

**Lakeland League Spring Meeting**  
**February 23, 2023**  
**Horizon Room, AG Ross Arena, Elk Point**

**Attendance: Mitch Makokis (Saddle Lake); Tyrel Turchyn (Pierceland); Orry Gelowitz (Pierceland); Shaun Johnson (Plamondon); Real Bourbeau (Bonnyville); Dru Franklin (Marwayne); Jim Church (Zone 7 Assistant Director); Sharon Earl (Zone 7 District Organizer); Kara Johnston (Lloydminster); Greg Laramie (St. Paul); Cory Robinson (St. Paul); Mandi Mahe (St. Paul); Chris Kuntz (Kitscoty); Doug Bassett (Zone 7 Director); Margaret Bayduza (Elk Point); Dennell Anderson (Elk Point)**

**1. Call meeting to order**

Dennell Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**2. Review of agenda**

No additions

**3. Introductions** around the table.

**Old Business**

1. There has been a positive response to the 9U/U9 rule changes.
2. Reminder of the league fines and consequences for no shows at games and for late entry/withdrawal of teams.
3. 2022 season
  - Goodfish will enter teams in league, but they will NOT be participating in year end tournaments because of conflicts with powwow season.
  - Goodfish is hosting umpire and baseball clinics in baseball and softball in mid March. They need a minimum of 12 participants to book a clinic. Contact Brad Sparklingeyes if you would like to attend.
  - a. Pitch count - discussion of pitch count focussed on 11U. Pitch Count was in place for year end tournaments in 2022. First year is always challenging. The league has a history of flipflopping on whether we have pitch count or not. Have to start somewhere. Coaches have to manage pitchers and develop everybody. Pitch count is to save kids' arms. In 11U, pitchers get only one inning during regular league play or else only the top pitchers would play. Mechanics of throwing from a mound differs from throwing from a flat surface.

**Shaun moved that 11U remove pitch count and allow 1 inning per game for the final tournament. No seconder.**

**Shaun moved that U11 raise the pitch count by 5 pitches for the year end tournament. Seconded by Orry. Carried.**

## **President's Report**

### **1. Registration**

- a. Know how many teams you are entering in league by the April meeting.

### **2. Umpires for upcoming season**

- a. Umpire clinics are posted online. A number of associations regularly host clinics.
- b. Ensure all umpires are certified. We need more carded umpires.

### **3. Insurance**

- a. All players playing in the Lakeland League must be insured through BBA if playing baseball and SBA if playing softball
  - i. All associations must be in good standings with BBA and SBA (registered association)
- b. Rallycap/firstball can be registered with SBA to save money but all other age groups must be registered through the correct association

### **4. Communication Chain**

- a. Please ensure all your coaches and managers know the rules for the division they are coaching. Pass the information from these meetings down to your coaches. League specific rules are posted on our website, and for the rest follow BBA or SBA.

Communication is improving. Please remember, the more we educate our association about rule changes and etiquette on and off the field, the better all games will be. We are all out there for the same reason - to play good competitive games with good sportsmanship etc. So we ask that all associations deal with any negative issues that arise between coaches, players, umpires, parents within your own association. If it cannot be resolved then the PRESIDENT of the association can contact the league president and together they will try to find a solution. The league president will not deal directly with parents and coaches; this is the responsibility of the association president. Please observe the 24 hour rule prior to contacting the league.

### **5. Multiple teams in a division:**

- a. Lakeland league is a house league. To help promote competitive games, it is the responsibility of the home association to ensure teams are split

equally skill wise when there is more than one team in the same division. Our goal as a league is to promote the sport and try to keep it fun and competitive for all members of our league.

Stronger players become mentors.

Softball teams can register into provincials at two levels.

Baseball teams can register for A provincials - only 3 weekends in July and a good way to start participating in provincials.

## 6. Coaches

The coach should be a leader. If a coach is causing issues, it is the responsibility of the home association to deal with it, not the league. Be responsible when selecting coaches. Our athletes need positive role models, so do your due diligence when selecting coaches. It is strongly recommended that associations have a Coaches/Managers meeting prior to the season to ensure everyone knows the rules and expectations.

## 7. Schedule/Travel

The league is large geographically. We try to keep travel at an hour for 9U/U9, where possible. Teams are allowed to reschedule their games for weekends. This gives the added advantage of freeing up a weeknight for a practice.

We have tried crossover weekends in the past, but they were not successful. However, there seems to be a shift and there is more interest in weekend games.

**Associations - during registration, see if you have buy in to schedule league play for the weekend of May 27 & 28. This would replace some weeknight games. We will make a decision at the April scheduling meeting.**

## 8. Review consequences for late/inaccurate team registrations

Last year, we did not have any issues during league play. However, we had two late withdrawals of teams. The withdrawal fees were paid. There was a question as to whether the withdrawal fees were to be in addition to entry fees.

**Margaret moved that for late withdrawal of a team, the fine will be \$500 and NO team entry fee will be charged. For late entry of a team, the fee will be \$250 PLUS the team entry fee. Seconded by Cory. Carried.**

## 9. Competitive teams

- a. allow your players to try out at the highest level at which they are capable. Please don't hold back your players just to form a team. Let's all work together to get the most players out there playing AA and get them in their appropriate tiers whether it's tier 1 or tier 4.

## 10. Practice/play ratio

Usually 9U/U9, 11U/U11 practice once a week/play once a week through May & June, and the older divisions practice once a week/play once a week in May and play twice a week in June. However, we will discuss this at the April meeting when we decide whether we will have a league play weekend in May.

## 11. Rosters

- a. League rosters are due by April 30, 2023.
- b. Each team will have a login for the new LMBL website. Associations will be responsible for posting team rosters and coach/manager contact information prior to the first game being played. If you have an over aged player on a team, please put "O/A" after their last name on the website roster. Please include the birthdate of each player.
- c. Because rosters will be posted online, associations do not need to email rosters to the league.

## New Business

### 1. Game nights

9U has games Tuesday, practice Thursday. U9 has games Monday, practice Wednesday. This is to help free up diamonds on Wed/Thurs for games in older divisions.

- a. 9U/U9 games will be scheduled to neighbouring towns within 60 km from home town whenever possible  
Softball (U11 and up) and 15U baseball have practices on Monday, games on Wednesday.  
Baseball 11U and up have practice Tuesday, games Thursday

### 2. Modified 11U/U11 rule

Last year, Doug observed U11 playing with a "no walks" modified rule. If the count reaches 4 balls, the coach steps in the pitch the remaining strikes. This keeps the game moving, prevents a long series of walks, and forces batters to try to hit.

**Doug moved to create a modified rule for U11. A pitcher gets four balls, then the coach comes in and pitches the remainder of strikes. The batter either hits or strikes out. There will be no walks. Seconded by Kara. Carried  
CLARIFICATION - Hit by Pitch still takes a base.**

There was discussion of the applicability of this rule to baseball.

**Mandi moved to create a modified rule for 11U. During league play but excluding the year end tournament, a pitcher gets four balls, then the coach comes in and pitches the remainder of strikes. The batter either hits or strikes out. There will be no walks. Seconded by Orry. Carried.**

**CLARIFICATION - Hit by Pitch still takes a base.**

### **3. Lakeland Minor Ball League Website**

- a. Our new website is up and running: LMBL.ca
- b. Margaret Bayduza is the website administrator (admin@lmbll.ca).
- c. Once associations provide their team numbers to Margaret and teams are created, each association will be responsible for ensuring that coach and manager contact information is posted for each team (just like it's done on NEAHL for hockey). We will not be collecting and posting a master document of all team contacts. We will only have the list of association contacts (e.g. presidents). Team contacts will be listed under each individual team.
- d. Associations must provide a contact email for team login information. This can either be one email that receives all the team login information for the association (e.g. a president or registrar), or a manager email for each individual team.
- e. Please check the website and make sure that your association's contact information is correct.
- f. Under "associations", we can provide links to information about each association. The link can go either to an association's own website or to a content page hosted in the LMBL website. For content pages, either the association can provide information to Margaret to post, or Margaret can provide the association with a login to access and manage their own content page.
- g. If you would like to have clinics or camps posted on the website home page, please send information to admin@lmbll.ca.

### **4. Reporting Game Scores**

- a. With the new website, the **home team** manager is required to login into the website using their team login info and enter the game information within 24 hours of the game being finished.

### **5. Hosting tournament for extra games**

Teams and associations are welcome to arrange additional games.

### **6. Starting up a lakeland competitive stream for Softball and Baseball**

Tabled

### **7. New associations joining league**

Saddle Lake has 2 diamonds and is starting up a ball program. They will probably start with younger teams. They are currently working on the diamonds, so they may need to play out of Ashmont or Two Hills this season. They will need to register their association with BBA and SBA and get umpires.

**Kara moved to invite Saddle Lake to join the league as long as all requirements have been met. Seconded by Margaret. Carried.**

## **8. League Fees**

a. Year end gifts (our major expense). Tabled to next meeting - please bring ideas if you want something other than medals.

b. League fees - consensus to leave fees at current level.

9U/U9 - \$50/team

11U/U11 & up - \$150/team

## **9. Final tournament**

- St. Paul hosted a split tournament where each side only played on one day. The feedback was that it would be better to have arranged the schedule to have all teams play over two days.

- Dennell would like to have a Friday night game for 13U/U13 & up. This would help with pitch count for baseball. The Friday games would have to be scheduled at various locations throughout the league so that all teams could get a game in.

## **10. Adjournment**

Dennell adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

## **CALL TO ACTION:**

1. Provide up to date association contact information for the LMBL website (see association contact update form under the Associations tab on LMBL.ca or email admin@lmbL.ca).

2. Send your team creation requests to Margaret (see online team request form under the Associations tab on LMBL.ca or email admin@lmbL.ca).

3. All associations to have rosters, team contacts, and association contact info up to date on the LMBL website by April 26, 2023

4. Determine whether your association/teams would participate in May 27/28 weekend games.

5. Keep improving communication between your association and your coaches/managers.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 20, 6:30 pm in Elk Point (Horizon Room, AG Ross Arena**