's the kind of passion that keeps us strong.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for next season, here are our priorities:

1. Strengthen coaching development and mentorship.
2. Improve communication between our association and DDMBA.
3. Clarify the tryout process and expectations.
4. Support local programs while keeping things balanced.
5. Propose to Baseball Nova Scotia that teams wanting to play Provincials must compete in Bluenose League for proper team evaluation.
6. Explore ways to use senior players' experience to develop younger players.

With dedicated volunteers and passionate players, Cole Harbour Baseball is strong—and the future is wide open.

Closing

Finally, I want to share something personal: I'll be stepping down as President so I can enjoy my kids' summer activities a little more.

Thank you all for your support and thank you for everything you do for baseball in our communities.

Diamond Dawgs Report – Jeff Scott

The Diamond Dawgs' 2025 season was a tremendous success. We continued to experience strong growth in membership and were very pleased to have all coaching staff and player rosters confirmed in advance of Opening Day.

Overall, we had a very successful season. We are confident that we fielded competitive, well-balanced teams at all levels, and the positive feedback received throughout the year reflects how much our coaches, players, and families enjoyed the 2025 season.

Our Diamond Dawgs Blue Jays Rally Cap program once again reached record-high registration, with more than 100 players enrolled at the 5U and 7U levels. The program

ran smoothly and offered a fun, positive environment where our youngest athletes could develop their skills. We are especially grateful for the large number of new coaching volunteers who stepped forward this season—an encouraging sign for the future of the program, particularly with the possibility of an increased “Blue Jays” spike in registration next year.

The Diamond Dawgs Challenger program celebrated an outstanding fourth season, with participation growing to more than 60 players. This program remains incredibly rewarding for everyone involved, and we continue to benefit from the support of volunteers both within and outside the baseball community. We remain committed to raising awareness and attracting additional volunteers to ensure the program’s ongoing success.

Over the past several years, we have seen a rising interest in competitive baseball, especially at the 9U and 11U levels. This season, we fielded a 9U Major team as well as 11U A and 15U A All-Star teams, which competed in Provincial tournaments. In the offseason, we will continue working with the DDMBA to streamline a clear pathway for competitive players while maintaining the integrity of our recreational league teams.

We extend our sincere thanks to our coaches and volunteers for their dedication to creating an exceptional baseball experience. We were especially pleased with the high level of engagement and ownership coaches demonstrated in the team selection process. Their strong engagement in Baseball Nova Scotia Coaching Clinics and the VIP Coaching Program was impressive and greatly appreciated.

The Diamond Dawgs Board remains committed to supporting the development of our players and volunteers. We are very pleased with the progress made this season and will continue working to enhance the baseball experience for all members. Our Woodside Training Facility remains an invaluable resource for both Recreational and Competitive teams, with usage increasing again this year. We plan to make further improvements to the facility in the offseason and continue to invest in equipment and training opportunities for our members.

We thank our Board members for their innovative ideas and ongoing commitment to our association. A special thanks to our Diamond Dawgs Board members who will not be re-offering next season. There will be some changes in the coming months but have no doubt the new board will work hard to continue to improve the baseball experience for our members.

On behalf of our entire membership and Board, the Diamond Dawgs family extends sincere appreciation to the DDMBA Board for their guidance and support throughout another successful year.

Diamond Dawgs Board of Directors

Eastern Passage Report – Jason Snyder

This past year has been both exciting and rewarding for the Eastern Passage Pirates, and I am proud to share the highlights of our season.

We began the year with winter clinics for players 11U and up, focused on building fundamentals and preparing athletes for the season ahead.

With a record-breaking 222 players registered, 2025 marked the largest year in Pirates history. This tremendous growth showed how strong and passionate our baseball community has become, and it was inspiring to see so many new and returning players wearing the Pirates jersey.

Competitive tryouts began in early April, with the first sessions held indoors to ensure strong skill evaluation. Thanks to a dedicated group of evaluators, we were able to form the best possible teams at every level.

In April, we hosted a community Field Clean-Up Day where over 40 Pirate members came together to clear garbage and debris from our baseball diamonds. Shortly after, more than 40 kids participated in a bottle drive, which turned out to be the most successful one ever processed by Matt's Bottle Exchange in Eastern Passage.

The Pirates also joined in the Eastern Passage–Cow Bay Summer Carnival Days Parade with a creative float and outstanding family participation. We were honored to win the Best Local Float Award, a great way to showcase Pirate spirit and community pride.

This season, we entered an 18U A team in the Bluenose League while also creating four non-Bluenose teams to compete at A-level Provincials. This decision came directly from feedback in our 2024 year-end survey, where members expressed a desire for more competitive baseball opportunities in Eastern Passage.

The Pirates were also proud to host **DDMBA's Opening Day**, where every recreation team in the league played a regular season game in Eastern Passage. Unlike the previous year's rainout, we had perfect weather, and the event became a true celebration of baseball that brought the entire DDMBA community together.

On-Field Success in 2025

DDMBA Season Results (Tier 1):

- 11U White – Gold

- 11U Yellow – Silver
- 13U Black – Gold
- 15U Black – Gold
- 18U Black – Gold

Provincials:

- 11U A Tier 1 – Gold
- 15U A Tier 2 – Gold

During the summer, the Pirates hosted several tournaments, including **11U Rec, 11U A, and 15U A**. We also hosted multiple **Provincial Championships: 11U A Tier 1, 13U A Tier 3, 15U A Tier 2, and 18U A Tier 2**. These events not only delivered great competition but also showcased the talent and sportsmanship of young athletes from across Nova Scotia. Families and fans enjoyed exciting baseball and a strong sense of community pride.

We were also proud to see the success of our players at the **high school level**. Ten players from our Pirates recreational and provincial teams went on to play for the **Island View High School baseball team**, which consisted of just 14 players in total. Their commitment, teamwork, and development through the Pirates program were on full display as Island View captured the **Capital Region Division 2 Championship** and then went on to **win Gold at the Division 2 Provincial Championship** — marking the **first Provincial Gold Medal in Island View High School history**. This was a proud moment for both the school and the Eastern Passage baseball community, showing how the Pirates program continues to help develop strong, successful athletes.

To recognize the dedication of our coaches and volunteers, we hosted a **Coach and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** at Boston Pizza. Their leadership and commitment remain the foundation of our success. At that dinner, I was thrilled to share that **Baseball Nova Scotia selected the Eastern Passage Pirates as the 2025 BNS Association of the Year**. This honor reflects the collective hard work of our coaches, volunteers, players, and families.

Beyond our coaching staff, I want to recognize all the volunteers who make baseball possible — from team managers and scorekeepers to parents who helped with events, fundraising, and practices. Their support is truly the backbone of this organization. Finally, I want to thank our **executive team and committee members** for their countless volunteer hours. Their leadership and dedication were essential to everything we accomplished in 2025.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus will be on **balancing recreational and competitive opportunities** and further **developing athletes' fundamental baseball skills**. With the strength of our community behind us, I am confident next season will be even better.

As President, I could not be prouder of what the Eastern Passage Pirates achieved this year. From record registrations and competitive success to community engagement and recognition at the provincial level, **2025 was truly a season to remember**. Thank you to every volunteer and supporter who helped make baseball fun and rewarding for the kids of Eastern Passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Snyder

President, Eastern Passage Pirates

Humber Park Report – Ashley HelmKay

Humber Park continues to be a small association; however, we were proud to add an additional team this year—for the third season in a row. We also continue to have roughly half of our registered players be female, which this season allowed us to field a second 11U team made up entirely of girls. While it was very much a development year for them, the girls formed incredible bonds, grew both individually and as a team, and were extremely proud to represent an all-girls team within the DDMBA league. Many are now hoping to explore the Bluenose League girls programs next season.

Our other 11U team had a strong season as well, taking home a Tier 2 silver medal and enjoying overall success throughout the year.

Our 9U team had a fun, successful season despite only having two 2nd year players. The team grew both in talent, as well as love for the game.

Our Rally Cap program continues to be strong at both the 5U and 7U levels, with endless fun and learning through the season.

We hosted another successful year-end celebration at CHP, with excellent attendance and many players excited about the past season and eager to know when their next playing opportunities will be.

Recruiting board members continues to be a challenge, though we do have some potential interest for next year. We are looking to fill our president role for next season, however we do not have any interest in that position to date. We want to extend our appreciation to our small but mighty group of board members and coaches, whose dedication continues to make each season a success for our players.

Porters Lake Report - Lorri Arnold

It is my pleasure to reflect on the accomplishments, challenges, and growth we have seen over the past season. Our association continues to strengthen because of the dedication of our volunteers, coaches, players, and families, and this year was no exception.

Season Overview

We entered the season with strong registration numbers and an enthusiastic group of young athletes. Like many community associations, we encountered some early adjustments around team formations and coach availability, but thanks to the hard work and flexibility of our volunteers, the season quickly found its stride.

At the start of the year, some of our teams faced some roster uncertainty, with numbers sitting awkwardly between one large team and two smaller teams. Attendance in the early weeks left both teams short-handed at times. However, as the season progressed, additional players joined, attendance grew more consistent, and the group stabilized. What could have been a challenge became a success story, thanks to collaboration between the coaching staff and families.

Coaching also presented early hurdles. Many of our volunteers were new to coaching baseball and were learning on the fly. Their willingness to ask questions, accept help, and work together created something truly special. With support from involved parents and the determination of the coaching team, the players thrived.

Our U9 program enjoyed an exceptional year, marked by fun, learning, and tremendous personal growth. Coaches described this team as *"a really, really fun team to be a part of,"* even though the season didn't begin smoothly. Early practices in June raised questions about whether players would be ready for games, attention, focus, and converting lessons into active play were challenges. But by July, everything changed. The players' hard work began to shine, and their confidence and teamwork grew dramatically. Players developed meaningful friendships, improved their skills, and built memories that will last a lifetime. Coaches also noted the positive and collaborative environment fostered by other associations and every game was a great experience.

Our U11A Schooners had a standout year, fielding a balanced roster of 13 first- and second-year players. The team was competitive in every game and showed consistent development week after week. Some season highlights:

- Second place at the Riverview Tournament, losing only to an AA team in the final.

- Second place in Tier 2 Provincials after a strong playoff run.
- A pitcher recorded an **immaculate inning**: 9 pitches, 9 strikes, 3 strikeouts, an accomplishment rarely seen at any level of baseball.

These achievements reflect the commitment of both players and coaches. One challenge this season was the requirement for local players to pay and try out for the Arrows program, even when many had strong interest in staying at home and playing A-level baseball. This feedback is important, and as an association, we will continue to work with DDMBA to ensure player

The U13 season included both challenges and deeply meaningful successes. One coach had limited time with the team due to early-season injury, which kept him out until late August. With many coaches supporting the team, roles were shared as needed throughout the summer.

Our two Porters Lake U13 teams practised together throughout the summer, building impressive camaraderie and collective improvement. Their hard work paid off, both teams advanced to the playoffs, placing **first and second** to close out the season. Watching these young players grow from a rocky start to such a strong finish was inspiring. Their resilience, positivity, and joy for the game represent the very best of community sport.

- At times, parent involvement in on-field decisions created negative experiences for players.
- Coaches did not always receive the respect they deserved from some parents.
- There were also difficult moments with opposing associations that affected the atmosphere for our players

Thankfully, the coaching team acted quickly and effectively. They reinforced expectations around respect, attentiveness, and positive behaviour, ensuring the players could focus on learning and enjoying the game.

Despite these challenges, this team embodied resilience and unity. Players competed hard every game, winning and losing as a team. Their playoff run was especially meaningful.

Coaches and Volunteers

I extend my sincere gratitude to every volunteer—new and experienced alike—who contributed to the success of this season. The stories shared this year reflect exactly what makes our association strong: people stepping up, supporting one another, and putting the players first.

Jay and Alicia described coaching as a *“guilty pleasure,”* because watching kids grow, excel, and

gain confidence is incredibly rewarding. Anyone who spent time at the field this summer could see that same joy across all our teams.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for the upcoming season, our priorities include:

- Strengthening coach development and mentorship
- Improving communication around player pathways and tryout expectations
- Supporting local programming while maintaining competitive opportunities
- Enhancing early-season attendance and player engagement
- Continuing to build practice resources and facility access

With the dedication of our volunteers and the passion of our players, the future of Porters Lake Baseball is bright.

Closing

Thank you to every coach, parent, board member, player, and supporter who made the 2025 season such a success. Our association thrives because of your energy, involvement, and commitment to community sport.

I look forward to another year of growth, teamwork, and great baseball in Porters Lake.

EXECUTIVE POSITION ELECTIONS

As per **Article 5.2 of the DDMBA Constitution** amended at the 2022 AGM each Executive Member serves a two [2] year term with half the Executive elected in calendar odd years and half in calendar even years.

The following **seven [7] positions are up for election** at the 2025 AGM:

- Recreation Co-ordinator - open
- Vice President – Ken Zwicker uncontested
- Secretary – Jenna Vigneault uncontested
- Registrar – Brian Hurdis uncontested
- Treasurer – Incumbent, Jim Scott uncontested
- Member at Large (Social Media non voting member) – position eliminated

- Member at Large (Fundraising voting member) – Becky Lavoie Uncontested

New Business [open floor to membership]