



# 2018 Annual General Meeting





## **AGENDA**

### **St. Albert Minor Baseball Association - Annual General Meeting 2018 SAMBA Clubhouse November 14th, 2018 - 6:30pm**

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome by President and Introduction of SAMBA Board Members
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2017 AGM minutes
5. Proposed Amendments to SAMBA By-Laws and Handbook to follow at 2019 AGM
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
  - 2018 Financial Review
  - 2019 Budget Review
9. New Business
10. Adjournment





## Meeting Notes

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

Annual General Meeting - 2017

Date: November 15, 2017

Place/Time: SAMBA Clubhouse 7:00 pm

Attendees: Board Members /Appointed & Non- Board Members/Members at Large:  
Kurtus Millar (President), Colin Leathem (Vice President), Brenda Bourassa (Secretary), Lorie Runnalls (Treasurer), Pat Sullivan (Registrar), Brian Bourassa (Facilities Director), Travis Parker (Technical Director), Neil Neary (Sr. Rep Director), Danielle Moffat (Special Events Director), Cori White (Marketing Director), Shelley Hudec & Colleen Alison (SAMBA/Legal Liaison), Michelle Whyte (House League Director), Jason Enright (Equipment Manager), Byron Whittal (Jr House League Director & Asst. Equipment Manager), John Bresler (Umpire Coordinator) plus 17 Members At Large

Absentees: Mark Brisson (Jr. Rep Director), John Robinson (Webmaster), Sheri Kowaluk (Bingo Coordinator), Kelly Phelan (SAMBA/Tigers Liaison), Ryan Deren (SAMBA/MMBA Liaison), Scott Richardson (MMBA)

Distribution: All Attendees

### Item

### Action

- Welcome by President and Introduction of Board Members**  
President Kurtus Millar welcomed all SAMBA Members and Guests to the 2017 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            |
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| <p><b>2. Call to Order</b><br/> Motion: Kurtus Millar called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm<br/> 2nd: Brenda Bourassa<br/> In Favor: All<br/> Opposed: None</p>   | Motion<br>Carried |
| <p><b>3. Approval of Agenda</b><br/> Motion: Brian Bourassa<br/> 2nd: Paul Crane<br/> In Favor: All<br/> Opposed: None</p>   | Motion<br>Carried |
| <p><b>4. Approval of 2016 AGM Minutes</b><br/> Motion: Lorie Runnalls<br/> 2nd: Kirsten Leathem<br/> In Favor: All<br/> Opposed: None</p>  | Motion<br>Carried |
| <p><b>5. Proposed Amendments to SAMBA Bylaws;</b> Sr. Rep Director Neil Neary reviewed the current Bylaws, and in accordance with Section 1(d) of the Societies Act, provided to the Membership via Email and through an advertisement in the Gazette Newspaper the mandatory 21 days prior to this AGM, Notice of the following Special Resolutions, requiring Consideration, Membership Vote and Approval at this meeting:</p> |                   |

#### **Special Resolution #1 – Election and Term of Directors and Officers**

That Article 5.4 (b) (i) include the position of Junior (Jr) House League Director; which is elected every even numbered year and edit 5.4 (b) (ii) to read **Senior (Sr)** House League Director; which is elected every odd numbered year.

Call for Questions from the Membership – None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

#### **Special Resolution #2 – Designation of Officers**

That Article 6.1 Designation of Officers be amended in the SAMBA by-laws. Article 6.1

Designation of Officers to read:

(k) Jr House League Director (Rally Cap, Rookie, and Mosquito)

(l) Sr House League Director (Peewee, Bantam, and Midget)

(m) Special Events Director.

Call for Questions from the Membership – None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

## Item

## Action

### Special Resolution #3 – Job Description Splitting of Jr and Sr House League

That Article 6.3 Duties and Responsibilities of Officers be amended in the SAMBA by-laws. That Article 6.3 (g) be amended to read:

(g) Junior (Jr) House League Director

The Junior House League Director shall:

- be responsible for heading up the operation of the House League teams in the ~~TBall, Rally Cap, Rookie, and Mosquito, Pee Wee, and Bantam, and Midget~~ divisions;
- prepare a brief summary of the League Division for the A.G.M.;
- work with the Junior Rep Director, Senior Rep Director, and Facilities Director in preparing the field schedule;
- work with the Junior Rep Director and Senior Rep Director in preparing and executing player evaluations;
- work as a liaison between the respective House League division coordinators, coaches, players and parents, and
- Perform such other duties as may be specified from time to time by the board of Directors or these By-laws.

Re-number from (g) onward so that Senior House League Director immediately follows Junior House League Director.

That Article 6.3 be amended to ADD:

(h) Senior (Sr) House League Director

The Sr House League Director shall:

- be responsible for heading up the operation of the Sr House League teams in the Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions;
- prepare a brief summary of the League Division for the A.G.M.;
- work with the Junior Rep Director, Senior Rep Director, and Facilities Director in preparing the field schedule;
- work with the Junior Rep Director and Senior Rep Director in preparing and executing player evaluations;
- work as a liaison between the respective House League division coordinators, coaches, players and parents, and
- Perform such other duties as may be specified from time to time by the board of Directors or these By-laws.

Under Article 6.3 Special Events Director change ~~Early Bird Tournament~~ to read Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament

Call for Questions from the Membership – None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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| <b>Item</b> | <b>Action</b> |
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| <b>Special Resolution #4 – Appointment of Volunteers</b><br>Amend 8.1 (a) Appointment of Volunteers to read Rally Cap Coordinator instead of T-Ball | Motion<br>carried |
|---|-------------------|

Call for Questions from the Membership – None  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

Motion to accept all 4 Special Resolutions:  
Motion: Travis Parker  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Barb Kitzan  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

Before the start of the Elections; a few minutes were taken to make two special presentations:

- A handmade bench was presented to the Mills Family in honour of the late Anne Mills in recognition of her contributions to SAMBA.
- A token of appreciation was presented to outgoing Vice President, Colin Leathem in thanks for his many years with the board.

**6. Call for Open Executive and Board/Non-Board Positions**

Kurtus spoke in regards to the Open Board Positions, stressing how crucial it is to fill these important roles. Effective leadership and participation will help to ensure SAMBA's success as one of the Great Baseball Associations in Alberta. He further acknowledged and thanked the following Out-Going Board Members and Non-Board Members alike for their efforts and contributions throughout the 2017 year:

Open Executive and Board Positions:  
Vice President – (Currently Colin Leathem)  
Sr Rep Director – (Currently Neil Neary)  
Treasurer – (Currently Lorie Runnalls)  
Sr House League – (Currently Michelle Whyte)  
Marketing – (Currently Cori White)  
Special Events – (Current Danielle Moffat)

**Item**

**Action**

Appointed Members:

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)

Elected In-Coming Board Members:

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Vice President**  
Lorie Runnalls Nominates BRIAN BOURASSA for Election  
(2nd to the Nomination- Fred Mills)  
Final Call for Nominations: None  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None  
**Elected: BRIAN BOURASSA**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Treasurer**  
Neil Neary Nominates LORIE RUNNALLS for Re-Election  
(2nd to the Nomination- John Bresler)  
Final Call for Nominations: None  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None  
**Re-Elected: LORIE RUNNALLS**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Sr House League Director**  
MICHELLE WHYTE agrees to stand for 1 year  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None  
**Re-Elected: MICHELLE WHYTE**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Sr. Rep Director:**  
NEIL NEARY agrees to stay for another term (2 years)  
In Favor: All Opposed: None  
**Re-Elected: NEIL NEARY**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Marketing Director**  
CORI WHITE agrees to stay for another term (2 years)  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None  
**Re-Elected: CORI WHITE**

**Item****Action**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Special Events Director**:

DANIELLE MOFFAT agrees to stay for another term

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**Re-Elected: DANIELLE MOFFAT**

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

Brian Bourassa Nominates COLIN FROMENT

(2nd to the Nomination- Sean Erikson)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

**Elected: COLIN FROMENT**

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

Assistant Equipment Coordinator and Girls Baseball Coordinator will be elected at the November 20<sup>th</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 2017, below are some highlights:



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| <b>Item</b> | <b>Action</b> |
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- SAMBA registrations surpassed initial expectations, with 874 athletes registered in all divisions in 2017 including the inaugural year of Challenger Baseball. The SAMBA Board put in countless hours, and worked diligently to make this increase in player numbers work, and ensure success in all levels of the programs.
- SAMBA would like to thank EIBF for its donation and continued support and we thank John Bresler for helping us for this relationship with EIBF.
- Inaugural year for Challenger Baseball. Under the leadership of Karen and Jim Poniewozik it was a tremendous success.
- The Blue Jays Camp was a huge success for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and we look forwarding to hosting them in future years.
- Special Thank You to John Robinson for all his help with the many hours he spent creating the schedules for the Larry Rindero AA Tournament.
- The Tigers organization is thanked for its help with evaluations, running a camp, and a successful Tigers Tournament.
- Our first year splitting House League Director into Jr and Sr. Thank you to Byron Whittal for all your help running the Junior House League program; and thank you to Michelle Whyte for all her help with the Senior House League program.
- SAMBA successfully hosted provincials, zones, and a major renovation of the midget diamond.
- We value and continue our relationship with Morinville Minor Baseball and Legal Minor Ball.
- 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

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>8. Financial Report:</b> | <b>Motion Carried</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|

**8A. 2017 Financial Review**

Treasurer Lorie Runnalls provided an overview of the Financial Statements for 2017, and answered a number of general questions from those members in attendance.

Motion to Accept the 2017 Financial Statements as presented: Colin Leathem  
 2nd: John Bresler  
 In Favor: All  
 Opposed: None

| Item | Action |
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| <b>8B. 2018 Budget Review</b> | Motion Carried |
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The projected Budget numbers for 2018 are slightly higher than the previous year, as there is no Casino in 2018.

Lorie gave the attendees a few minutes to review the Budget for 2018 and asked for any questions or comments.

- No Additional Questions or Comments
- Motion to Accept the Budget for 2018 as presented: John Bresler  
2nd: Candace Sloan  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

**9. New Business - From Membership**

- John Tkachyk asked that concussion protocols and pitcher protection be looked at seriously by the board.
- Brian Bourassa was the recipient of SAMBA's 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Brian thanked Kurtus and the Board board for the honor.

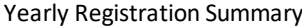
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| <b>10. Adjournment</b> | Motion Carried |
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Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:33 pm: Lorie Runnalls  
2nd: Colin Leathem  
All were in favor

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   | Kurtus Millar     |
| Secretary         | President         |
| November 15, 2017 | November 15, 2017 |



### SAMBA Yearly Registrations

The chart displays the yearly registration counts for eight SAMBA categories from 2018 to 1992. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 250 in increments of 25. The X-axis lists years from 2018 on the left to 1992 on the right. The categories are: Challenger (blue), Rally (teal), Rookie (dark blue), Mosquito (yellow), PeeWee (orange), Bantam (pink), Midget (red), and Juniors (green). Most categories show a general increase in registrations over the years, with a notable peak in 1993. The Juniors category shows a significant dip in 2016 and 2017 before rising again.

| Year | Challenger | Rally | Rookie | Mosquito | PeeWee | Bantam | Midget | Juniors |
|------|------------|-------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 2018 | 30         | 205   | 170    | 155      | 145    | 115    | 90     | 25      |
| 2017 | 25         | 180   | 155    | 165      | 155    | 90     | 70     | 25      |
| 2016 | 25         | 165   | 135    | 165      | 135    | 90     | 80     | 10      |
| 2015 | 25         | 165   | 105    | 115      | 130    | 65     | 70     | 12      |
| 2014 | 25         | 160   | 110    | 110      | 125    | 60     | 50     | 15      |
| 2013 | 25         | 135   | 110    | 115      | 105    | 62     | 45     | 12      |
| 2012 | 25         | 130   | 95     | 105      | 100    | 68     | 50     | 25      |
| 2011 | 25         | 130   | 115    | 105      | 95     | 62     | 55     | 25      |
| 2010 | 25         | 140   | 135    | 120      | 95     | 62     | 58     | 25      |
| 2009 | 25         | 150   | 140    | 110      | 110    | 95     | 38     | 25      |
| 2008 | 25         | 150   | 140    | 115      | 130    | 75     | 25     | 25      |
| 2007 | 25         | 145   | 110    | 120      | 115    | 65     | 28     | 25      |
| 2006 | 25         | 110   | 115    | 135      | 95     | 45     | 30     | 25      |
| 2005 | 25         | 115   | 140    | 125      | 85     | 50     | 32     | 25      |
| 2004 | 25         | 110   | 120    | 115      | 65     | 55     | 25     | 25      |
| 2003 | 25         | 160   | 130    | 95       | 85     | 58     | 35     | 25      |
| 2002 | 25         | 155   | 110    | 90       | 85     | 65     | 40     | 25      |
| 2001 | 25         | 115   | 100    | 105      | 95     | 55     | 28     | 25      |
| 2000 | 25         | 105   | 105    | 125      | 85     | 50     | 28     | 25      |
| 1999 | 25         | 120   | 130    | 130      | 90     | 55     | 25     | 25      |
| 1998 | 25         | 110   | 115    | 120      | 85     | 70     | 40     | 25      |
| 1997 | 25         | 120   | 155    | 150      | 120    | 80     | 25     | 25      |
| 1996 | 25         | 160   | 160    | 160      | 140    | 82     | 28     | 25      |
| 1995 | 25         | 115   | 190    | 170      | 170    | 78     | 30     | 25      |
| 1994 | 25         | 145   | 210    | 210      | 200    | 105    | 45     | 25      |
| 1993 | 25         | 210   | 215    | 235      | 180    | 102    | 55     | 25      |
| 1992 | 25         | 165   | 180    | 170      | 170    | 82     | 45     | 25      |



## **2018 Facilities Director Report**

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2018 was a year with many improvements made to our diamonds and the benefits of the improvements made in the previous year seen this summer. The money and time spent resurfacing our midget diamond showed to be well worth it. The midget diamond saw less days off due to rain. The drainage was much improved and the added surface to the shale added to the moisture retention. Adding this surface material to all the mounds helped the fields recover quicker from any rain we received. We had similar amounts of rain as previous years however with the improvements to the diamonds and the knowledge of the crew we were able to get the diamonds ready to play in shorter amounts of time than in years past. The crew and its leadership have gained lots of experience in caring for a field after a rain fall. They have learnt well and are proficient at what needs to get done to get our ball players back on the field playing baseball. With the planned improvements to the peewee and bantam diamonds this fall the diamonds should be in prime shape for next summer.

2018 will be marked as the year of KEVIN. The year started with the hiring of Kevin Millar as our head grounds keeper. Kevin has found his calling on his retirement years. Many compliments were received in regards to our diamonds and facilities through out the year. Kevin brought a consistent presence at the diamonds to guide the crew in their daily routines and complete many repairs and improvements to the diamonds. His leadership helped lessen the load of work on Brian and Kurtus. His pride in his work was evident through out the facility. Thank you Kevin for your many hours spent making our diamonds the best on Alberta.

Some of the improvements and repairs to the diamond that helped the drainage and playability of the diamonds included adding a shale path from home plate to the mound on peewee to help remove a mud hole and improve the flatness of the playing surface. Lots of sod was removed from the fields to help reduce lips that had built up over the years. These repairs helped with drainage. Bantam and Mosquitos benefited from these repairs. The addition of new groomer this summer helped keep our in fields flat and looking great. Thank you Brian for your research and time spent to find the correct product for our facility. I believe you found the right one. We also added a new tow tractor to our fleet. The old tow tractor made to thru the summer but we aren't sure how many more hours or minutes it has it. Money has been budgeted to replace this piece of equipment. Through Kevin's research and self education in the art of grounds keeping he found a few hand held tools that helped make our game time product look beautiful. Our sponsorship and agreement with Martin Deerline continued again this year and the use of the mowers were a huge time saver for our grounds crew. SAMBA looks forward to continuing the agreement for years. Green drop was again used to fertilize our field to help us use those mower more often.

2109 looks to be a great year ahead with many more improvements scheduled this fall and thru the winter and spring months. With the amazing work accomplished from our grants guru Danielle lots of money was obtained to fund our many improvements. The resurfacing of the peewee diamond began near the end of September, however the freak Alberta snow storms in September of October brought many delays to the project. Efforts are still being made to finish the Peewee and Bantam diamond for the start of next year. Demo of the old batting cages started in October in preparation of our new covered cages. This project will hopefully be ready for the start of the 2019 season. Many other maintenance project are scheduled for the near future as Danielle continues her Grants acquisitions.

Our grounds crew had the regular cast of characters come back to spend many hours on the weekends preparing the fields for games. Ben Hoffman and Seth Waselenchuk satisfied their travel bug in the spring after a year of university then returned to the crew for the summer. Connor Burns and Sean Erickson also returned. Then our crew of high schoolers were Jackson Moffat, Evan Bourassa, Mike Brisson, and Tom Leathem were joined by a couple new comers Liam Froment, Cole Tulloch, and Eli Trenchard in July. We had a couple guys fill in during the first couple months while the guys finished travelling and returned from school. Danny Tkachuk and Connor Bronson filled in nicely. The crew lead by Kevin spent many hours on the weekend prepping the diamonds through out the summer. The baseball community of SAMBA and Alberta thanks all of you for your time and hard work.

In closing I was appointed the Facilities Director at last years AGM however that was on the website directory only. I'd like to thank Kurtis Millar and Brian Bourassa for their countless hours put into everything SAMBA related but specifically the facilities. Besides the many hours they spend at the diamonds year round they have gained lots of experience and knowledge over the years and have developed a plan for the future of our great facility. The future is bright for all of SAMBA but especially for the upcoming additions and improvements that are coming soon. Thank you guys.

Colin Froment  
Facilities Director





## 2018 Special Events Director Report

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The 2018 season started off with some great news! We were informed that we were successful in our grant application and would be receiving funds from Jays Care. We put together a viewing party at Canadian Brewhouse, to watch the announcement live on TV. We invited the entire board and were quite excited with the turnout. Big thanks to everyone that worked around the clock to get the grant completed, huge thanks to both Brian Bourassa and Kurtus Millar for all of the extra time spent making this opportunity become a successful one. I'm not sure what this association would do without you.

As in previous years, the season started off with Rep tryouts, umpire and coaches' clinics, as well as, many parent and volunteer meetings. I want to express some serious gratitude to all the volunteers that spend their time doing all the things that make this season great for all of our kids. Our house league and rep programs would not have been able to accomplish what we have without all of you. Thank you! Also, a big thank you to the prospects and the families that came out for Spring Clean-up.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament, this year the tournament was held at Legion Memorial as well as Morinville diamonds. Thank you to Morinville for partnering with us for this event. There were also many volunteers from our rep teams that went above and beyond this year to help our board in running this in two different locations. We appreciate all of you very much. We were proud to hold and facilitate the Honda Blue Jays Super Camp for a third summer. The camps offer players from 9-16 a memorable experience with former Blue Jays while learning techniques and skills from some of our favorite all-stars. Overall, the entire camp was a huge success and we are very excited to run this again on new fields that Jays Care has invested in.

Legion Memorial Ball Park was the host of many provincial championships. We also had the chance to host the Jr. AAA Westerns Championships! We are always so proud to host players, coaches and families in our beautiful park. Much of the hard work happens behind the scenes. Our super hero President, our tireless Facility Manager and his entire team, work so hard to make sure everything happens on time and without a hitch. In the last decade this has become a full time job as our fields are truly starting to show their age. None of our events would be possible without their hard work and dedication and I just want to say a big thank you from all of us at SAMBA.

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, we had a pretty stellar year winning a variety of awards. This time last year we won the Large Association of the Year with Baseball Alberta, Kurtus won the Presidents Award that same night. Kurtus was also nominated and received an unsung hero award at the Mayor's Annual Celebration of Volunteers. SAMBA was also nominated and won the Community Stewardship award at the St. Albert Small Business Week awards this year. We were in a tough category with many excellent organizations doing great work in St. Albert. It was a real honor to attend the awards ceremony and earn this award on behalf of all of members, I am very proud to be part of the SAMBA family.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Danielle Moffat*

Danielle Moffat



## 2018 Grant Proposal Coordinator Report

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2018 was a remarkable year for SAMBA Grants and our Leadership. Financially we are in a much better place than we were just two short years ago. This has been a group effort and we have seen some phenomenal success.

We completed our second and final year of our raffle and we continued to run our Bingo's throughout the year. This coming year we should be slotted for our casino.

At this time last year, we had just submitted our Field of Dreams Grant with Jays Care Foundation. In December of 2017, we were notified that we were moved to the second round and completed a much more detailed grant application. We found out early in 2018 during the Jays home opener, live on television, they announced that SAMBA had been chosen by the Jays Care Foundation to receive the full amount we requested in our grant. We arranged a viewing party and were so excited and proud to see that we were the only successful candidate in all of Alberta.

Early in 2018 we made the decision to leverage the funds we received from EIBF last year and we applied for the municipal grant through the City of St. Albert. Kurtus, Brian and I attended an Interview with a community panel as a second step before they deliberated on the candidates. We found out during a council meeting in June that we had been successful in that application and would be receiving the full amount requested from that grant as well.

Since we were on a roll, we decided to go apply for the CFEP grant through the Province of Alberta. We submitted the grant within the deadline and have our fingers crossed that we will receive some of the funds for that application as well. We should find out some time in November.

While all of this is very exciting and will help us complete some much-needed work on our fields and facility. It has brought some level of work to organize all the different projects and make sure we complete them on time and on budget. Unfortunately, due to the terrible weather in September and then the snow in October, it has stopped us from completing the renovations on the diamonds until the spring. We will be doing everything we can to get things done as quickly as we can without impacting the season too much next year.

In Closing, we have a solid plan going forward and with the help of our dedicated committee there is more communication on the needs and wants of the organization. We will make sure we do our best to steward the money and relationships we have been building with Jays Care Foundation, the City and hopefully the Province. More details to come next year!

Respectfully submitted by,

*Danielle Moffat*  
Danielle Moffat



## **2018 Marketing Director Report**

2018 has been another demanding year for our community, and response to sponsorship requests has again been slow. Although baseball in our community is thriving, the economy has forced our sponsorship to hold off on local giveaways and cash sponsorships.

Even though it was not a lucrative year for garnering sponsorships, many inroads were made into the community and are in talks for 2019 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.

In fall of 2017 we executed a unique seasonal program selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths to our baseball community. Items that were purchased, we were then available for pick up right at Legion. The program was so successful in the first year we are repeating it again for the 2018 Holiday season.

As SAMBA grows closer to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are working towards gathering as much of the historical information and memories we can. This past year we have made some great inroads 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 2019 budget year.
- Registration information will once again be advertised in member newsletters, Gazette ads, social media and other community opportunities such as the Landmark theatres.
- 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 2019.
- SAMBA will continue to participate in community events to continue to grow awareness and educate future participants.

Looking forward to a progressive and profitable 2019 season!

Regards,  
Cori White  
Marketing Director



## 2018 Technical Director Report

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In my sixth year as SAMBA's Technical Director of Baseball again we look at ways to improve our coaching certifications as well as helping our grass roots coaches to attain the skills required to run a smooth program. A highlight of the year was our first annual Mosquito to Midget coaches' clinic that was well attended this year. I feel we provided them with great resources to coach at the young level including practice plans.

### **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**

This year our Performance Teams had another outstanding year. We truly had an outstanding amount of experienced coaches that led our teams to success. Success not only in results on the field but also in player and coach development.

### **SAMBA Player Evaluations**

2018 was another great year for our Rep Evals, 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. Would be great if there was an even larger facility.

Recommendation: Possibility that we look at making the AAA teams first and then move to AA as necessary. Also would recommend we start our evals earlier to give teams an opportunity to book pre season tournaments.

Table.1.1: Number of players registered for Rep tryouts at each age division

|                 | 2017       | 2018       | 2019<br>(Projection only) |
|-----------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Mosquito</b> | 37         | 27         | 30                        |
| <b>PeeWee</b>   | 39         | 42         | 42                        |
| <b>Bantam</b>   | 51         | 47         | 50                        |
| <b>Midget</b>   | 57         | 54         | 54                        |
| <b>Junior</b>   | 25         | 26         | 30                        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>209</b> | <b>196</b> | <b>206</b>                |

Table.1.2: Number of rep teams (AA & AAA) for spring/summer at each age division

|                 | 2017               | 2018               | 2019<br>(Projection only) |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Mosquito</b> | 2-AA & 2-A         | 2-AA & 1 A         | 2-AA & 1 A                |
| <b>PeeWee</b>   | 1-AAA & 2-AA & 1 A | 1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A | 1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A        |

|               |              |                    |                    |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bantam</b> | 1-AAA & 2-AA | 1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A | 1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A |
| <b>Midget</b> | 1-AAA & 2 AA | 2-AAA & 1-AA       | 1-AAA & 2-AA       |
| <b>Junior</b> | 1            | 2                  | 2                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>15</b>    | <b>16</b>          | <b>16</b>          |

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

### **2018 Winter Camps**

- 75 Players Registered
- With utilizing 5 Tool we are limited to the number of participants

### **2018 Spring Camp**

- The annual Spring Camp was held in March at Servus/5 Tool Fieldhouse
- Spring Baseball Camp was once more well received by all in attendance
- 34 participants: Rookie/Mosquito/Peewee players. First year that we only had a Jr age Camp
- The Spring Training Camp covered all aspects of baseball fundamentals in 30 minute station rotations

**Recommendation:** 2019 we will run as always our Spring Camp and will maintain just a Jr Age Program

### **2018 St Albert Tigers' Summer Camp**

- The popular Tigers Camp was held again this year, 79 Athletes attended
- A Thank you to the Tigers for continuing to work with our grass roots players

### **2018 'Girls Baseball Day in Canada' Camp**

- This year we hosted 27 Athletes from across Alberta

### **2018 Fall Baseball Season**

2018 Fall Ball was our worst year weather related, we had teams entered at all levels that were only able to play 2 games and have 3 practices indoors. We refunded the players the bulk of their registration fees.

Table 1.3: Number of Fall Ball teams at each age division

|                 | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019<br/>(projected)</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Mosquito</b> | 2           | 1           | 2                           |
| <b>PeeWee</b>   | 2           | 1           | 2                           |



|               |          |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Bantam</b> | 2        | 1        | 1        |
| <b>Midget</b> | 2        | 1        | 1        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>8</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>6</b> |

- Pee wee/Mosquito team entered a Kamloops tournament (Fall Ball ages)

### **Future Recommendations:**

Continue to work with our Rep Coaches on assisting with practices for our House League program. We need to invest time at the grass roots level. Recommend introducing a competitive division, we had our PW AAA coach bring mosquito/pee wee aged players to Kamloops for a tournament.

### **COACH DEVELOPMENT**

#### **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 (N.C.C.P.) 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 your 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 4th 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 it to our Mosquito-Midget Coaches. Jason Enright, Kurtus Millar, and myself worked with coaches on basic tools to run their season and how to lay out a practice plan. It was very well attended and I look forward to building on their skills every year.

Regards, Travis Parker  
Technical Director



## **2018 Junior House League Director Report**

This was the Second Year the house league director was split between Junior (rally cap to Mosquito) and Senior (Peewee to Midget) 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. 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.

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. We continued to have growth in our program we grew by 6.9% or 32 players this year in our Junior house league program. Rally Cap saw growth of 14 players and the number of teams increased to 18, roster sizes increased to 11 players per team. Rookie saw the biggest growth of 18 players the number of teams stayed the same at 14, but roster sizes increased to 12 players per team we are maxed out for Rookie. The Mosquito program was stagnate at 132 players and 11 Teams.

**Partnerships** - Our partnership with Morinville minor baseball and legal minor baseball continued this season. Both programs continued to grow. Are relationship with Legal went smoothly they even accommodated us in moving there Rookie Team to Tuesday/Thursday to even out the teams on both nights. We had some issues with Morinville they had a shortage of diamonds, but after discussion and consultation we were able to accommodate them and use some of our diamond inventory. We need to find a way to minimize these requests.

**2018 Spring Baseball Season** – Registration went well and we were almost at the maximum capacity for our junior leagues near the end of February. We had 50 players register after the February 28 deadline compared with 80 in 2017 and 184 in 2016 (Deadline was late March in 2016). There were a number of requests this year that were outside of our standard policies and this created an increased work load when creating the teams (about 30% of those requests came after the teams were created).

My biggest complaint received during the season was equipment provided by SAMBA and how old it was.

This year league play began a week later than we had hoped for due to the snow/winter refusing to go away. We began the season on May 7 and the Season was extended a week longer to June 28. This allowed all teams to play an 8 week schedule. Once league play began it ran smoothly with very few issues and any issues that did occur were minor in nature. We had 4 rainouts this year mainly on Monday/Wednesday – overall the rain stayed away and allowed us to run our programs.

At 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 2013 to 2018 baseball seasons:**

| 2018 Season |      |        |       |       | 2017 Season |      |        |       |       |
|-------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| Players     |      |        |       |       | Players     |      |        |       |       |
|             | Male | Female | Total | Teams |             | Male | Female | Total | Teams |
| Rally Cap   | 158  | 37     | 195   | 18    | Rally Cap   | 145  | 36     | 181   | 17    |
| Rookie      | 144  | 23     | 167   | 14    | Rookie      | 134  | 15     | 149   | 14    |
| Mosquito    | 125  | 7      | 132   | 11    | Mosquito    | 119  | 13     | 132   | 11    |
| Total       | 427  | 67     | 494   | 43    | Total       | 398  | 64     | 462   | 42    |
| 2016 Season |      |        |       |       | 2015 Season |      |        |       |       |
| Players     |      |        |       |       | Players     |      |        |       |       |
|             | Male | Female | Total | Teams |             | Male | Female | Total | Teams |
| Rally Cap   | 136  | 34     | 170   | 17    | Rally Cap   | 137  | 33     | 170   | 17    |
| Rookie      | 121  | 9      | 130   | 12    | Rookie      | 93   | 13     | 106   | 10    |
| Mosquito    | 122  | 21     | 143   | 12    | Mosquito    | 86   | 10     | 96    | 8     |
| Total       | 379  | 64     | 443   | 41    | Total       | 316  | 56     | 372   | 35    |
| 2014 Season |      |        |       |       | 2013 Season |      |        |       |       |
| Players     |      |        |       |       | Players     |      |        |       |       |
|             | Male | Female | Total | Teams |             | Male | Female | Total | Teams |
| Rally Cap   | 129  | 35     | 164   | 16    | Rally Cap   | 115  | 25     | 140   | 14    |
| Rookie      | 94   | 12     | 106   | 10    | Rookie      | 91   | 17     | 108   | 10    |
| Mosquito    | 72   | 10     | 82    | 7     | Mosquito    | 83   | 8      | 91    | 8     |
| Total       | 295  | 57     | 352   | 33    | Total       | 289  | 50     | 339   | 32    |

**2018 Summer Baseball Season** – This year SAMBA created a Summer Baseball Program that ran from July 10 to August 16. In previous seasons we have had coaches and players asking about how we could extend the season and thus we created the Summer Baseball Program for Rally Cap and Rookie. Registration was slow and we received 19 registrations for Rally Cap and 36 registrations for Rookie. While not the registration numbers we were hoping for I believe the main issue being we didn't get enough communication out to the community early enough. 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 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 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 2018. 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

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. We set up equipment return on 2 days at the end of the season and it was a great success, only 4 of the 43 teams did not show up and Coaches did a great job in collecting and returning the jerseys. 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 18 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 Mosquito 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. The Year-end mosquito tournament was quite short umpires, our president quickly jumped in and got some of the Midget AAA blue team to step up and help and therefore no game went without an umpire. It was noted by many coaches that the kids who stepped and helped us out did a great job.

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

**Girls Baseball** – Our number of female participants at the Rally Cap to Mosquito Level was 67 in 2018, this was an increase of 3 players. After numerous hours of research one of the ways to help retain females in our programs was to put more female athletes together. In the past we have always put 2 female athletes on every team, this year we took that one step further and we tried to have a minimum of 4 girls per team where possible. Talking with parents and coaches this seemed successful and we will continue to move in this direction. There has been relatively low growth among female participants our numbers have grown from 50 to 64 since the 2013 season. Female participants only make up 13.5% of our participants. While SAMBA is competing with Fastball (which is predominantly female) and soccer we need to find better ways to advertise and entice female participants to join our programs.

### **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 replace 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.
- 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.





## 2018 Senior House League Directors Report

### House League Overview:

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others” – Mahatma Gandhi

In my opinion, this quote represents all the volunteers within SAMBA involved within our House League program. I am constantly amazed of how so few step up to help so many, with only the goal of helping in mind. For this, I am so very appreciative.

This was the second year our HL team were divided into a junior and senior division. Senior HL consisted of Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget teams. We did have a small drop in our PW numbers in SAMBA but saw huge growth at the Bantam level while maintaining at our Midget Level. Overall within these three divisions, we did see a 7% growth from the year previous.

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 Pee Wee teams played off nights on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday in St. Albert. Our Bantam and Midget teams participated in the Edmonton Rural Recreational Baseball League, with games scheduled Monday 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        |

### General Comments for Senior House League Teams:

- **Team Formation** - 2018 was the fifth year we grouped athletes by neighbourhood. There continue to be differing opinions on how to best make teams, be it either through areas in which kids live or through evaluations; however, until evaluations are made mandatory with over 90% attendance, there will always be a chance some neighbourhoods will have stronger teams than others. 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** – In review of the registrations, we increased at the Senior HL level of 7%, surpassing my estimate of 5% from the previous year. For 2019, I believe we will maintain our numbers without seeing a big change, either up or down. What remains a challenge is how to maintain our numbers with the limited amount of diamonds we have available to us.
- **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.
- **Girls Baseball** – While our number of female players increased this year at most levels, because of the choice of nights of play (either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) we would have been unable to create a separate girls team for any other division than Rally Cap. The feedback we received is mixed - some girls enjoying playing on mixed teams, some girls would rather play on an all-girls team.
- **League Play** – Our official date to begin was May 7, 2018, which was pushed back a week due to later snowfall and cooler temperatures. We completed the year on June 28, 2018. The weather cooperated much better through the season with fewer rescheduling of games. Due to diamond shortages, we are still finding difficulty in the rescheduling of games if needed.
- **Midseason** – We did something new this year for our Pee Wee teams by hosting our own mid-season tournament in Legal. 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. We invited one additional outside team to round out the numbers with each pool having 7 teams. The weather held out although some games had a few delays for quick showers. For 2019, I would suggest returning to Legal for the tournament and for those teams who want to play in another tournament, they can enter the NEZ tournament on their own.
- **Year-End** – Due to umpire shortages, the format for the year-end tournament at the PW division was altered. Rather than having the entire tournament completed on the weekend, we had round robin play through the weekend with the playoffs in the week. This helped balance out the needs of all the teams (both HL, Rep and other Associations requiring umpires) and allowing more flexibility in the event of poor weather. For the older teams, through ERRBL, they played their year-end tournaments in a variety of areas throughout the City.
- **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 Midget level. It was exciting to be able to field three House League teams at this level. The coaches worked very well together drafting their teams during their coaching meeting. We were fortunate to have very knowledgeable and experienced coaches at this level to help these young adults grow in their passion and ability.
- **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.
- **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** – this was a difficult year for our Bantam and Midget teams within this league. Due to the staff turnover within Baseball Alberta, these levels were not organized, planned or executed as well as they have been in years previous. There was an unfair distribution of travel, home and away games and the scheduling of games. SAMBA approached Baseball Alberta to discuss our concerns on behalf of our members. I like to think our matters will be dealt with and Baseball Alberta will be better equipped to handle the teams and scheduling for the upcoming year.
- **Bantam & Midget Registration** – we have also learned to better explain the commitment at this level, to ensure registrants are aware there are not specific nights they play (M/W vs T/H) as well as the possibility for travel to outlying areas. For the Bantam Level, we have tossed around the idea of potentially having our own Bantam league, but will not be able to decide this until we determine how many registrations are received.
- 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.



## 2018 Jr Rep Director Report - Mark Brisson

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### INTRODUCTION

2018 was another good year for the Jr Rep program as registration numbers were up in the Peewee division where we fielded three teams and two teams in the Mosquito division.

Rep evaluations for 2018 took place at both 5-Tools Sports Training Complex (5-Tool) and Servus Credit Union Place (Servus). All hitting was evaluated at 5-Tool, with excellent catcher/pitcher and limited fielding drills also conducted. The majority of fielding evaluations took place at Servus for infield, outfield, and additional catcher/pitcher evaluations. Knowing that competing other sports commitments would continue to affect evaluation sessions this year, SAMBA continued to utilize a robust evaluation process for the Jr Rep Divisions which consisted of 7 evaluation sessions, including:

- Measureable Stage (2 - One hr sessions - 1 player per session);
- 2 - Baseball Skills Assessments (2 - One hr sessions - 1 player per session);
- Regrouping and cut downs where appropriate; and,
- 4 more sessions- Baseball Skills Assess (2 - One hr sessions - 1 player per session) with regrouping and cut downs where appropriate, after each session.

After the 2017 Season, feedback on the evaluation process was requested and received from both coaches and parents and the SAMBA Board was able to incorporate the following into the 2018 evaluation process:

- Initial groupings of the players were based on where they played in the previous year. For example, in the Peewee division: Peewee AAA, Peewee AA, MQ AA 1/2, PW A, House league.
- Increased communication with parents / players before evaluations and once again early in the process on the expectations of playing rep ball - re: time commitment, cost, length of year, tryout process and absences, etc.
- Increased communication between coaches during the evaluation process.
- Roster sizes were all set prior to the start of the evaluation process.
- Coaches were provide with some prescriptive measures (with their option to use) for hitting, catching, pitching, and fielding.

## **MOSQUITO DIVISION**

In 2017 - 46 teams made up the Mosquito AA division for Baseball Alberta. In St. Albert, 34 players tried out, with 24 players being selected for one of two AA teams. 10 players were released to the House League program.

### **Mosquito AA Red**

Head Coach: Colin Bergstrom

Assistant Coaches: Cam Fischer, Jason Harley, Andy Scherer, Jadon Hildebrandt

Team Size: 12 players with all 11 players graduating to the PeeWee division next year.

Overall Record: 29-5-1

Tournaments: Entered three tournaments in 2018:

- Lary Rindero - 1-1-1 record.
- Doc Plotsky in Sherwood Park - Gold Medal Division 1.
- Kelowna Tournament of Champions - Gold Medal AAA division - Kicked some BC butt - great bonding for the team!

Provincial Results: Competed in Tier 1 provincials in Spruce Grove. After a round robin record of 2-1 and a must win against Parkland in the third game to advance to the semi, the MOSQ AA Red pitching excelled and eventually resulted in a **Provincial Gold Medal** win over the Strathmore Reds in the.

### **Season Highlights**:

- MOSQ AA Red was great team to coach, great set of assistant coach and the players all came to work hard every practice and really developed throughout the season;
- Offensively team average of .435/.553/.598 with a +215 run differential and a dinger in the Doc Plotsky; and,
- Ran a 10 out of 12 player pitching rotation averaging a 3.83 ERA, 18.7 P/IP, .613 Strike %, and .625 First Pitch Strike %.

### **Mosquito AA Blue**

Head Coach: Bill Russell

Assistant Coaches: Andy Scherer, John Logan, Levi Derksen

Team Size: 12 - 2 first year players, 10 second year players, but many playing Rep baseball for the first time.

Overall Record: 19 - 6

MOSQ AA Blue had a great group of kids and parents which did make for a great season! BA Scheduling challenges was a hurdle to overcome which in some cases resulted in a start with lopsided wins rounds one and two, but competition stiffened up in Provincial Play. Players were challenged in provincials and with athlete development being the number one priority



for the coaching staff, the season ended in a success with ten players ready to move up to the PeeWee division next year.

## **PEEWEE DIVISION**

In 2018 - 10 teams competed in the AAA division and 43 teams competed in the AA division for Baseball Alberta. In St. Albert, 50 players tried out, with 36 players being selected for one AAA and two AA teams. 11 players were released to the House League program.

### **PeeWee AAA**

Head Coach: Travis Parker

Assistant Coaches: Fred Mills, Kyle Schalk, Brett Rankin

Team Size: 12 players with 5 players graduating to the Bantam division and 7 remaining on the PeeWee AAA team next year.

Overall Record: 30-12

Tournaments: Entered 2 tournaments- the Valley of Champions in Kelowna and placed 4th and the Doc Plotsky and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Provincial Results: A very successful Tier 1 provincial championship tournament for the PeeWee AAA Cardinals with a walk off win over Red Deer in the semi-finals, but lost a tough one to Parkland in the Final and earned a solid Silver Medal.

Western Canadian PeeWee Championships - Brandon Manitoba. Lost game 1 and then came back to be 1st in our pool to play again against Red Deer in the semi-finals with a win and a very competitive loss to a BC team from Surrey. A very successful season with Silver Medals in Provincials and the Western Canadian PeeWee Championships.

Some Season highlights:

- Westerns - awarded the Top Defensive Player as well as the Top Catcher of the tournament;
- Made only 2 errors in the Westerns as a team;
- Every player pitched at least an inning;
- Fred Mills is an asset and the kids enjoyed his presence; and,
- An amazing group of kids and parents

### **PeeWee AA Red**

Head Coach: Tony Golab

Assistant Coaches: Dave Beattie, Brian Hartman, Gary Odegard

Team Size: 12 players with 8 players graduating on to Bantam Division and 4 remaining in the PeeWee Division next year and looking to graduate to the AAA Team.

Overall Record: 18-12-1

**Tournaments:** Entered two tournaments in 2018:

- Larry Rindero Memorial (St. Albert) Tournament - Silver.
- Kelowna Valley of Champions Tournament - placed 4th.

**Provincial Results:** Tier 1 Provincials in Olds, AB. After 2 very competitive rounds in league play, the PeeWee AA Red team did not make the medal round by going 1-2 in the round robin with two losses by one run. Great efforts boys.

Some Season highlights:

- 7 Home Runs over the fence this season and a team BA of 0.424;
- Dedicated coaching staff worked hard on player development and also develop a great group of young men; and,
- Pitchers focussed on working their 4 seam, 2 seam fast balls and a nasty change-up.

### **PeeWee AA Blue**

**Head Coach:** Mike Good

**Assistant Coaches:** Mike Morgan, Steve Lavoie, Jeff Weins

**Team Size:** 12 players with 2 players graduating to Bantam division and 10 remaining in PeeWee next season.

**Overall Record:** 16-5-1.

**Tournaments:** Entered 3 tournaments in 2018:

- Larry Rindero Memorial (St. Albert)
- Doc Plotsky (Sherwood Park) - Semi-Final loss.
- NEZ AAA- Tier 1 (Edmonton) - great leaning Tournament against Tier 1 teams.

**Provincial Results:** PeeWee AA Blue Cardinals hosted the Tier 3 provincial championships. We went 1-3 in round robin play. Although the record doesn't reflect it my team played very well, the PeeWee AA Blue team finished plus 7 in runs for against, with a ERA of 4.257 and a WHIP of 1.5, AND three pitchers having ERAs of 0.00. Great job players and coaches.

Season developmental highlights:

- Stats: Hitting .408 avg as a team for the season and an OBP of .524;
- All players played on the infield and outfield, 11 of 12 pitched though out the season, and catchers throwing out 14 base runners;
- Speed demons - stole 241 bases with a .964 success rate. ( Way to go Ava!); and,
- Coaching assistance was seasoned, supportive, and appreciated.

## CLOSING

Moving forward, I have received feedback and had several conversations with parents and coaches and some initial opportunities that I would like to suggest to the 2019 SAMBA board and they include:

- SAMBA's Mosquito AA program could be in a rebuilding phase the next few years with only one first year player on the red team and two on the blue team possibly returning in 2019. It will be important to spend some effort attracting new players to our rep program at this age group to allow our other divisions to excel in the years to come;
- This year's tryout process worked well with information flow managed well and the support from SAMBA and the Board should build upon these improvements in 2019; and,
- And Lastly a huge thank you Kevin Millar and the grounds crew for the awesome job they did in fixing up the Mosquito diamond this year as it is a MOSQ diamond that all teams should love to come and play at.

In closing I would like to thank all the off field volunteers and families who stepped up and volunteered their time this season, with everything from the annual diamond spring clean up, scorekeeping, pitch counting, diamond set up, paying the umpires, coordinating team events, chasing those foul balls, and much more. I would also like to thank the head coaches and their staff for their hard work this season working with players in practice and leading them in their games. Coaching can be a thankless job for some, but many of you expressed satisfaction in your year end emails with how your players developed and improved throughout the season. Lastly, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support, patience, and understanding in helping me through a very busy year. The St. Albert Legions Fields the best ballpark in Alberta and it is because of the caring community in the city of St. Albert.

Mark



## 2018 Senior Rep Director Report

### Midget AAA Red - Tier 1 Provincial Champions

The Midget AAA Red Cardinals had a great season, 40 - 15 including 25 - 5 in the Norwest League. The AAA Red team hosted the Tier 1 Provincial Championships at Legion Memorial Ball Park and faced the Calgary Dino's in the Gold Medal game. With a win of 5-0 they would go on to represent Alberta at the U18 Nationals in Fort McMurray, AB. The team finished 4th behind two Ontario teams and Team Quebec.

Three players represented SAMBA at the Canada Cup: Liam Froment, Michael Brisson, and Brady Kobitowich. The team of 20 graduated 9 players with 5 signing to schools in the United States: Joseph Karall, Davis Pratt, and Tylor Jans - Cloud County College KS; Zach Froment - Tusculum University TN; and Danny Tkachyk - Barton Community College KS.

### Midget AAA Blue

Finished the regular season 6 and 25, and went 1-2 at provincials in Okotoks. Also traveled to Kelowna for the Valley of Champions making the 3-4 game, and made the 1-2 final at the Doc Pl in Sherwood Park.

### Midget AA

The Midget AA Cardinals went 11-5 overall for the season and played in the Tier 4 provincials in Calgary.

### Bantam AAA

The Bantam AAA Cardinals went 22-14 in league play this year and participated in the Okotoks AAA and Kelowna Valley of Champions tournaments where they won the silver medal.

### Bantam AA Red

The Bantam AA Red Cardinals were in tier 2 in the provincial round of play but earned a spot in Tier 1 for provincials with an overall record of 12- 5- 2. Despite being 8th seed in the provincials in Grande Prairie, the team made it to the semi-finals, defeating the #1 and #4 seed along the way. The semi was a close game (12-11) against Provost.

The team participated in three tournaments this year - the Larry Rindeiro and Doc Plotsky, where they lost in the semi-final of each and the Kelowna Valley of Champions where they went undefeated and won the gold medal 15-14 over Surrey.

### Bantam AA Blue - Tier 5 Provincial Champions

The Bantam AA Blue Cardinals had a great developmental season. Players all improved their skills. The team had success in all 3 rounds, ended the season in tier 5, and culminated in a provincial championship. The team won their gold medal the hard way, winning 3 games in 1 day because of a tie breaker. The team prevailed on their home diamond, including two shutout victories.



## **2018 Umpire Coordinator Report**

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Once again, we had a successful season, we had around 36 active umpires in the level 1 and 2 registered this year. Seven new first year umpires and the rest were umpires who returned.

We had over 105 Mosquito and 100 PW house games this year. We had over 35 ERRBL Bantam and Midget games (including Morinville and Legal). Overall, we had over 45 different umpires working these House Games. This includes all St Albert registered umpires and some from the surrounding areas. All but one umpire worked this year.

Over the last few years we have attempted to identify the so called 'dedicated' umpires, these are officials who either do not play or coach and can commit to umpiring all the time. The second group are the ones who may play or coach but may be able to work 2 or 3 days a week. The third group are those who may only commit to one day per week. Once we identify these groups, we assign games accordingly, making sure that everyone gets their fair share of games. With the younger or first time umpires we want to ensure that their commitments meet their school and home commitments.

Initially all the umpires start with house league games and progress to BA rep and the occasional tournament. Depending on experience, age and commitments they can work as much as they want.

We had 10 umpires who were fortunate enough to work some Provincial games and 2 were crew chiefs for some provincial Championships. This year we will have 6 umpires challenging the level 3 NUCP exams, wish them well.

I am actively recruiting someone to help me with the assigning next year. Need to get more umpires from the surrounding areas. We have to make sure that there is mentoring system that will allow upcoming umpires develop their skills and rule knowledge.

Next year we are going to try and implement automated assigning for our Mosquito and PW house league using the BA Arbiter system to facilitate the assigning process. We will continue to recruit umpires from within our system and surrounding areas.

Looking forward to a successful 2019 season with SAMBA.

John Bresler  
Umpire Coordinator



## 2018 President's Report

### General Comments:

The 2018 season was my fourth 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 4 seasons, we have build 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 registrations numbers continued to grow, once again making SAMBA the largest baseball Association in Baseball Alberta. Our house league program was bursting at the seems while we maxed out on city fields and set record amounts of field usage at Legion Memorial Ball Park. However, our main goals stayed the same. We always strive to promote a fun and positive environments 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 change last 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: All SAMBA registration numbers grew and even surpassed our initial estimates. 943 athletes up from 874 in 2017. I 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 added team numbers in both HL and Rep including a second Midget AAA team. 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
- Multi-Year Agreements: Our Rep apparel agreement with St.Albert Source for Sports continued and worked well to provide all our Rep teams a high quality product. The main concern with SFS in the past were invoicing times and accuracy. SFS did a great job 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. SAMBA no longer has contract restrictions for facilities used to host our winter camps, spring camps and Rep evaluations. Servus place was used for evaluations and camps with the addition of 5 Tool Field House which we entered into an agreement with and look to continue that partnership in 2019.

- SAMBA was very happy to enter our 2nd 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 contribution of \$35,000 in August of 2017. That grant seemed to motivate our group to go onto to some very exciting news in 2018.
- 2018 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's Grant, City Grant and soon to learn about, Provincial grant. I 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 Camps continued to operate. SAMBA Technical Director Travis Parker secured facilities and coaches, Jason Enright, Brad Wolansky and many SAMBA coaches, to provide these camps through out the winter months
- Winter Ball. Thanks to Sheen Bromley from Baseball Alberta for providing this winter program throughout St. Albert schools and promoting the great game of baseball. A huge thank you to Jason Enright and his son Jake who offered several week long programs to St. Albert schools, growing the game and representing SAMBA with pride and class.
- Spring Camps also ran again with good numbers and believe continuing and strengthening this program would be beneficial to SAMBA's athletes
- Our Coach Certification and Training Program was outstanding. Our Coaching Clinics once again ran with maximum numbers and received great feedback from Baseball Alberta and our coaches. SAMBA set an all time record number for coach certifications. Rally Cap and Rookie clinics were provided by Travis and Jason 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 2019 to mosquito and peewee levels.
- 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 numbers of both young umpires and coaches. Thank you to Jeff Donnelly for organizing and putting on this clinic every year. Unfortunately in 2018, this clinic did not run , but we do hope to continue it in 2019
- Challenger Baseball. SAMBA was very excited to offer our second season of Challenger Baseball lead by Karen and Jim Poniewozick, Brenda Bourassa and new addition of 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.
- Blue Jays 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 were 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 the time of their lives. The coaches provided top notch instruction to our players and coaches for two full days. SAMBA is excited to announce that we have secured another camp in 2019.

- 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 will 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. Continued improvements to all eval system will be discussed and brought forward in 2019. 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, formally known as 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 a AA tournament only which will allow those teams a better Rep experience playing almost all their games at Legion Memorial Ball Park. Thank you to Jason Enright for organizing a great tournament. Another thanks to MMBA for their use of fields. SAMBA is looking to make this an Invitational tournament run solely at Legion Memorial Ball Park in 2019.
- 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 high numbers and received great feedback from players and parents. Special thanks to Brad Wolansky (Tigers Manager) who once again worked very hard to provide these great experiences.
- House League 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 great growth, with the addition of 3 teams in the Bantam category. Some issues to be discussed and improved on in 2019 arose however I believe Michelle Whyte, Sr HL Director, did a good job to try and address these concerns throughout the season. Discussions to take place on how to improve this program in 2019 are to come. Our Midget category saw 3 teams and we believe to be a success with our teams playing all their home games at Legion Memorial Ball Park.
- The competition level of SAMBA continued to be a very gratifying and exciting experience. SAMBA offered 2 Rep teams at Mosquito, 3 Peewee, 3 Bantam and 3 Midget. SAMBA also saw A teams prosper again this season in Mosquito, Peewee and Bantam. 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 inaugural Larry Rindero Memorial tournament, then hosted The Tigers Sr AAA tournament, house league mid-season and year end tournaments. SAMBA also hosted 4 Provincial Championships and ended the season with Jr AAA Western Championships. A special thank you to Kevin Millar and his grounds crew who battled the rain in most events, all being completed except our Jr AAA Championships due to enormous amounts of rain.
- MMBA and Legal Baseball Associations continued to work very closely with SAMBA. Ryan, Shelly and Colleen were great to work with and found to be great assets to all 3 associations. I'd also like to thank both associations who allowed SAMBA to use their facilities whenever required.
- Fall Ball saw another season battling with mother nature. 1 team at each level was offered and players proved their love the game while combating cold temperatures, rain and high wind speeds. Thank you to all the coaches who took on these challenging roles and



represented SAMBA positively and professionally. Unfortunately most games and practices were cancelled due to weather. SAMBA did refund a large portion of all fall ball registrations.

## **Facilities:**

- Facilities is always one of the areas where I believe SAMBA takes tremendous pride. With the addition of Kevin Millar as our head grounds keeper, I believe the 2018 season to be a great success. Kevin was instrumental in several upgrades/repairs to our facilities and we are excited to have him continue this role in 2019. Thank you to Colin Froment and all our grounds crew members who work very hard to provide a top notch facility for our players and players around the province.
- Midget field renovations were completed in the fall of 2017 by Décor Landscaping. Their team worked tirelessly to complete the project while keeping costs down even when extra challenges were presented. The final product was excellent and the efforts of Brian Bourassa, Brent Moffat and Kevin Millar are not to go without thanks. Those SAMBA members and the Décor Landscaping crew were truly great at bringing the field back to and even above standard conditions which drastically reduced the amount of rain out days in the 2018 season.
- Pee wee field renovations began this fall, with brutal weather conditions, Decor Landscaping was unable to complete the renovations of our pee wee and bantam fields. Discussions to take place after the AGM to get a plan in place for the completion of these projects.
- 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 through out the winter and SANS preschool who run 3 mornings and 2 afternoons per week.
- Thank you to Leanne and Tony Arlia who ran the concession again this season. Nothing but good reviews to them as they also fought the battle against rain outs but 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 through out 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 and Facebook.
- A very special thank you to Stewart Trenchard and his family who sponsored us through Sobey's St. Albert
- Facilities Sponsorships: Thank you to all our fence board sponsors and Active Physioworks for their continued support. Greendrop continued their support while providing weed control and fertilizing services. Buzz Boss also stepped up to help provide insect/pest control through out the facility.
- Fan wear. Colin Leathem worked very hard to offer fan wear this season which has proven to be a success. Thank you to Colin as well as Stephen and Heather at Elite Sportswear who all worked very hard and productively to provide this option and fundraising opportunity.
- Danielle Moffat organized and completed our 2nd raffle program which proved to be huge in securing extra funds for our renovations. 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. All though 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. Our facility is showing its age. Many upgrades are necessary to continue providing top notch programs for our athletes. More fundraising programs and active fund promotion would seriously benefit the SAMBA facilities. A tree replacement program needs to be secured with our city as the trees really showed their age this season. A special thank you to Brian Bourassa for all his efforts and again to Danielle Moffat with her grants work, Legion Memorial Ball Park is going to be even better in 2019.

## **2018 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.

### **Program:**

- Early coach selections and mentorship through out the season. Coaches need to be selected even earlier in the season to allow them participation 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 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, Sr. Cards and Prospects. 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 grounds / 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 \$222.46 / hr will only continue to increase and as such should be covered by the teams using them.

- Discussions with the city have begun to take place in hopes of securing another lease of Legion Memorial Ball Park in 2019. A big thanks to Tara Feser from the city who time and time again, does whatever she can to support SAMBA our 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 Mark Brisson who is sadly stepping down from the SAMBA board of directors. Mark has been a coach with SAMBA for many years and a valuable member of the SAMBA BOD for the past two seasons. His love for the game and dedication to SAMBA are truly appreciated and we can't thank him enough for all his contributions.
- Thank you to Danielle Moffat, the SAMBA 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Danielle is always working behind the scenes looking for ways to improve all aspects of SAMBA. The tremendous amount of time she has given to us writing grants, sitting in meetings and taking calls etc....have not gone unnoticed. Without her, the upgrades to our facilities, equipment and programs would not be possible. She's built and is always building strong partnerships that will continue to benefit SAMBA for years to come. Did I mention, she also works every single Bingo and we are very lucky to have her. Thank you Danielle!
- I'd like to thank Lorie Bronson for all her efforts. The position of treasurer is a position that demands a ton of time and commitment. Her volunteer hours are huge to the association and when the position goes unnoticed, it means she's doing a good job. Thank you Lorie for taking on this role and all the time you've given us.
- I would like to thank all our Board members. As my 4th 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 Runnalls - Treasurer
- Pat Sullivan - Registrar
- Colin Froment - Facilities Director
- Travis Parker - Technical Director
- Neil Neary - Sr. Rep Director
- Mark Brisson - 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
- Shelly Hudec / Colleen Allison - SAMBA/Legal Program Liaisons
- Travis Parker - SAMBA/Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison
- Kelly Phelan - SAMBA/Tigers Program Liaison

**Non Board Positions**

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