



**Board of Directors Meeting
April 27, 2025
Minutes**



In Attendance:

- Lisa Parkes, President
- Baukje Edamura, Vice-President
- Rachel Allan, Treasurer
- Terri Boizard, Director
- Lavaughn Larson, Director
- Kevin Langley, Director
- Scott Wheatley, Director
- Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

1.01 Territorial Acknowledgement & Opening Remark

L. Parkes called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm and provided a brief territorial acknowledgement. She thanked the directors for their contributions during the strategic planning sessions held earlier this month.

1.02 Motion to approve the agenda

**Moved by B. Edamura, seconded by R. Allan, to adopt the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

1.03 Motion to approve minutes from last meeting

**Moved by L. Larson, seconded by B. Edamura, to approve the amended minutes of April 6th.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

1.04 Business Arising from the last meeting

All business was moved to the May meeting.

2. Board Business

All board business was moved to the May meeting.

3. Operational Business

All operational business was moved to the May meeting.

4. New Business

4.1 Approval of the 2025-26 budget

D. St-Denis provided an overview of the changes since the April 6th meeting.

**Moved by R. Allan, seconded by K. Langley to approve the 2025-26 budget as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.2 Follow-up on Bulletin A-2025-030 Certified Umpire

D. St-Denis shared a summary of the messaging (Appendix A) being shared with members regarding the use of officials for all games (including exhibition). The Office has received requests from a few members to have the U11C exceptions apply to U13C.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to support D. St-Denis' recommendations:

- Allow the ED and PUIC to continue working directly with associations who are experiencing challenges with recruiting and assisting umpires to find compromises for the 2025 season to avoid the cancellation of games when possible.
- Circulate a revised Bulletin which speaks to what measures can be taken when an umpire is scheduled but does not show (mirror U11C - bow nets not allowed). Remind members that they are required to schedule umpires.

4.3 Waiving the Softball BC Membership Fee for volunteers

D. St-Denis proposed waiving the annual Softball BC membership fee for volunteers who do not hold any other roles within Softball BC - they do not register as a player, coach, club/association executive or umpire.

Moved by K. Langley, seconded by L. Larson, to approve the following:

The following volunteers are required to register with Softball BC but will have their annual individual Softball BC membership fee waived:

- **Board of Directors Members**
- **District Minor Coordinators**
- **District Men's & Women's Coordinators**
- **District UICs**
- **District Slo-Pitch Coordinators**
- **Approved Committees**
- **Softball BC Representatives assigned by the Board, including the BC Summer Games Provincial Advisor and the Assistant Advisory, and the ISPARC Softball BC Representative.**

NOTE: The purchase of the Softball BC ID Number remains a requirement.

The above individuals will be required to pay their Softball BC membership fee should they choose to be rostered with a team or an association/club as a player, coach, manager or executive member. This would also apply if they elect to participate as an umpire.

Action: D. St-Denis to articulate the RAMP registration process for the above and communicate the new policy to those individuals eligible for the waiver.

5. Next Meeting & Adjournment

Next meeting will be May 27th at 6:30

Moved by R. Allan, seconded by K. Langley, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm.

APPENDIX A

Umpires

The following was drafted to address questions a few directors have received:

Where in the handbook is this requirement?

There is no specific rule in our handbook that requires (stipulates in writing) the use of an umpire for a game. However, it is generally accepted that a game involves the participation of an umpire. Our minor rules include several references to the umpire's function as it pertains to game management. Article 17 Tournaments, Exhibition and League Games, specifically 17.11 h., says, "Umpires MUST BE registered with Softball BC or other Softball Governing Body if out of province. Registered umpires must be in an official uniform". The Softball Canada Rule Book also speaks to a game being called by an umpire.

Is this coming from the insurance broker?

Our insurance broker is not involved in this decision. Softball BC defines what constitutes a sanctioned or non-sanctioned activity. The insurance covers sanctioned activities, including practices and training (which encompass clinics) under coach supervision, games (both league and exhibition), tournaments (as defined in Article 17), and post-season activities. We also extend coverage for club/association-approved fundraising activities.

Why can't we make this exemption for other age groups and categories

We made an exception for the U11 community ball in consultation with the Minor Advisory Council. Since this is one of the largest participant groups, we felt that allowing the exemption for this age group would enable associations and leagues to assign officials to higher levels while they continue to work on increasing the number of officials in their area.

Umpires are trained to ensure games are played safely (they oversee game management). When approached recently about the bulletin, I asked the clubs/associations about their plans if they did not have an umpire. Their typical response was to use coach XXXX or a parent XXXX to take on that role. Why not get that person certified? They can take the online theory certification training (and free exam) to create a bridge while we work on increasing the number of umpires in their area. Campbell River will take that route for baseball umpires to which they have access. Terrace is doing something similar for older players who umpire their younger age divisions.