



Softball New Brunswick Board Meeting
August 27th via Zoom
8:00pm ADT

Attendance – Voting Members:

Scott Willis – President (Vote only if tie)
Dan Mersereau - Vice President
Ron Campbell - Provincial Umpire in Chief
Hillary Pineau - Grassroots Coordinator
Matt Whipple - High Performance Coordinator
Paul Bedford - Fundy Director
Darleen Sobey - North Eastern Coordinator

Non-Voting:

Cameron Rogers - Executive Director

Vacant Positions:

Adult Coordinator

Non-Voting Observer

Absent - Voting Members:

Gracelyn Kaine - Human Resource Coordinator
Charlie Chaisson - North Western Coordinator
Craig Clarkson - Capital Western Director
France Bourque - South Eastern Coordinator

1. Presidents Welcome

2. [Land Acknowledgement](#)

- a. Land acknowledgement was read by Matt

3. [Minutes of the previous meeting](#)

- a. Motion to accept minutes of the previous meeting
 - i. First: Hillary Pineau Second: Matt WhippleCarried 6-0-0

4. Financial Update

- a. Profile funding has been deposited. 4% increase from last year, \$103 500.00, a result of the hard work that has been done over the last year growing Softball NB.
- b. Cameron reviewed the yearly budget
 - i. Cameron, Scott and Hillary have closely updated the budget as the year progressed



- ii. Forecasting to be in good shape at the end of the fiscal year (Sept 30)
- iii. Finally received Sport NB funding for Comp Dev hosted this spring
- iv. Summer students are officially done as of last weekend and are all paid out.
- v. NB Selects team budgets have been finalized for the year. Programs finished off just under budget
- vi. Provincial championships are all in good shape
- vii. Cameron and Scott spent a day cleaning out Apple Storage and our Office Storage space, were able to eliminate Apple Storage which will be a savings of \$200 per month
- viii. No questions from the Board of Directors

5. Credit Card

- a. Cameron has been paying it off weekly
- b. Scott asked Cameron to copy himself and Ellen (Treasurer) on any payments of the credit card going forward

6. Moving Banks

- a. Cameron proposed moving banks due to difficulties with TD's customer service since March of 2024. She had spoken to Sport NB about their process moving their financials to RBC

Charlie Chaisson joined the meeting at 8:14pm

- i. Motion for Softball New Brunswick to move their banking business from TD to RBC

1. Motion: Hillary Pineau Second: Ron Campbell

Carried 7-0-0

7. Final Registration Numbers

- a. Individual players is at 1705, off by 4 from 2023
- b. Coaches at 315 up overall
 - i. Summer students Hannah and Emma Walker spent a lot of time chasing coaches non stop throughout the season leading up to provincials to get them registered



- ii. Need to discuss a consequence for those not registered by a certain date
- c. Team registration is down due to the decline in male ball and Timbits teams not registering
 - i. Need to reconsider what we are offering the Timbits programs
- d. Umpires
 - i. 114 registered, nearly double RAMP registration numbers from 2023, we now have an accurate number of paid officials.

8. Provincial Championships Recap

- a. U13 Boys and Intermediate Men's
 - i. Both great events
 - ii. Softball NB staff worked very hard to get teams registered in time to ensure these event ran this year.
 - iii. Darleen commended Mark Betts and the River Valley Racoons on their great work on U13 Boys. Worked very hard to get the fields up and running with the rain, had a great crew of volunteers and overall was a very successful event.
- b. U15 Girls A and AA
 - i. Rained out and rescheduled for the long weekend
- c. U13 Girls A and AA, U17 Girls AA
 - i. Received a couple complaints for the U13 Girls events regarding supervisors, and how rankings were determined for a 11 team tournament.

9. Eastern Canadian Softball Championships Recap

- a. U19 Women's
 - i. Southern Black Bears attended in Newfoundland and came home with a Bronze medal.
- b. U17 Girls
 - i. Xplosion du Nord-Ouest host committee did an awesome job for their first event. Dealt with some rain delays and difficult field conditions however, fit everything in with no issues.



- ii. Relatively inexperienced umpiring crew as it was all NB umpires first ECSC however they did a great job managing games and there were no issues or complaints from teams.
 - 1. Thanks to Softball Quebec who was able to send 2 umpires to help out with the event
- iii. The 3 NB teams had some meaningful competition games, however none of them made the playoff round. The Southern Black Bears finished 2-2 and lost out on a playoff position due to +/- differential. Oromocto Silverbacks finished 1-3 and Xplosion du Nord-Ouest 0-4. Softball NB and our teams have work to do in order to be more competitive at this level.
- c. U15 Girls
 - i. Fredericton Twins host committee also ran a great tournament with no delays or issues.
 - ii. The Southern Black Bears finished 3-3 and made the playoffs but lost their first playoff game. The Fredericton Twins finished 1-4. Improvements from NB's performance at U15 ECSC vs 2023, however, still more improvements are needed to be more competitive.
- d. U13 Girls
 - i. Good event in Nova Scotia, Southern Black Bears and Oromocto Silverbacks attended. Neither made the playoffs.
- e. U13 Boys
 - i. Capital Western Regional Team attended and it was an awesome experience for the players. Only had 1 practice heading into the tournament due to rain and scheduling, were not competitive but had a good experience.
- f. Ron Campbell commented and wanted to thank umpires and those that came from Quebec for their assistance. Want to recognize Rick Russell, Barry Adams and Ray Blanchette in their work for coordinating the officials for both provincials and Easterns.

10. NB Selects Program



a. 2024 Recap

i. U17 Girls

1. Dan Mersereau, as one of the team's assistant coaches, discussed their experience in Calgary, Alberta. The team went 0-6 overall, all their games were lopsided as a few tough innings each game cost them. Overall it was a good learning experience for the team. Dan indicated that they did not perform at his expectations. The tournament host was overall subpar, lacking volunteers and consistency from umpires. Over the course of the summer, he feels that the program improved minutely. It is a very competitive age category across the country.

ii. U15 Girls

1. Cameron Rogers discussed the experience in Chateauguay, Quebec. The team went 0-7 on the week however overall felt it was a good experience. The team this year was a very young and inexperienced group, all 13 players had never attended a Canadian Championships. The goal going into the tournament was to reach a full 7 innings and accomplished this in several of their games. Throughout the season saw big improvements amongst the group.

Craig Clarkson joined the meeting at 8:37pm

b. 2025 Coaches

- i. Interviews were held the last two nights. 7 total applicants amongst the 2 categories.
- ii. U15 Girls recommendation is Jeremy Drummond
 1. Motion to appoint Jeremy Drummond as Head Coach of the 2025 U15 Girls NB Selects Program
 - a. First: Matt Whipple
 - Second: Ron CampbellCarried 7-0-1
- iii. U17 Girls recommendation is Peter Mersereau



1. Motion to appoint Peter Mersereau as Head Coach of the 2025 U17 Girls NB Selects Program.

a. First: Ron Campbell Second: Hillary Pineau

Carried 8-0-0

c. 2024/25 Training Proposal

- i. Cameron outlined that our athletes are not getting the proper coaching of the fundamentals at the younger age groups, so we are still teaching these at U15 and U17.
- ii. Cameron is proposing that we host initial tryouts in the fall, then cut down to a training group to run sessions throughout the fall/winter. Focus on fundamentals and bring in strong softball players and coaches from around the province who are experts on certain skills and see if they will commit to come out once per month to work with our training groups.
- iii. Throughout the summer we need to find extra training opportunities throughout the week (set early) for NB Selects teams to train and practice together throughout the season. Work with club teams to pick one night per week without hurting the club system.
- iv. Overall feedback from 2024 coaches, and parents is that we need for variety in competition within the 3 set weekends
 1. Different teams, with higher level competition such as teams from Quebec, Maine etc.
- v. Cameron asked for support from Regional Directors to encourage players to come out to tryouts annually. There are some kids not coming out because they feel they may not have a chance to make the team, especially from smaller communities.
- vi. Scott identified that we need to make strides to be more competitive in order to attract the top players across the province.

11. Men's Canada Games Coaching Staff



- a. Motion to accept Alex Harding as the Assistant Coach for the 2025 Men's Canada Games Program
 - i. First: Matt Whipple Second: Paul Bedford
Carried 7-0-1
- b. Motion to accept Dale Currie as the Manager for the 2025 Men's Canada Games Program
 - i. First: Ron Campbell Second: Craig Clarkson
Defeated 0-5-3

12. Male Ball

- a. Paul is putting in work to try to generate boys programming in the Fundy region. He is working with Sussex to offer co-ed pitching programs this winter in open gym sessions and working to get Belleisle registered; they already have boys playing with their group. They are competing with a large, successful baseball association in Sussex, and feel that the key will be getting a core group of boys out to get them engaged and introduced to the sport and then bring in some high caliber ball to the area for them to be exposed to.
- b. Ron indicated that we need to expose the struggle of male ball and end the stigma of softball being a girls only game. Suggested hosting exhibition games to highlight the game across the province.
- c. Scott discussed that we need to find a champion in each community that can take the lead on Male Ball in that area.
- d. Craig suggested we might need to attract the younger ages and smaller communities through Orthodox and Slopitch as well as Fastpitch.
- e. Darleen mentioned that there are baseball players that are decent ball players but are being cut from certain baseball teams and we need to find a way to expose softball to them and tap into that group of athletes.
- f. Hillary highlighted her concerns with the status of Boy's ball in the province and has offered to chair a Male Ball Committee.

13. Technical Director Update



- a. Applications close September 3rd, 2024, one week from today.
- b. Cameron has received one application so far from an individual originally from Ontario.
- c. Depending on how the interview goes, Scott suggested we should be ready to review the position and restructure to a program coordinator position. Need to pay to get quality people. May have to shift how we access the Go NB funding.

14. Vicky LeBlanc

- a. Scott discussed that he talked with her at a New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame event in Fredericton. She wants to get involved with the sport again, as she misses it and is moving back to the Moncton area. Will need to capitalize on her interest, background and experience, potentially with a pitching program.

15. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn
 - i. First: Matt Whipple