



SOFTBALL MANITOBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 27, 2021 – Via ZOOM



Present:

VOTING DELEGATES:

Larry Giesbrecht	(Chair)	Noelle Cunningham
Greg Boden	Kristi Guilford	Al Bruneau
Claire Anderson	Bev Neufeld	Daphne Wiebe
Tara Conrad	Renee Danchuk	Candice Dueck
Marc Lyver	Les Newman	David Muswaggon
Brady Woods	Lori Vandal	Mike Fennessy
Bob Lanoie	Val Pelleck	Rafik Abi-Saleh
Frank Fargey	Terry Wolowiec	Brad DeGraeve
Bruce Luebke	Mike Klassen	

OBSERVERS:

Paul Fazio	Blaine Shewchuk	Dwayne Henley
Erin Levesque	Greg Bouchard	Bobbi-Jo Guffei
Jon Reimer	Dave Kodratuk	Dani Klassen
Ken Stewart	Steven Hopfner	Brenda Woods
Jeremy Lough		

SPORT MB

Pat Kirby

SPORT LAW

Jason Robinson

SOFTBALL MB

Don Klym
Leigh Decker

1. Call to Order

President/Chair (Larry Giesbrecht) called the meeting to order at 9.06 am.

The Chair welcomed the members and introduced Jason Robinson from Sport Law as the Voting Scrutineer. The Chair reminded the participants that, per our Rules of Procedure, speaking is limited to voting delegates only, unless prompted by the Chair.

2. Rules of Procedure

Chair introduced the voting scrutineer for today's meeting - Jason Robinson from Sport Law. Jason was our voting administrator with all voting taking place on the online voting platform Simply Voting. Jason to assist the members in following our **Virtual Meeting Rules** (as distributed to the members) and our identified parliamentary procedure, which is **Robert's Rules of Order**.

3. Determination of Voting Delegates

25 voting delegates in attendance.

Chair: Section 3.05 of the Softball MB Bylaws state, "A Quorum at any General Meeting shall be a simple majority at all times of the voting Delegates in good standing attending the General Meeting". I hereby declare that there is a quorum and that this Special Meeting of the Softball MB members is in session.

4. Identification of Non-Voting Delegates

As listed above.

5. Minutes of the 2020 AGM and 2021 SGM

Chair noted that a copy of the minutes from the November 21, 2020 members meeting, as well as a copy of the minutes from the October 12, 2021 members meeting, had been circulated to the members in advance of this meeting. While the 2021 SGM Minutes were not specifically referenced in the circulated agenda – they too were approved as per Softball MB procedure. If there any questions about this or objections to approving both sets of minutes, please raise those questions, or concerns now. **No questions. No Objections.**

With no objections by the members, the minutes of the November 21, 2020 AGM, as well as the minutes from the October 12, 2021 SGM are approved. There is no Business Arising from either of these minutes, aside from the Phased Implementation Plan for Board elections that was adopted at the SGM that we will address later in this meeting.

6. Reports

Chair: We will not be conducting verbal reports as these reports have already been provided in writing, but we can entertain any questions regarding the reports. The following Reports were circulated to the members in advance of this meeting:

- President's Report – Larry Giesbrecht
- Executive Director's Report – Don Klym
- Registration Report – Don Klym
- Division Reports
 - Adult Division - Brady Woods
 - Minor Division - Greg Boden
 - Officials Division - Frank Fargey
- Advisory Board Report
- Development Reports
 - High Performance - Haylee O'Neill
 - Games Committee - Brady Woods
 - CANPitch - Greg Bouchard
 - TOBACatch – Hailey Unger
- Competition Report – Don Klym
- Hall of Fame Report – Les Newman

Chair: With no questions or objections by the members on these Reports – Softball MB notes the receipt of the 2021 Reports.

7. JBSC Financial Statements

Chair noted that a copy of the JBSC financial statements have been shared with the members in advance of this meeting. There were no questions from the Membership regarding the JBSC financial statements.

8. Softball MB Financial Statements

Chair noted that the Corporation is required to present the audited/reviewed Financial Statements to the members for the fiscal year preceding the meeting. The Softball Manitoba financial statements were shared on screen and Executive Director Don Klym spoke briefly to the statements.

The members had no questions regarding the Softball Manitoba financial statements.

Chair noted that the members have received the Softball Manitoba financial statements.

9. Elections

Chair discussed/explained the following with the Membership:

At the October 12 Special Meeting, members adopted the proposed revisions to the Softball Manitoba Bylaws, which included changes to the Board composition as well as a Temporary Bylaw (Article 14) to assist with the transition from the current Board composition to the new Board composition. In accordance with Section 14.3 of the Temporary Bylaw, Softball MB will conduct the necessary elections and conclude this AGM with the following 8 Directors:

- President – Larry Giesbrecht (serving to 2022)
- Central Director – Kristi Guilford (serving to 2022)
- Eastman Director – Bob Lanoie (serving to 2022)
- Winnipeg South Director – Al Bruneau (serving to 2022)
- **Elect six (6) new Regional Directors as follows:**
 - Interlake Director – one (1) year term.
 - Norman Director – one (1) year term Vacant
 - NW Ontario Director – two (2) year term. Vacant
 - Parkland Director – two (2) year term.
 - Westman Director – two (2) year term.
 - Winnipeg North Director – two (2) year term.

At this point Larry passed the gavel to Jason Robinson (AGM Parliamentarian) to serve as independent Chair for these Elections. **Elections Chair (JR) quote:** We will now elect the 6 Regional Directors.

Interlake Director – one (1) year term.

We have received the following valid nominations for the Interlake Director position:

- **Blaine Shewchuk** – new nominee

Blaine has accepted the nomination. In accordance with Section 5.07 of the SMB Bylaws, a Regional Director must receive a majority of all votes cast in order to be elected.

Vote Result was 26-0 in favor.

Congratulations to Blaine Shewchuk who will serve the next year as Regional Director for Interlake.

Norman Director – one (1) year term.

We have not received any valid nominations for the position of Norman Director position. As a result, the Board will look to fill this vacancy at an upcoming Board meeting and once it has done so, it will communicate the new Director to the members.

NW Ontario Director – two (2) year term.

We have not received any valid nominations for the position of NW Ontario Director. As a result, the Board will look to fill this vacancy at an upcoming Board meeting and once it has done so, it will communicate the new Director to the members.

Parkland Director – two (2) year term.

We have received the following valid nominations for the Parkland Director position:

- **Greg Boden** – incumbent candidate

Greg has accepted the nomination.

Vote Result was 25-1 in favor.

Congratulations to Greg Boden who will serve the next two years as Regional Director for Parkland.

Westman Director – two (2) year term.

We have received the following valid nominations for the Westman Director position:

- **Bev Neufeld** – new nominee

Bev has accepted the nomination.

Vote Result was 26-0 in favor.

Congratulations to Bev Neufeld who will serve the next two years as Regional Director for Westman.

Winnipeg North Director – two (2) year term.

We have received the following valid nominations for the Winnipeg North Director position:

- **Brady Woods**

Brady has accepted the nomination.

Vote Result was 25-1 in favor.

Congratulations to Brady Woods who will serve the next two years as Regional Director for Winnipeg North.

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Advisory Board Representative (Adult Fastpitch)

We shall elect the Advisory Board Representative (Adult Fastpitch) in the same manner as the Directors. The Board has endorsed the following nomination for the Advisory Board Representative position:

- **Brenda Woods**

Brenda has accepted this endorsement. Brenda entering this spot (FP Adult Advisory Board rep) after it was vacant for 1-year so she has 3 years remaining to serve, should the members approve this election.

Vote Result was 26-0 in favor.

Congratulations to Brenda who will serve the next three years as Advisory Board Representative - Adult Fast Pitch.

Elections Chair: That concluded the elections. JR destroyed all electronic election ballots and passed the gavel back to meeting Chair, Larry Giesbrecht.

President Giesbrecht thanked Jason and Congratulated the newly elected Directors.

10. New Business

Notice of Motions #1 & #2

President Giesbrecht asked the members to please disregard “New Business Notice of Motions” number #1 and #2 in the AGM package, as they were formally elected the Directors and Advisory Board Representative by ballot – so these motions are not required.

Notice of Motion #3 - Minor Division Operating Rules

Chair Quote: ‘Motion #3 pertains to the Special Playing Rules for U-12A / U12-AA / U12-AAA.

I will note to the members that this Notice of Motion was submitted late and that Section 16.02 of the Softball MB Bylaws state: “A Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution, By-Laws, General Operating Rules and Division Operating Rules must be forwarded in writing to the Executive Director thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.”

I will only allow this Notice of Motion to be entertained if we have unanimous consent by the voting members to consider it. This is permitted in Section 16.04 of the Softball MB Bylaws which states: “When a Notice of Motion has not been served as provided for in (16.02), the Notice of Motion may be brought to the floor at any Annual General Meeting by a unanimous vote of Delegates present.”

I will therefore ask the members at this time if there any objections to moving forward with this motion. If there are no objections, this is akin to unanimous consent, and we will consider the motion. If any objections are raised, we do not have unanimous consent and the motion will not be considered at this meeting.

There were No Objections. Unanimous consent is achieved.

I refer the members to the Notice of Motion Form that outlines the rationale for the motion as well as the proposed new language within the bylaws.

MOTION: (Greg Bouchard) On behalf of the CANPITCH DEVELOPMENT Committee I move the following:

MINOR DORS Page M14#13 and M15 #7

Special Playing Rules for U12-A / U12-AA / U12-AAA

(In conjunction with Minor DOR 4A. Information for teams entering Provincial Championships)

As per current Softball Canada Official Rule Book

Special Operating Rules Page 249 – FP CC SORs – Age Categories & Distance Table

Age Category	Ball	Pitching Distance	Baselines
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U12	11”	35’	55’
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Note – U12 will be replaced with U13 in 2022.

CHANGE TO READ:

Softball MB Provincial Championships Special Playing Rules adapt the U13 A/AA/AAA Pitching distance at 38” and use a 12” ball.

Bruce Luebke seconded the motion.

CANPitch’s Greg Bouchard discussed the Development and Competition benefits gained with the Motion.

The vote was called– 2/3 vote required. Vote was 21-4 in favor.

Motion Carried.

(4) Softball Canada Rules Changes

Chair: For the benefit of the members, a brief report on the recent Softball Canada Rule Changes was provided. Distributed by e-mail earlier. No questions were asked.

(5) 2022-23 Coach Plan on Background Screening

Chair: Our final piece of New Business is related to an update on potential background screening for coaches. 2022-23 Coach Plan on Background Screening was briefly discussed. The Board will be considering this Plan and providing further updates to the members in the coming months.

11. For the Good of the Association

Chair: As is our past practice, we will now open the floor to any members who wish to share any positive announcements, informal observations or feedback with the association as a whole. Do any members wish to share For the Good of the Association?

- Great to be hosting a Canadian Championship in 2023. Thank You Softball Canada & Softball MB. (B. Luebke)
- Blue Convention 2022 – Hope to See You all there! (F. Fargey)
- Thank You All for sticking with the Sport through 2 years of COVID and all the challenges that come with it. (G. Boden)
- Thank You Softball MB for all you have done these past 2 years giving our girls competition and development opportunities. (D. Kodratuk).
- Thank You for your support and trust in the rebuilding of our Board Structure and ongoing strengthening of the Regional Development Programs within our ‘A’ Leagues and ‘AAA’ Organizations. (L. Giesbrecht).
- JBSC. Increased support and interest from City of Wpg on future projects/proposals. (L. Giesbrecht).
- Thank You Membership for your patience with Softball MB and all the changes and ‘reboots’ we have done this past year. Strong Meaningful Thank-You to ALL of You ...Thank You Larry and the Board, Jason (Sport Law), Pat (Sport MB). Thanks to all our League and Organization Presidents and their assistants, Thank you to all our Volunteers – especially our Provincial Hosts and their Committees, our Sponsors and all of our Umpires, Coaches and Players. A final thanks to our Development team, the JBSC Staff, and Softball MB co-staff members. What you have contributed to the betterment of Softball is All For the Good of the Association! (D. Klym).

12. **Adjournment**

Chair: As we have concluded all matters of business on our agenda, I hereby declare that the meeting is adjourned. Thank you to all members for participating.

Adjourned.

1. **Authorization**

Submitted December 7, 2021

Don Klym – Executive Director

Larry Giesbrecht – President

