



SOFTBALL MANITOBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 21, 2020 – Microsoft Teams Meeting



Present:

Voting Delegates (24)			
Minor Division:	Greg Boden Claire Anderson Brett Turner Helder Serpa	Kristi Guilford Bev Neufeld (Advisory) Noelle Cunningham	Al Bruneau Chris Rempel Bobbi-Jo Guffei
Adult Division:	Brady Woods Lori Vandal Les Newman	Bob Lanoie John Gribben	Mike Fennessy (Adv) Rafik Abi-Saleh
Officials Division:	Frank Fargey (PUIC) Val Pelleck (DUIC)	Bruce Luebke Terry Wolowiec (Adv)	Mike Klassen Tony Kuleza
Life Members:	None present	Invites= TKM & LM	
President	Larry Giesbrecht		

Non-Voting Attendees			
Observers:	Marci Halls-Stronciski Greg Bouchard	Gabrielle Konowalchuk	Scott Neiles
Staff:	Don Klym	Kendall Yasui	Monte Miller

Regrets: None.

1. Call to Order

- Called to order at 9:06 a.m. President Larry Giesbrecht welcomed/thanked the Membership.
- Don provided a quick outline of the day and agenda including handouts/agendas/rules of assembly/etc.
- Voting Delegates & Observers were provided the 2020 AGM Reports & the AGM Information Package.

2. Determination of Voting Delegates

- 24 Voting Delegates
- 4 Observers
- 3 Staff Members

3. Minutes of the November 23, 2019 AGM - see pages 2-7 of the 2020 AGM Reports

MOTION: Mike Fennessy / Bobbi-Jo Guffei
 "To adopt the minutes of the November 23, 2019 Annual General Meeting."
Carried.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

- None.

5. President's Report – Larry Giesbrecht

- Complete Report – see pages 8 -10 of the 2020 AGM Reports.

Report included:

Larry thanked all in attendance and commended the Board of Directors and Staff. He acknowledged / commended all who participated in softball over the year – including participating in our Provincial Championships. He followed up with his appreciation towards all the League Presidents, volunteers and their work performed over the past year – thanking all of the hosts, delegates and officials involved in our Provincial Championships and congratulated our Award Winners, Coaches and Athletes along with our Development team (Clinicians and UDC) and Advisory Board.

6. Executive Director's Report – Don Klym

- Complete Report – see pages 12-15 of the 2020 AGM Reports.

- Registration – 50% drop from 2019 (COVID-19). Softball MB Registrar Report - see pages 13 and 19 of the 2020 AGM Reports.
- Marketing/Sponsorship – Updates - (Sponsors included Worth-Rawlings, Kahunaverse, Goldeyes, MB Lotteries, Awards & More and Perimeter Air). Thank You for coming through and honoring your sponsorship with product.
- Development – Updates and thanks to those responsible for successfully running Regional Skills Development Academy, Canadian Sport Center work, Coach Development, High Performance, Games, CANpitch, CANcatch, the NCCP, NOCP, Skills, Timbits programs, Bilateral Development and High Performance – the 2020 MB Games (cancelled) and 2021 CSGs.
- Officials – Acknowledgements/thanks to Frank Fargey and the rest of the Umpire Development Committee and the successful programs they are responsible for – including the NOCP, On Field work and short & long term planning. (2022 Blue Con, etc.)
- Competition Update – Acknowledgements/thanks to the Hosts, Committees, Field Crews, Officials and Delegates who successfully ran our Provincials in 2020 and a brief, hopeful look at 2021 – including seeking out a host for the U19 Male-Female WCSCs and a ‘All the Best’ to Brandon as 2021 U14 Girls Canadian Championship.
 - 2020 Challenges and Successes - The obvious challenge was COVID as it had Softball Manitoba juggling Major Health Concerns and an instant flip to our Annual Budget. COVID arrived with little warning and pressed us into immediate survival mode just to keep a pulse within our Sport. Once our Sport's pulse was somewhat stable we then faced the task of figuring out our 'Return To Play' protocol and procedures and from there had to educate our Leagues, Teams, Coaches, Players, Officials, Facility Managers and Spectators on the 'Dos and Don'ts' of Competition. Returning to Play in mid-June was an immediate positive experience for 95% of those back on the diamonds but an ongoing challenge came from the remaining 5% of Coaches, Players and Parents (and The Media) who continued to question Softball Manitoba and the Return to the Game. The outstanding success was our reaction to COVID and our decision to Play Ball (2020 League Play and the 2020 Softball Manitoba Provincial Championships). These only happen with the incredible cooperation and commitment Softball Manitoba received from ALL of our Membership in keeping our ball in play during a World Pandemic. Softball Manitoba is indebted to Softball Canada, the P/Ts (Thank You Softball BC), Sport MB, Sport Law, the MB Health Authority and our Board and Staff for the strenuous hours put in building our Return To Play document for final approval. Eventually satisfied with a safe and detailed path back to competition and approved by the Province - there was more exceptional work put forward by our Board and Staff and our Officials Development Committee during the education process with our League Executives, Coaches, Players, Parents and Softball Facility Staff. And finally thank you to all of those Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Provincial Host Groups and Softball Facility Staff who followed through with our RTP guidelines throughout the 2020 Softball Manitoba competition season.

7. Board Division/Committee Reports

- **Adult Division (SP & FP) – Brady Woods**

Complete Report – see page 24-25 of the 2019 AGM Reports

Brady congratulated Scott, thanked the Staff and Board including his departing Directors and Advisory Committee member (Fred Bobrowski) and welcomed in new Advisory Board member Mike Fennesy. He also congratulated the Provincial winners and those teams attending Canadian Championships and discussed the successes of the past few years with hosting New Zealand and the Kiwi Cup.

- **Minor Division – Greg Boden**

Complete Report – see page 26 of the 2019 AGM Reports.

Greg congratulated the successful Minor Competition participants and All-stars and thanked all who volunteered and officiated to run Minor events. He also thanked the Minor Directors, his Advisory Board member, the Board members, the JBSC staff and Softball MB Staff. He was pleased with the ongoing increase in participation (both in Provincials and Boys Development).

Other discussion points included the benefits of Regionalization, upcoming Meetings concerning City Boundaries for 'A' Organizations and ongoing planning with a new Category (brought on by WSA) that would fit between 'A' and 'B' (B+?) and work as a feeder system to build on our Minor 'A' Program.

- **Officials Division – Frank Fargey**

Complete Report – see pages 27-29 of the 2019 AGM Reports.

Frank acknowledged the Office and National Office, his UDC members and Zone UICs for all their support and guidance this past season. He provided a quick review of the past year including our NOCP, the Blue Forum, Leagues and Special Competitions, the 2019 Blue Convention and MB's 18 reps in Montreal, special acknowledgements to Travel Umpires and continued increases in registration.

- **Ponytail Softball Report – Bobbi-Jo Guffei**

Complete Report – see page 32 of the 2019 AGM Reports.

Year 5 = an extended season into July and August. There were 124 players participated in 2019. in U11 and U13. Four tournaments, attended by all teams, were held in La Salle (2), Portage La Prairie, and Virden. Increased Communication throughout (Officials included) will be our number 1 objective as we begin to plan season 6.

- **2019-20 HP – Regional Softball Development Academy – Greg Bouchard & Hailey Unger (for Haylee O'Neill)** - Page 33 of the 2019 AGM Reports

Greg noted that the Academy just added Glen Bruce to instruct sprinting/running and how the Academy creates an aligned talent development path that raises the standard of softball skills in Canada and prepares athletes to compete at National Championships, Canada Games, NCAA/NAIA/JuCo/CIS, Junior WNT and the Senior WNT. Sessions cover Pitching, Catching, Hitting, Fielding and Mental Performance. Clinicians include current and former National and Provincial Team Athletes and Coaches: 100 athletes were accepted into the Academy. It will run with pitchers/catchers attending on Fridays and position players attending on Saturdays. (November 2019 – April 2020).

- **Games Programs (2019 WCSGs/2020 MB Games/2021 CSGs) – Brady Woods**

Page 34 of the 2019 AGM Reports

Brady congratulated the 2019 Team and Coaching Staff on their Gold Medal Performance and discussed the current changes to the CSG Policy following the Head Coach/Team/Program exit Interview and latest Games Executive Meeting. Also provided was an update on the 2020 MB Games – 6 Teams and Head Coaches in place with most teams already identified. Updates of the MB Games can be found on the Softball MB website.

Brady also discussed the state of the 2021 Canada Summer Games programs commencing with Head Coach Identification and Program Planning and Budgets.

- **CANpitch Report – Greg Bouchard** Complete Report – see page 35 of the 2019 AGM Report.

The 2019 CANpitch clinic season saw an increase to 521 participants as compared to 421 participants in 2018. Many positive reviews were received from players, parents and coaches regarding the Clinicians and the Program as a whole.

- **TOBACatch (CANCatch) Report – Greg Bouchard for Hailey Unger**

Complete Report – see page 35 of the 2019 AGM Report.

Former National Team catcher (Hailey Unger) has drafted up 2 excellent stages of Catching Development Programs (TOBACatch & TOBACatch Advanced). The TOBACatch Program covers Stance, Shifting, Receiving, Framing, Blocking, Throwing, Bunts Catcher's Responsibilities. Content of TOBACatch Advanced includes everything in Program 1 at an advanced level plus works on Passed Balls, Plays at Home, Pop ups, Catching various pitches, Calling a game, and various defensive Drills for catchers. We successfully piloted the clinic stages throughout the winter as part of Softball Canada's Regional Development Softball Academy – MB Chapter. An Instructor's Clinic was completed in October-2019 to develop Regional Clinicians and share the program throughout the Province.

- **Competition Committee – Don Klym**

Complete Report – see page 36-39 of the 2019 AGM Report.

There were 19 Provincial Championships held this year in the province for a total of 226 teams competing in those events. Congratulations to all Provincial medalists as well as all participants. To all the teams who represented our sport and province at Western Canadian and Canadian Championships. Congratulations goes out to the U16 Westman Magic for taking the Gold at the Western Canadian Softball Championships.

Thanks to all the organizers, volunteers, Softball Manitoba Delegates and Provincial UIC's for all their hard work in ensuring that our Provincials run smoothly. And thank you to the JBSC Staff and MSSTL volunteers for successfully hosting the U14 Girls Western Canadian Championship.

- **Hall of Fame – Les Newman**

Complete Report – see page 40 of the 2019 AGM Report.

Written Report provided by Les. Report included a successful review of the Induction Banquet, The Hall and future plans and thank-you to the Committee members and the Board for their help and support. Larry added in the Board's congratulations to all past inductees and on to the 2019 Inductees.

- **Facilities Committee – Monte Miller**

JBSC Park Report – see page 42-43 of the 2019 AGM Report Book

Report included the Year in review, feedback regarding upgrades on the Facility and projects from the past year, League and Tournament Participation, Weekend Competition and the day-to-day operation of the Park. Thank-Yous went out to the City of Winnipeg, the Facility staff, Leagues, Sponsors, Tournament support, Larry and the Board and the Softball MB staff for a job well done in 2019. Following the Report Larry updated the membership on the current status of the Lease and upcoming project requests including a Manager's Office and a solution to the longstanding water issue – including drilling a well and/or adding a water pond to draw from.

MOTION:	Val Pelleck / Al Bruneau
	“To accept the 2019 Softball Manitoba Division and Committee Reports”.
	Carried

8. John Blumberg Softball Complex Financial Statements Report

- **John Blumberg Softball Complex Financial Statement – Monte Miller / Don Klym**

JBSC Financial Statement was part of the AGM Information Package (pages 18-23). were reviewed and discussed.

MOTION:	Greg Bouchard / Brendan Penner
	“To accept the 2019 John Blumberg Softball Complex Financial Statements”.
	Carried

9. Softball Manitoba Financial Statements Report

- **Softball Manitoba Financial Statement – Don Klym**

Softball MB Audited Financials were part of the AGM Information Package (pages 2-17). Don reviewed the audited financial reports, Sport Manitoba Grants Report, Bingo and Budget Report and provided a review on the Sport Manitoba Integrated Funding Framework.

MOTION:	Greg Bouchard / Brendan Penner
	“To accept the 2019 Softball Manitoba Audited Financial Statement”.
	Carried

10. Appointment/Nominations for Softball Manitoba Division Directors

- The 2020 Board is listed on page 44 of the 2019 AGM Report.

11. Softball MB By-Laws, Division Operating Rules and Softball Canada Constitution, By-laws and SORs

- Softball Manitoba's changes to the Minor Division Operating Rules were part of the Softball Manitoba Information Package. (pages 27-38). Updates will be done in the 2020 Softball Manitoba Information Handbook and will be posted on the Softball Manitoba Website.
- Softball Manitoba's proposed changes to their Constitution, By-Laws and General Operating Rules included in a separate handout. All 12 Motions carried. Updates will be done in the 2020 Softball Manitoba Information Handbook and will be posted on the Softball Manitoba Website.

Changes to Constitution & Bylaws

Motion 1	B.Woods/G.Bouchard	Carried
Motion 2	C.Anderson/B.Woods	Carried
Motion 3	T.Wolowiec/B.Lanoie	Carried
Motion 4	C.Anderson/V.Pelleck	Carried
Motion 5	L.Vandal/M.Fennessy	Carried
Motion 6	M.Fennessy/L.Vandal	Carried
Motion 7	L.Vandal/M.Fennessy	Carried
Motion 8	B.Luebke/A.Bruneau	Carried
Motion 9	I.Vandal/A.Bruneau	Carried
Motion 10	B.Woods/B.Lanoie	Carried
Motion 11	B.Woods/M.Fennessy	Carried
Motion 12	B.Lanoie/A.Bruneau	Carried

- Softball Canada's changes to their Special Operating Rules and Proposed Rule Changes were part of the Softball Manitoba Information Package (pages 39-49) and were reviewed at the Divisional Breakout Meetings. Updates will be done in the 2021-2022 Softball Canada Official Rulebook and will be posted on the Softball Manitoba Website.

12. New Business

- None

13. Adjournment

MOTION:	Frank Fargey "To Adjourn."	Carried.
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14. Authorization

Submitted December 4, 2019

Don Klym – Executive Director

Larry Giesbrecht – President

