



MINUTES FROM SOFTBALL BC BOARD MEETING, September 17/18, 2021
Holiday Inn North Langley

IN ATTENDANCE:

Graeme Duncan, President
Lisa Parkes, Vice President
Rachel Charles, Vice President, Finance
Terri Boizard, Director, Men's & Women's
Lavaughn Larson, Director, Minor
Susan Strafford, Director, Provincial Umpire in Chief
Scott Wheatley, Director at Large

Staff:

Rick Benson, Executive Director
Barry Petrachenko, Incoming Executive Director
Lesley Rowe, Marketing & Communications
Jennifer He, Accountant

Remote:

Jackie Desilets, Programme Coordinator
Michael Smith, Technical Coordinator
Haili Pettifer, Administrator

Absent:

Joni Frei, Director, Coaching

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Silent role call, Quorum has been reached

President's Opening Remarks

-welcomed incoming executive director, Barry Petrachenko, thanked outgoing ED, Rick Benson for contributions to the organization. Acknowledged this was the first face to face meeting for the board since February, 2020 and how nice it was to be able to meet in person again.

Motion to accept the agenda, with approval to add – Moved by S. Wheatley/R. Charles **Approved**

Motion to accept the minutes from the May 31st Board of Directors meeting – Moved L. Larson/S. Wheatley **Approved**

Motion to accept the minutes from the June 12th Board of Directors meeting – Moved L. Larson/S. Wheatley **Approved**

Errors or Omissions from the minutes of May 31st – none

Errors or Omissions from the minutes of June 12 – none



Business Arising from the minutes of May 31st

Discussion on fee for coaching exemption – tabled as Director of Coaching was not present

Moved by S. Strafford/L. Parkes

Approved

Business arising from minutes of June 12th meeting

Motion to reduce, for 2021 only, the provincial tournament registration fees for minor teams from \$500.00/team to \$300.00/team. Motion was sent electronically to all board members for discussion and vote

Moved by L. Larson/T. Boizard

Approved

Motion to approve a processing fee of \$20.00 for travel permits, effective September 1st, 2021. Motion was sent electronically to all board members for discussion and vote

Moved by R. Charles/S. Wheatley

Approved

Correspondence:

- Letter received from J. Dewitt, proposing a league be organized for women's fastpitch to provide a competitive schedule for elite women from national team and university
- Letter received from Dr. B. Henry, Provincial Health Officer acknowledging receipt of letter sent on behalf of Softball BC advocating for easing of restrictions.

Staff Reports

1. Marketing & Communication

L. Rowe presented marketing plan, reviewed analytics of social media programmes and website effectiveness

2. High Performance

M. Smith presented results of HP camps, partnering with CIS and Pacific Sport, updates on Team BC and BC Summer Games

3. Administration

H. Pettifer presented registration platform update, initiatives underway to improve on experience for members and staff.

4. Accounting

J. He presented updated financials, audit and proposal to improve efficiency of Provincial championship registration and payment

5. Programme Coordinator

J. Desilets presented updates on female mentor programme, gender inclusiveness. NCCP clinic plans are underway including training of facilitators for new online delivery. Update on Indigenous LTD initiative with communities in northwest BC

6. General



Benson provided review and update of return to play, COVID guidelines and requirements from provincial government.

Board Reports

1st VP

- Report had been previously circulated, no questions from the board

Motion to accept report: R. Charles/S. Strafford

Approved

VP Finance

- Report had been previously circulated, discussion was held on budgeting process, moving forward the need to be more detailed when planning. Overall financial status is solid, but we need to continue to protect our stability by planning and recognizing actual costs for events such as Provincials.

Motion to accept report: L. Parkes/S. Strafford

Approved

Provincial UIC

- Report accepted as previously circulated. Reviewed process of clinics offered in 2021. Proposed we make better use of digital version of Softball Canada rule book, and reduce hard copies for umpires. This will also help with reducing costs for members and for the provincial organization in delivery of clinics. Future initiatives will include opportunities for new umpires to travel to championships, recruit more slo-pitch umpires and provide opportunities for them to take part in Canadian championships

Motion to accept report: L. Larson/S. Wheatley

Approved

Men's & Women's Director

- Report accepted as previously circulated. Served as board rep at multiple Provincials this year and attended others where the director was not the appointed board rep. Recommended all directors find ways to attend Provincials as a way to connect and learn more from the membership. Announced she had recruited new coordinators for Districts 2 and 12. Currently working with the Canadian Amateur Sport Society to create a bid for the 2023 Men's Canadian Championships, will advise on progress. Advisory council is looking at creating new Masters Provincial categories for men and women, 40+ and 55+.

Motion to accept report: R. Charles/S. Strafford

Approved

Minor Director

- Report accepted as previously circulated. Reported she had completed a full review of the 2021 Minor Provincials, after discussion with key stakeholders had set dates for 2022 Provincials for the board's consideration. Advised of the 2022 dates for Canada Cup, and also BC Summer Games and Canada Summer Games. Stressed the importance of communicating dates and bids for 2022 Provincials.

Motion to accept report: S. Strafford/S. Wheatley

Approved



Member at Large

- Report accepted as previously circulated. Expanded on analytics pulled from the Provincial Championships, and reviewed the changes recommended from his analysis on scheduling and pre championship activities. Presented an option for determining berths at a Provincial when a pro rata is used.

Motion to accept report: S. Strafford/L. Parkes

Approved

9:45 PM

Motion to adjourn S. Strafford/R. Charles

Approved

Saturday, September 18, 2021

8:00 AM

Motion to reconvene S. Strafford/S. Wheatley

Approved

New Business

Provincial Championships

MAL championship report and recommendations were reviewed in more detail. Discussion took place on different options and other suggestions were considered.

Motion to accept the MAL report as information,

Moved by: R. Charles/S. Strafford

Approved

Action Item - form a committee chaired by B.P. to gather more information and report back to the board

Action Item – Distribute and communicate the Provincial Championship Host bid package as quickly as possible.

Policy Review

A) Expense Policy

- Per diem rates for Provincial championship representatives (Group 3) were reviewed. Recommendation to increase the per diem from current \$60.00/day to \$75.00/day due to time and personal cost commitment of these volunteers, and to include board representatives and UICs from Regional Championships in Group 3

Motion: to increase per diem rate to \$75.00/day for Group 3 S. Strafford/L. Larson 5 Yes/1 No/1 Abstain

Approved

Motion: to include Regional Championship appointed board reps and UIC in Group 3 per diem

S. Strafford/L. Larson 6 Yes/1 No

Approved



B) Screening Policy for Volunteers and Staff

- In order to follow provincial timelines and comply with the CRRP, it is recommended the criminal record check screening be changed to once every five years from once every three years. Annual screening disclosure forms would remain in place to keep information current.

Motion: to require CRC screening through the provincial CRRP once every five years
S. Strafford/T. Boizard

Approved

Education of Coordinators and District UICs on Special Operating Rules and Policies

- A discussion was held by the board on ways to assist key volunteers in providing consistent interpretation of SORs, policy and by-laws. Among the options considered was a rewrite of the member handbook to simplify and clarify SORs, leadership meetings with all key volunteers to discuss and agree on interpretation of rules, professional development for key volunteers in how to create and manage processes so as an organization, we are consistent in application throughout the province.
- **Action Item:** BP to research education platforms and processes to achieve a better understanding and higher awareness of applying process in SORs and policy.

Board of Directors Title and Responsibilities

- The board was asked to consider different options for director titles and responsibility. The suggestion was made to align the minor Director and the Men's & Women's Director along gender lines rather than age categories. Creating a Boys & Men's Director as well as a Girl's & Women's Director might create a stronger dialogue for male fastpitch while also bridging the gap between youth and adult female fastpitch. Discussion took place on how this might be accomplished and results that might come from this change in title.
- **Action Item** – BP to invite representatives from men's fastpitch to address the board, discuss opportunities and obstacles to growing men's fastpitch membership. Board recommended men's representatives also be included in all leadership meetings in order to make the key stakeholders aware of the men's game.

Motions to the Board

A) Article 7.2

- GD explained the rationale behind bringing this motion forward for consideration. The motion will go to the MAC for review and process before the board considers it.

Motion: accepted as Information only- T. Boizard/R. Charles

Approved

B) Age Category and Classification

Discussion was held on which age categories would be included in Provincial championships and how Regional championship should be interpreted.

Motion: S. Wheatley/S. Strafford : in order to conform with Softball Canada LTD model, U13 will offer a Provincial championship to A and B classifications, and a Regional Championship to C classification



Amendment S. Wheatley/S. Strafford – to make this a one year trial

Original Motion 6 Yes /1 No

Defeated
Approved

Motion: Celebration of Softball event to be created for U11 age category

Moved: L. Larson/ R. Charles

Approved

Action Item – BP to review opportunity for a U11 Celebration of Softball event

C) Article 7.5 B) and 8.3 C) Pick-Ups

- Discussion was held on the intent and interpretation of the minor pick up rule. Board agreed there needed to be a consistent application of this rule throughout the province.

Action Item: L. Parkes volunteered to write a revised version for consideration by the Board and MAC
Motion received as Information Only

D) Article 7.1 t) and other articles Game Start Time

- Discrepancy was noted through the member handbook in minor girls, minor boys and Men’s & Women’s on official game start time. In some spots it was shown as at first pitch and in others as end of plate conference. After discussion, one consistent game start time for all categories was needed

Motion: to set game start time for all categories as 1st (first) pitch

- L. Larson/T. Boizard 6 yes/1 No/1 Abstain

Approved

E) Article 7.6 f) iii) (a) and (v)

- To remove the term “mercy rule” wherever it appears and replace with run ahead

Motion received as Information Only

F) Article 7.6 g) iii)

- To remove the wording from “Exception and beyond as it is redundant

Motion received as Information Only

G) Article 9.6 Time Limits

Amend to exception of final game which shall have no time limit

Motion: T. Boizard/L. Larson

Approved

H) Article 9.7 Designated Runner

Move to 9.7 for Women and Masters only

Motion received as Information Only

Action Item – refer to Umpire Advisory Council for their comments

I) Article 9.4 d)

U19A to move to either Intermediate A or Senior A

Motion: T. Boizard/L. Larson

Approved

J) Article 9.6 B) i)



Revert back to 2 game RR for Women

Motion: T. Boizard/L. Larson

Approved

K) Article 9.7 C) i)

Change men to read celebrate their 55th birthday by or in the current playing year

Motion: T. Boizard/L. Larson

Approved

L) Article 9.4 b)

Change to read Intermediate A will move up one classification after placing 1st at their Provincial Championship with at least eight returning players including pick-ups and roster players. Exception Intermediate A will move up one (1) classification after placing 2nd or 3rd twice

Motion T. Boizard/L. Larson

Approved

M) Article 10.2 c) and d) Cost of Officials

Propose a fee increase from current \$25.00/game to \$30.00/game.

Action item – staff to provide finance committee with cost analysis prior to voting on motion

Motion to table decision on article 10.2 c) and d) until Finance Committee can review S. Strafford/R. Charles

Approved

2021 Softball BC AGM

- Staff presented an update for information to the board. The AGM will be held virtually on Saturday, October 23rd beginning at 2:00 PM. It will be facilitated by Sport Strategy and Law, Jason Robinson. Jason will also act as the parliamentary consultant and provide a stable stand alone voting platform.
- Discussion was held on notification and deadlines for various information. Staff will communicate notice and compile any member proposals, as well as by-law motions from the board.
- Programme directors were asked to forward the names of their choices for coordinator of the year, and for the umpire members, the UIC of the year and Rising Star.
- **Action Item** – Directors are to communicate their choices to Lesley Rowe by October 3rd latest.

Status Report 2021

- Report as circulated among the board members, discussion on data and analytics was held.
- Request was made to provide youth registration data by age category accumulated of all classifications.

Motion: to accept the report as circulated S. Strafford/R. Charles

Approved

Action Item- staff to collect additional data and add it to the board's report. Create a version without financial summaries to be distributed to all coordinators, District UICs and LSOs

Handbook Review

- L. Parkes updated board members on the goals of the board to create a consistent and simple handbook for members to use. She is chairing the group as they seek formatting and rewriting of the book in order to achieve this. Discussion was held on the protocol for changes to be enabled for the handbook.



Alliance Federation USA

- Board was updated on a zoom meeting which took place with a group from the USA who have formed a new association aimed to provide competitive games for elite youth teams. They have approached some Canadian, specifically British Columbian clubs to determine interest. Softball BC was invited to be part of those discussions, and we will continue to monitor progress and assess what, if any impact it may have on Softball BC.

3:30 PM

Motion to Adjourn R. Charles/S. Strafford

Approved