**ELSA Fall Meeting**

Thursday, October 10, 2019

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:01pm**

* 20 teams represented
* Executive Members in attendance: Kristine, Allana, Diane
  + Regrets: Taylor

1. **Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting**

**Moved by Kristine Peterson, seconded by Betty Carmichael to adopt the 2018 AGM minutes as reported. CARRIED.**

1. **Business arising from the minutes** – Nothing to report
2. **Presidents Report**

Kristine thanked all team representatives for coming out and for their patience throughout the 2019 season that saw scheduling issues and a very rainy July that impacted all teams. She thanked the executive and out program coordinator for their hard work during the season, trying to make the best out of an undesirable situation. There is one executive member stepping down from the board, Taylor will be leaving her position as Vice President/Scheduling; thank-you both for all of your hard work for the association during your term. The ELSA has continued to fight for diamond allocation at John Fry Park; we are in an uphill battle with minor baseball who has taken over diamond space that had once been allocated for ladies softball. We continue to lobby with the City of Edmonton on why it’s important for ELSA to continue to have access to these diamonds, which were originally built with our help for ladies softball. Our plan is to execute a petition to present to the City of Edmonton as part of our case, which we will discuss later in the meeting.

Kristine congratulated the following teams on their performance this season:

Division Standings:

Div. 1 – First Place – St. Albert Pride, Second Place – Rivercity Hornets ’01, Third Place – Sherwood Park Storm U19

Div. 2A – First Place – Shaleburn, Second Place – Riptide, Third Place – Warriors Sr Pride

Div. 2B – First Place – High Park Havoc, Second Place – Warriors U19B, Third Place – Rivercity Willier

Provincial Medalists:

U16A – Bronze Medal – Sherwood Park Storm

U19A – Gold Medal – Lloydminster Liners, Silver Medal – Rivercity Hornets ’01, Bronze Medal – Rivercity Hornets

Intermediate B – Gold Medal – Riptide

Intermediate C – Silver Medal – St. Albert Storm

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – Reported by Allana

* We transferred banks from TD to ATB in March, as they provided us with more competitive rates and allowed us to accept eTransfer’s for registration fees.
* In 2020 we collected an additional $200 Fundraising bond that would be cashed if teams did not participate in selling the required tickets for the Spring Mixer. Of the 26 teams only 10 teams sold the allotted tickets, leaving ELSA to cash in 16 of the $200 fundraising bonds.
* We made $2380 between our beer garden ($562.51) at the Ice Breaker, and Spring Mixer ($1485 ticket sales, $332.50 silent auction).
* We saw an increase in the following expenses:
  + Softball Alberta affiliation fee increased by $25/team
  + Each team received 1 box (12) game balls this year
  + An increase in the port-a-potties expenses; we added a 3rd for the season, having one at each diamond.
  + An increase in our phone/internet fees due to the installation of fiber in our area; we are looking at ways to reduce this cost
  + Team Credits – rainouts had a huge impact on the amount refunded to teams this season; ELSA returned $5960 in bonds and an additional $4128.00 in rainouts.
* We saw a decrease in the following expenses:
  + Spent less on our program coordinator than 2018 ($682).
    - We will be contacting Cayley first for the 2020 position for availability.
  + We did no promotional items or advertising this season in effort to reduce costs.
  + Diamond Rental – due to the large amount of rained out games, we spent $6114 less than 2018 in diamond rental at John Fry.
  + Umpire Costs – again, due to the large amount of rained out games, we spend $3126 less than 2018 on umpires.
  + While we saw a decrease in both these areas, we have to always be prepared for a fee increase for future seasons, as we are at the mercy of the City of Edmonton and EDSUA.
* ELSA is still working within a loss model, reflecting a $3957.29 loss during the 2019 fiscal season; if there are any increases to our fixed expenses (ex. diamond fees, umpire fees), that will have a significant impact on our bottom lines year over year and we will be unable to sustain the league. We must look at additional revenue sources or will have no option other than to raise registration fees.
* We currently have an account balance of $65,542.55, with $36,187.38 in our General Account, $17,538.66 in our Special Events account and $11,816.51 I our GIC.

**Moved by Al Gombos, seconded by Eldon Chrystian to accept the Financial Report as presented. CARRIED.**

1. **Election for New Executive**

* There is one year remaining in the term for Treasurer (Allana) and Facilities Director (Diane).
* All remaining positions up for election are for a two-year term.
* **President**

*Duties Include:*

* + Shall preside at all ELSA meetings
  + Shall be ex-officio of all committees and cast a deciding vote if required
  + Shall be liaison between affiliate associations, government bodies, and such other organizations as needed from time to time
  + Shall be one of the signing authorities for all ELSA documents
  + Shall be responsible for calling executive meetings if required
  + Shall be responsible for presenting reports at general meeting
  + Shall be responsible for delegating any special duties
* Kristine called once from the floor for nominees. Betty Carmichael nominated Kristine Peterson to continue for another term as President on the second call; nomination seconded by Erin Kennedy. Third call for nominees, no further presented.

**Election of Kristine Peterson as President CARRIED.**

* **Vice President (Scheduling)**

*Duties Include:*

* + Duties of the president in his/her absence, including signing authority
  + Shall be chairman of the program committee, whose duties include season game scheduling and keeping a list of tournaments in the Edmonton area etc.
  + Such other duties as the President may assign
  + Will be supported by other executive members
* Kristine called once from the floor for nominees. Stephanie Jack nominated Erin Kennedy as Vice President; nomination seconded by Will Spreadbury. Kristine called two more times from the floor for nominees, no further presented.

**Election of Erin Kennedy as Vice President CARRIED.**

* **Secretary**

*Duties Include:*

* + Keeping minutes at all ELSA meetings
  + Keeping a file of records and correspondence of the ELSA
  + Notify members of meetings
  + One of the signing authorities for all ELSA documents
  + Working with all functional committees
  + Such other duties as requested by other executive members
* Kristine called three times from the floor for any nominations or volunteers; no nominations put forth. **Position Tabled** will be readdressed at the end of the meeting agenda.
* **Events & Fundraising Coordinator**

*Duties Include:*

* + Duties of Vice President in his/her absence
  + Assist in planning and execution of fundraising events and other social events (ex. Ice Breaker, Spring Mixer)
  + Research and propose other fundraising opportunities for the association
  + Working with the Treasurer and President to ensure that the ELSA has a sustainable financial position
  + Such other duties as requested by other executive members
* Kristine called once from the floor for nominees. Erin Kennedy nominated Stephanie Jack as Events & Fundraising Coordinator; nomination seconded by Janine Clayton. Kristine called two more times from the floor for nominees, no further presented.

**Election of Stephanie Jack as Events & Fundraising Coordinator CARRIED.**

1. **New Business**

* Kristine advised that it is hard to watch our league continue to struggle so much to remain liquid; we continue to have teams register to play, but are not able to effectively capture other revenue sources outside of registration fees and bonds to recover revenue streams that have been lost over the years. We need to have the buy in from our teams on the fundraising aspect to be able to continue as a viable league in the future.
* **Motions for Updates to Bylaws for 2020:**

Part III. 1).Government

Previous Wording:

The affairs of the association shall be managed by an executive of six (6) members.

New Wording:

*The affairs of the association shall be managed by an executive of* ***up to*** *six (6) members.*

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to change the wording to reflect ‘up to six (6) members’: seconded by Betty Carmichael. CARRIED.**

Part III. 4.d). Nominations and Election of Executive

Previous Wording:

The executive shall appoint a nominating committee of three. The chairman of this committee shall chair the elections and receive additional nominations from the floor.

New Wording:

***The current or outgoing President shall oversee the nomination and election of all officers of the board. They may appoint another member or officer to oversee the nomination and election of officers of the board if they are unable to fulfill these duties.***

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to change the wording to reflect the current President to oversee nomination/election process, or appoint another member to do so if they are unable to fulfill duties; seconded by Erin Kennedy. CARRIED.**

Part III. 8). Quorum

Previous Wording:

Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum of the executive.

New Wording:

***Three (3)*** *members shall constitute a quorum of the executive.*

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to change the wording to reflect ‘Three (3) members as quorum: seconded by Janine Clayton. CARRIED.**

Part IV. 3). Audit

Previous Wording:

The Auditor shall be appointed each year by the members of the special general meeting. He shall audit the books, vouchers, and accounts of the ELSA, examine and verify the securities and other assets in the custody of the Treasurer, and approve of the valuation at which the ELSA’s assets are carried and certify the correct balance sheet of the association. Remuneration for such service shall be fixed by the executive.

New Wording:

**Before the annual general meeting each fall, the President and Treasurer will perform an internal audit of the last complete fiscal year together.** They will audit the books, vouchers, and accounts of the ELSA, examine and verify the securities and other assets in the custody of the Treasurer, and approve of the valuation at which the ELSA’s assets are carried and certify the correct balance sheet of the association. **The results of this audit will be made available at the meeting and to members who submit written inquiries to the President or Treasurer after the meeting.**

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to change auditing requirements to reflect appointed auditors as the President and Treasurer: seconded by Janine Clayton.**

Discussion

* Does this not open up the association, and in particular president and treasurer, to liability if this is not done by a third party?
* A third party audit can cost upwards of $4000, an expense the executive feels far outweighs the benefits in comparison to the amount of transactions during a given season.
  + A third party audit has not been completed by the ELSA in 20+ years; this update is to reflect what is/has actually been practised in terms of financial overview.
  + This is a large expense that the association hasn’t felt necessary for 20+ years.
* Should we have a third party audit every X amount of years?
* Can members request a detailed account of the financial records if they feel it is warranted?
  + Yes, our financials are available to all members upon request.
* If they feel there is a lack of transparency or discrepancy, could they request a third party audit?
  + Yes, if the member feels there is something discrepant and the executive cannot provide a reasonable explanation or account, a third party audit can be requested.

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to change auditing requirements to reflect appointed auditors as the President and Treasurer to review and present annual financials, with the stipulation that all detailed financial records must be supplied to a member upon request; seconded by Janine Clayton. CARRIED with two opposed.**

* **Motions for Updates to Operating Rules for 2020:**

**Minimum number of innings to constitute a game changed from 5 to 3 complete innings, except during playoffs.**

* Looking to accommodate within the time constraints for our regular season games; setting a standard of 3 innings will result in fewer games being considered rainouts etc. and still allowing teams a decent chance to play.

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to change the minimum amount of innings to constitute a completed game from 5 innings to 3 innings; seconded by Lucas Willier. DEFEATED.**

**Restructure the forfeit fine structure**

* We had a large number of same-day or day prior forfeits this season; we are only able to recoup costs for umpires if they are cancelled a full 24 hours in advance and it leaves ELSA very limited time to try and find alternate teams to fill open game slot, which we are still charged for the by the City of Edmonton.
* If we can introduce a ‘sub-list’ to help teams field playable lineups, forfeits should be strongly deterred.

Current Structure:

* + Defaulting with less than one (1) week notice will have a fine of $100.00.
  + For a pre-arranged default, one (1) week notice is required. A fine of $40 will still apply if the time slot is not able to be filled. A fine of $10 will be applied if the time slot is able to be filled.

New Structure:

* + $25 fine for a game defaulted with more than one (1) week notice, whether or not the time slot can be filled.
  + $100 fine for a game defaulted with more than one (1) week notice, whether or not the time slot can be filled.
  + $200 fine for a game defaulted after our office hours the day before the scheduled game, or the day-of the scheduled game.

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to restructure the fine schedule; seconded by Betty Carmichael. CARRIED.**

Discussion:

* Will the ELSA enact a Sub-List that can be used by all teams?
  + Yes, we will provide an avenue for players to be included on a Sub-List on the Player Registration Form beginning in the 2020 season.
* Will the ELSA allow for an increased number of roster players?
  + The ELSA uses the 20 player limit for a team’s PROVINCIAL ROSTER, which we relay to Softball Alberta; a team can have more than this amount listed on their ELSA Roster Card, BUT you must indicate which players are to be included on your PROVINCIAL roster.
* Will ELSA open the date restriction for all divisions for movement between rosters?
  + ELSA does allow for open movement between rosters within a division, with the stipulation that you cannot roster a player from a higher division, BUT your official roster is locked in June 30 due to due to playoffs/finals.
  + Roster will be open for Division 1 all season as they do not participate in division playoffs/finals.

**Removal of clause 12.e under Team Eligibility**

* To enter Division 1, a team must be of Provincial Level Midget A or higher. If a team enters Provincials at a lower level they will be barred from Division 1 the following year. Upon unusual circumstances, the Executive may overrule the penalty.
* We currently, and for many years previous, have teams playing in Div. 1 that are registered as ‘B’ teams with Softball Alberta. Based on previous and continued allowance of this, the clause is no longer valid.

**Moved by Kristine Peterson to remove the team eligibility clause from the operating rules; seconded by Eldon Chrystian. CARRIED.**

* **Scheduling**

Kristine apologized to members for the 2019 games scheduling; for the second year in a row the schedule has been unsatisfactory and disappointing, and we as an executive have heard your feedback and concerns. We have a concrete plan for 2020 that should see the elimination of the issues we saw in this years’ schedule.

* + Creating of a seeding structure for Division 2:
    - With the elimination of Division 3 in 2019, we are looking to address the large amount of teams registered within division 2 and help eliminate some of the disparity between teams moving forward by using some sort of seeding structure. We are currently still looking at various options that could be used to achieve this, but stats will be used to a certain extent to seed top/bottom.
  + Suggested to look at having an additional weekend of games at the end of the season
    - Playoffs tournament style on this weekend?
    - Allow for league to end July 31?
    - Can we find adequate diamonds to do this?
      * Executive will look into what options may be available
* **Petition to City of Edmonton for diamond allocation**
  + Kristine is putting together a petition to present to the City of Edmonton in support of the ELSA receiving appropriate diamond allocation at John Fry. We need all members support in reaching out to family and friends to sign petition in support of our cause.
  + Will have the petition done on online and hard copy format, which will be sent out to all 2019 registered teams as soon as possible.
* **Outsourcing of Diamonds** – is John Fry providing us with what we need?
  + There are certain criteria that would need to be met in order to consider any additional diamonds
    - Executive will see what potential diamonds are within Edmonton and surrounding areas that are available that would fit our criteria; will put this out to the members.
  + Games were scheduled and played in Calahoo to try and supplement our John Fry diamond allocation due to the excessive amount of rainouts; mix of last of regular season and playoff games played here.
    - Diamonds weren’t in the best shape for playing – not as well maintained as John Fry; there were no lights available, ran into issues as darkness fell.
    - Complaints on location of diamonds; too far away
* Eldon Chrystian –speaking on behalf of EYSA
  + Softball is declining in numbers; we can help bolster the sport by supporting our youth. There is a large need for coaches and assistant coaches at the minor levels. There is also a need for specialized coaching/instructors (pitching/catching).
  + Please pass along this message to your teams; if there are any ELSA members interested in giving back by coaching, contact your local community for more information.
  + Help this sport grow; these young players will hopefully grow into playing for the adult league.

**6**. **Return to Election for New Executive**

* **Secretary**
  + With Allana holding dual roles as Treasurer and Secretary during the 2019 season, the Secretary position is open. Kristine again called three times from the floor for any nomination or volunteers; no nominations put forth.

**Motion to have Secretary position appointed by the ELSA executive at a later date moved by Kristine Peterson, seconded by Erin Kennedy.**

1. **MOTION TO ADJOURN** moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Janine Clayton at 8:59pm.