



Softball New Brunswick
Board Conference Call - Minutes
January 29/30th, 2022

Saturday Attendance – Voting Members:

Scott Willis – President (Vote only if tie)
Mark Gough – Vice President
Ron Campbell – Provincial Umpire in Chief
Angela Sanford – Timbits Softball Coordinator
Gracelyn Kaine - Minor Female
Patrick Thibault - Region 1 Director
Kelley Piercy – Region 4 Director
Bobby Despres – Coaching Coordinator
Dan Mersereau – Region 3 Director
Darleen Sobey – Region 6 Director

Attendance - Non Voting

Bob Stanton (Observer)

Non-Voting Members (Staff):

Hillary Pineau – Executive Director
Matt Whipple - Technical Director

Absent:

Dan Caplin - Region 8 Director
Linda Eckert - Slo Pitch Coordinator
John Paixao - Treasurer (Non Voting)

Vacant Positions:

Region 2 Director
Region 5 Director
Region 7 Director
Adult Coordinator
Minor Male Coordinator

1. Presidents Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

- a. President Willis started the meeting at 8:34am and thanked everyone for taking the time to join the call. He acknowledged that the Softball New Brunswick office is located on the traditional unceded territories of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati Nations.
- b. Bob Stanton is joined us from the Softball Canada Board of Directors as an observer
- c. Recap Document
- d. President's points to consider during the meetings
 - i. Think outside the box/ Grow the game, Invest, New Projects, Busy Summer and the Boards/volunteer commitments - How to doc for tournaments

2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting

- a. **Motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda as presented**
First: Bobby Despres **Second: Angela Sanford**
Carried: 9-0

3. Financial Report

- a. Yearly Review was completed by Ken Cogswell
 - i. Hillary referred to an email sent on January 28th from Mr. Cogswell, which indicated the records are in excellent order
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- ii. Ken has indicated he will be forwarding a \$500 donation to Softball New Brunswick Hall of Fame
 - b. Current Cash Flow
 - i. Board reviewed the 2022 projected spending document
 - 1. Action Item - Hillary to check in on whether there are any restrictions or requirements to acquire the \$20,000 from the \$60,000 CEBA loan.
 - ii. **Motion to accept the financial report as presented**
 - 1. **First: Kelley Piercy** **Second: Mark Gough**
Carried: 9-0
- 4. Rawlings Update**
- a. 2022-2024 Contract Signed (October 25th, 2021)
 - i. 40 dozen balls secured
 - ii. \$4000 in product
 - 1. Proposal
 - 2. Hillary proposed the following use of the \$4,000 in product
 - a. \$1,000 toward clothing for the board
 - b. \$1,000 toward provincial team equipment (few hitting nets/tees/balls/etc)
 - c. \$2000 toward the CSG programs. Each team will get \$1,000 in Rawlings product
 - 3. Board was in agreement of the proposal
 - iii. Naming Rights
 - 1. Rawlings Provincial Championships
 - 2. Miken COED Slo Pitch Provincial Championships
 - 3. Easton First Nations U13 COED Slo Pitch Championships
 - a. Will be discussed later under point #12
- 5. Canada Games update**
- a. Team(s) Update
 - i. Men's Program
 - 1. Mark Young and Jake Ebbett's portfolios have been submitted to Softball Canada evaluators. Mark's is officially accepted and Jake's should be finalized this week (pending reviews/edits).
 - a. Jake to finish a virtual game evaluation with Softball Canada
 - 2. Mark and Jacob have formally requested to add Brent Evans to the coaching staff as manager. Brent has a significant amount of certification



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completed already, and is currently working on assigned multi-sport modules.

Motion: Motion to accept Brent Evans as the manager of the 2022 Men's CSG program

First: Dan Mersereau

Second: Ron Campbell

Carried: 9-0

3. Schedules
 - a. Program has an outlined schedule for the next few months at the Fieldhouse in Saint John. They are also meeting regularly with CSCA for training
 4. Passing of Chad Filmore
 - a. Matt shared the very unfortunate news that the Men's CSG program lost a member of their training program. Chad Filmore (19, Dieppe) passed away in a tragic car accident before Christmas.
- ii. Hillary - Discuss Women's Program
1. Portfolios
 - a. All 3 coaches portfolios have been submitted to Softball Canada
 - i. Stacy Blois - Completed
 - ii. Jeff Harding - Submitted
 - iii. Alex Harding - Submitted
 - b. Softball Canada is currently prioritizing head and assistant coaches, so Alex Hardings certification as the manager will come afterwards (ETA May 2022)
 2. Schedule
 - a. Team has their schedule outlined for summer 2022
 3. Hillary attendance at Canada Games
 - a. Women in Coaching Program (WIC) - Coach NB
 - i. Hillary has been accepted to the WIC program through Coach NB. She will be attending the Canada Games with the women's program as an apprentice coach, and will travel as part of Team NB and have full accreditation to the venue and team bench.
 - ii. Coach NB will be covering all costs associated with Hillary attending the games and her coaching certification up to 2 years after the games



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6. Staff Review

- a. Matt/Hillary left the meeting at 9:12am
- b. Employee Review
 - i. Hillary
 1. Discussion was had on her work life balance
 2. Hillary's needs phone allowance included into her contract
 - a. [Salary Progression](#)
Motion to increase Hillary's salary 2.5% (from \$50,000 to \$51,250) beginning the pay period of February 6th-19th, 2022
First: Ron Campbell Second: Angela Sanford
Carried: 9-0
 - ii. Matt
 1. Matt has been a terrific addition to team and great asset

7. Women of Softball Summit

- a. Softball Canada event
 - i. March 25-27th 2022, Toronto, ONT
 - ii. Costs covered by Softball Canada for two delegates to attend
 - iii. Hillary / Stacy Blois attending as NB delegates
- b. Provincial event
 - i. Hillary recommended to the board that upon Hillary/Stacy's return, we will re-evaluate the timeline of when we can host a provincial WOSS event due to there being so many events going on this year already (Canadian Championships, AGM, Easterns, etc.)
 1. Darleen Sobey recommended that the event should be held leading into a season as a form of momentum

8. Calendar of Events

- a. [Review Calendar](#)
 - i. Draft calendar of events was reviewed by the Board.
 - ii. Very busy calendar for 2022
- b. Provincial Championship Registration Fee
 - i. Hillary proposed adjusting the Provincial Championship registration fees to increase profit and avoid losing money on some tournaments
 - ii. Provincial Championship Registration
 1. ***Motion to accept the presented proposal to increase the Provincial Championship Registration fee beginning in 2022 to:***
 - a. ***\$350.00 - U13 and above***



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b. \$300.00 - U11

c. \$200.00 - U9 Jamboree

First: Bobby Despres

Second: Angela Sanford

Carried: 9-0

2. ***Motion to increase the SNB supervisor fee from \$100 at Provincials/Eastern Canadians to \$75 per full day and \$40 for a ½ day (where games start after 5:00pm). Not to exceed \$200.***

First: Bobby Despres

Second: Ron Campbell

a. ***Discussion held***

- i. ***Amended suggested to eliminate Eastern Canadians from this motion suggested***
- ii. ***Amended Motion: To increase the SNB supervisor fee from \$100 at Provincials to to \$75 per full day and \$40 for a ½ day (where games start after 5:00pm). Not to exceed \$200.***

Carried: 9-0

9. Provincial Team Update

- a. Now that we are transitioned back to Level 2, Matt/Hillary will be working with the coaching staffs to finalize budget (etc.), handbook, and timelines on tryouts.
- b. U15 Girls
 - i. Head Coach Kelly Jeffrey has accepted a job with the CFL Saskatchewan Roughriders and has resigned from the U15 coaching position
 - ii. Matt discussed a proposal due to the time frame and location of the championship for the U15 program to not travel to the Canadian Championships but attend the 3 Provincial Weekends and a year end Championship in the Atlantic.
 1. Board directed the staff to reopen a call for coaches for the U15 program, and leave open the opportunity for the program to attend the Canadian Championships
- c. U19 Women's
 - i. Two interviews conducted for the position of Head Coach. The hiring committee recommended Jeremy Tracy as Head Coach.

Motion to accept Jeremy Tracy as the Head Coach of the U19 Women's Provincial Team

First: Dan Mersereau

Second: Angela Sanford

Carried: 9-0

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- d. U17 Women's
 - i. Matt/Hillary has been in discussion with Head Coach Rob Moore regarding the Provincial Team weekends and are currently working through a scheduling conflict
- e. Team Name
 - i. Hillary is recommending the board moves away from the name 'Rising Tide' for the Provincial Team program due to:
 - 1. Name not being inclusive (bilingual)
 - 2. Logo concepts that were designed were not aligning with the colour scheme, and vision for the program
 - 3. Discussion was held surrounding the need to brand the program
 - a. ***Motion to drop the name 'Rising Tide' as the Provincial Team name due to lack of inclusivity of bilingualism and move forward for 2022 with the name as Team NB***
First: Darleen Sobey ***Second: Bobby Despres***
Carried: 9-0
- f. Team Uniform/Equipment Purchase
 - i. Hillary presented the jersey concepts to the board and outlined the price of Rawlings stock jerseys VS fully sublimated. The board preferred the fully sublimated option.
Motion to increase the SNB Contribution from Provincial Team Jerseys from \$10,000 to a max of \$15,000
First: Angela Sanford ***Second: Ron Campbell***
Carried: 9-0
 - ii. Equipment/Apparel Bulk Order
Motion: That the ED of Softball NB has authority to purchase Provincial Team player accessories (Helmets/Socks/Backpacks/Belts) through Rawlings to a Maximum of \$10500.00. SNB will Provide the advanced funds due to the industry's current supply shortages. The advanced funds will be repaid through the Provincial Team player registrations.
First: Bobby Despres ***Second: Ron Campbell***
Carried: 9-0

10. Umpires Update - Ron Campbell

- a. 2022 Plans
 - i. Goal for 2022 is to reach 120 registered umpires



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- ii. Will be very busy. Anticipating needing 6 umpires for the U19 Canadian Championships in Fredericton, and there is a lot of interest for umpires to travel to other Championships across the country.
- b. Proposed Budget
 - i. 2022 umpire draft budget was presented
 - 1. Ron will refine budget over the next few months as the season approaches and Covid 19 restriction ease.
- c. Blue Convention
 - i. If the event goes, Ron is planning for 10 umpires to attend.
 - ii. Umpires branch is supplying \$300 to NB umpires to attend to help offset some of their costs
 - iii. Matt will be attending the event as a presenter
 - 1. Event was canceled Monday January 31st. 2022 and rescheduled for 2023.

11. Timbits - ANGELA

- a. Angela presented a [powerpoint presentation](#) on the 2021 season and her 2022 plans for Timbits Community Caravan
 - i. Angela is currently sending out postcards to community groups that had sessions in 2021 as a reminder of their session and a way of maintaining the relationship
 - ii. Expanding visits in 2022 / goal number of athletes to be reached (1000+)
 - iii. Maintaining visits in all 8 regions, and increasing presence in regions 1,2,7,8
 - iv. Implement a \$150 fee to unregistered communities/groups to offset program costs
 - v. Expanding on relationships with First Nations Communities
- b. Summer Students
 - i. Angela is recommending having 6 summer students in 2022, and 2-3 caravan crews running throughout the summer to increase capacity. Would like to have 2 students in Regions 3, 4, 5. This will reduce the number of evenings and long travel students have to endure throughout the summer
 - ii. Canada Summer Jobs - Hillary has submitted the application for 6 students
 - iii. SEED Program - Deadline is February 10th. Hillary will be submitting the application
- c. Budget
 - i. Angela/Scott presented the 2022 Timbits budget including
 - ii. \$9362 currently in the bank from the Go NB multi year funding



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**Motion to allocate the following financial amounts towards the outlined items:
\$12000.00 - To be used for additional 2022 summer student hours, gas, hotels
and per diems**

First: Bobby Despres

Second: Dan Mersereau

Carried: 9-0

Saturday's meeting ended at 12:36pm. Meetings will resume at 8:00am on Sunday, January 30th, 2022

Sunday Attendance – Voting Members:

Scott Willis – President (Vote only if tie)
Mark Gough – Vice President
Ron Campbell – Provincial Umpire in Chief
Angela Sanford – Timbits Softball Coordinator
Gracelyn Kaine - Minor Female
Patrick Thibault - Region 1 Director
Kelley Piercy – Region 4 Director
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Non-Voting Members (Staff):

Hillary Pineau – Executive Director
Matt Whipple - Technical Director

Absent:

Dan Caplin - Region 8 Director
Linda Eckert - Slo Pitch Coordinator
John Paixao - Treasurer (Non Voting)

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12. 2022 Proposals

- a. Canada Games Tune Up Tournament
 - i. This tournament will be held in Fredericton as a 'test run' of the Canadian Championships, and will also be a way of generating 'hype' for the tournament
 - ii. Tournament will be open to both Men's and Women's CSG programs, as well as the Atlantic U19/U23 Provincial Team Women's programs
- b. Middle School Provincials
 - i. Board reviewed the Middle School Provincials document and is in favor of proceeding with the tournament as presented
 - ii. \$150 registration fee (Approved January 2020)
 1. Registration fee due 2 weeks in advance
- c. Adult Slo Pitch
 - i. Scott presented a slo pitch proposal for 2022
 1. Maintain the following package
 - a. \$75 team registration fee

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- b. Insurance coverage
 - c. Provincial Championships
 - d. Registered umpires - where available
2. New to addition to 2022
- a. A fully registered league will receive a discount on balls (1 dozen per registered team @ \$55). Additional balls can be purchased at regular price
 - b. Scott presented a slo pitch proposal of offering a tip off tournament (June/July)

Motion: The ED of Softball NB has the authority to purchase up to 100 dozen of the current slo pitch balls for 2022 slo pitch registered leagues

First: Mark Gough

Second: Kelley Piercy

Carried: 9-0

- d. Eastern Canadian Qualifiers
- i. Scott presented a proposal for the Eastern Canadian Qualifiers to be held up the Western portion of the province as a way of connecting the dots and generating new interest in the selected communities and regions
 - 1. Conversation from the board surrounding the approach of targeting the Western part of the province, and are instead recommended an entire province approach (i.e. various regions and communities. Ex. Miramichi, etc.)
 - 2. SNB will occur cost of hosting the tournament regardless of location
 - ii. Moving to a registration fee model rather than pay as you go (outlined in proposal)
 - 1. Plaques/Awards will be provided
 - 2. Umpires will be paid by SNB

Motion to table this proposal until February when a more firm proposal is made

First: Bobby Despres

Second: Mark Gough

Carried: 8-0

- e. [First Nations U13 COED Provincial Championship](#)
- i. Matt/Hillary made a proposal to host a U12 COED First Nations Slo Pitch Championship. Presented overview and draft budget. **Board is in favor of proceeding with the proposal and sees the value in the initiative.**
 - ii. Hillary has had discussions with ASRNB and Matt has discussed with ASRNB Executive Member, Sky Perley.



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- iii. Next steps - For Hillary and Matt to hold a meeting with communities across the province to determine interest
- iv. Action Item - Hillary to reach out to Dave Feener (Softball NL) to get a copy of their minor slo pitch rules.

13. Eastern Canadians

- a. Chair - 2022/2023
 - i. Chairing the committee is on a rotational basis for each Province
 - 1. NB will be chairing the committee for 2022/2023
- b. Bylaws
 - i. ECSC committee is currently working on updating the bylaws.
- c. U13 G/B
 - i. SNB will be hosting the U13 Boys and Girls championships in 2022.
 - 1. Girls - August 25-28th, 2022
 - 2. Boys - August 25-28th, 2022
 - 3. Launch applications for hosting the U13 B/G on March 1st.

14. Regional Profiles Reminder

- a. Scott put out a reminder to regional directors to have their 2022 profiles completed.
- b. Profiles are now online.
- c. Kelley indicated that summer sports typically submit profiles on a March/April timeline.

15. Can Pitch MPI

- a. Staff are still currently working with Softball Canada on a timeline to host a PIB clinic.
 - i. Realistically likely not going to happen for spring 2022, but need to have a program in place for 2023

16. Rules and Regulations

- a. Hillary explained that the current rules and regulations need to be reviewed and updated.
 - i. Will be working to update the document for spring 2022. Full update realistically to be finalized by January 2023.

17. Softball Canada Annual General Meeting Update

- a. November 9-12th, 2022
 - Motion to allocate \$10,000 to provide staff adequate budget to work with for the 2022 Softball Canada AGM, being held in Fredericton, NB.***
 - First: Bobby Despres*** ***Second: Mark Gough***
 - Carried: 9-0***

Patrick Thibault left the meeting at 9:45am



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18. U19 Women's Canadian Championships Update

- a. Logo is currently being created by Valley Graphics
- b. Canadian Championship website is being updated with hotel and sponsorship information as it becomes available
- c. Action Item - Matt/Hillary to come back to the board with any task needed from them

19. 2022 Budget

- a. Proposed budget was presented to the board
- b. Board was in favor

20. 2022 SNB Board Elections

- a. Positions up for election in 2022
 - i. President
 - ii. Coaching Coordinator
 - iii. Minor Male Coordinator
 - iv. Adult Coordinator
- b. AGM on Saturday, April 30th, 2022 (in conjunction with the Hall of Fame)

21. Governance Proposal

- a. Hillary/Scott presented a governance proposal
 - i. Hillary completed a comparison between several PSO's in NB and softball PSO's across the country
 - ii. Not imminent. However, it has been discussed several times over the last 3 years
 - iii. Overall feedback from the board indicates they are in favor of restructuring the board.
 1. Bob Stanton outlined that the organization should do a detailed analysis of our needs, and what type of board SNB needs to be. It was outlined that some organizations are moving toward nominating boards by committees rather than elections. Board should be less operational.
 2. Action Item - SNB staff to look into the roles of the coordinators and what positions may be able to full under the staff responsibilities
 3. Discussion on the Umpire in Chief being on the Board Executive

22. New Business

- a. Next Meeting
 - i. February 28th, 2022

23. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

First: Darleen Sobey



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