



Leduc Baseball Association
Survey Results
2020

Learn it, Live it, Love it – Leduc Giants Baseball

At the November board meeting, the directors agreed that a survey to the membership regarding questions about the Leduc Baseball Association and the Beaumont Minor Baseball Association amalgamation should go out. The Secretary, Treasurer and the Sponsorship director was tasked with creating, implementing and analyzing the results of the survey and present those findings at the December 2020 board meeting.

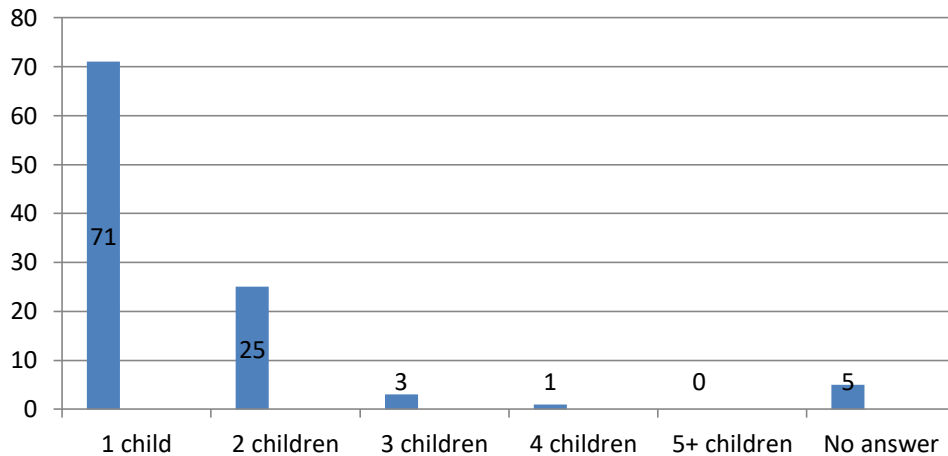
The group of three met and came up with the questions for the survey. The topics were expanded beyond the amalgamation to include demographics, member intent for the future, the past season success and the topic of a technical director.

The survey was sent out on December 1, 2020 to the 2019 and 2020 registrants along with the 2020 Covid-19 and 2019 fall ball registrants. A reminder was sent closer to the due date and the survey closed on December 11th, 2020 at 12:00p.m.

105 responses were received representing 137 athletes with LBA. 0 were invalid responses, meaning that there were no identifying answers and we were unable to validate if those responses came from LBA members. Overall, there were 27 respondents who were interested in coaching or receive more information about coaching, 44 respondents stating they would like to join the LBA board or would like more information, 50 people who support the hiring of a technical director and 38 members requesting more information or unsure about the LBA/BMBA 'AA' amalgamation, with 46 respondents out of 105 that support the program change.

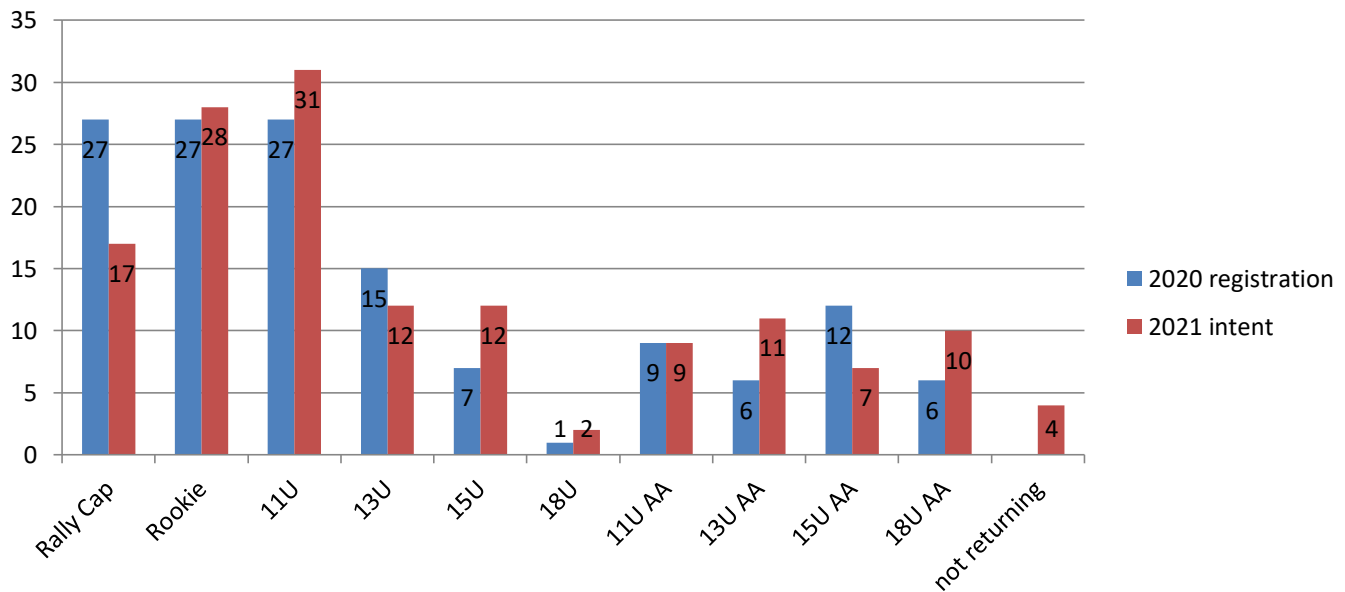
There were some comments received (in the survey and verbally) about the need to enter a name in order to submit the survey. The request for the contact information was 1. So a winner(s) could be drawn from the respondents and 2. To ensure that if they were interested in coaching or required more information on a topic, communication could be sent to them and 3. To validate the survey, if required. There was always the option to enter "invalid date" into those required boxes. There was 1 response with an invalid name attached to the survey

Number of children each family had registered in the 2020 season



68% of respondents have 1 child registered with LBA

What age group were your children last registered in vs. where will you be registering next year?

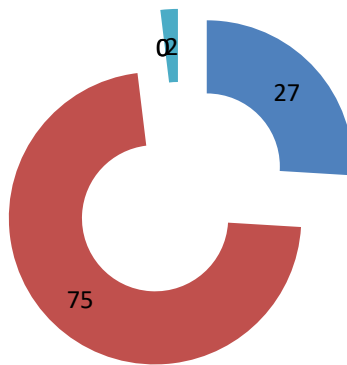


The season was a success but it was unfortunate that there were a few cancelled evenings because of weather conditions.

I have been very pleased with the LBA since our children began playing ball in Leduc, and I support any direction taken that benefits the players. Although my youngest child still plays ball with the Giants, I am unable to have greater involvement with the LBA as I now reside in BC. Although Covid-19 protocols had a detrimental impact on the baseball season (my son truly loves to play ball), I appreciate the efforts of LBA to salvage what it could from the 2020 season. If the MLB and other professional sports leagues found a way to manage a modified 2020 season, it is my sincerest hope the 2021 ball season can resume in earnest - even if that meant no fans in the stands. It would be great to have the kids back on the field for an entire season. Thank you for your efforts.

Would you be interested in coaching next year?

Respondents that replied yes to this question are from all levels of 'AA' & house



- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- More info
- Did not answer

Would you be interested in joining the LBA board?



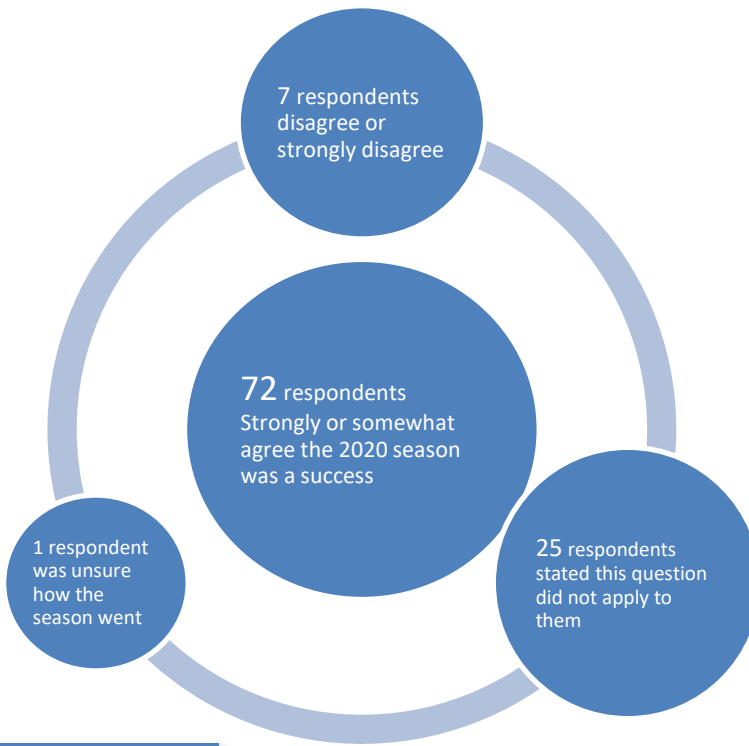
- yes
- no
- unsure
- more info

Recommendation

There is a high level of “unsure” and “would like more information” answers to this question. It would be recommended that the board create a document that reflects all elected positions and their duties along with all volunteer positions to distribute to the membership.

It would be great if the Rally Cap had an earlier start time. Starting at 6:00PM and going for a full hour of practice was challenging. I understand that in previous years half of that time would be practice and the other half games. -Having an end date would have helped. As a coach I didn't realize I had committed to two nights a week of practices for all of July and August.

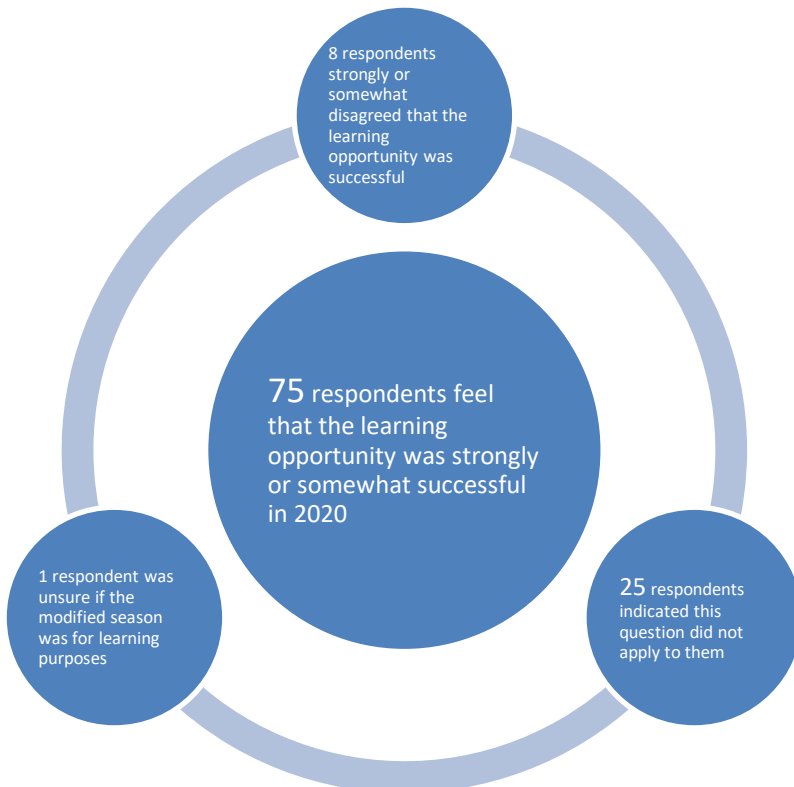
I have been very happy with the last three seasons in watching my son and his friends improve in technical skill and personal development and team building. My son has enjoyed each season playing with and meeting new and old teammates.



2020 was a weird year. I understand the constraints placed on LBA due to covid, however there were at least 4 kids on our team who would have benefitted from a more challenging program. 6-9 is a big age gap socially and skill wise. 9 year olds were more focused on development while the younger kids (majority) were spinning circles, crying, etc. It was great we could still get them out on the field, just tough on probably all ages being so differently skilled.

I feel that "post covid" was handled terribly. There was really no direction for coaches, and very little player development at all. It came to a point where 3 and 4 teams were bunched together to play "games". This resulted in way too many kids in the field, with no interaction with the play, as well as huge batting orders that made each inning way too long. It also fully defeated the purpose of all the sanitization and physical distancing, as now you're grouping 4 teams into one practice. By the end of the season, my boy had no interest in going, as it wasn't any fun. I hope some plan is being made for the 2021 season, or I doubt we'll be re-registering

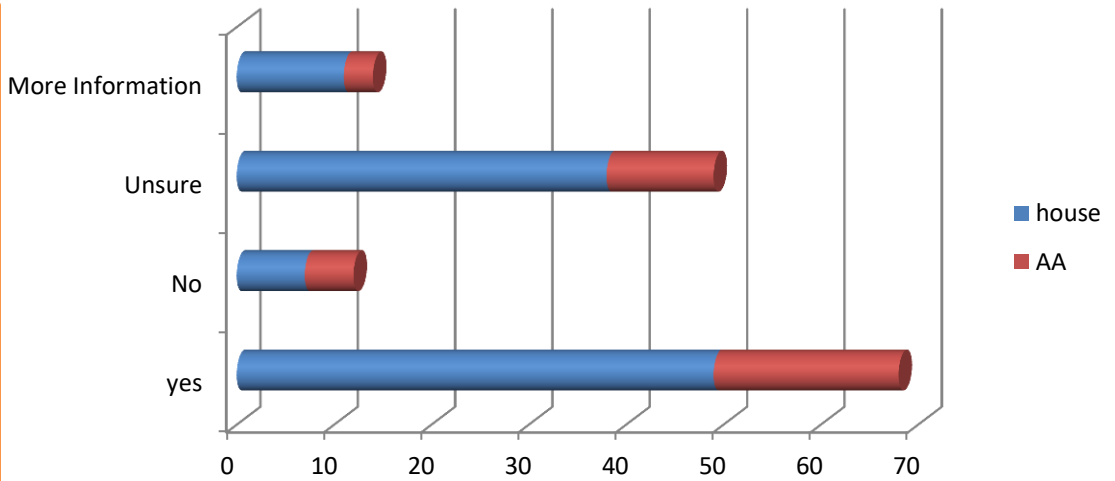
Covid season - you made the best of a bad situation.



Do you support LBA hiring a technical director?

Recommendation

There is a high level of “unsure” and “would like more information” answers to this question. It would be recommended that the board create a document that reflects the LBA intended purpose and benefit of a technical director.



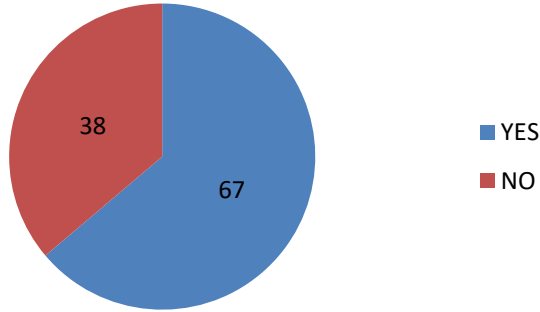
I would like to see what the technical director would do and how much help they would give at the lower ends of the league to help start the kids and coaches that don't have very much if any experience at all with rally cap and rookie. As well as what they would do to get our older kids to that next level and past. As for combining the 'AA' programs i would be in if it makes for a more competitive team and brings better development of the youth.

The coaching in house league are usually parents that are coaching just because they want their kids to play, I am not sure if there is training offered to these coaches, but for the 8 week season, I could see it being hard to justify doing a full day course. Having that technical director, that position could go around to each of the teams and give the kids some input on how to improve and strive as a player. They could also work with the coaches to improve them.

Insights:

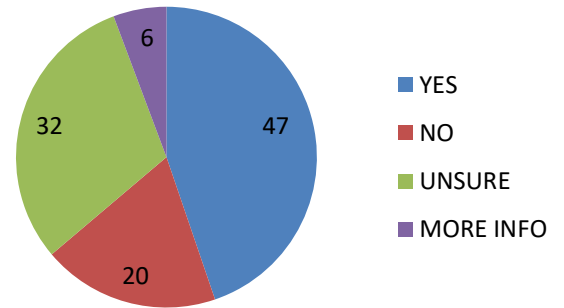
Overall, there were 50 respondents in support of LBA hiring a technical director. There were 8-“no”, 36-“unsure” and 11-“more information”. Interestingly, 5 out of the 8 “no’s” came from respondents with ‘AA’ athletes registered with LBA. Out of the 50 supporters of hiring a technical director, 51 house athletes and 21 ‘AA’ athletes were represented in those responses.

Were you aware of the LBA/BMBA amalgamation?

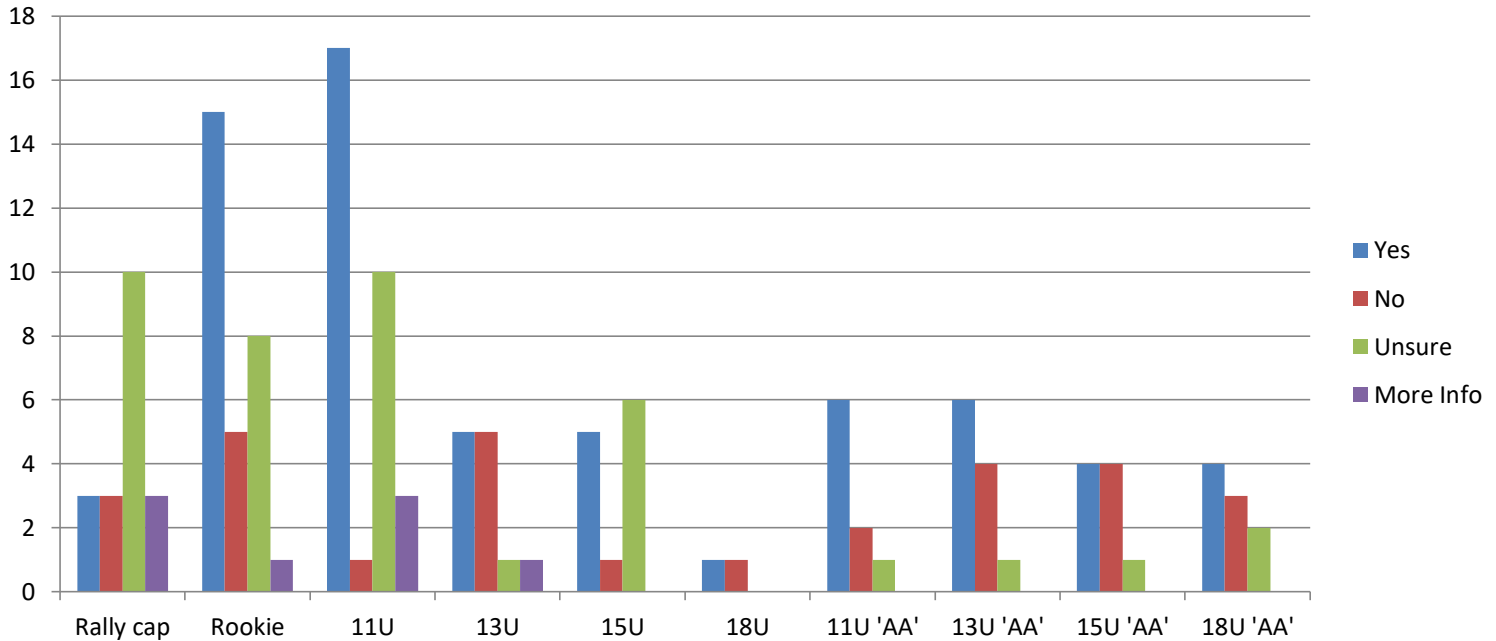


If this helps the players development and helps the association stay competitive then it is a huge advantage as our kids get older

Do you support the amalgamation?



I would prefer my child to practice in the City of Leduc and not have to drive to Beaumont. If I was willing to drive, I would be considering a AAA team.



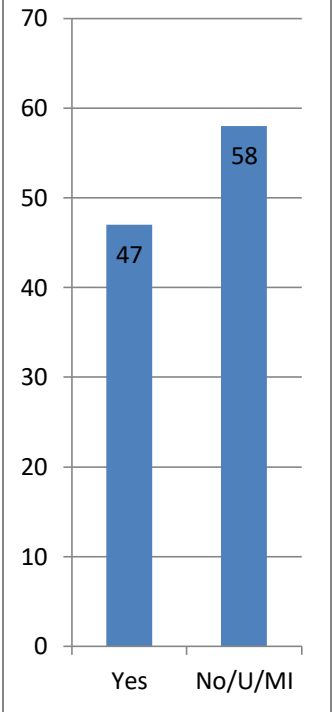
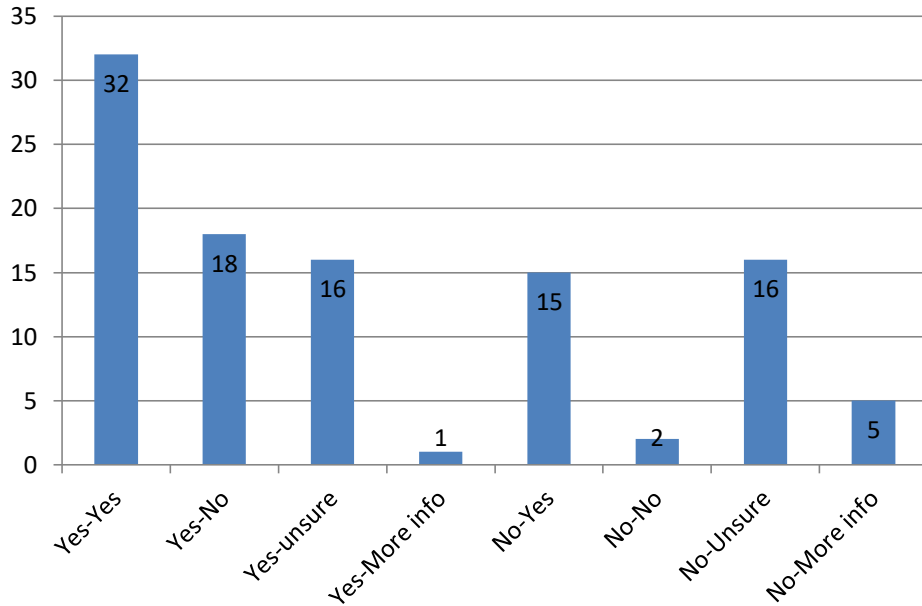
The chart above breaks down each age level and the support by each athlete.

LBA is strong on its own and really wouldn't benefit from the amalgamation.

LBA is doing a great job. Keep pushing for competitive ball in the region.

This last season with Covid I was unsure about registering my son. I wasn't sure if he would enjoy it or how it would look with no games. It ended up being the best decision & season yet! The amount of skill training they had was amazing. They wouldn't have gotten that with a regular season with games. And my son's coach was AMAZING! I recognize that all coaches are volunteers, but unfortunately in years past we didn't have good coaches - they lacked leadership skills. But this coach was so so good. He gave clear direction and expectations, and knew the sport and game, and led the team well. It made a huge difference for our son's confidence this year. Last year he was put on a team where all the kids had very low playing skills. Which could've been fine, but it felt like other teams were 'stacked', so they always lost, never won, etc. Being put on a team with mixed skill levels this year, having an amazing coach, and then being able to play some games at the end of the season and put in to practice what they learned was awesome. I'm really thankful we put him in this last season & look forward to the new 2021 season!

Respondents aware vs. support



For the good of the long term development for all our kids this is a very wise move and the board should be commended for re-entering into this endeavor.

LBA is strong on its own. The benefit of amalgamation with Beaumont is not clear.

I wouldn't want other kids taking spots from Leduc kids at U13AA but at the U15 and up I think it's great. U13 is pretty young and important development and we should develop our own at that age. The house program can be watered down and kids could lose interest in the sport.

Coming from a coaching background from a baseball organization in Edmonton and seeing how they operate to now seeing how LBA operates and what LBA offers the kids is phenomenal and goes above and beyond what other organizations offer. The program is run amazingly well and offering an even higher level of play for the kids is exceptional and a great idea, I support this move 100% as a parent and as a former coach

Need to move towards aaa or the merging of the two associations is pointless.

Our experience is the combination of programs in the end will hinder your overall program

I am afraid that our fees will skyrocket and I am concerned that we will weaken the Leduc Baseball program.

Why do it again, we don't owe it to the kids. If it really is for the kids, you need to do what is best for the whole association. Get a technical director in place and develop a great program. Keep feeding AAA elsewhere. If the athletes are that good for 'AAA', they should go where there is potential, not water down the 'AAA' with another program in the region. If parents think their kid is ready for 'AAA' they will be willing to spend the money and travel.

Unsure the combining of the AA programs for the 2021 season makes sense.. 2022 for sure but maybe in 2021 we should give the youth some kind of normalcy... if at all possible.

This would obviously make for a stronger team to compete but now you are only developing half the players at the AA level. I understand winning is a big portion of rep. ball but development is also a key to growing the association and keeping kids in the program. Some kids coming up probably believe they have a chance because they have grown as ball players only to be told that their potential spot is being taken by somebody outside the association. This goes for both cities obviously, you want to develop as many players at the highest level as possible. A question I would ask is have the two teams been competitive in the past going it alone and what is the thought behind combining cities?

I would like the details of the AA amalgamation.

There is such a huge difference in the season length, dedication by coaches and players from "AA" and house league. Would seem like a big loss for LBA to not have their "AA" Giants.

Keeping an open mind on the AA combined program until I have a chance to see who would coach, where practices and games would be played, etc.

With all of the unemployment in this province you should re look at what you will be charging for fees for the 2021 season. As well I work in healthcare we will not be back to regular activities until at least next summer/fall

I strongly feel like this is not the year to join Beaumont. Due to the COVID pandemic and I feel like the amalgamation is not ready for the 2020/2021 season due to policy and procedures. I do think in time it's a great opportunity but not for this year.

I would support a merger providing both associations have an equal part in bringing their resident players. That being, not one association has more players than the other. I think the power struggle would be difficult. This season was different than any other we can all agree. While I would have liked to see our team play more teams than 2, I get we could not this year. I do think Leduc Minor Ball throws everything they have at, Rep Ball. The lower leaves just play and that's it.

From what I've read (minutes of Beaumont city meetings that were shared with me) I feel like there is a good chance Beaumont is not going to be ready with fields for this joint venture. With the added strain of Covid costs to cities and restrictions in place that will likely still be in place next spring, I think the timing isn't right. I think this plan should wait until Beaumont fields are constructed; bringing enough fields into this plan and have certainty of a regular season. For now, we have the numbers to field competitive teams (if the season happens normally) and I think we should wait.