2022 RLSA FALL General Meeting

November 3, 2022 8:30 PM via Zoom

1. Call to order: 8:35
2. Adoption of agenda – **Motion to accept as presented made by Brenda Anderson; 2nd: Jolene Sentes, carried**
3. Adoption of minutes from Spring 2022 Meeting (can be viewed on RLSA website under 'About Us/Meeting Minutes – **Motion to accept as presented made by Debbie Tanner, 2nd: Danielle Swartz, carried**
4. Treasurer's report -

* Report sent to the Teams ahead of the meeting
* Items were highlighted by Gwen Fex

**Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented by Gwen Fex; 2nd Sue Gowans, carried**

1. Bingo report - Brenda Anderson

* 2 bingos a month from April to August, 3 bingos in Sept, October and 3 scheduled for November
* Few more bingos due to some charities no longer working
* Teams can work bingos if they choose to – reimbursed as a rate $50 per worker
* Contact: Maureen Pennington if interested

1. Douglas Park report - Brenda Anderson

* Upgraded the pitching bull pens – now all shale and available for use in 2023 season
* Landscaping completed on the North side of the building due to water
* Fencing repairs are required to diamond 1 (holes) and a gate on diamond 3 is rusted. Also, some other areas where the fence is turning up and could be a danger. This will likely not be completed until spring.
* Pickle Ball Courts: Brenda received a letter from the City regarding the development of pickle ball courts in Douglas Park to be built in 2023 and 2024. Will be located just north of our building, but a good distance away so no risk of foul balls. Only concern would be parking.

Any other idea for projects put out to the masses?

* Duane Bakken – happy with the work done on the northside of the building.
* Rod Houk – any talk about warning tracks. Would be a safety thing. Suggested that warning track could be on the OF fence and along the 1st and 3rd base fences.
  + Jolene Sentes – would be good addition from a safety perspective and also just as an upgrade to the diamonds.
  + Tyler Gerrard said its not a bad thing to look into
  + **Poll: 73% in favour of investigating the cost to put in.**
* Debbie Tanner: something to block the sun on diamond 2
  + Is there any type of a screen that could be put up on the backstop
  + Could we shift the diamond?
  + **The Executive can have discussions with the Capital Commission and the City to understand what it would take and if its possible,**

1. 2022 Season review:
   1. Regular season - May 15th to July 14th - 16 games
   2. Division structure
      1. Division 1- 6 teams
      2. Division II - 8 teams
      3. Division Ill - 4 teams
   3. Rescheduling games - 15 games by 11 teams
   4. Default games= 13 (12 game nights); 12 regular season and 1 playoff
   5. League tournament report - Kim Picot

* Was nice to have it as it was cancelled for a few years due to Covid
* Out of town numbers may have still been down due to travel concerns
* Expected that the interest will get back to pre-covid

1. League playoffs - July 18th-28th; Division I - 5 teams; Division II - 5 teams; Division Ill - 0 teams. Double knockout format.

Comments:

Jolene Sentes: seemed as though their team had a large number of 7 double headers (was in their favor).Ian Bowers responded that there was a request made from their team to play more double headers.

1. Affiliation process - Sarah Stelmacovich

* First year using Softball Saskatchewan online registration system (with RAMP)
* Overall, the process went fairly well

1. Umpires - Ian Bowers

* Couple nights we were short
* A few didn’t ump due to health or other issues

1. 2023 Season Preview
   1. Start date-Sunday, May 14th or Monday, May 15th?
   2. Number of regular season games. Should this be reduced so more teams can enter playoffs? Option to have different number of games for different divisions.

* Brenda suggested that teams think about this over the winter, and we will address it in the Spring.
  1. RLSA tournament dates - Tentative dates June 2nd - 4th
  2. Team indications
* Brenda is aware that we will be receiving an application for one new team to join

Jolene Sentes: was hoping that there would be the option for Division II to play interlocking games with Division I teams

1. Constitution & By-laws Amendments

All Proposals noted in detail in the attached document – provided to Teams in advance of meeting.

1. 3. Membership

* **Ian Bowers made a motion to accept this proposal as presented; 2nd: Sue Gowans**

1. 4. Fees – Performance Bond
   1. Performance Bond Increase from $350 to $500
   2. Default game penalties

Default Games – is there anything else that we put in place to mitigate them?

* Ray Siebert: Increase the number of AP players that can play in a game to 4 players (up from 2 players)
  + Brenda clarified that players from your same Division cannot pitch or catch
* Rod Hauk: Can you pull up younger girls from RMSL to play? It is 17 years old now. Maybe we limit that to 16 years
  + Sue Gowans added that your affiliation would ensure they have the insurance in place
* Scott Davidson: Could we allow AP players from Division II to play in Division III
* Rod Houk: Would changing the number of AP players to 4 help teams to play the game?
* Tyler Gerrard: AP players should only be used in situations where they are needed to field a team. Brenda commented that our existing rules state that AP players cannot be started
* Jason Nystrom: Thinks that some teams could have more players on their roster
  + Rather than fining teams for defaulting and providing discounts to teams that do not default
* Leila Mohr:
  + Could we tier the performance bond penalty, say 1st game $100 and 2nd game $150
* Rhonda Pearce:
  + Could we play the full game with 8 players?
* Debbie Tanner:
  + Could the other team lend a player to the other team?
* Tyler Gerrard:
  + Want to make sure that we aren’t changing the way that the game is meant to be played
* Joy Desnomie:
  + Their team wasn’t able to field a team for last game and it didn’t feel good
  + She is in support of putting something in place to have the games played and rules be enforceable

**Motion made by Jolene Sentes to increase the performance bond from $350 to $500; 2nd by Ian Bowers, carried.**

**Motion made by Ian Bowers to change the performance bond penalty to 50% of the performance bond for 1st default game and the remainder of the performance bond for the 2nd default; 2nd Tyler Gerrard, carried.**

**With respect to the discussion above regarding options to reduce default games, decision made to table further discussions until the Spring 2023 meeting. Ask for teams to document and share their ideas/proposals prior to the Spring meeting.**

1. 5. Administration of the Association – adding Communications Manager and Facilities Coordinator positions
2. 6. Powers and Duties of the Executive – proposed roles and responsibilities of the Communications Manager and Facilities Coordinator

* The communication part of administering the league has increased over the years. Social media is not in place now but would be a possibility.

**Rod Houk made a motion to add the two new positions to the Association; 2nd Jolene Sentes, carried.**

1. General Operating Rule Amendments

*Both proposals made by RLSA members*

1. 7. General
2. 7. General

Comments from the teams:

Rod Houk: can teams today apply to move up a Division? Brenda responded that yes there is that opportunity to request to move up or down.

Ian Bowers: a team that finishes top in one season does not mean they will be the same caliber next season. Also, it is nice to keep a balanced number of teams in each of the divisions

Brenda Anderson: for the second option, there was the proposal that league games and playoff games be combined in the overall standings, however, not all teams play the playoffs so not sure how this would be calculated.

Kim Picot responded that not everyone plays the playoffs. Also, the league has historically given teams the autonomy to request to move divisions, so she is not in favor of automatically moving teams up and down.

Debbie Tanner: asked what criteria is applied to determine whether to allow teams to move up or down. Brenda responded that the Executive would consider league results, default games, roster, etc.

Debbie Tanner: Is it a possibility to go back to 2 divisions? Would be something for consideration, however, runs the risk that there isnt great parity in the divisions.

Jolene Sentes: likes that the teams have the autonomy to make requests to the league as to where they want to play

**Brenda asked the attendees three times if there were any motions to be made with respect to these proposals. No motions were made.**

1. 8. League Tournament – team entry requirements

Comments:

Debbie Tanner: How will we know which division they play in?

Kim Picot: it will be on the registration form and the tournament coordinator would confirm with their home body where they were registered (say Softball Sk, Softball Manitoba, Softball Alberta)

**Motion made to update League Tournament section regarding entry; carried.**

1. Executive position elections
   1. President - Brenda Anderson
   2. Secretary- Cherise Burns
   3. Registrar - Sarah Stelmacovich
   4. Treasurer - Gwen Fex resignation

Brenda Anderson, Cherise Burns and Sarah Stelmacovich have agreed to let their name stand for another term. No other nominations received.

Thank you to Gwen for her time and commitment since 2016.

Sydney Ellis has put her name forward to be considered for the Treasurer position. No other nominations received. Sydney Ellis has been accepted as the Treasurer. Thank you, Sydney!

Facilities Coordinator: no names put forward.

Communications Manager: Kim Picot nominated Jolene Sentes. Jolene accepted. Thank you, Jolene!

1. Other Business
   1. Refer to Softball Saskatchewan website for information on coaching clinics.
   2. Important dates
      1. **Mid** February - Email will be sent to teams to indicate their intentions for the 2023 season. Deadline will be end of February.
      2. Mid May- league fees due 24 hours prior to start of season. Budget $2,000
      3. Mid May - affiliation to be completed 24 hours prior to start of season
2. Acknowledgements & Adjournment

Division I – Sleek (regular season)

Rampage (playoffs)

Division II – Diamondbacks (regular season and playoffs)

Division III – Rebels

Team Kaos – winning Gold at U19 Provincials

Earl Grey Heat – third place at Women’s Westerns

Carnduff Steelers – silver at Women’s A provincials and silver Nationals

**National All Stars (play in RLSA)**

Deanna Gerrard – All Star Catcher

Carmen Hughes – All Star Pitcher

Stan – umpired his 50th year this year. Thank you for your commitment to our league!

**Motion to adjourn made by Ian Bowers; 2nd by Tyler Gerrard**

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BY-LAW CHANGES FALL 2022**

**Submitted by RLSA Executive**

**EXISTING - 3. MEMBERSHIP**   
A) The membership of this Association shall consist of the members of all affiliated teams, and members of the executive.   
  
An application for team membership shall be received by the executive and acceptance or rejection of the application will be voted on by the membership at the spring organizational meeting.  
   
An application for team membership must include funds equal to the amount of the performance bond. If the application is accepted, the funds will be retained as the performance bond. If the application is rejected, the funds will be refunded to the applicant.

**PROPOSEED addition** - The Executive will designate the division a new team will enter based on the analysis of the information provided in the application. Every effort will be made to make each division competitive within itself.

**4. FEES – Performance Bond**

The performance bond amount will be set at the fall annual general meeting.

**PROPOSED bond amount** – Increase performance bond from $350 to $500.

**EXISTING -** For each game night a team defaults, the total cost of the umpires for one game will be deducted from their performance bond. A team that defaults two game nights will be suspended from the Association until reinstated by the Executive.

**PROPOSED -** For each game night a team defaults, fifty percent of the performance bond will be deducted from their performance bond. A team that defaults two game nights will be suspended from the Association until reinstated by the Executive.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

**EXISTING** - B) The executive shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Publicity Director/Statistician, Scheduler/Tournament Coordinator and a Division Representative. The Division Representative will be elected at the spring organizational meeting. All other executive positions will be elected at the fall annual general meeting.

**PROPOSED -** The executive shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Statistician, Scheduler/Tournament Coordinator, Facilities Coordinator and a Communications Manager. All executive positions will be elected at the fall annual general meeting.

**EXISTING** - C) The tenure of office for the executive shall be two years. The President, Secretary, and Registrar will be elected on even numbered years; the Vice President, Treasurer, Statistician and Scheduler/Tournament Coordinator will be elected on odd numbered years. Any executive may be re-elected.

**PROPOSED -** The tenure of office for the executive shall be two years. The President, Secretary, Registrar, and Communications Manager will be elected on even numbered years; the Vice President, Treasurer, Statistician, Scheduler/Tournament Coordinator and Facilities Coordinator will be elected on odd numbered years. Any executive may be re-elected.

6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE

**PROPOSED -Facilities Coordinator**

* Diamond maintenance – collaborate with groundskeeper, Provincial Capital Commission, City of Regina & supply vendors in relation to general upkeep of the diamonds and Association building.
* Liaison with groundskeeper, Provincial Capital Commission, City of Regina & supply vendors for potential projects at the diamonds.
* Research potential purchases (ie. equipment, supplies, shale) and projects to bring back to the executive for approval.
* Liaise with outside groups wanting to use the diamonds, Association groundskeeper, building, equipment or supplies.

**Communications Manager**

* Administrator of Association website.
* Administrator of Association email box.
* Administrator of Association social media platforms, if any
* Contact with Media.
* Division Representative to liaise between teams and the executive & make appropriate contacts when games have been postponed.

**PROPOSED OPERATING RULE CHANGES FALL 2022**

**Submitted by RLSA member**

**7. General – new section**

**PROPOSED** - If a team wins a division by winning the playoffs they have the option to move up to the next division. In the case that they choose not to, the team in second place has the option to move up a division.

If a top team opts out of playoffs but they finish first after the regular season, they can have the option to move up and same with the team that wins the league playoffs. Or if the league didn't want the potential of two teams moving forward, there could be a revision posted that states if you opt out of playoffs your team doesn't have the option of moving up a division.

**PROPOSED** - If a team finishes last place in the division they have to move down a division. Existing tie breaker rules would apply.

**Submitted by RLSA member**

**7. General – new section**

**PROPOSED** - League games & Playoff games be combined in the overall standings.  Not just a "playoff champion" or "league champion".

**PROPOSED -** Teams that have won their division automatically move up to the next division the next season.

**PROPOSED** - Teams that placed last in their division be automatically moved down a division the next season.

**Submitted by RLSA Executive**

**NEW - 8. LEAGUE TOURNAMENT**

Teams wishing to enter the RLSA league tournament must enter the division of the tournament equivalent to the level of league competition they compete in. i.e. Division I teams can only enter the Open A category & Division II & III teams can enter the Open B category. If a team does not play in a league, they must enter based on the level of competition the team is intending to enter at any Provincial Championships or the previous seasons Provincial Championships.

Only in exceptional circumstances and then only with approval of the executive, will an exception be made to the tournament entry regulation.