



**Softball New Brunswick Board Meeting  
December 3rd 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  
Gracelyn Kaine - Human Resource Coordinator  
Hillary Pineau - Grassroots Coordinator  
Matt Whipple - High Performance Coordinator  
Charlie Chaisson - North Western Coordinator  
Paul Bedford - Fundy Director  
Darleen Sobey - North Eastern Coordinator

**Non-Voting:**

Cameron Rogers - Executive Director  
Megan Diercks - Technical Director

**Vacant Positions:**

Adult Coordinator

**Non-Voting Observer**

**Absent - Voting Members:**

Craig Clarkson - Capital Western Director  
Frances Borque - South Eastern Coordinator

**1. Presidents Welcome**

- a. Welcome all
- b. Last meeting before Christmas

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

- a. Dan Mersereau read the land acknowledgement

**3. Amended Minutes - September**

- a. Touched on the amendments required to be made to the minutes from the September Board Meeting.
- b. Concern was brought up by Darleen Sobey regarding concerns about the wording in the motion of minimal discussion from the Board of Directors. Scott and Paul clarified the intent of the motion
- c. **Motion: to approve the amended minutes of the September 17th 2024 Board Meeting.**



- i. First: Paul Bedford Second: Matt Whipple  
Carried: 8-0-0

**4. October Meeting Minutes**

- a. Board reviewed the minutes of the October 17th Board Meeting
  - i. No questions
- b. **Motion to approve the minutes of the October 5th 2024 Board Meeting.**
  - i. First: Hillary Pineau Second: Matt Whipple  
Carried: 8-0-0

**5. November Meeting Minutes**

- a. Board reviewed the minutes of the November 25th Board Meeting
- b. **Motion to approve the minutes of the November 25th 2024 Board Meeting.**
  - i. First: Paul Bedford Second: Matt Whipple  
Carried: 7-0-1

**6. Technical Fund**

- a. Cameron Rogers presented a proposal for the intended use of the Technical fund (linked).
- b. When developing, looking at ways to benefit the most number of members. Some examples include:
  - i. Player Development
  - ii. Coach Development
  - iii. Umpire Development
  - iv. Technology
- c. Created a proposal and report form to be submitted following the completion of the project. Keeps people on track, understand where funds have been spent, etc.
- d. Proposal and application will be made available to Board members to be able to submit for consideration once finalized
- e. Discussed that a section around project controls should be added, as well as a yearly cap on the funding should be outlined.



- f. Regional based projects are to still apply through Go NB.
- g. **Action:** Staff will include the additional suggested by the board and review at the Winter meeting.

## 7. Financials

### a. Bank Account Update

- i. New bank account with RBC is now up and running
  - 1. Currently in the process of transferring all funds and waiting to arrange a meeting to set up RBC express (the option for e-transfer for small businesses)
  - 2. All signees are confirmed.

### b. Fiscal Year

- i. Runs from October 1st to September 30th. Was approached by Ellen Fitzsimmons and supported by Ken Cogswell to inquire of why we run this way when business is not completed quite by that point.
  - 1. Still a lot of money coming in and out in Sept/Oct/Nov
- ii. Recommendation to move the fiscal year to January 1st to December 31st.
  - 1. Allows Executive Director to reconcile books before Christmas break
  - 2. Give it to the accountant to do a review/audit to be completed and presented by the February Board Meeting. Still able to present by April Board Meeting.
- iii. **Article 2 6.b.**
  - 1. Would need to update the constitution at the upcoming AGM
  - 2. Board can opt to move forward with moving to this option at this time without the approval of the membership. However, if the motion is defeated at the AGM in April, SNB would revert back to current fiscal year

### c. 2024/25 Draft Budget

- i. Reviewed 2024-2025 budget



1. Compared a 12 month vs a 15 month budget
  - a. The 15 month budget will show 2 events in the same year (Ex. Awards, SC AGM, etc.), so it doesn't look good on paper, but it's temporary and will work better moving forward.
2. Straw vote. 8-0-0 in support of moving to the 15th month fiscal year temporarily

**ii. Motion to accept the 15 month draft budget as proposed.**

1. First: Charlie C. Second: Dan M.  
Carried: 8-0-0

**8. Technical Director Update**

- a. Megan outlined it has been a positive first few months, a lot of exciting opportunities
- b. Top of the list was developing a pitching program
  - i. Created a series of several different options, with different levels of intensity.
  - ii. Return of the PIB clinic to the province in progress. Appears to be a lot of interest from membership in participating based on a survey that was circulated.
    1. Very excited about option #2: PIB clinic + a pitching coach mentorship program.
- c. Showed the drill bank that she and Cameron have been building
  - i. Accessible on mobile devices, desktop, etc. warm-up and U9 sections have been built out, will be working on other age categories, pitching, catching etc. for the beginning of the season
- d. Have been making connections with coaches around the province, plan to set up a zoom call in the New Year to discuss any concerns/ideas for the upcoming season.
- e. Scorekeeping course being developed, working with other provinces to build resources.
- f. Has been working closely with Ron, circulated an umpire feedback survey on the 2024 season, to evaluate into 2025.
- g. Engagement has been good on social media considering it is the offseason. Working to develop new initiatives to keep engagement up.



## 9. NB Selects / Canada Games Update

### a. NB Selects

- i. U15 and U17 girls programs are underway. Training teams have been selected. Two training indoor sessions have occurred so far. All dates up until March are out when the team will be selected.
- ii. Good attendance so far, expected to continue. Practices are focusing on fundamentals. First mental performance session held this past weekend with CSIA. Good introduction for these young athletes
- iii. Have put out expressions of interest for the U15/U17 boys programs. Will be trying to get them off the ground in the new year.
- iv. U19 Women's
  1. Request for consideration from Softball Canada to pick up a pitcher from another province

### b. Canada Games

- i. Women's: Training every week at Central hub in Fredericton. Had good feedback from athletes and families. Focusing on fundamentals, adding in Performance Sciences.
- ii. Men's: 1 session for this fall coming up, have 26 athletes interested, has some baseball players come out.
- iii. Coach Certification is underway for all coaches, staying on top of coaches for completion by early new year.
- iv. Financial Support of both teams
  1. In the past we have given each team \$4,000 to go towards their programs. Our Provincial Consultant with GNB feels that Canada Games is an extension of our Provincial Team programs, so, we should be supporting them similarly.
- v. Cameron suggests to supply:
  1. 4 dozen balls, lineup cards and scorebooks



2. Will work to find \$1000-1500 worth of sponsorship money per team,
  3. Teams will split the revenue generated from the showdown as long as they provide the volunteers (~\$500-1500),
  4. Will provide an iPad purchased from the Technical Fund
  5. Each team will be permitted to use \$1500 of our annual Rawlings Credit.
- vi. Concern that some of the funds raised from the East Coast Showdown are a gamble - fully dependent on turnout, weather, volunteers, etc.
- vii. **Motion that Softball New Brunswick support the Men's and Women's Canada Games programs for a minimum of \$1,500 per team paid through proceeds from the East Coast Showdown tournament (Pending fulfillment of volunteer requirements). Should proceeds from the event not meet the minimum of \$1,500 per team, Softball NB will pay the outstanding amount. Softball NB will also support each team with 4 dozen balls, lineup cards, scorebooks, an iPad purchased from the Technical Fund, and \$1500 Rawlings Credit.**
1. First: Hillary Pineau                      Second: Paul Bedford
- Carried: 7-0-1

## 10. PPI Update

- a. Cameron provided the Board with an update, met last week with Chantal Rochon of CSIA who is leading the initiative
  - i. Outlined what we have so far (6 week check in). Overall she was happy with where the application is, at the moment. Quite a bit of work still to finish between now and the holidays
  - ii. Official submission date is January 8th
  - iii. Scott noted it is a waiting game until the proposals are reviewed and decided which sports are getting the money and how much. Once we find out, there may be some shuffling of roles, bringing in a new staff, etc. staff have done a really good job with the proposal and he is optimistic we are in a good position.



### 11. 2025 Softball New Brunswick AGM

- a. Scott Willis asked the Board if there is appetite to move the AGM online and tie in a virtual workshop, or would they like to remain in person
  - i. Board members discussed the pros and cons of being in person vs online.
  - ii. Action: Staff to put out a poll to the membership to gauge if there is a preference of online vs in person.

### 12. Male Ball

- a. Cameron and Hillary discussed direction last week and decided that male ball will be driven from office. Hillary will shift her focus to U11 jamboree, community development program, East Coast Showdown. Better aligns with skill set and interests.
- b. Discussion was around some initiatives the board and staff feel will be most beneficial moving forward including: one-on-one conversations with individuals, heavy social media promotion and spread the word on all the opportunities that exist within male fastpitch (National Team, ISC, etc.)

### 13. New Business

- a. Ron Campbell brought up last week's events regarding the OMSA Canadian Championship bid to host 2026 Women's, and shared his concerns.
  - i. Did not like the way SNB was bashed and belittled as a Board of Directors, given how much the board does and that they are all volunteers.
  - ii. Felt deflated based on the emails, and manor that a certain individual of the host committee conducted themselves.
  - iii. Discussion was had around lack of accountability, personal attacks, and unprofessional behavior.
  - iv. It was suggested that for future bids, for any group, a member of the host committee should present to the board to allow for questions to be answered before making a decision on approval to support.



- v. **Action:** Gracelyn (Human Resources Coordinator) to evaluate our Safe Sport Policy to identify if the Code of Conduct has been broken and if any disciplinary action should be taken.

**14. Next meeting**

- a. February 1-2nd, 2025, in-person meeting at the Fredericton Inn.

**15. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn
  - i. First: Paul Bedford