



# Annual General Meeting November 20, 2019





## **AGENDA**

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association  
2019 Annual General Meeting  
SAMBA Clubhouse  
November 20, 2019 – 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome by President and Introduction of SAMBA Board Members
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes
5. Proposed Amendments to SAMBA By-Laws
6. Call for Open Executive Board Members
7. SAMBA Executives and Directors Reports
  - President's Report
  - Questions/Comments from any of the Directors reports
8. Financial Report
  - 2019 Financial Review
  - 2020 Budget Review
9. New Business
10. Adjournment



## Meeting Notes

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

Annual General Meeting - 2018

Date: November 14, 2018

Place/Time: SAMBA Clubhouse 6:30 pm

Attendees: Board Members /Appointed & Non- Board Members/Members at Large:  
Kurtus Millar (President), Darren Kirstiuk (Vice President), Brenda Bourassa (Secretary), Lorie Runnalls (Treasurer), Pat Sullivan (Registrar), Colin Froment (Facilities Director), Travis Parker (Technical Director), Neil Neary (Sr. Rep Director), Danielle Moffat (Special Events Director), Cori White (Marketing Director), Michelle Whyte (House League Director), Jason Enright (Equipment Manager), Byron Whittal (Jr House League Director), John Bresler (Umpire Coordinator), Brian Bourassa (Senior Advisor) plus Members At Large

Absentees: John Robinson (Webmaster), Sheri Kowaluk (Bingo Coordinator), Kelly Phelan (SAMBA/Tigers Liaison)

Distribution: All Attendees

### Item

### Action

- 1. Call to Order**  
Kurtus Millar called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- 2. Welcome by President and Introduction of SAMBA Board Members**  
President Kurtus Millar welcomed all SAMBA Members and Guests to the 2018 Annual General Meeting, acknowledged and thanked everyone for attending. He further introduced each of the current Board of Directors, and acknowledged others that hold non-board positions, but are an integral part of the operations of the Association.

Item	Action
<p><b>3. Approval of Agenda</b>            Motion to Approve Agenda as presented: John Bresler            2nd: Kirsten Leathem            In Favor: All            Opposed: None</p>	<p>Motion            Carried</p>
<p><b>4. Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes</b>            Motion to Approve the 2017 Minutes of Meeting as presented: Colin Leathem            2nd: Kirsten Leathem            In Favor: All            Opposed: None</p>	<p>Motion            Carried</p>
<p><b>5. Proposed Amendments to SAMBA Bylaws and Handbook to follow at 2019 AGM</b>            No Amendments were brought forth.</p>	
<p><b>6. Call for Open Executive Board Members</b></p>	

Kurtus spoke in regards to the Open Board Positions, stressing how crucial it is to fill these important roles. He acknowledged and thanked the Out-Going Board Members and Non-Board Members alike for their efforts and contributions throughout the 2018 year:

Open Executive and Board Positions:

- President – (Currently Kurtus Millar)
- Technical Director – (Currently Travis Parker)
- Secretary – (Currently Brenda Bourassa)
- Jr Rep Director – (Currently Mark Brisson)
- Registrar – (Currently Pat Sullivan)
- Facilities – (Colin Froment)

Appointed Members:

- SAMBA Equipment Manager
- SAMBA Baseball Alberta Rep
- SAMBA Bingo Co-ordinator
- SAMBA Umpire Co-ordinator
- SAMBA Senior Advisor
- SAMBA Webmaster
- SAMBA Challenger Co-ordinator
- SAMBA Liaison
- SAMBA Girls Baseball Co-ordinator
- SAMBA Development Co-ordinator
- SAMBA Grants Co-ordinator
- SAMBA / Tigers Program Liaison- (Tigers Appointed)
- SAMBA / Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison- (Sr. Cardinals Appointed)
- SAMBA / MMBA Program Liaison- (MMBA Appointed)
- SAMBA / Legal Program Liaison- (Legal Baseball Appointed)
- SAMBA / Prospects Program Liaison- (Prospects Appointed)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><u>Elected In-Coming Board Members:</u></p> <p>Call for Nominations for the Position of <b>Vice President</b> as a 1 year term to align this position to the election term in the Bylaws</p> <p>Brian Bourassa Nominates Darren Kirstiuk for Re-Election</p> <p>2nd to the Nomination – Neil Neary</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Final Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Darren agrees to nomination.</p> <p>In Favor: All</p> <p>Opposed: None</p> <p><b>Re-Elected: DARREN KIRSTIUK</b></p>	Carried
<p>Call for Nominations for the Position of <b>Technical Director</b></p> <p>Brian Bourassa Nominates TRAVIS PARKER</p> <p>2nd to the Nomination- Not required</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Final Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Travis agrees to nomination for another 2 year term</p> <p>In Favor: All</p> <p>Opposed: None</p> <p><b>Elected: TRAVIS PARKER</b></p>	Carried
<p>Call for Nominations for the Position of <b>Secretary</b></p> <p>Lorie Runnalls Nominates BRENDA BOURASSA</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> to the Nomination- Not required</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Final Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Brenda agrees to nomination for another 2 year term</p> <p>In Favor: All</p> <p>Opposed: None</p> <p><b>Elected: BRENDA BOURASSA</b></p>	
<p>Call for Nominations for the Position of <b>Registrar</b></p> <p>Colin Leathem Nominates Pat Sullivan</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> to the Nomination – Not required</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>Final Call for Nominations: None</p> <p>In Favor: All Opposed: None</p> <p>Pat agrees to nomination for another 2 year term</p> <p><b>Elected: PAT SULLIVAN</b></p>	

**Item****Action**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Jr House League Director** as a 1 year term to align this position to the election term in the Bylaws

Travis Parker Nominates Byron Whittal for Re-Election

2nd to the Nomination – No required

2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations: None

Final Call for Nominations: None

Byron agrees to nomination.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**Re-Elected: BYRON WHITTAL**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Jr Rep Director**:

Danielle Moffat Nominates Neil Neary

2<sup>nd</sup> to the Nomination – not required

2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations: None

Final Call for Nominations: None

Neil agrees to nomination.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**Elected: NEIL NEARY**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Sr Rep Director**

Brian Bourassa Nominates COLIN FROMENT 1 year term to align this position to the election term in the Bylaws

(2<sup>nd</sup> to the Nomination- Sean Erikson)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**Elected: COLIN FROMENT**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Facilities Director**

(2<sup>nd</sup> to the Nomination-)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: None

Opposed: None

**This position will remain Vacant**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **President**

Gil Girard Nominates Kurtus Millar

(2<sup>nd</sup> to the Nomination- Lorie Runnalls)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**Elected: KURTUS MILLAR**

**Item**

**Action**

**Elected In-Coming Non-Board Members:**

May be elected at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

**7. SAMBA Executive and Director's Reports 7A. President's Report**

**7A. President's Report**

In his President's Report, Kurtus Millar details the Achievements and Challenges in 2018, below are some highlights:

- SAMBA saw great growth in 2018.
- SAMBA continues it strong relationship with Source For Sports (rep apparel) and Anything Branded (house league apparel).
- 5 Tool Fieldhouse facility was utilized in 2018 for camps and evaluations and will be used for same in 2019 along with some sessions at Servus Credit Union Place.
- Thank you to Colin Bergstrom and Jeff at Martin Deerline for providing SAMBA with a new mower for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. This continued sponsorship is very much appreciated and the mower saves many man-hours.
- 2018 was a tremendous year for successful grants written by Danielle Moffat. Grants were received from EIBF (thank you John Bresler for your assistance with this one), City of St. Albert and the Blue Jays. Thank you to Danielle Moffat, Brian and Brenda Bourassa, and Lorie Runnalls, for all their hard work and efforts this past year.
- 
- Thank you to Tara Feser for all her assistance over the past year.
- SAMBA will continue to work with the City of St. Albert and build a relationship with its new Mayor, Cathy Heron.

**7B. Questions/Comments from the Director's Reports**

Kurtus gave those in attendance a few minutes to review the various Directors Reports and asked for any questions or comments.

No Questions or Comments

**8. Financial Report:**

Motion  
Carried

**8A. 2018 Financial Review**

Treasurer Lorie Runnalls provided an overview of the Financial Statements for 2018, and answered a number of general questions from those members in attendance.

Motion to Accept the 2018 Financial Statements as presented: Lorie Runnalls  
2nd: Gil Girard  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

**Item** **Action**

**8B. 2018 Budget Review**

Motion  
Carried

The projected Budget numbers for 2019.

Lorie gave the attendees a few minutes to review the Budget for 2019 and asked for any questions or comments.

- No Additional Questions or Comments

Motion to Accept the Budget for 2019 as presented: Travis Parker

2nd: John Bresler

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**9. New Business - From Membership**

- Danielle Moffat was the recipient of SAMBA's 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Danielle thanked Kurtus and the Board for the honour.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion  
Carried

Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:38 pm: Gil Gerard

2nd: Kirsten Leathem

All were in favor

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

Brenda Bourassa  
Secretary  
November 14, 2018

Kurtus Millar  
President  
November 14, 2018



## **2019 Proposed Amendments to the SAMBA By-Laws**

That the following section be added to then SAMBA By-Laws:

- 5.4(f) in order to be eligible for the role of President, a nominee must be a current voting board member with minimum two (2) years of experience on the SAMBA Board of Directors.

That section 5.4(a) be amended to read:

- 5.4(a) subject to Sections 5.4(c), 5.4(d), 5.4(e) **and 5.4(f)** hereof, all Directors and Officers shall be elected by the Members at an Annual General Meeting from the list of eligible persons presented at the Annual General Meeting duly nominated from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.



## **2019 OPEN EXECUTIVE AND BOARD / NON-BOARD POSITIONS**

Volunteer appointments to the following open positions are CRUCIAL to ensure SAMBA continues to function as one of the greatest Baseball Associations in Alberta.

### **CONTINUED Executive and Board Positions:**

- President - Kurtus Millar
- Secretary - Brenda Bourassa
- Registrar - Pat Sullivan
- Jr. Rep Director - Neil Neary
- Technical Director - Travis Parker

### **OPEN Executive and Board Positions** (some are 1 year terms to align with the Bylaws):

- Vice-President (Darren Kirstiuk)
- Treasurer (Lorie Runnalls) (1 year term)
- Sr. HL Director (Michelle Whyte) (1 year term)
- Sr. Rep Director (Colin Froment)
- Marketing Director (Cori White)
- Special Events Director (Danielle Moffat)
- Jr. HL Director (Byron Whittal)
- Facilities Director (Vacant)

### **CONTINUED Non-Board Positions:**

- Umpire Coordinator - John Bresler
- Grant Proposal Coordinator - Danielle Moffat
- Equipment Coordinator – Blair Troock
- Webmaster - John Robinson
- Challenger Baseball Coordinator – Brenda Bourassa
- Bingo/Casino Coordinator - Sheri Kowaluk

### **OPEN Non-Board Positions:**

- Assistant Equipment Coordinator
- Girls Baseball Coordinator

### **APPOINTED Members:**

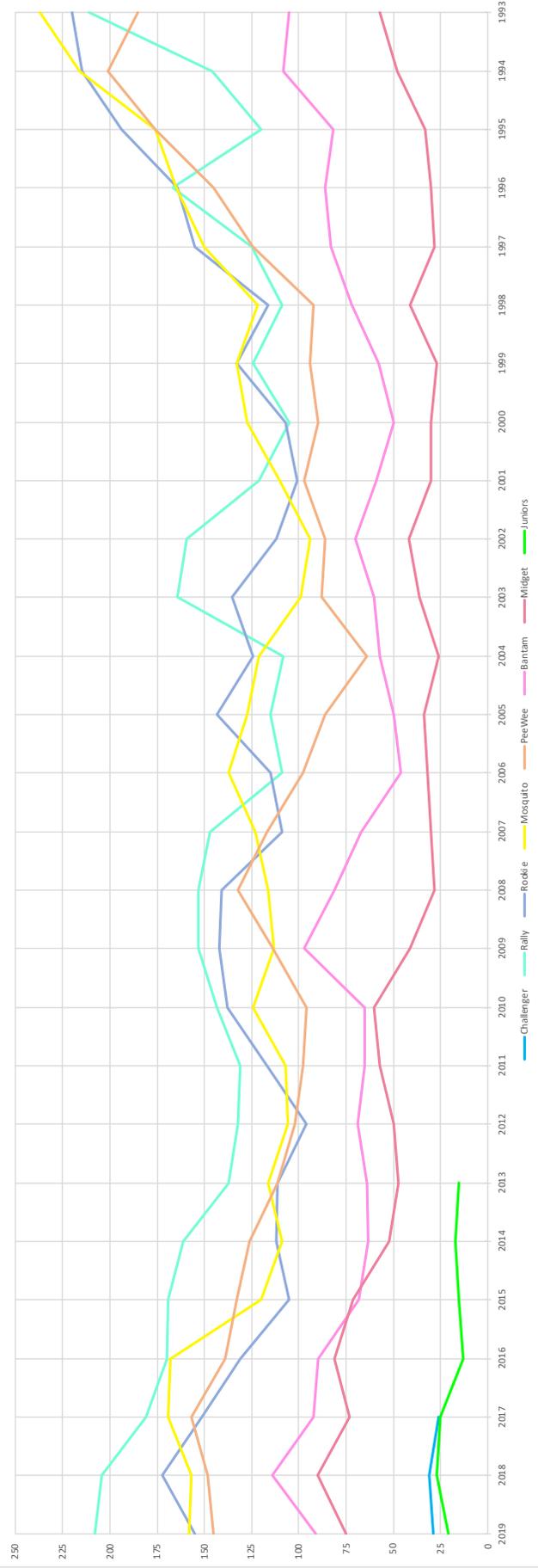
- SAMBA / Tigers Program Liaison - (Tigers Appointed)
- SAMBA / Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison - (Sr. Cardinals Appointed)
- SAMBA / MMBA Program Liaison - (MMBA Appointed)
- SAMBA / Legal Baseball Program Liaison - (Legal Baseball Appointed)
- ~~SAMBA / Prospects Program Liaison (Prospects Appointed)~~



### Yearly Registration Summary

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988			
Challenger	29	31	26																																
Rally	208	204	181	170	169	161	137	132	131	143	153	153	147	109	115	108	164	159	121	105	124	109	125	167	120	146	211	166	X	X	X	X			
Rookie	155	172	151	131	105	112	111	96	117	138	142	141	109	115	143	124	135	112	101	107	133	116	155	164	194	215	220	182	X	X	X	X			
Mosquito	158	157	169	168	120	109	116	106	107	124	113	116	123	137	127	121	99	94	110	127	133	122	150	165	176	216	237	174	X	X	X	X			
PeeWee	145	148	157	139	133	126	111	102	98	96	114	132	117	98	86	64	88	86	97	90	94	92	124	145	176	201	185	174	X	X	X	X			
Bantam	91	114	92	90	68	63	64	69	65	65	97	81	67	46	50	57	60	70	59	50	58	72	83	86	82	108	105	85	X	X	X	X			
Midget	75	90	73	81	71	52	47	50	57	60	41	28	30	32	34	26	36	42	30	30	27	41	28	30	33	48	57	47	X	X					
Juniors	21	27	25	13	15	17	15																												
TOTAL	882	943	874	792	681	640	601	555	575	626	660	651	593	537	555	500	582	563	518	509	569	552	665	757	781	934	1015	828	742	692	669	604			
Rep Try Outs																																			
Total Male	204	191	177	178	142	163	160	139	102	116	118	120	135	127																					
Total Female	81	95	86	82	64	67	59	48	60	67	89	105	86	48																					

### SAMBA Yearly Registrations





## 2019 President's Report

### General Comments:

The 2019 season was my fifth year as association President. Once again, we faced many challenges and learnt a great deal as a team, which we believe to be one of the best teams around. In the past 5 seasons, we have built a very strong BOD (board of directors) who worked countless hours and communicated well together to provide top notch programs to our young athletes. SAMBA continued to enhance our experience while trying to improve our various programs and put forth the best programs possible in all age groups and levels. Our registration numbers were lower than the 2018 season for various reasons, but once again SAMBA was the largest Baseball Association in Baseball Alberta (BA). Our house league program saw the largest decrease in numbers but we continue to look at ways to build that program and give our athletes the best possible experience. Our main goals stayed the same. We always strive to promote a fun and positive environment in our House League and Rep programs while focusing on player development and skill enhancement. Not only trying to improve our kids' athletics, but help grow them into confident, strong citizens. One major focus this past season was to improve our facilities and we continue to restore them to top notch levels. I am pleased to be able to present the following achievements and challenges, as well as some key objectives for the upcoming year.

### Achievements:

#### Administration:

Registrations: SAMBA registration saw a decline of 62 players in the 2019 Season. 882 athletes in 2019, down from 943 in 2018. We believe the economy, ERRBL travel schedule and the growth of other sports such as basketball and lacrosse all being factors. I still believe we are on the right track with growth, as my first year as President we were at 681. The SAMBA Board of Directors worked very hard to make these numbers work and ensure all registrations were placed in the proper programs. SAMBA again added an additional 11U rep team to make 3 teams at all levels. Thank you to our BOD who put in countless hours to oversee these growing programs.

Baseball Alberta League/Player Registrations: Like earlier mentioned, the largest in BA, all registrations and team forms were completed in a timely and organized manner which met all Baseball Alberta standards and deadlines.

Facilities.....huge facility upgrades! With the tireless work of our Grants Coordinator, Danielle Moffat, combined with the support from Brian Bourassa, Kevin Millar, Lorie Bronson, Brenda Bourassa, Colin Froment, Blair Troock, Darren Kirstiuk and our awesome grounds crew members, SAMBA facilities have seen some amazing upgrades. The 13U and 15U fields were completed in May and the construction of our new indoor training facility began. We also saw mechanical and plumbing upgrades in our clubhouse with 2 new furnaces, hot water tank, and kitchen faucets. A shale path from the SAMBA parking lot into our 15U field and new scoreboards on both the 13U and 15U fields. A huge thank you to Brian Bourassa for the huge number of hours he's put into the facility upgrades.

Multi-Year Agreements: Our Rep apparel agreement with St. Albert Source for Sports (SFS) continued and worked well to provide all our Rep teams a high-quality product. SFS did a great job again this season in all areas. SAMBA continued our House League apparel agreement with Anything Branded, who continues to provide a great product in a very timely manner. Servus

Place was used for evaluations and camps with the addition of 5 Tool Field House. With the addition of our new indoor facility, SAMBA will have a lot more freedom and much less costs to cover when indoor times are required in 2020.

SAMBA was very happy to enter our 3rd annual agreement with Martin Deerline. In exchange for the use of a brand-new high-speed mower, SAMBA offered and exchanged advertising at our facility and on our website. This partnership was very beneficial to our grounds crew team. The new mower cut maintenance times down and took a lot of pressure off our other machines. Thank you to Brian Bourassa and Jeff Yee for their hard work and great customer service. We hope to continue this partnership for years to come.

#### Grants:

We would like to thank EIBF again for their very generous contributions. Their generosity and support seemed to motivate our group to go onto to some very exciting news in 2018/2019.

2018/2019 will be a very tough year to match. Danielle Moffat has taken our grants position to heights we never thought possible. With her relentless pursuit and countless hours put into writing all these grants, she was able to secure The Jay Care Foundation Field of Dreams Grant, City of St. Albert Grant, Provincial grant, and Baseball Alberta grants. We can't thank her enough on behalf of all of us at SAMBA, for all her hard work and dedication. I'd also like to thank Brian Bourassa, Lorie Bronson, and Brenda Bourassa who helped in any way possible to support Danielle with these grants and for building a strong partnership with the Jays Care Foundation which we are very excited about.

#### Programs:

Winter and Spring Camps continued to operate this season. All camps ran again with good numbers and we believe continuing and strengthening these programs would be beneficial to SAMBA's athletes.

Winter Ball ran in a dozen school gym classes again this season. We are looking to continue and grow this program in 2020.

Our Coach Certification and Training Program once again ran with maximum numbers and received great feedback from Baseball Alberta. SAMBA was the host for the "last chance" clinics again. Rally Cap and Rookie clinics were provided by Travis Parker and myself this season and received great feedback. These programs should only continue to grow as our membership grows. We are looking to expand those clinics in 2020.

NUCP Certification continued to show strength and positive growth again this season. A special thanks to John Bresler for his hard work in training and retaining young umpires while coordinating thousands of assignments throughout the season.

SAMBA Coach/Umpire Cooperation Clinic. This program has proven to be crucial to the development and retention of the numbers of both young umpires and coaches. Thank you to Jeff Donnelly for organizing and putting on this clinic every year. We had a full house for the clinic this season.

Challenger Baseball: SAMBA was very excited to offer our third season of Challenger Baseball lead by Karen and Jim Poniewozick, Brenda Bourassa, and Erin Fisher. We believe it to be another great success and love this program. We would also like to thank Sue Rankin who provided volunteers from Bellerose Composite High School.

Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Academy Super Camp: Once again, SAMBA was very fortunate to host the Blue Jays Camp. This camp involved players from throughout the Province and was great for everyone involved. The Jays staff and alumni are outstanding people who were great to work with. SAMBA would be happy to host this event every year and hope to secure ourselves as the Northern location annually. The Jays Academy coaches and alumni were awesome, especially with the addition of the Challenger portion, where our kids reported to have had the time of their lives. The coaches provided top notch instruction to our players and coaches for two full days.

Rep Evaluations ran again this season with maximum numbers. Thanks to our BOD members and all our coaches who worked very hard to allow all athletes to try-out in a safe and fair manner. SAMBA continues to struggle with the timing of evals against hockey and continues to look at ways to offer more options and stronger evals for all its players. SAMBA offered a new and improved version of evals again this season which proved to be successful in some areas and showed new challenges in others. Continued improvements to the overall eval system will be discussed and brought forward in 2020. Thank you to the St. Albert Tigers for assisting our coaches during the eval process. All assignments were filled and performed in a professional manner.

Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament, formally known as the Early Bird, saw its 2nd season and went off with great success. Teams from around the province and every SAMBA AA Rep team, competed in this tournament. SAMBA decided to run this tournament as an AA tournament only which will allow those teams a better Rep experience playing almost all their games at Legion Memorial Ball Park. SAMBA is looking to make this an Invitational tournament run solely at Legion Memorial Ball Park in 2020.

Girls Day was another success this season. While numbers continue to grow, SAMBA will look at bringing in a Girls Baseball Coordinator to offer more events where girls can prosper and gain experience together. Special thanks to Tara Sliwkanich and her team of coaches for their continued efforts in providing Girls Baseball Day.

Tigers Camp. Always a hit, saw decent numbers and received great feedback from players and parents. Special thanks to Mat Brisson who worked very hard to provide these great experiences.

House League (HL) this season, ran again with 2 Directors. The addition of a Jr. HL Director proved to be very beneficial to our programs. Byron Whittal has been instrumental to our board and did a fantastic job with our Jr HL programs, tournaments, and events. Our Sr HL program saw some declining numbers, we believe caused by the extra travel in the ERRBL schedules. We would like to thank Michelle Whyte for all her hard work and years on the board. SAMBA is looking to leave the ERRBL in 2020 and make a league with Morinville, Legal, and Spruce Grove.

The competition level of SAMBA continued to be a very gratifying and exciting experience. SAMBA offered 3 Rep teams at: 11U, 13U, 15U and 18U. SAMBA also saw A teams prosper again this season, 1 at each level. We also had 2 Jr. Cards teams. One played in the BA Jr AAA League, and the other in the NCABL. All teams this season battled hard and we would like to thank all the coaches, OFM's and volunteers who put in countless hours to provide these athletes a place to play and grow their skills.

Hosting tournaments continued to be very popular at Legion Memorial Ball Park. The season began with the 2nd Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament, then we hosted The Tigers Sr AAA tournament, house league mid-season and year end tournaments. SAMBA also hosted 4 Provincial Championships. A special thank you to Brian Bourassa, Kevin Millar, and his grounds crew who battled the rain in most events, all being completed.

MMBA and Legal Baseball Associations continued to work very closely with SAMBA. I'd also like to thank both associations who allowed SAMBA to use their facilities whenever required.

Fall Ball ran with 1 team at each level. One of the most successful fall ball seasons in recent history with teams playing 6/8 games. The last weekend was cancelled due to weather. Thank you to all the coaches who stepped up to run these teams.

### **Facilities:**

Facilities is always one of the areas where I believe SAMBA takes tremendous pride. Kevin Millar was instrumental in several upgrades/repairs to our facilities and we are excited to have him continue this role in 2020. Thank you to Brian Bourassa, Blair Troock, and all our grounds crew members who work very hard to provide a top-notch facility for our players and players around the province.

With the Midget field completed, the rain was not a factor and athletes were able to complete most games unless it was actively raining during game time. The Pee wee field and Bantam fields were also completed and with some repairs done by the SAMBA grounds crew, both fields also did very well in the wet summer months. Much better than years past, even with heavy rain fall.

Our clubhouse continued to maintain bookings through the season. Thanks to Karen Millar who provided all our cleaning services. We received many compliments on the cleanliness and well keeping of our clubhouse. We are once again hosting Taekwondo 2 evenings per week throughout the winter and SANS preschool who run 5 mornings and 2 afternoons per week.

Thank you to Leeann and Tony Arlia who ran the concession again this season. Nothing but good reviews to them as they provided delicious food and refreshments to all our members and visitors at a fair price.

A big thank you to Jeannette Sullivan who continuously worked very hard at planting and maintaining the beautiful flower pots and beds throughout our facility.

### **Marketability and Image:**

Social Media Exposure: Thanks to John Robinson who maintained our awesome website which received thousands of hits. Thanks to Brenda Bourassa and Cori White who continued to keep all our events and info posted on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. SAMBA switched over to RAMP this season and will continue with them for the 2020 season.

Facilities Sponsorships: Thank you to all our fence board sponsors and Active Physioworks for their continued support. Green Drop continued their support while providing weed control and fertilizing services. Buzz Boss also stepped up to help provide insect/pest control throughout the facility.

Thank you to Ram Mechanical who sponsored SAMBA with \$10,000 to provide all HL coaches with a quality bp jacket.

Fan wear was not a good decision to get into. SAMBA has purchased the remaining fanfare stock from Elite Sportswear and will look at ways to sell that stock in the 2020 season.

Danielle Moffat organized and completed our raffle program which proved to be huge in securing extra funds for some of our rep teams. Danielle continues to work tirelessly in our Bingo/Casino program as well as our grants program. Without her, SAMBA would not be in the financial position we are today.

## **Challenges:**

House League Monitoring: SAMBA still needs to find ways to better monitor and support our house league program. Although Byron Whittal and Michelle Whyte do an outstanding job organizing the largest part of our membership, two members simply cannot support the entire program. More support here would minimize the number of conflicts and provide an even stronger experience for our players and coaches.

Facilities. SAMBA's very lucky to call Legion Memorial Ball Park its home. Thank you to Tara Feser and her staff at the City of St. Albert for their support. 2020 will see the removal of many of our trees that surround both our bantam and midget field as well as down Lakevold Lane.

## **2020 Objectives:**

### Administration:

SAMBA will continue to work tirelessly to provide top notch programs and facilities to all our athletes. New house league programs are being discussed to allow membership growth. Rep programs are always being carefully monitored and tweaked to help provide support to our volunteers and better experiences to our players and coaches.

Bylaws, policies, procedures, and league rules: Review Update desperately required. Proper documentation and publishing of these would decrease a large amount of issues brought up during our season. Also looking into a SAMBA handbook like the BA handbook.

### Program:

Early coach selections and mentorship throughout the season. Coaches need to be selected even earlier in the season to allow them to participate in our winter camps. The number of "new coaches" in SAMBA has grown significantly in past years. A coaching mentorship program would greatly enhance the chances of these coaches' success and sticking with the game. SAMBA did begin to modify and upgrade these programs in 2017, which showed better coach retention in 2018/2019 offering better experiences to all our athletes.

Umpire Mentorship Program. The number of baseball players is rising significantly and the number of umpires decreases every year. Thank you to John Bresler who brought in many new and young umpires into our system and provided very good support to them. Members, players, coaches, and parents need to understand that without these officials, we cannot play the great game of baseball.

Tigers and Sr. Cards. SAMBA BOD has schedule private meetings with each program to ensure all costs and needs are covered. Better and more clear terms from all parties should make life a lot easier on all members.

### Facilities:

Continue focus on a regular and efficient field and equipment maintenance program due to aging and mature trees and equipment. SAMBA is always striving to keep our fields at a very high level and I believe getting better every season to maintain our new fields and improve daily routines to cut costs and maintenance times.

Light usage. Agreements towards the cost of running our Midget field lights need to implemented. The hourly cost of \$260 / hr will only continue to increase and as such should be covered by the teams using them.

A big thanks to Tara Feser from the City of St. Albert who time and time again, does whatever she can to support SAMBA and our growing demands.

### Marketing and Image:

Continued sponsorship programs/grants: These are crucial to the costs of running all our programs at a high quality. The number of programs we deliver and the condition of our facilities rely heavily on these programs. SAMBA is always looking to grow fundraising opportunities and grant applications to support all our financial goals and requirements.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Thank you to Lorie Bronson, Michelle Whyte, and Byron Whittal who are stepping down from the SAMBA board of directors. Lorie has been instrumental in the financial rebuilding of SAMBA's future. Michelle Whyte has given many years to SAMBA organizing 1000's of players over her time with us and we are very grateful for her efforts, initiatives, and hard work. Byron Whittal has also been instrumental in SAMBA's financial rebuild and has done an awesome job with our Jr HL programs. He was also responsible for our new Summer Leagues which have given both Rally Cap and Rookie players the opportunities to play longer seasons.

I would like to thank all our Board members. As my 5th season as President, our board has really come together as a team and supported each other through some tough issues. Most people do not understand how many hours of work these people volunteer to allow SAMBA to move forward. Some also assume multiple roles and go above and beyond all expectations to ensure SAMBA maintains its reputation as a first-class organization.

I'd also like to thank many of our families/volunteers/coaches who contribute significantly to our success making SAMBA #1 in my eyes.

Special thanks must be given to the following members:

### Executive and Board Members

- Kurtus Millar - President
- Darren Kirstiuk - Vice President
- Brenda Bourassa - Secretary
- Lorie Bronson - Treasurer
- Pat Sullivan - Registrar
- Colin Froment - Sr Rep Director
- Travis Parker - Technical Director
- Neil Neary - Jr Rep Director
- Michelle Whyte - Sr. HL Director
- Byron Whittal - Jr. HL Director
- Danielle Moffat - Special Events Director
- Cori White - Marketing Director

### Appointed Members

- Ryan Deren / Scott Richardson - SAMBA/MMBA Program Liaisons
- Marshal Fedorovich / Shelly Hudec / Colleen Allison - SAMBA/Legal Program Liaisons
- Travis Parker - SAMBA/Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison
- Lorie Bronson - SAMBA/Tigers Program Liaison

## Non Board Positions

- Brian Bourassa - Sr Advisor
- Jason Enright - Equipment Manager
- Jake Enright - Assistant Equipment Manager
- Karen and Jim Poniewozick, Brenda Bourassa - Challenger Baseball Coordinators
- John Bresler - Umpire Coordinator
- Danielle Moffat - Grant Proposal Coordinator
- Karen Millar - Clubhouse Janitor Services
- Leeann & Tony Arlia - Clubhouse Concession
- Danielle Moffat / Sheri Kowaluk - Bingo/Casino Coordinators
- John Robinson - Website Adm

Kurtus Millar  
President



## **2019 Vice President Report**

First off, I wish to thank Kurtus Millar for the great leadership he has shown not only for 2019, but the previous years he has served as President for St. Albert Minor Baseball. Without his guidance, it would be hard to imagine where SAMBA would be today. Many tough decisions have to be made, but at the end of the day, SAMBA has always come out ahead. This is probably the reason that SAMBA has received multiple awards under Kurtus's guidance.

From this past season, there were many positives. First off, the teams that SAMBA put on the field were very competitive, this being proven by the teams' achievements when it came time for the Provincial Championships. Teams showed great determination of not only the coaching staffs that were formed, but also from the players who realized they had to compete at a higher level than previous years. Great job by all those involved.

There were some successful initiatives that were implemented in 2019:

- Set-up of Google Suite to help facilitate document organization and file sharing.
- Facilitation of grounds crew time submission and approval process.
- Coordination and record keeping of Coaches Criminal Record Check information.
- Creation of coach certification tracking documents.
- Jackets issued to all house league coaches (made possible by donation from RAM Mechanical).

I would like thank our current Executive & Board for their commitment and efforts to deliver a well-organized, enjoyable, and successful season of baseball. Very few realize the tremendous amount of volunteer hours some of these Executives & Board Members contribute, especially those who assume multiple roles or go beyond their current role to ensure SAMBA maintains its reputation as a first-class organization and our entire membership remain very satisfied with the results of the overall program that we deliver.

After being involved with SAMBA, I have to admit this is a first-rate organization, but it takes people to keep this status. Having met many people from other organizations throughout Alberta, they have always looked at St. Albert as the pinnacle of how baseball should be run, and they strive to meet the standards that have been set.

Darren Kirstiuk  
Vice President



## 2019 Grant Proposal Coordinator Report

In 2019, it would be an understatement to say we were extremely busy. We started up a new format of the cash raffle and allowed rep teams to use this a team fundraising option. We continue to run our Bingo's throughout the year. We will be working our casino on December 28 and 29, 2019.

As for the grants, we continued to build on last year's success and received the news at Christmas that the province accepted and approved our grant proposal for the full amount requested. We were going to be able to complete most of the items on our first dream list. There went any chance of a relaxing off-season! Here is a quick rundown of some of the funds we received. We are grateful and appreciate every single cent and the lasting partnerships we have been able to foster.

### Total Grant Funds

FUNDER	AMOUNT APPLIED FOR	AMOUNT RECEIVED
EIBF – Initial Donation	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Blue Jays Grant	\$149,217.88	\$149,217.88
CFEP – Provincial Grant	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
City of St. Albert	\$49,589.96	\$49,589.96
Baseball Alberta Grant	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Total	\$373,807.84	\$373,807.94

In closing, we are almost nearing the end of this amazing ride we've been on over the last two years. I'm not going to lie; it has been a complete whirlwind with some excellent experiences and some rough setbacks. Overall, for an organization that is completely run on the power of its "volunteers", we've accomplished some pretty amazing things this year. Our new and proudest legacy is the Millar Field House, that will be ready for kids smiling faces, in the upcoming week. I'm not sure who in my house is more excited me or Jackson, he asked if we could build a loft for his mattress so he can sleep in there 24/7. All this excitement started off with a simple discussion on what grants we needed to start researching to achieve some of our dream goals and then poof, look what happened. Some of our dream became a reality. I am grateful for the respect from our board President and other members, to even have me sitting at the table with them. I am proud and fortunate to call myself a member of this amazing association

Danielle Moffat  
Grant Proposal Coordinator



## 2019 Facilities Report

2019 was an exciting year for the Facilities Group, as several major upgrading projects were completed. Each of which will have a lasting legacy at Legion Memorial Ball Park. Thanks to Danielle Moffat and Kurtus Millar for their tireless efforts in securing grant monies to complete the work. The following is a summary of the major projects completed:

- Re-grading of the PeeWee and Bantam infields,
- New scoreboards for the PeeWee and Bantam fields,
- New access walkway on Bantam for Challenger Baseball,
- New backstop fencing for all fields,
- New benches in all the dugouts,
- New deck for the clubhouse,
- New furnaces and water heater for the clubhouse, and
- The new Millar Field House which replaces the old batting cages and provides much needed garage space for the grounds' equipment. This awesome facility will provide SAMBA with a year-round space for training.

As with any major undertaking these projects could not have been completed without countless volunteer hours from the membership. In particular, the following people deserve recognition for their efforts:

- Kurtus Millar,
- Kevin Millar,
- Danielle Moffat,
- Blair Troock,
- Colin Froment, and
- Jackson Moffat.

The year started off with the completion of the work on the PeeWee and Bantam infields that was started in the fall. The construction necessitated the closing of the PeeWee field for the month of May to allow the new sod to take. Thanks to all the coaches, players, and parents for your patience. Meanwhile, the City of St. Albert was completing construction of the Project 9 sewer which impacted the main parking lot, causing some issues with available parking. Thanks to Tara Feser with the City for keeping everything moving forward. May was extremely dry and had us planning for how to provide irrigation to the fields, little did we know that irrigation would be the least of our concerns as June and July were two of the wettest months on record for St. Albert. The upgrades to the infields provided immediate benefits, as the improved drainage meant minimal work required to repair the shale areas. The rain caused other issues as the grassed areas became saturated and would not drain. Large areas on the Bantam and Midget fields had standing water through the summer. Overall, the number of games lost due to weather was remarkably small with the Tigers being the most affected team as it seemed to rain every Friday night. The rain also resulted in damage to the tent at the Midget field as high wind and saturated ground weakened the tie downs allowing the wind to bend one of the supports.

Kevin Millar continued in the role of Head of Groundskeeper. Kevin, once again, provided excellent leadership to our staff and provided the players with best playing fields in Alberta. Special thanks to Karen Millar who looked after cleaning the clubhouse throughout the year and started painting the clubhouse to give it a much-needed spruce up.

2019 marked the third year of a sponsorship agreement with Martin Deerline. The sponsorship provided SAMBA with the use of a new mower for the season in lieu of advertising around the park. The mower proved valuable as the substantial rainfall and fertilizing provided by Green Drop resulted in very fast-growing grass often too thick for the reel mower to cut. Green Drop continued to sponsor SAMBA by providing fertilizer and weed control. The fields looked awesome thanks to both of these valued sponsorships.

Our concession operators, Leanne and Tony Arlia and their family, provided the patrons of the park with their usual excellent food and service. They also provided countless free meals to the volunteers at the park. Their efforts in supporting SAMBA during the summer often go unrecognized, on behalf of SAMBA and the board of directors thanks to the Arlia's!

The grounds crew consisted of the following members: Ben Hoffman, Connor Burns, Seth Waselenchuk, Jackson Moffat, Michael Brisson, Evan Bourassa, Eric Rolheiser, and Tom Leathem. As usual this dedicated bunch kept the park looking great.

In closing, I feel very honored to be associated with such a great organization such as SAMBA. The people associated with this organization never fail to amaze me with their willingness to volunteer. An incredible amount of work was accomplished over the last year, to have completed even a couple of these major projects would have been considered a great accomplishment, to complete everything that we did is nothing short of amazing. As per usual none of this could be accomplished without the leadership provided by Kurtus Millar. Have a great winter, we will see everyone back at the diamonds in 2020.

Brian Bourassa  
Sr Advisor (Acting Facilities Coordinator)



## **2019 Technical Director Report**

In my 7th year as SAMBA's Technical Director of Baseball again we look at ways to improve our coaching certifications as well as helping our grassroots coaches to attain the skills required to run a smooth program. Highlights of the year are our continued investment into grass roots coach training. Kurtus and I put on a very well attended Rookie to Mosquito coaches' clinic.

### **SAMBA House Leagues & Development**

This year again we had numerous parent volunteers to help coach at our House League Division and again we appreciate all of the efforts and time commitment.

### **SAMBA Representative Leagues (AA, AAA) & Development**

Our Performance program continues to field teams that are having success both on and off the field. Teams showed well in Provincials and Post Provincial play. Eric Hartman, on our 13U AAA team, received the 13U AAA Baseball Alberta Player of the Year.

### **SAMBA Player Evaluations**

2019 was another great year for our Rep Evaluations; we continue to look at ways to improve our process. We were able to utilize the 5 Tool Fieldhouse as well as Servus Place to hold our evals again this year. 2020 we will be able to utilize our own Field House which will reduce our expenses on rental time.

### **SAMBA's Off-season Programs**

#### 2019 Winter Camps

Well attended and reviews of the program continue to be great.

#### 2019 Spring Camp

Our Spring Camp continues to focus on the younger aged players and again adds to our overall program at the grassroots level.

#### 2019 St Albert Tigers' Summer Camp

Another well attended Camp and shows our continued support from the Tigers Association.

#### 2019 Fall Baseball Season

2019 Fall Ball was one of the best years for weather, we fielded teams at all age groups.

#### SAMBA Coaches/Umpire Cooperation Clinic

Well attended again; this is a clinic we receive a lot of positive feedback on. It's a very interactive session that provides coaches an opportunity to not only learn the rules of baseball but understand the reasons behind them. The session concluded with a question and answer forum.

## NCCP Coaches Clinics

SAMBA and other cities in Alberta offered a multitude of National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) clinics earlier this spring/summer. SAMBA has always committed to continuing coach development and education. Moreover, SAMBA covers the cost of all its registered coaches that attend these nationally recognized baseball coaching clinics. It's a great way to improve skills, confidence, and value to our players. These clinics were hosted all over the Province (including a handful at our own Legion facilities), in various blocks (teaching modules), by very dedicated, highly experienced baseball Learning Facilitators, from the month of January till as late as the month of June. Thanks to all our coaches who took the time either to refresh and or to improve their skills this season.

## House League Clinic

This year we conducted our 5th SAMBA run Coaches Clinic for **all** of our House League Coaches. This was well attended, and we focused on providing our coaches with the tools to run an effective practice and provided them the skills to discuss items such as how to grip the baseball and throwing technique. We will continue to run camps such as this and will look to increase our program to the older age groups. This was the first time we have offered this clinic to our 11U to 18U Coaches. Kurtus Millar and I worked with coaches on basic tools to run their season and how to lay out a practice plan.

Travis Parker  
Technical Director



## 2019 Jr House League Director Report

This was the third year the house league director was split between Junior (rally cap to 11U) and Senior (13U to 18U) levels. It is still my belief that splitting up the workload has reduced the number of hours required by each volunteer and has allowed us to focus on the quality of program we offer. Though I am finding that we need to further reduce the workload on our volunteers as this job is still a substantial amount of work. I do believe there is still some inefficiency regarding scheduling and that SAMBA should have one person dedicated to scheduling for all of house league and possible have just a Rally Cap coordinator.

Our Junior programs are where we have the majority of our participants. Historically we have had 55% of our participants in the Junior House League program. This continues to be the case with the previous year as we are again in that range. Our growth stagnated this year. Numbers slightly decreased. After an advertising program with the schools we were able to bring our registration numbers up. Our junior programs decreased by 10 participants. Rally Cap had 3 less players and 2 less teams, we increased the number of players to 12 players per team and this helped alleviate some diamond stress as we only needed 4 diamonds per night instead of 5. Rookie remained the same at 12 players per team but we reduced the number of teams. This reduced the playing time a little for players but helped alleviate diamond stress as we needed one less diamond per night. 11U (Mosquito) player registration was down by 8 players. Some of this decrease is due to a 3rd rep team that was added this year which reduced our house league player count by 13 players. We had some minor issues as not all teams had 12 players and it made it difficult for a couple of teams when they were missing players but all in all it ran smoothly.

**Partnerships** - Our partnership with Morinville Minor Baseball and Legal Minor Baseball continued this season. Both programs stagnated this year. Our relationship with Legal went smoothly and they were very helpful. Morinville had more diamonds for us this year so that was helpful, but we had a couple issues of them changing diamonds and not informing the House League Director or teams of the diamond change. Morinville also needs to do a better job of helping us provide umpires.

**2019 Spring Baseball Season** – Registration was slower this year. We needed to provide a flyer to schools to help bring our registration numbers up to where we were in previous years. Pairing requests and other requests outside of our standard policies are still creating increased workload and stress.

My biggest complaint received during the season was weather. I had a few parents irate at me for the weather issues and not providing value to the program by rescheduling games. The issue with rescheduling games is we don't have the diamond capacity during the week and most don't want to reschedule for the weekend. Coaches have been given the ability to reschedule games – all they have to do is contact the director to schedule a diamond. A few teams did take advantage of this.

This year league play was slated to begin May 6th, due to some nice weather we were able to start April 29th and have teams on the field for a week of practice. The actual game schedule began on May 6th. Rain was an issue this year and caused numerous complaints.

At 11U (Mosquito) this year we started recording standings for league play and at the end of the year we had a league playoff, we also added 4 Sunday practices which seemed to help develop the kids. In discussion with coaches all agreed that the standings added some meaning to the league games and the extra practices were good. Overall it seemed the kids developed from the beginning of the year and had a fun experience.

**Historical participant data from the 2014 to 2019 baseball seasons:**

<b>2019 Season</b>				
<b>Players</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>Rally Cap</b>	156	36	192	16
<b>Rookie</b>	144	18	162	14
<b>11U</b>	117	7	124	11
<b>Total</b>	<u>417</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>478</u>	<u>41</u>

<b>2018 Season</b>				
<b>Players</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>Rally Cap</b>	158	37	195	18
<b>Rookie</b>	144	23	167	14
<b>11U</b>	125	7	132	11
<b>Total</b>	<u>427</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>43</u>

<b>2017 Season</b>				
<b>Players</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>Rally Cap</b>	145	36	181	17
<b>Rookie</b>	134	15	149	14
<b>11U</b>	119	13	132	11
<b>Total</b>	<u>398</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>42</u>

<b>2016 Season</b>				
<b>Players</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>Rally Cap</b>	136	34	170	17
<b>Rookie</b>	121	9	130	12
<b>11U</b>	122	21	143	12
<b>Total</b>	<u>379</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>443</u>	<u>41</u>

<b>2015 Season</b>				
<b>Players</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>Rally Cap</b>	137	33	170	17
<b>Rookie</b>	93	13	106	10
<b>11U</b>	86	10	96	8
<b>Total</b>	<u>316</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>372</u>	<u>35</u>

<b>2014 Season</b>				
<b>Players</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>Rally Cap</b>	129	35	164	16
<b>Rookie</b>	94	12	106	10
<b>11U</b>	72	10	82	7
<b>Total</b>	<u>295</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>33</u>

**2019 Summer Baseball Season** – This was the 2nd year of our Summer Baseball Program that ran from July 9th to August 15th. The season ran successfully. We had 5 teams at Rally Cap and 12 players per team for a total of 60 players (19 players in 2018) and 3 teams at Rookie with 14 players per team for a total of 42 players (36 players in 2018). This increase in registration is a sign that the program is needed. We also did a better job of adding value to our programs by providing a discount for families that registered for both programs in January/February instead of just having registration later in the year. I believe we did a better job of getting communication out to families and this program will continue to grow if SAMBA continues to provide the support it needs. Talking with coaches and parents the kids had fun and continued to develop only strengthening our program as we go forward. I believe we should continue this program for the next summer.

**Diamonds** – House League diamonds continue to be an issue. The issues range from condition of the diamonds, to lack of diamonds to grow our program. The SAMBA board has been working hard to try and rectify these issues. This year we sat down with the City of St. Albert and our contact Tara Feser; she did a great job in trying to help alleviate the situation. It should be noted that Tara has been a great help to our organization.

Our complaints line that goes straight to the City worked well and the City worked quickly responded to any issues we had. As for the Larose diamond we are still working to try and get this playable, we were unable to use this diamond in 2019. We look forward to continuing to work with Tara and the City to find solutions to field conditions and our shortage of diamonds. I would like to also thank Tammy Hasting at the City who did a great job in making my job easier when it came to diamond bookings.

**Coaches** – This year was a tough year trying to find volunteers at Rally Cap to coach. We had very few issues regarding coaches. At Rookie and 11U we had a very experienced group of coaches as most have been coaching with SAMBA since their kids were in Rally Cap. Our coaches meeting went well and set up our coaches for success during the year. This year was a great year for coaches and it should be noted that we heard numerous coaches wishing they could spend more time with the kids teaching them how to play baseball. I'd like to thank all our coaches who put forth numerous hours of their time to help teach the kids how to play the game of baseball.

**Tournaments** – Rally Cap had its annual Rally Cap day. We had all 16 teams show up for the event. The kids had a blast and learned a lot. We had some help from the Senior Cardinals which was much appreciated. Rally Cap had their mini tournament on the last weekend of the season, in talking with the parents and coaches the kids all had fun.

Rookie and 11U held their annual Mid-season and Year-End Tournaments. The weather was great. The tournaments ran smoothly and coaches did a great job in getting resulting in so the Sunday schedules could be released as quickly as possible. As always there were a few competitive disagreements, but nothing that could not be solved quickly.

Overall the season seemed very successful and the kids all seemed to have fun.

### **Recommendations/Insights to Future Seasons**

- Advocate for new ideas and ways to increase female player registration with a goal to increase registration by a minimum 10%.
- Create a SAMBA "Female Day in Baseball" in January to promote our registration to female athletes.
- Find new, fun and creative ways to continue to deliver our programs and develop skills in our youth.
- Designate funds to continue replacing existing SAMBA House League Equipment

- Exploring ways to reduce the number of non-policy changes to teams to reduce the work burden on the House League Directors. Less exceptions needed.
- Finding ways to increase the Summer League registration
- Look at creating a house league survey to determine SAMBA member's value of our programs and to highlight the areas we do well and need to improve.
- Continuing to foster and develop relationships with the city to continue to help improve our programs and our access to facilities for our programs.
- Continue to work to improve our working relationship with Morinville minor baseball and Legal minor baseball to strength our programs.
- Continue to find ways to recruit, support, develop and retain coaches.
- Finding volunteers to help coordinate the divisions and provide support for the tournaments at the Junior house league level.
- Look at the possibility of providing a paid employee to help administer the house league programs or further splitting the duties.

Byron Whittal  
Jr House League Director



## 2019 Senior House League Director Report

### House League Overview:

“Oh the places we will go because of you!” – anonymous

SAMBA has gone so many places – we have continued to provide for a great sport in our community for both players and their families. It has been rewarding to watch many of these athletes over the past 7 years progress through our system and continue to enjoy either playing baseball or an offshoot thereof to this day.

This was the second year our HL teams were divided into a junior and senior division. Senior HL consisted of 13U (formerly Pee Wee), 15U (formerly Bantam) and 18U (formally Midget) teams. SAMBA did have a small drop in our 13U numbers, but there was a substantial decline in both the 15U and 18U numbers. Overall within these three divisions, we did see a 17% decrease from the previous year.

I believe our membership is overall happy with their Association, providing a great opportunity for their athletes to play and learn baseball in their community. Our 13U teams played off nights on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday in St. Albert. Our 15U and 18U teams participated in the Edmonton Rural Recreational Baseball League (ERRBL), with games scheduled Mondays through Sundays, playing against teams in Edmonton and surrounding areas.

Here is historical data from 2013 to present showing the numbers for each division.

	2013				2014			
	Players		Teams		Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	MMBA	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
<b>Pee Wee</b>	71	7	7	2	84	4	7	3
<b>Bantam</b>	35	3	3	n/a	33	3	3	n/a
<b>Midget</b>	14	1	1	n/a	16	1	1	n/a

	2015				2016			
	Players		Teams		Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
<b>Pee Wee</b>	87	6	8	1/2	90	11	9	1/1
<b>Bantam</b>	39	3	3	n/a	44	4	4	n/a
<b>Midget</b>	26	0	2	n/a	32	2	3	n/a

	2017				2018			
	Players		Teams		Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
<b>Pee Wee</b>	112	9	10	1/2	101	11	9	4
<b>Bantam</b>	49	1	4	n/a	68	5	6	n/a
<b>Midget</b>	35	2	3	n/a	37	2	3	n/a

	2019			
	Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
<b>13 U</b>	98	8	9	1/2
<b>15 U</b>	49	1	4	n/a
<b>18 U</b>	25	1	2	n/a



**General Comments for Senior House League Teams:**

- Team Formation** – for 2019, athletes continued to be grouped by neighbourhood. As mentioned previously (at least a few times) while there continues to be differing opinions, until evaluations are made mandatory with over 90% attendance, there will be a variance in team composition relative to age, size, ability, and gender. The other option made available were for athletes to have one pairing request (outside of siblings). Both parties would need to make the request and pay \$50. No matter how teams are created, not everyone will be happy.
- Registrations** – Unfortunately, at the Senior House League level for 2019, SAMBA saw a large decline in numbers, specifically at the 15U level. From 2018 to 2019, there was a 42% percent decrease in our athlete numbers. More on the reasoning behind this will be discussed in the ERRBL bullet point. However, if the issues with ERRBL do not get sorted

out and solidified, I believe our numbers will continue to drop at the two highest levels, which will be disappointing after such an upsurge.

- **Player / Team Pictures** – SDI continued to be our service provider for our HL pictures this year. From the feedback we received, it appears things continue to run smoothly for all teams. The majority of pictures were scheduled for the start of the season rather than mid-season to ensure delivery prior to the end of season.
- **League Play** – Our official date to begin was April 29, 2019 this year for our 13U which accounted for 8 weeks of regular season play, with the last regular season game scheduled for June 20, 2019. Overall, the weather cooperated much better through the season with fewer rescheduling of games; however, high levels of smoke affected our air quality for some nights. Due to diamond shortages, we are still finding difficulty in the rescheduling of games if needed.
- **Midseason** – We continued to have our 13U tournament in Legal, and they proved to be fantastic hosts for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, we were watching the air quality index hour by hour to ensure we were abiding by Baseball Alberta (BA) rules of play during time of poor air quality. Most scheduled games were played Friday night while Saturday/Sunday weekend games went ahead as scheduled. While some coaches indicated they may pull their teams due to safety concerns, we continued to follow both the Alberta and Canada air quality control stations to determine playability.

Legal was a great host for our tournament, providing players with hot dogs and a drink. But most importantly, the support received from the community to ensure umpire attendance and diamond maintenance was fantastic. For 2020, if Legal remains willing, I would suggest returning for the tournament and for those teams who want to play in another tournament, they can enter either the NEZ tournament or another on their own.

- **Year-End** – We were returning to the round-robin format for play this year, allocating three games to all teams, with the top 4 teams advancing to a semi-final/final playoff structure and the remaining teams having a one game final between the next closest ranking teams (i.e. 5 vs 6, 7 vs 8, etc.). However, weather played havoc once again with the City closing diamonds for the weekend. With the hard work of our groundskeeping crew, we were able to keep Legion open and allow teams to have one final game being played. As no one has a crystal ball and can predict the future, the weather did get better by Sunday. However, rather than changing the schedule for families 4 times within 3 days, we decided to maintain the one game playoff. Again, not being able to satisfy all, some families were happy to have a final, albeit shortened schedule, while others complained everywhere SAMBA should have done more to get the games in.

I wish wholeheartedly the people that complained the most would step up and assist SAMBA in any capacity. We as an organization are built on the kindness and generosity of people's time – which many are unwilling to give. Hopefully the more people that step up, the less work and headaches can be shared amongst those willing to participate and effect positive change.

- **Practice facilities** and schedules were made available for all divisions/teams, including access to the batting cages. The requests were accommodated through Kurtus Millar
- The only level in which there was a draft was at the 18U level. After fielding three house league teams last year, it was a little disappointing to only have two – but, the coaching the athletes received was second to none. I appreciate sincerely the years of time and expertise the coaches at this level have continued to put in.

- **Umpires** – John Bresler (Umpire Coordinator) and all his local umpires need to be commended for their efforts to ensure the games were played as scheduled. Colleen Allison, Legal Minor Baseball Association, also needs to be commended for her role for coordinating in Legal.
- **Facilities** – This hasn't changed from 2018 - we require more diamonds!! We continue to work with the City to ensure we are utilizing the fields we have and finding alternatives when needed. The City of St. Albert ball fields were well maintained, grass cut, and shale raked on a regular basis. They responded quickly to requests for action. The fields in Morinville and Legal were maintained regularly and to a high standard. Additionally, more games were scheduled and played at Legion for our ERRBL teams – which is great for our athletes.
- **Equipment Deposit Program** – SAMBA this year once again collected a deposit from each House League coach prior to distribution of equipment. Teams were held responsible for non-returned equipment. Jason Enright continues to manage all of our equipment and does an amazing job doing so. Without him, we would be hard-pressed to be as organized and taken care of as we are!
- **ERRBL** – to me, we were still reeling from the 2018 season for our 15U and 18U teams. For the 2018 season, several factors played into our decline in enrollment which included: staff turnover at Baseball Alberta, lack of organization and knowledge of the league, and distances and location. After approaching BA in the offseason with what we thought was a feasible plan and requests, our information was ignored, and the league did the opposite of what we requested. Moving forward, I believe discussions with other associations (i.e. SJP, Parkland, Legal, Morinville, Ft. Saskatchewan) at higher levels should be had to determine if we should start our own league and manage with the group as a whole.

And most of all, thanks to George, Alex, and Aiden Whyte, for their continued support to me and SAMBA as an organization which they are all a part of in some way. It's been a long 7 years in this role and for many they have done without mom at night during the season. I love them very much and look forward to watching them continue to be involved with this incredible sport.

Michelle Whyte  
Sr House League Director



## 2019 Jr Rep Director Report

I'm pleased to report an exceptional year for the SAMBA junior rep teams. Once again, SAMBA was able to field 6 junior teams, 3 each at the 11U and 13U levels.

In addition to rookie players, some of whom made teams based on athleticism and attitude more than baseball experience, we also had a number of rookie coaches, OFMs, treasurers and other volunteers. I want to thank all of the coaches, volunteers, and parents for being such a great group – you truly make the experience for the athletes.

Thanks to the SAMBA grounds crew for their dedication and hard work this year. Six teams on two diamonds means lots of host weekends and loads of practice time on our fields. As always, our facility was the envy of the province. Well kept, beautiful with great food and actual washrooms.

Thanks, as well to the SAMBA Board, in particular Danielle Moffat, Kurtus Millar, and Brian Bourassa for their incredible dedication to the SAMBA program that has led to an influx of grants and improvements to our fields and facilities. The 13U field upgrade, including new scoreboard, was an incredible improvement.

Thanks as well to the Larry Rindero Memorial (LRM) Tournament committee, which has turned the LRM into a premier AA Rep tournament under the guidance of tournament coordinator Jason Enright.

Our junior program is a strong foundation of athletes, coaches and volunteers that gives me confidence that SAMBA will continue to be a strong program in the future.

Best of luck to all of our Junior Rep athletes moving up to 15U next year.

### **11U AA White – Jim Sheasgreen**

The 11U White Cardinals were led by the coaching staff of Jim Sheasgreen, Ryan McLay, Phil Perron, and Wes Lavoie as well as OFM Kevin Warwaruk.

The boys had a tough (in game) month of May, and understandably so. Few had ever seen live pitches or in fact pitched off a mound themselves or seen the caliber of what rep baseball brings. As the season worn on, the boys gained confidence and it was amazing to see the progression.

The team played a total of 29 games, compiling an overall record of 10-18-1 (while games are not to have ended in a tie, one did so due to time constraints called by the umpires).

Within that overall record (excluding tournaments and the provincials) the team played in 17 regular season games, with a record of 5-11-1

The White Cardinals participated in the St. Albert Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament as well as a tournament in Sylvan Lake put on by the local Mariners Association. In tough among some very strong teams in the LRM, the team went 0-4. Better success, however, was had a couple weeks later in Sylvan Lake where we went 3-0 in the round robin, winning the semi-final game and ultimately took a loss in the final and headed home with a hard-fought silver medal.

Tier VII Provincials: Hosted by your very own Cardinals, the boys had high expectations to win their tier. Unfortunately, the weekend was not meant to be (rainy weather included) and with a couple of close loses, the team went 1-2 in the round robin and were not able to advance to the Final.

### **11U AA Blue – Kurtus Millar**

The St. Albert 11U AA Blue Cardinals had a successful season. We had a very young and inexperienced group, 13 players total, 4 - 2008's, 8 - 2009's and 1 - 2010. 3 of which whom had never played baseball before but were selected to the team based on their athletic abilities and positive attitudes.

The coaching staff was a great group and mix of coaches. Kurtus Millar, head coach, with Kyle Schalk, Tommy Jenkins, and Shane Bruneau, assistant coaches. The coaching staff worked very hard and well as a group to develop our young players.

We went 11-6 in league play, also playing 8 exhibition games 6-2, entering the LRM Tournament and going 1-3. Provincials were a challenge, 0-4, but the boys played hard and showed great improvement in their games and mental strength.

After winning Tier 5, we were bumped into Tier 4 and off to Oyen, Alberta for the Championships. As mentioned, the boys battled their hearts out but fell short in all our Provincial Championship games. Losing 2 in the last (6th) inning to Barrhead and Castor, 1 in extra innings to Whitecourt, and 1 mercy loss to Stettler who went on to win Provincials. The whole experience was great and not a single player left the season hanging their heads. They very quickly became a close-knit group and played all their games hard in a sportsmanlike manner where SAMBA would be proud of all of them.

I can say with complete confidence that every player developed and got better. All our boys got better and had fun. With such a young group, 9 boys will be playing 11U again next season which is very exciting for SAMBA's program.

A strong parent group who all pitched in to help give our boys a successful season. Special thanks to Carly DeLuca, first time OFM who did a great job. Nicole Popke, another first-time team treasurer who did a great job. Brad Prostebby who announced most of our games and prepared walk up music for our boys. The kids loved this and Brad did a great job as well. Thanks to Renita Millar for organizing our volunteers and press box.

SAMBA - Thank you for organizing the raffle again this season. Our team sold 60 books and the \$2000 was spent to provide some team meals, indoor practices, and team bonding events for the boys. Thank you to the SAMBA grounds crew, facilities were great and always in top notch shape, even with all the rain. Over all, a very fun and exciting season. Proud to be a Cardinal!

### **11U AA Red – Doug Fystro**

Coaches: Doug Fystro, Byron Whittal, Andy Scherer, and Joe Quintilio.

Year in Review (overall league/provincial record 10-10-1)

Team Red had a very successful year, players and coaches put extensive work in throughout the year. Everyone put in a lot of time and effort which attributed to many of our successes. The hard work and dedication by everyone made it a tremendous year on and off the field.

Tournament play – 3 tournaments were attended this year:

- Larry Rindero Memorial - 3rd place
- Spruce Grove - 3rd place
- NEZ - 4th

#### League Play

- Round 1 – Tier 1 - 2-4 record
- Regional play – Round 2 - 1-3-1 record, moved down to Tier 2 for provincial play downs
- Provincial play downs - Round 3 - 3-2 record, remained at Tier 2A for provincials

Provincials: (Drayton Valley hosts) – finished round robin play at 3-1, advanced straight to provincial finals vs South Jasper Place winning 8-2 to be the Provincial Tier 2A Champions!

### **13U AA Blue – Levi Derksen**

Our team was led by a coaching staff consisting of myself, Mike Good, Steve Lavoie, Greg Dahlen, and Jeff Weins. Our position of OFM was filled by Roxanne Kalemba and Tonya Latta. We played 18 regular season games ending with a record of 10-8.

We participated in our LRM Tournament, going 1-3, and the Valley of Champions tournament in Kelowna in which we went 2-2.

Tier IV provincials were hosted in Bonnyville. We never advanced beyond the round robin.

### **13U AA Red – Colin Bergstrom**

Overall Record: 38 games played with a record of 22-15-1 (10-8 in league play)

Coaching Staff: Colin Bergstrom, Mike Morgan, Cam Fischer, and Jason Harley

Attended Four Tournaments: Larry Rindero – Gold, Darin McDonald - Gold, Innisfail - missed finals, Valley of Champions Kelowna - missed the semis

Provincials: 1-2 in the round robin and missed the semis. We hosted and had fantastic support from our parent group. Many teams were blown away at how great our facilities are.

We scored the most runs of any team in Tier 1 for the entire season and had a middle of the pack run differential. Our pitching was one of our strengths this year to go along with our solid offence.

Overall, we started the season off very strong but come July we struggled once the competition became tougher. Despite this, I'm proud to say that we played in Tier 1 for the entire season and only got mercied once which was on the first weekend of the season. Add to this the fact we were able to compete at a high level with 8 of 12 players being first years says a lot about this group and our organization when we can field very competitive AAA and AA teams. The majority, if not all of the first-year players, should make the core of the AAA team in 2020 and will be very competitive as this group was in 2018 at 11U where they won provincial gold.

### **13U AAA – Travis Parker**

The 2019 13U AAA was a successful year both on and off the field, we were led by 4 well experienced coaches. Travis Parker, Paul Yusypchuk, Brian Hartman, and longtime Veteran Fred Mills.

We had a solid core of returning players (12) and (1) first year player. This group became friends on the field and off the field, we saw them all get memberships to Goodlife Fitness and went many times as a group to work on some cardio. Some key highlights of the year:

- Overall record 43-9
- Provincial Champions
- Silver in Kelowna Tournament
- Attended Nationals and made our Province and City proud
- Spent approximately 400 hours together for the season

Overall the team was a pleasure to coach and be around this year and I look forward to each of the young athletes' growth as they continue their baseball careers.

Neil Neary  
Jr Rep Director



## 2019 Sr Rep Director Report

### Introduction

2019 was a successful year for the Sr. Rep program. SAMBA fielded 3 teams in each division. Our teams had a successful year in their respective league play. Most teams finished at the top of their division. We had 1 provincial champion and 1 team travel to nationals.

Evaluations started at the end of February. Each team had at least 5 sessions to make their evaluations and pick their teams. Sessions were held at 5 Tool Fieldhouse and Servus Credit Union Place. Evaluations ran well with lots of competition for spots on the various teams. At the 18U division things got complicated after the AAA evaluations were complete. By only fielding one AAA team this year it left some of our players seeking positions on other AAA teams. We lost 4 players to the NEZ 18U AAA Padres. This put some pressure on filling out the rosters for the 18U AA Red and Blue team. The Blue team had limited choices and we had to recruit some players from the house league program.

### 15U DIVISION

Try-outs started with 54 players. 17 imports started the evaluation process. There were players coming from Drayton Valley, Edmonton, Morinville, Westlock, and Athabasca. We released 7 players to the house league program.

#### 15U AAA

Head Coach: Brad Wolansky

Asst. Coaches: John Tkachuk, Danny Tkachuk, Logan Buchanan

Team size: 15 players, 4 imports (3 from Drayton Valley), 11 players will be graduating to 18U

League play: 29-13 overall 21-8 in league play, 1st in the North division

Tournaments: The team went undefeated in the Kelowna Valley of Champions tournament to win Gold.

Provincial Results: They lost in the provincial semifinals to Okotoks Black.

#### 15 AA RED

Head Coach: Mike Fitka

Asst. Coaches: Sean Fitzgerald, Murray Bokenfuhr

Team size: 13 players, 3 imports, 10 graduating up to 18U next year

League results: Placed 3rd in Tier 1 with a record of 12-5

Tournaments: won the gold medal at the Kelowna Valley of Champions tournament

Provincials results: Had a good showing winning a thrilling game in provincials coming back from a 15-1 deficit to win the game

### 15U AA BLUE

Head coach: Don Anderson

Asst. Coaches: John Logan, Keith Sheldon

Team size: 13 players

Team results: They ended with an 8-9 record in Tier 4

Provincial results: They had a record of 1-2. Losing to the two teams that would eventually be in the final gold medal game.

### **18U DIVISION**

Tryouts started with 60 players working hard to gain a spot on the 3 teams we entered into Baseball Alberta this summer. 19 of these players were imports. As mentioned before by not entering a second AAA team into Baseball Alberta it meant some players left our association to play for other association's AAA teams. Some were lost to NEZ and some to Sherwood park. The loss of players made it difficult to field a full team on our AA Blue squad. Some players from the house league program were needed to fill this team.

### 18U AAA

Head coach: Cam Houston

Asst Coach: Mark Brisson

Team size: 19 players, 5 imports, the team started with 20; however, one player dropped out due to injury

Team results: The cardinals had a great year going 27-8 in the Norwest league.

Provincial results: The team played the Northern Lights team from Grande Prairie in the gold medal game and won by a score of 9-0.

National results: The team finished 7th overall in London, Ontario after losing a tie breaker game to make it into the medal round.

Graduating players: The team graduated 11 of its players. 3 of these players signed with colleges in the states: Liam Froment (University of North Alabama), Ryan Marples (Lindsay Wilson College), Michael Brisson (Niagara University).

### 18U AA Red

Head Coach: Jason Enright

Asst. Coach: Ben Grabia, Jake Enright

Team size: 16 players, 5 imports

Team results: The team had a very successful season ending with a 40-8-1 overall record. In league play they ended up with 14-3-1 record good for first place in Tier 1.

Tournaments: They entered 4 AA tournaments and finished 1st in 3 of them and second in the other. They entered one AAA tournament and finished 3rd.

Provincial results: The cardinals lost a tough tie breaking game in the semis round.

Graduating players: 3 graduating players. Max Kahler, Brad Olivia, David Blanco.

### 18U AA Blue

Head Coach: Allan Rachinski

Asst. Coach: Mason Libich, Jim Asprey, Ian Murray

Team size: 12 players, 9 of which were first year players at the 18U level.

Team results: Placed 4th in Tier 4 with a record of 8-9.

Tournaments: Entered 3 tournaments but did not make the finals in any of them.

Provincial results: Had a record of 1-2 in the tournament but lost by 1 run to the eventual provincial champions.

### **Closing remarks**

Overall the Sr. Rep program had a successful season. We fielded 3 teams in each division and had 1 provincial champion and one team in Nationals.

I would like to thank all the parent volunteers that helped make the year successful. From the parents that stepped up to Coach, manage, fundraise, cheer, and support our athletes. Thank you at all our Coaches for dedicating your time and energy. Your efforts are what makes SAMBA the best association in the province. A special thank you goes out to Cam Houston. After 12 years of coaching our Midget AAA team he retired following another provincial championship for his team. All the best to Cam in his future endeavours.

Lastly, I'd like to thank our board of directors that have spent countless volunteer hours working hard to improve every aspect of our association. The facilities we play and practice on are improving every year and the association is strong in the community and in the bank account.

Thank you all.

Colin Froment  
Sr Rep Director



## 2019 Special Evenets Director Report

As in previous years, the season started off with Rep tryouts, umpire and coaches' clinics, as well as, many parent and volunteer meetings. I would again like to express extreme gratitude to all of our volunteers and everyone that spends any amount of time helping us to make SAMBA and all of our programs great. I am not sure how many of our kids realize how lucky they are to belong to such a great association with the amazing volunteers we have working behind the scenes.

New this year we started a cash raffle that seemed well received by the rep teams and raised some money for the teams involved as well as the association. The funds from that helped pay for part of the new Millar Field House sign that we are all very proud of. Thank you for your support in this fundraising effort. We had an extremely busy and very exciting year with a few unique events. At various times in the year my plate was overflowing so I apologize in advance to anyone that had to wait a little bit longer for anything from me. (Like this report for instance! Lol). Working on all of our big projects, while still trying to raise some funds, maintaining our existing programs and organizing our incredible opening ceremony with the Blue Jays was more work than I do in my full-time job! In the end it was all absolutely worth it and I am so appreciative to everyone that was there to support, good friends (who know who they are) and my boys who missed their mom at more events than they should, thank you for sharing me and for your sacrifice.

Once again, we were delighted to host the Tigers Camp, as well as, the Girls Baseball Day; both were a great success and we continue to see an increase in numbers year over year. We hosted our 3rd annual Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament. A huge thank you to Morinville, for partnering with us for this event again this year. We appreciate all of the help we received from all of the rep teams involved. We were proud to hold and facilitate the Honda Blue Jays Super Camp for a fourth summer. The camp offer players from 9-16 a memorable experience with former Blue Jays alumni, while learning techniques and skills from some of our favorite all-stars. Overall, the entire camp was a huge success and were very excited to run this again on new fields that the Jays Care Foundation invested in. As briefly mentioned above, we were also very honored to work closely with the Jays Care Foundation to put on a great opening ceremonies event that highlighted all of the work we had accomplished with their grant contribution. As a committee we decided to name our new batting cage building "Millar Field House" after our very popular and hardest working volunteer in SAMBA, our current President, Kurtus Millar. Kurtus and his family have a long history of dedication within SAMBA. Without his vision and extraordinary sacrifices, none of our new enhancements would have been possible. We are grateful for him and his entire family and our committee felt this was a small gesture on our part to show him our gratitude.

Danielle Moffat  
Special Events Director



## 2019 Marketing Director Report

2019 was an amazing year of change for SAMBA. Some fantastic events and celebrations were had this year within our Association. Sponsorship requests were received a bit better this year than in past years. Baseball continues to grow in popularity, and we are hopefully seeing an uptick in community dollars for our Association in 2020.

In 2019, we attracted some new sponsors support. Wrapex Industrial Services Inc. generously sponsored all 4 of our diamonds this year with fence banners. We also welcomed DX Medical on our Midget diamond with a fence banner.

Our most lucrative sponsorship was the commitment from RAM Mechanical who were amazingly generous to support us in such a way that we could outfit all house league coaches with coaches jerseys this year. Just one way their contribution made a huge difference to SAMBA in 2019.

One strategy for 2019 was to start to build more of a following in the community. What a fantastic way to spend a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon, on the bleachers watching some free baseball in the sunshine. We partnered up with the St. Albert Gazette and featured our weekend itinerary on the St. Albert Today online sports page each week. We were also featured across the top of the page in the alert banner to notify our St. Albert community about all our great events.

We will continue to build on relationships made in 2019 for 2020 support. We are doing our best to encourage new companies to come down to our diamonds and partake in local events hosted by SAMBA to entrench them in our culture.

The Christmas Trees and Wreath Fundraiser continued in 2019, items were purchased and were then available for pick up right at Legion Memorial Ball Park. The program was again successful for the second year, and we are repeating it again for the 2019 Holiday season.

As SAMBA grows closer to our 50th Anniversary, we are working towards gathering as much of the historical information and memories we can. This past year we have made some great in roads and connected in several meetings with some of the founding members of SAMBA. Gathering jerseys, programs, many stories, and even a scaled model of the clubhouse itself, will help us build out a plan to celebrate and commemorate this important anniversary.

SAMBA continues to thrive in the community, and we are engaging and growing our audience every day. We will continue to work on the relationship with the current sponsors and engage in conversations with new sponsors.

### Future Recommendations

- We will continue to reach out to potential sponsors throughout the winter and early spring to stay top of mind for the 2020 budget year.
- Registration information will once again be advertised in member newsletters, Gazette ads, social media, and other community opportunities.
- Social Media continues to play a role in our marketing. As we engage and grow our social media audience, they become an economic way of communicating with our fans.
- Promotion of clinics and camps will continue across all our social media platforms.
- Fundraising efforts such as raffles and seasonal sales are also on the radar for 2020.

- SAMBA will continue to participate in community events to continue to grow awareness and educate future participants.

Looking forward to a progressive and profitable 2020 season!

Cori White  
Marketing Director



## 2019 Challenger Baseball Report

This program is in its 3rd year and continues to be very successful.

Before the season began an Open House was held to introduce ourselves and the program to prospective athletes and their families. I strongly recommend doing this every year.

Participants ranged in age from 4 to 18. We were delighted to have 3 girls in the program.

We had 29 registered athletes, 12 of which were returning.

The program ran Mondays from 5 pm to 6 pm during May and June and skills and games were played on the Bantam diamond. We did lose a couple of Mondays due to weather.

Our rep teams continued to rotate through as the buddies. Given the number of participants two rep teams were used as buddies.

This was also the first year we had a regular buddy, Ethan D, helped out as Francesco's buddy each week. Some Challenger players do better with having the same buddy from week to week. Something that we will encourage and support going forward.

During the Blue Jays Honda Super Camp, time was set aside for the Challenger players to play a game vs the Blue Jays Alumni. We had 10 players out, more would have been nice but given the time of year the attendance was still good.

Recommendations for 2020:

- Take a photo of each athlete prior to the season and make up ID cards with their likes and dislikes to help their buddies get to know them.
- A t-shirt specific to the buddies so they are differentiated on the field of play from the Challenger players and Coaches.
- Break the players into smaller more manageable groups with one group doing skill development and the other hitting/fielding in hopes of being able to play games vs other associations with a Challenger program.
- Registration of more female athletes / female buddies.

I would like to thank Karen and Jim Poniewozik for all their help and assistance with this program since getting us started in 2017. At the end of the season Karen and Jim stepped down as the organizers. We wish them all the best and hope to see them around the diamond.

I would like to thank our Sue Rankin's Leadership Student Volunteer from Bellerose Composite High School, Rep Players and Coaches, Erin Fisher, Danielle Moffat, Kurtus Millar, and Julie Chomlak for helping out each Monday. Without their support this program would not be what it is.

Brenda Bourassa  
Challenger Baseball Coach



# ST. ALBERT MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 218 Station Main St. Albert, AB T8N 1N3

[www.stalbertbaseball.com](http://www.stalbertbaseball.com)



St. Albert Minor Baseball Association  
PO Box 218 Station Main  
St. Albert, AB  
T8N 1N3

**ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF ST. ALBERT MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (SAMBA)**  
**REFERENCE: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018/2019**

Attached are the Financial Statements for the year starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

These statements were audited on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by the undersigned, Merilee Odegard and Jacquelyn Colville, two members of the Association as per current Association By-Laws.

These are being presented to you this evening at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for your information. We believe these to be a true and accurate accounting of the financial affairs for SAMBA to the best of our knowledge.

Sincerely,

**St. Albert Minor Baseball Association**

**Merilee Odegard**  
SAMBA Member  
[modegard@shaw.ca](mailto:modegard@shaw.ca)

**Jacquelyn Colville**  
SAMBA Member  
[jacquelyncolville@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelyncolville@gmail.com)

full financials available upon request to [treasurer@stalbertbaseball.com](mailto:treasurer@stalbertbaseball.com)

*There are 3 outs in baseball... out hustle, out think, and out perform. ~ BASEBALLISM*