

# Minutes

## Softball BC Minor Advisory Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Douglas College, New Westminster, BC

### Attendees:

Mr. Merv Sandrel, Minor Director

Ms. Lisa Parkes, District #1 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Al Charlesworth, District #2 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Scott Channell, District #4 Minor Coordinator

Ms. Elizabeth Lee, District #6 Minor Coordinator

Ms. Lavaughn Larsen, District #7 Minor Coordinator

Ms. Deb Vinters, District #8 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Sheldon Banks, District #9 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Chris Young, District #14 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Scott Wheatley, District #15 Minor Coordinator

### Absent with Regrets:

Mr. Eric Kurpiela, District #3 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Mike McFarlane, District #5 Minor Coordinator

Ms. Margaret MacDonald, District #10 Minor Coordinator

Ms. Jessica Culbertson, District #111 Minor Coordinator

Ms. Stefanie Caplette, District #12 Minor Coordinator

Mr. Scott Groves, District #13 Minor Coordinator

## Meeting Agenda:

Minor Director: Call to approve the agenda.

District 14: Seconded.

Minor Director: Agenda approved.

DRAFT

## Motion 1 and 2: 7.4/8.4 Coaching Requirements

Discussion on Coaching Certification Motion #1 Coaching Requirements tabled to be sent back to rewrite to read

U6/U8 Learn to Coach – Recommended

U6/U8/U10/U12C Foundations of Coaching Part 1 -- Recommended

U10/U12 Community Ongoing Participation – Recommended

U12B/U12A ... As written

U14A/U16A ... As written

District 7: The district presidents would like a syllabus of coaching requirements.

DRAFT

## Motion 3: Up to three male players may play on a girls' program up to & including U14C

Submitted by District 7 Coordinator

Seconded by Tracey Oye

Intent to build the boys fast pitch program in BC, and to do so, Softball BC needs to include boys on girls' teams including and up to U14 C division. The U14 C division will be permitted to have up to 3 male players on each girls team.

District 7: I have an amendment. The district seven presidents want the motion amended; therefore, I propose to amend the number of players from three male players to two male players. One association, without a boys' team is concerned that three boys on a U14C may be too much and teams would stack the teams with boys.

Minor Director: I agree that more boys playing with girls playing are a good thing because it gives players more opportunity to play softball.

District 9: I am torn because boys playing with girls may impede growth. I worry about coaches taking advantage of the rule and stacking their teams with the best boys. If that happens, what power does the Minor Director have to deal with a coach stacking a team?

Minor Director: The district coordinators have the power to decide to approve the boys playing or not playing on the team. It is up the Minor Director to decide to say to associations you cannot stack your teams.

District 14: Can we move forward and vote on the amendment?

Minor Director: All in favour of the amendment to read, "have up to two male players on each girls' team."

Vote results on Amendment: For: 15, Against: 12

Amendment: Passed. February 9, 2020

Minor Director: Vote on amended motion to approve that "up to two male players on each girls' team."

District 7: The motion will be in effect in 2021?

Minor Director: Yes.

Motion #3: Passed. Yeah: 27, Nays 3

February 9, 2020.

## Motion 4: Regional/Provincial U12 Championships and 7.8 U12 Regional Championship

Submitted by District 7 Coordinator

Seconded by Tracey Oye

Insert in 7.5 g) and other section under this article to include U12 provincials for one team from each of the 15 districts as well as a host team.

Intent: To allow U12 C teams to experience a true provincial and to keep the U12 regionals in place for those teams who do not wish to travel or compete at a higher level. The more players and coaches participate in a post-season tournament, the more they will want to continue to play.

District 14: The motion proposes keeping the regionals and adding a provincial championship.

District 7: Yes, the motion will keep the regionals for those teams that don't go to the provincials. The provincials provide a chance for teams who win a berth at the regionals to go. The intent is to allow U12 to experience a true provincial as in the past but keep the regionals in place. I have no amendments.

Minor Director: I speak against the motion because in the last two U12 provincial only eight districts were represented. I don't see district 10 or district 13 participating, so I don't see it as a true provincial if all the districts are not represented.

District 14: I want to speak for the motion. The number of teams playing is irrelevant. The kids have something to go for. The regionals are another tournament because they play the same teams they play in other tournaments. The feedback I have from players and coaches is they want their teams to strive to play other teams. Travel seems to be the barrier to participation rather than a desire to play.

District 8: District 8 is against it. U12C is a development stage. The kids are still learning. The regionals are another learning environment to prepare them for the provincials at U14.

District 9: I think the provincials are supposed to be the best of the best. In all honesty, District 9 won't send its best U12 teams to the provincials because the team won't travel. Instead, the team that wants to go will, even though they are not the best.

District 14: That is okay. The provincials are about playing teams from around the province.

District 7: The tournament would run like the U14C provincial championship with two pools so all 16 teams would be participating throughout the weekend and it would be special.

Minor Director: If only eight districts attend, that means pro-rata teams; therefore, teams will play each other as if they were at a regional.

District 14: Can we vote on the motion, please?

Minor Director: Yes.

Motion #4. Defeated. For 13, Against, 17

Date: February 9, 2020

DRAFT

## Motion 5: Play at home regulations

Submitted: Dave Clayton

Seconded: District 15 Coordinator

Motion calling for all U12 minor players, and younger, must register only on a team in a recognised association located within the boundaries of the district in which that player resides.

Intent: The motion would have young players travelling less to train and play. A home regulation would allow for associations to make decisions based on a player's best interest and not be forced to make decisions for a coach or parent. The motion would create parity among teams at each level and alleviate the chance of super teams being formed at such a young age, and help the associations grow their base for A, B and C teams.

District 15: I support the motion for stay home regulations for U12. I find too many coaches recruiting outside the district, which disseminates the house level.

Moreover, I must prove to the Corporation of Delta that 80% of the players live in Delta; otherwise, we must pay for the maintenance of the fields. Delta doesn't want to fund non-residents to play in Delta parks.

Finally, I want a fair and balanced system for associations to develop players and teams within their own municipalities.

District 14: District 14 supports the motion. I agree that municipalities are looking at where the players are coming from, so that must be kept in mind. It is worrisome about the motivates of other associations promising kids the more pitching time and more field time. I support the motion for U12 and under. It is a start. Every other sport seems to have a cross boundary or stay at home policy, so why don't we have it?

District 8: Scott's point about having to pay for fields because of residency rule is a factor we need to keep in mind. It is important because costs will rise if associations cannot find players from the area.

District 7: Like Delta, the City of Surrey also requires associations to report the number of Surrey residents who play softball on teams. I did a little study and found that an equal number of players from district seven leaving to play in other districts and players from different districts playing in district seven were equal. It is a concern for athletes if their movement is restricted because an athlete who lives in North Delta may go to school in Surrey and wants to play softball with friends in Surrey, so if this motion is in place the kids wouldn't be able to play with their friends.

District 14: If that is case then there is no reason why presidents cannot sign off on the form to approve the application to play in another district.

District 1: District 1 is against the motion. Even with a good program, parents can be convinced to move their kids to a different district.

District 15: I want to address Lavaughn's point. Maybe we should look at the realignment of districts, so South Delta is better aligned with Richmond and Vancouver in District 5, and North Delta is better aligned with Surrey in District 7.

District 14: This is a start. We need to start somewhere. There is a way out if a President accepts a petition from a parent to move if it doesn't collapse teams in the district. This motion gives an association the power to stop players moving and hopefully stop teams collapsing.

District 6: I propose an amendment to limit the number of players to three players who can leave a team.

District 14: No, because it not part of the motion.

District 7: A real concern or issue is the mini mites. The growth in mini mites causes more movement because of recruitment.

District 14: I agree.

District 15: In the end, I support the motion. Our numbers (all of softball) have dwindled, we are hyena's scavenging for players. It is not healthy. I want to get back to players playing for their communities to build community pride.

Minor Director: Call for vote. All those in favour of the motion.

District 7: Can we call the vote and record by district?

Minor Director: Yes.

Motion #5. Defeated. For 11, Against, 19

Vote Recording

For: District 4, District 8, District 14, and District 15

Against: District 1, District 2, District 6, District 7, and District 9

Date: February 9, 2020

Minor Director: Call to adjourn the Minor District Coordinator meeting at 11:45 am on February 9, 2020.

District 7: Adjourn the meeting

District 14: Seconded

Minor Director: Meeting is adjourned.



## Discussions

### Ball Size and Pitching Distance -- Discussion

District 7, District 15 and District 14 against the idea of increasing the pitching distance and ball sizes for age categories because the USA's age categories are different and so not comparable.

District 9 indicated the feeder system would be affected by **pitching distance, but ball size not an issue.**

District 6 – No, not enough difference

Softball BC's Executive Director advised the Advisory Committee that Softball Canada has formed a working committee to study the ball size and pitching distance and will bring findings to the provincial/territorial bodies.

### Terms and Reference:

District 7: The system is working better

District 7: Some coordinators not taking part

District 7: Timing of advisory meetings should be earlier

District 15: A conference would be preferable

### Discussion on the attendance of coordinators

District 1 recommended the handbook **MMMMM** to determine if a coordinator meets requirements of **JUTS**

Discussion of Motion by District 14 for "Cause of Removal of a District Coordinator". District 1's Coordinator will forward a proposal to have a process to remove a district coordinator.

Terms of Reference – Unanimous – Approved to February 2022

D1 Motion to write a proposal to remove District Coordinators – Unanimous – Approved

### Cross Movement in Advisory Councils

Motions should be open to all three councils for input instead of representatives at meetings.

Timing of motions to be discussed between Minor Director, Teri Biozard, and Susan Stafford.

### Minor Development Fund

Minor Director: Roxy will need to step down from the Role of Chair due to health reasons.

District 14 is against turning over the MDF to the office. District 14 feels the advisory committee must decide whether to continue the MDF or stop it.

Minor Director: First order to find a new coordinator to run the MDF.

Minor Director: Do we use all the funds in MDF.

District 14: Yes, for the last two years. However, the account has a positive balance.

District 15: Revamp the system. The idea would be to distribute the funds to each coordinator based on the number of players in the district; therefore, a percentage is given to each district each year.

District 7: District 7's Minor Coordinator raised her hand to administrate the MDF

District 15: District 15 Minor Coordinator will write a motion to divide the MDF proportionally by district.

District 9: Asked the advisory committee if the travel grant should be ended as it is?

District 15: No. District Coordinators will be responsible for distributing the MDF. Coordinators will take direction from the district presidents as best to distribute the funds in the district. The coordinators will report to the MDF chair on how and where the money was distributed within the district.

## Roundtable Discussion

### Question #1

What are the potential numbers of minor teams in your district?

District 1

- A- Teams – 1 or 2 more A teams
- B- Teams – 3 more U19 B teams
- C- Teams – unknown at this moment

District 2

- A- Teams -- none
- B- Teams – (2) U12, (2) U14, (2) U16, (2) U19
- C- Teams – (4) U14, (1) or (2) U16, (1) or (2) U19

District 4

- A- Teams – same as 2019
- B- Teams -- same as 2019
- C- Teams -- same as 2019

Squamish indicated it would have reduced numbers. It will have (3) or (4) B teams and the rest C teams

#### District 6

- A- Teams – (4) A teams
- B- Teams – (13) or (14) B teams
- C- Teams – Many C teams

#### District 7

- A- Teams – (4) U12, (5) U14, (4) U16, (3) U19
- B- Teams – (5) U12, (8) U14, (7) U16, (7) U19
- C- Teams – Many C teams

#### District 8

- A- Teams – (4) A teams
- B- Teams – (16) B teams
- C- Teams – unknown at this moment

#### District 9

- A- Teams – (1) U16 A team
- B- Teams – (1) U12 B, (3) U14 B, (1) U16, (1) U19
- C- Teams – (10) U12 C, (9) U14 C, (6) U16 C, (5) U19 C

Many U6, U8, and U10 teams

#### District 14

- A- Teams -- unknown
- B- Teams – Mission (1) U12 B, (1) U19 B
- C- Teams – many C teams

Ridge Meadows and Mission have not indicated their numbers for 2020, but the numbers will be like 2019.

#### District 15

- A- Teams -- unknown at this moment
- B- Teams -- unknown at this moment
- C- Teams -- unknown at this moment

Tim Bits registration numbers are up 50% over last year's registrations. U10 registration is up 10% over last year. One more rep team should be fielded in 2020.

## Question #2

What are you as a coordinator doing to engage individual members in your districts?

District 15: Participate as a member of the district. Umpire games at all levels, act a register for my association, visit the ballpark as much as possible during the season.

District 14: Generally, talk to members at the park. Attend the associations' executive meetings as much as possible.

District 9: Be at the ballpark talking and listening to the membership

District 8: Get out to the ballpark.

District 7: I go to the ballpark as often as I can, but plan on doing it more in the coming year because I will have time due to my retirement.

District 6: I set up a District 6 Facebook page to keep members aware of events and issues in the district. Attend as many tournaments and games as possible to talk with and listen to the members' concerns.

District 4: Coach and mentor coaches

District 2: Live at the ballpark. Talk to parents, coaches, parents, umpires to get a feel for what they see as concerns or issues in the district.

District 1: Connect with club presidents, UICs, coaches and parents. I want to do it more often; however, it can be a challenge due to the number of associations in district one.

## Roundtable Talk

### Item 1 - Handbook

District 14 wondered why some items are missing from the handbook. Examples include:

1. Minor Development Fund
2. Round Robin draw table for the provincial championships

Minor Director proposed District 14 email him a list of the missing components of the handbook he feels should be included in the book but are not.

District 14 Coordinator agreed to proofread the handbook next year to ensure the missing parts are included.

### Item 2 – Provincial Championships

District 6 would like prizes at the provincials as well as the medals. The coordinator also thought the medals were excellent quality.

District 9 would like the championship-winning banners to be personalised. Now the banners are generic. They read "Provincial Champions." The District Coordinator would like the banners

to read, “2020 U16 B Provincial Softball Champions.” Moreover, the coordinator would like the winning to get one specific gift that helps the winning team stand out from the crowd. For example, the winning team gets a ball cap that reads “2020 U16 B Provincial Softball Champions.”

#### Item 3 – U16B and U14B 2020 Provincial Championships

District 2 Coordinator is concerned that U16B and U14B provincial championships are on the same weekend. With the championships on the same weekend, it will make it hard for U16 teams to pick up players to fill roster spots.

Minor Director indicated that with the BC Summer Games, North American Indigenous Games and Provincials slated for 2020 umpires are very busy. As a result, umpires cannot cover separate weekends across all competitions, so the U16B and U14B provincial championships had to be held the same weekend to ensure enough umpires were available.

#### Item 4 – Pro-rata Announcement

Minor Director informed the Minor Directors he will notify the Board Representative at the Provincial Championships Saturday night on how many pro-rata spots are available for their respective age-grade championship. By doing so, the integrity of the pro-rate system will be maintained.

#### Item 5 – Provincial Awards

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Add new categories. Currently only top pitcher and top batter