



**Softball New Brunswick Board Meeting**  
**October 5 at the Fredericton Inn**  
**9:00am-3:30pm**

**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  
Craig Clarkson - Capital Western Director  
Paul Bedford - Fundy Director  
Frances Borque - South Eastern Coordinator  
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:**

Gracelyn Kaine - Human Resource Coordinator  
Charlie Chaisson - North Western Coordinator

**1. Presidents Welcome**

- a. Thanks to everyone that helped out at the Hall of Fame and Awards last night. Good night overall.
- b. Introduced Megan D.
  - i. Reminder to treat staff with respect. There will be an on-boarding process, this is a good time of year to train.
- c. 19 topics on the agenda. A lot of conversation, doing reviews, getting feedback, etc. staff will pull recommendations together this fall based on the discussion in preparation for the winter meeting.

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

- a. Ron Campbell read the land acknowledgement

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

- a. Reviewed meeting minutes.



- b. **Motion to make an amendment to 1.c.i. to clarify how and why committees are formed.**
    - i. First: France B.      Second: Ron C.
    - ii. Carried 8-0-0
  - c. **Motion to make an amendment to 7. to include the number of candidates that applied.**
    - i. First: France B.      Second: Craig C
    - ii. Carried 8-0-0
  - d. **Motion to accept the minutes**
    - i. First: Matt W.      Second: Dan M.
    - ii. Carried 8-0-0
3. **Financial Review 2023/24**
- a. Reviewed membership comparison document
    - i. Decline in boys ball membership and Timbits team registration; however, overall our overall numbers were the same as previous year.
    - ii. **Action:** Cameron will send out a regional membership breakdown to regional directors.
    - iii. Discussed how we can increase the membership registration: review what we offer, timbits teams, adult ball, etc.
    - iv. 2022/2023 Financial Review
      - 1. Motion to accept the review prepared by Ken Cogswell for the 2022/2023 financial year
        - a. First: Matt Whipple      Second: Ron Campbell
        - b. Carried 7-0-1
      - 2. Ken Cogswell provides his services and donates the cost of the review to Softball NB.
4. **2024/25 Draft Budget**
- a. Review 2024 financials



- i. Ellen will be preparing the books to be sent for a review to Ken Cogswell.
  - ii. Will update the board with the final numbers once completed by Ellen.
- b. Proposed 2024-2025 draft budget
  - i. Reviewed an initial draft, and will present the final draft budget at our December meeting.
- c. Update on switching bank to RBC
  - i. Still currently transitioning but will be prioritizing in the next month

#### 5. Recap PPI session - Performance Pathway Initiative

- a. Reviewed the details of the PPI session Cameron, Scott and Hillary attended in September. This initiative with GNB and Sport NB is targeted at high performance: medals at CSG or national team members. Tied to significant funding through 2029 (up to \$40,000 per year).
- b. Staff presented potential initiative priorities
  - i. Elite Development Program
  - ii. Pitching Program
  - iii. U13/14 Development NB Selects Team
- c. **Action:** Board was in favour of moving forward with this. Staff will develop a proposal to bring forward to the Board by end of the year.

#### 6. Technical Fund

- a. From the proceeds of Canadian Championships, we have developed the Technical Fund. A lot of hard work was put in by staff and a key group of SNB volunteers to get this money.
- b. Scott outlined we haven't spent much of it yet, but a clear outline needs to be developed and the money spent wisely.
- c. Cameron outlined what she proposed the funds are to be targeted for. A policy needs to be implemented and added into SNB internal handbook so the funds are committed to these areas - even when staff and leadership changes over.



- d. Cameron outlined the priorities that were presented to the board in 2023. Some were started, some were not accomplished. Certain initiatives we headed were paid for from other grants we received: Go NB umpire, community development, PIB clinic, etc.
- e. **Action:** Board in favour of Cameron's proposal of what she presented for items to spend money on. She will come back to the board with a final proposal of items and \$ amounts for approval in coming months.
- f. Paul highlighted that there should be a measure of success or results for these initiatives. Reporting process and accountability of funds

## 7. Umpire Update

- a. Ron Campbell provided an update
- b. Registered 118, 49% were JD aged 12-19. Don't currently have the experienced officials like we used to in our program. Over 5000 games were covered this season. August and September are extremely busy. A challenging but rewarding season.
- c. Bob Stanton and Jeff Whipple and select senior umpire did some mentorship around the province.
- d. 7 umpire attended Canadian Championships. Marcus Peck did gold medal plate
- e. KVGSA hosted a 20 JD umpire indoor clinic. Successful event at field house in class and on field
- f. Wants to continue changing the structure of how we do things. Attending Canadian Championships will be an incentive and reward for experienced umpires who give back to the program.
- g. Financially, the umpire association has taken more money to run. Blue convention is coming up next year, but it is expensive. Grant is in progress, hoping for \$15,000 from GNB.
  - i. Dan M inquired if the rise of umpire fees helped attract. Ron felt it has made it more attractive for some.
  - ii. Conversation also was being had about umpire game fees across the province.



1. **Action:** Umpires association to make a decision by end of year on increasing zone game fees to set amounts across the board.

## 8. Canada Games Update

### a. Men's

- i. Bobby Despres has put forward a recommendation for Hunter Atwin to join the staff in the Manager role. Staff has presented a list of requirements for Hunter to accomplish for coaching standards.
- ii. A mentorship opportunity to work under Bobby. Costs to get coach training would be covered under Coach NB grant
- iii. **Motion to accept Hunter Atwin as Manager of 2025 Men's Canada Games program, pending completion of outlined coach requirements.**
  1. First: Matt W.                      Second: Dan M
  2. Carried 8-0-0
- iv. Bobby had first tryout recently. 19 athletes showed up, some interest from some baseball players around the province at the tryout. Elevating competition in pool
- v. Planning to do training this winter. Need Bobby to outline dates, training plan, and budget. Planning to make final selections in May 2025.

### b. Women's

- i. Final tryout recently in Moncton
- ii. Currently 32 in pool, will be cutting down to roughly 20-24 to train over the winter. Took a lot of time to scout this past season. Will cut down to the final roster in the early spring 2025.
- iii. Heavy individual training over winter, ramp up team training in new year.
- iv. Finalising team plan and training schedule.

### c. East Coast Showdown

- i. Rebranding to new name
- ii. Bulking up event this year, inviting Quebec and Ontario as well as NL, PEI and NS to bring their Men's and Women's Canada Games Teams.



- iii. Proceeds to go back to teams for volunteering

**9. 2025 Provincial Teams Update**

- a. Tryouts for U15 and U17 girls have started - 2 completed. Will be cutting down rosters to training teams, and finalising rosters in the spring
- b. Tryout numbers are up overall, significantly.
  - i. Good representation around province
- c. Tryouts have gone well, Peter Mersereau and Jeremy Drummond have been good to deal with.
- d. U15 Girls and U15 Boys Canadian Championships are in Winkler, MB
- e. Had put out a call for interest for u15,u17 boys and u19 women’s
  - i. Has been some interest, but not an over abundance in each category
  - ii. On the u17 boys side, considering not sending to Canadian Championships but maybe send a training team to Easterns. Will need to send a proposal to the ECSC committee for approval.

**f. Assistant Coaches**

i. U17 Girls

- 1. Motion to approve Gabby Sanford as assistant coach of U17 Girls NB Selects for 2025.**

- a. First: Matt W                               Second: Dan M
- b. Carried 8-0-0

2. Peter is still looking for an additional coach. Waiting until final roster is made

ii. U15 Girls

- 1. Motion to approve Jeremy Tracy as assistant coach of U15 Girls NB Selects for 2025 (tabled from September meeting).**

- a. First: Dan M.                               Second: France B.
- b. Carried 5-3-0



- iii. The board discussed if they should be voting on assistant coaches and managers or if the appointed Head Coach should have the ability to bring on assistant coaches that they feel they work well with and will be of benefit to the program.
- iv. Staff and Scott suggested the formation of a high performance committee where one of their responsibilities would be identifying and selecting our high performance coaches.

#### **10. Softball Canada AGM**

- a. Event in Saskatchewan in November 7-10. Scott, Cam, Megan, Ron, and Hillary will be attending.
- b. The board reviewed the 5 SOR's that are to be voted on at the AGM, the board was in agreement with all SOR's.

#### **11. Review Travel Policy and Tournament Supervisor Policy**

- a. Darleen outlined that she would like to see something on paper of what is involved in supervising a provincial championship and what the fees are covered for supervisors.
  - i. Thinks mileage and meals should be included in the contribution.
- b. Scott shared with the board that these policies already exist and outlined that they should be reviewed and included in an internal handbook for easy access.
  - i. Paul suggested an on-boarding document for new board members would be helpful
- c. **Action:** Staff to update the details of the travel and supervisor policy and fees.

#### **12. Review Annual Awards and HOF Ceremony**

- a. Good event and feedback from board and membership in attendance.
- b. Staff will finalize financials and present at the next board meeting.
  - i. Hillary and Paul indicated they will help staff to drive a sponsorship initiative through the business communities. Sponsorship for SNB in general, Awards Banquet, Provincial Championships



- ii. Action: Cameron requested for the regional directors to submit at minimum 1 nomination per category for awards on an annual basis due to continuously low nominations for our general membership.

### 13. Provincial Championships

- a. Cameron reviewed the championships from 2024 and explained the successes and reasons for some of the challenges faced.
- b. GameChanger
  - i. Discussion was had on lack of trained scorekeepers across the membership
  - ii. **Action:** Staff to pull together documents to train more scorekeepers

### 14. Regional Meeting Updates

- a. Regional directors provided updates from their meetings
  - i. North Western Region - Cameron on behalf of Charlie
    - 1. Both associations had good seasons, wanting to explore funding options to offset costs for coach and official training/membership fees.
  - ii. Capital Western Region - Craig
    - 1. Boys ball - looking for more planning and strategies, and champions to help grow game
  - iii. Fundy Region - Paul
    - 1. Sussex and another association are starting to explore offering male program
    - 2. Membership asked if SNB can provide list of A vs AA level athletes
      - a. Cam outlined that athletes do not register as an A or AA level athletes. The team determines which category they would like to compete in. Softball NB staff has the ability to move a team to a different division (A/AA) if they see fit, for the greater good of our membership.
  - iv. North Eastern Region - Darleen





1. Blacquier Men's tournament ran well. Two teams were not registered with Softball NB which meant no teams or umpires were covered by insurance. This issue has been addressed.
  2. Coaches would like to see pitching clinics and coaches courses over the winter.
  3. Nelson is looking at restarting the boys program. Looking to do an opening season male tournament in May 2025. A come try event to introduce the sport
- v. South Eastern Region - France
1. Serge and Tim's Canadian Championship results were a major positive for area as well as new JD officials
  2. The Moncton Fastpitch Association board is going through a restructure to add new blood and is moving in a positive direction.
  3. Provincial seeding came up as a question from membership. How it was done. Cameron outlined the current process and indicated staff will review and present in the new year.

#### 15. Regional Meeting Procedure

- a. Discuss that we need to formalize procedures for regional meetings
  - i. Refine voting procedures, and ensure consistency across the province.
  - ii. France B. Requested that an additional category be added for membership for any member that does not fit within a player, coach, umpire, etc. Ex. Administrator
- b. **Action:** Staff to come back with a formal procedure for regional meetings by Winter meeting.

#### 16. Adult Teams and Adult Releases

- a. Discussion around promoting packages for adult teams (coed slo pitch and orthodox in particular). This needs to be driven by the board to provide staff the contacts for these leagues.



- b. Consider investing some Rawlings dollars to providing benefits (get feedback on what teams want) to registered teams
- c. U23 Women's
  - i. Call for expression of interest will go out next week and be open for a period of 30 days, deadline Nov 4th.
- d. Player releases for adult ball
  - i. Slo pitch - we've been sending many players to Nova Scotia to compete at Canadian Championships on their teams the last few years.
    - 1. Softball NS does not want to continue accepting this many NB players due to them wanting to promote their own membership. Softball NB is in agreement and will look to encourage NB teams to attend Canadian Championships.

#### **17. 2026 - 100 Year Anniversary**

- a. Scott outlined we should be planning local, regional and provincial events, with a merchandise line and other promotional initiatives.
  - i. Looking for feedback from the board
  - ii. Will come back with some more structured plans in the coming months

#### **18. Canadian Championship**

- a. Cameron and Scott proposed Softball New Brunswick submit a bid to host the 2026 U15 Girl's Canadian Championship in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Softball New Brunswick. Hosting another Canadian Championship after the success of 2022 and 2023 would be a way to continue to add revenue to the Technical Fund and promote our sport across the province.
- b. **Motion to support the Softball New Brunswick bid for 2026 U15 Girls Canadian Championship. Hillary Pineau and Matt Whipple to co-chair the event.**
  - i. First: Ron C. Second: Paul B
  - ii. Carried 7-0-1

#### **19. Next meetings**



- a. December 3rd via zoom
- b. February 1-2nd in person

**20. Adjournment**

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