# Lethbridge Minor Softball Association

# Meeting Minutes

## January 6, 2018

## 1:00pm

**Items highlighted in green represent new ideas/suggestions (new committees)**

**Items highlighted in yellow are items to be addressed at next meeting or require follow-up**

Invitees: Tara Furukawa-Stoffer, Jennifer Drader, Kim Snideman, Beth Moulton, Jackie Fletcher, Tyler Fallwell, Anita Richardson, Josh Cinnamon, Jay Johnson.

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from last meeting – Jennifer motions; Kim seconds approval
3. Open and Ongoing Business
4. Treasurer Report – Any new business to report
   1. Final 2018 numbers handed out – nothing has changed drastically (see attached)
   2. Net Revenue is larger due to Winter enrollments; a few expenses forwarded from year end wind-up have been accounted for since our last meeting
   3. Kim also shared first draft of budget for this upcoming year (Jan 1st, 2019 – Dec. 31st, 2019)
   4. Travel team funds – can we clarify what we can do with these funds? Move towards self-sufficiency. Every child would get a jersey, for example, from these funds. Can cover cost of umps, etc. for tournaments so there is not extra funds coming from the parents. Can include a team meal too. Beth suggests possibly increasing this fee from $50 to $100 or do more fundraising. Estimate is it costs approximately $120 per player. Kim poses question as to who should be managing this money. Josh suggests that the coach should have a meeting with the parents to discuss fundraisers, tournaments, etc. Jen clarifies the question as to whether or not each team would need to approach the board on how these funds can/need to be spent. Tara suggests that a certain amount of funds are set aside for each team but anything above and beyond would need to be fundraised or paid by parents. Jen suggest $150 as fee for this (up from $50) to cover these basic costs (tournament fees, ump fees, equipment, etc.). Jen motions travel team registration fee change to $150. Josh seconds. All in favor – yes! Beth suggests that these fees come in to Lethbridge Minor Softball, an expense sheet is kept for teams, etc. If teams fundraise or bring in extra funds, each team is responsible for these. A minimum of two parents (not spouse/unrelated) from the team must sign off on these expenses and report their decisions back to the league. As expenses are decided, Kim can e-transfer funds to the team.
   5. Josh discussed the feasibility of perhaps purchasing real jerseys/uniforms, even for house leagues. One suggestion was that the cotton t-shirts provide advertisement for the league as kids where them afterwards too. Another suggestion from Beth was to perhaps do this with the older age groups (U14/U16), and have the younger groups do the cotton t-shirts still. Tyler suggested looking at softball website (BoomBah) for a deal for jerseys. Tyler has been looking into tops/hats/undershirts/warm-up jerseys/bags for travelling/rep teams with possible sponsorship. He would like to put together a package to address this need. If sponsorship is provided, there would likely be a logo of the sponsor (Co-op) on the shirts. Tyler would need the number of jerseys we need, where we want logos, an estimate, etc. and then he can approach sponsors. Fifteen jerseys per team was decided on as a good number of jerseys for U12/U14/U16. Beth suggests adding 3 jerseys per team for coaching staff. (54 jerseys in total). Tyler will touch base with Bullet at Doug’s Sports to get an estimate. House league teams would have different colored t-shirts still. Jen will work with her Sponsorship Committee to get together a few packages (sponsor the league, sponsor one team, etc.)
5. Priority/Wish List Committee - Update by Beth
   1. Beth found our last wish list but left it at home. She will send it out. Some things she could recall were new banners for tournaments, small mini flags for each player, new bats, a chalking machine (4 wheel), pitching machines, catching equipment, umpire padding, pitch nets (purchased last year). Beth will double check but would also like to add a batting cage with a bigger net system (one on Amazon for $600). Josh would like more bow nets, Jen seconds this. Josh suggests leaving some umpire gear at Minors to give to umps or to a parent if they need to ump. Beth also adds water bottles (estimate $3-$7 per bottle). Josh also suggests large Gatorade cooler. Consensus is this may be good for tournaments but not needed for league games.
   2. Beth will send out list with costs, so we can come up with a finalized list. We may want to do this after an equipment check for the league. Also remember to ensure wish list benefits ALL of leagues versus just travel teams. After this is done, the entire list will be looked at and prioritized in order to decide what we are wanting to spend. Remember that we also have our savings account that we can access for expenses.
6. Clinic Updates – Update by Jen
   1. Pitching Clinic – we had full registration for U14/U16 group. We had 5 kids for the U10/U12 group.
   2. Winter Training – We have 15 for the U14/U16 group. We have 6 for the U10/U12 group. (starts Feb. 23). Jen is going to send out some direct emails to the U10-U12 group to push for more registrations.
   3. Coaching Clinic - Jen has asked Softball Alberta to give her dates for coaching clinic. She has not heard back yet.
   4. Catching Clinic – we have not decided on a date yet – Beth suggests beginning of May once the kids have had a few practices/games.
   5. Umpire Clinic – no date set yet; Josh brought up a question re: kids who are players umpiring. Would this be clinic then be free for them? Not sure who would pay for this though. Josh also would like to encourage all older kids on travelling teams to take the umpire clinic. Tyler suggests a condensed version which Josh says he can run. This will help to ensure that our players know the rules. Although fee is only approximately $20, it can be suggested that when they ump their first three games, their fee is refunded. Jen will talk to Mike who puts this clinic on and push for players to attend. One suggestion is that LMSA members do not have a fee, but outside of members do pay. The league would cover this game. If you do not umpire a minimum of three games, you will pay the fee. “Fee is refundable after umping three games.” Should we cap the clinic – we will spend $400 of LMSA funds to cover this cost (20 LMSA members)? (assumption of $20 registration fee) Beth motions to spend this amount; Josh seconds; all in favor – yes.
   6. \*\*Something to discuss, brought up by Kim – can we look at how we pay umpires? It was tough to get reports from the kids/adults that umped.
7. Sponsorship Committee – Update by Jen
   1. Jen will work on this (as mentioned above in Treasurer’s Report, section E)
   2. Jen has not done anything with signage quotes yet. Jen will forward on to Tyler so Tyler can work on this.
   3. Tyler – media will give us free PSA (radio, Herald) We just need a blurb as to when registration opens, etc.
8. New business
9. Fees for 2019. Do they stay the same?
   1. This year, we have not had any discussion that we need to change/increase fees as they were changed last year. ($55 Learn to Play; U10 $60, Older groups $90). Maintain same program fees; Beth motions and Kim seconds; all in favor – yes. Next year, when looking at fees, consider costs of umping before deciding on fee costs.
10. Times and days for LTP & U10 swap
    1. Discussion of use of Westminster field; Jen says they can use that field now. Beth suggest being a bit more forth coming with city if true safety issues arise
    2. LTP, U14 and U16 – Monday and Wednesday; U10 and U12 – Tuesdays and Thursdays; Jen motions and Jay seconds; all in favor – yes.
11. Important Dates for 2019
    1. Registration Dates: Feb 1st until March 31st; Beth motioned; Jen seconded; all in favor - yes
       1. Still a good date.
       2. Once registration happens, we can decide if we need a mass practice for U14 and up
       3. Suggestion from Jen to have a late registration fee of $25; Beth motions; Kim seconds; all in favor – yes
       4. Cut off for accepting new players – wait and see; case by case; close registration on a certain date but look at emails, etc. if needed for further registrations
    2. In Person Registration Dates
       1. 3 different days (North, South, and West) March 18(West), 19 (North), 20 (South)
          1. Galbraith, Lakeview, and Mike Mountain Horse Schools
          2. Run from 6:00 – 8:00; held in lobby of schools; no cost
          3. Can anything else be added/advertised? Jackie can find out how this can be distributed in schools.
    3. Do we do early registration draw?
       1. Decided that this was not needed – didn’t see it as a huge draw and now that a late registration fee is being implemented, this can be skipped
    4. Recreational Guide Flyer Dates – Feb and Mar or just Mar – $127 for half page.
       1. Suggestion is to do this just once again this year; Hit schools and media in February and Rec Guide in March
    5. Equipment Review Date –
       1. This will be forwarded to next meeting.
    6. Coaches Meeting and Equipment Pickup Date
       1. This will be forwarded to next meeting.
    7. Start Date – Mass practice?
       1. Would like league to start April 29th, 2019
       2. Tryouts/Mass practice for travel teams would be held May 4th (tentative)
          1. This is a go IF coaches are on board (U14 and up).
          2. Large discussion about whether teams should be made on skill or on relationships that already exist as this is vital to girls in sport.
    8. Playoff /End Date
       1. June 22nd would be playoff date (wind-up tournament)
       2. Zones, Provincials, etc. – Dates have not been determined yet. Zones may be altered to be more competitive and fun (only a certain number of teams per zone, etc.)
12. Any New Business –
    1. One suggestion was to have Josh ‘travel’ between teams to share his pitching expertise, rather than coach his own team. This also allows him to provide mentorship to our new umpires.
    2. Boys teams – discussion needs to be had regarding whether boys are separated on to own teams.
       1. For the boys that are currently registered, case by case scenario (U14 and up)?
       2. If registrations come in for U14 and up, these boys need to know that they will be playing with females if there are not enough numbers for male team. They cannot pitch or catch. They may be moved up once skills are assessed.
       3. This should be revisited each year; further conversation is needed.
    3. House League Tournaments – discuss at next meeting
    4. Freezers at Minors Field – nobody knows who owns them (perhaps SouthWest)
    5. Hikaydo Japan Exchange Team – coming to Lethbridge (U18)
    6. Alberta Summer Games held in Lethbridge (2020) – tryouts will be held this year for U16 girls (and coaches)
    7. Coach Applications – in by March 23, 2019
13. Next Meeting date and time
    1. Sunday, March 31, 2019
       1. Coaches would be selected at this meeting.
14. Adjournment