



## LAKELAND MINOR BALL LEAGUE – 2024 FALL MEETING AGENDA

### ***2024 Lessons Learnt & 2025+ Planning***

**September 30th, 2024  
7:00 - 9:00pm  
(Online via TEAMS)**

1. Call to Order

- Chris called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Introductions & Attendance

Name	Association	Online	Name	Association	Online
Chris Moser	President (Chair)	On	Justin Blackburn	Vice President	---
D'Arcy Evans	Board Secretary	---	Kim Gauthier	Board Treasurer	---
Real Bourbeau	Bonnyville District	On	Margaret Bayduza	Board Social Media	On
Evan Aasen	Cold Lake District	On	Kara Johnston	Vermilion River District	On
Cory Robinson	St. Paul District	On	Mike Walgren	LLB District	
Sharon Earl	Softball Alberta		Doug Basset	Baseball Alberta	On
Dennell Anderson	Elk Point	On	Alain Mahe	St. Paul	On
Lindsey Stanton	Boyle	On	Gwen Lepine	Elizabeth Settlement	---
Candace Walgren	LLB	---	Tyrel Turchyn	Pierceland	---
Bestt Peterson	Buffalo Lake	---	Alanna Erasmus	Kikino	---
Landon Cusack	Vermilion	---	Drake Centazzo	Marwayne	---
Pam Cannon	Vermilion	On	Ryan Yopyk	Chief Umpire	---

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

a) June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Summer Meeting

***Motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2024. Moved by Real, seconded by Alain. Carried.***

4. Additions to the Agenda & Acceptance of Agenda  
Add - Open discussion

***Motion to accept the agenda. Moved by Dennell, seconded by Doug. Carried.***

5. Delegations

a) Baseball Alberta – Zone 7 Representative **Doug Bassett:**

- The AGM will be Nov 23. BA board is quite large (8 zones plus 500+ associations), so working on reducing the size of the board.
- No huge issues. Thanks to the host sites in our zone.
- Lunch and learns and other info on the BA website – can view the videos.
- Our zone and league is doing very well.
- Change of name from House League to Short Season (sounds more competitive).
- Today is the deadline to submit nominations for awards. Submit online.

b) Softball Alberta – Zone 7 Representative **Sharon Earl:**

- What SBA would like to encourage at C and D level is coaches to get certified. I find that a team wants to entered provincials and can't because they are not certified and can't find anyone who is available.
- This process should be started in January by contacting SA to host a clinic. The earlier you start booking, the better chance of getting a clinic in your area.
- SBA has their AGM in 3 weeks. If anyone has some concerns regarding provincials, etc please have them give me a call
- SBA is also setting up a tiering system for 2025 for the U17, U19, A/B Categories and possible U15
- More info after the AGM. Will look at C/D divisions in 2026.
- Discussion about softball. Someone should attend Softball Alberta AGM Oct 19-20. Concerns about not all teams being accepted to provincials and timing of provincials. Opportunities like tournaments and provincials are needed to improve the sport.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) League Finals – Results Summary Page

- i. Can we compile a summary list of 2024 winners?

Margaret started a list. She will reach out to coordinators and hosts to complete the list.

b) Corrective Action Volunteers - Corrective Actions Subcommittee Volunteers

- i. Who is willing to help create the systems, processes and documents to support these corrective actions.

No volunteers currently. Will look to associations for members who might be willing to take this on. Discussion of need to change mentality. Associations need to send a clear message and enforce this. Possible code of conduct requirement.

c) Late Entry & Withdrawal Fees

- i. Treasurer - Summary Sheet of current state

Kim not in attendance, report tabled.

Discussion of the work caused by late withdrawals and entries. Some options – no late entries, minimum game requirement to qualify for finals, association level suspension for chronic offenders, requirement to have bench staff in place and/or association contact updated before accepting team registrations.

7. Board Officer Reports – 2024 Lesson's Learnt

- a) President – **Wow, what a learning year for myself. I certainly didn't know what I**

didn't know when I stepped into this role last winter, and I don't want a repeat of last April to July. However, I'm truly grateful for all of the support, patience, and efforts of each of you, not only with the LMBL but by leading each of your minor ball associations. Justin, Dennelle, D'Arcy, Kim, Real, Cory, Elaine, and of course Margaret – wow you did so much for the league I never realized was going on behind the scenes. The list goes on and on. We are going through some growing pains, with ~10% additional teams in 2024 vs. 2023. I felt like we were reaching our capacity with diamonds, umpires, tournaments & volunteers. I look forward to celebrating our successes from 2024 & learning together to create an even better season next year.

- b) Vice-President - none
- c) Secretary - none
- d) Treasurer - none
- e) Website - none

8. New Business:

a) Motions

- i. Please see attached 2024 Motion Tracker pdf.
- ii. None drafted at this time.

b) Lakeland Umpires – Recruitment, Development, and Retention

- i. Summary of current state of umpires per association.  
Discussion of the need for associations to have strong umpire program and ways to encourage and support umpires. It takes time to develop new umpires – they need to learn the rules. Use of mentors to talk through tough calls. Communicate with Lakeland League refs (our rules, our website). Provide copy of Lakeland League rules to umpires.  
**Action Item: Start of season zoom meeting with umpires.**
- ii. Coordinate between larger associations to host umpire development clinics in 2025. – not discussed
- iii. Budget to purchase LMBL logo'd hats to provide to all umpires in the league. – not discussed

c) September 2, 2024 – Email from Wainwright Minor Softball Association

- i. Contact: Justin Dance – inquiry about our League, teams, and fees.  
No action – just FYI. Their older teams are having a harder time getting teams to play. They are a long way from us.

d) 2024 LMBL Questionnaire

- i. Results from online survey  
Only received two responses.  
**Action item: Open response form until the week before Christmas**

e) Division Contact Volunteers

- i. Escalation matrix to resolve issues.
- ii. Associations to Divisions to LMBL.
- Worked well – Dennell, Chris, Real represented LMBL. There were some escalated issues, but it operated more smoothly. Some associations were not aware of the LMBL reps, but we will continue with communication and support.
- Crossover weekends are improving, getting buy in. Likewise pitch count but need to keep pressing for people to learn the actual rules.
- Use the tournament document with roles and levels for every tournament.

f) 2025 AGM Topics

- i. League Fee's & Penalties

- ii. Tournament dates & host sites
    - iii. Rules Review
    - iv. Board Members – still all filled.
  - Suggestion to gauge interest in splitting league into tier 1 & tier 2. Issues – short season, association level politics. Possibly reduce conflict if playing teams with same mindset.
9. Formal Correspondence Review & Round Table
- a) June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – MEMO Discipline Policy
    - i. See attached June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Incident Investigation Analysis & Corrective Actions - Discipline Policy Application for Infractions
  - Need to follow up on the things that associations said that they were going to do.
  - b) June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Concerns 11U League Finals - Cold Lake
    - i. See attached letter from Elk Point Minor Ball representative.
  - Issues were not escalated per the tournament roles document, so those able to address the issues were unaware.
  - **Action item - Work on a tournament checklist with information about expectations, requirements, resources**
  - c) June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Letter
    - i. See attached letter from Pierceland Minor Ball

This ties in with cleaning up behavior in the league.

### Open Discussion

- Consensus that we need to continue to work on behavior and discipline issues (zero tolerance, policies, education, accountability).
- Appreciation for all the volunteers involved in the league.
- If we go with no late entries, try to have the deadline as late as possible, and then only schedule once.
- Suggestion to have kick off meeting in person.

### 10. Upcoming Meetings

The League will strive to get the sub committees going and to work on the action items.

- a) Scheduled Meeting(s)
  - i. January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7pm
    - 1. Online & In-Person @ St. Paul Reunion Station
    - 2. Theme – 2025 AGM.
- b) Proposed Meeting(s)
  - i. April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7pm
    - 1. Theme – 2025 Season Kickoff.
  - ii. Adhoc – Subcommittee meetings TBD by Chair.

### 11. Adjournment

Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.