



**Annual General Meeting**  
**November 28, 2023**





## **AGENDA**

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association  
2023 Annual General Meeting  
November 28, 2023 – 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome by President and Introduction of SAMBA Board Members
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2022 AGM minutes
5. SAMBA Executives and Directors Reports
  - President's Report
    - AGLC Audit
    - Executive Director Role
  - Questions/Comments from any of the Directors reports
6. Call for Open Executive Board Members
7. Financial Report
  - 2023 Financial Review and Approval
  - 2024 Budget Review and Approval
8. New Business
9. Adjournment



## Meeting Notes

Annual General Meeting – 2022

Date: November 23, 2022

Place/Time: SAMBA Clubhouse / 7 pm

Attendees: Kurtus Millar, Darren Kirstiuk, Blair Troock, Sophia Jenkins, Candace Sloan, Brenda Bourassa, Cori White, Neil Neary, Nicole Langlois, Pat Sullivan, Tony Golab, Shayne Courtorielle, John Bresler, Brian Bourassa, Ben Grabia, Mickey Khan, Scott Wilde, Steve Cummings, Alison Cummings, Teneil Quinn, Travis Parker, Dean Liske, Kevin Hutchinson, Trevor Townsend, Cheri Steiner, Scott Steiner, Tara Feser (City of St. Albert), Ryan Marples, Liam Froment, Kevin Millar, Kerri Groff, Kent Bohn, Joel Patty, Danielle Moffat, Kevin MacLeod, Trinda MacLeod, Rob Hardy, Brad Prostebby, Michele Parker, Mike Good, David Parker, Mathieu Brisson, Brian Rix, Brad Moon, Jason Harley

### Item

#### 1. Call to Order

- Kurtus Millar called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

#### 2. Welcome by President and Introduction of SAMBA Board Members

- President, Kurtus Millar, welcomed everyone to the AGM and the board introduced themselves.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Rob Hardy to Approve the 2022 Agenda as presented, seconded by Brian Bourassa.  
Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes

Motion by John Bresler to Approve the 2021 AGM Minutes of Meeting as presented, seconded by Neil Neary. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Call for Open Executive Board Members

##### Open Executive and Board Positions:

Secretary – currently Brenda Bourassa

Facilities Director – currently Blair Troock, not seeking re-election

Registrar – currently Pat Sullivan

Jr. Rep Director – Neil Neary, not seeking re-election

Jr. House League Director – currently Nicole Langlois

Technical Director – currently Shayne Courtorielle

Treasurer – currently Jackie Colville, has stepped down – term will be 1 year to align with bylaws

## **Item**

### **Call for Nominations for the Position of Secretary**

Rob Hardy nominates Brenda Bourassa for Re-Election as a 2-year term. Teneil Quinn seconds the nomination. Brenda Bourassa is re-elected by acclamation as the Secretary.

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

There were no nominations for this position; the Board will look to fill this role.

### **Call for Nominations for the Position of Registrar**

Brenda Bourassa nominates Pat Sullivan for Re-election as a 2-year term. Rob Hardy seconds the nomination. Pat Sullivan is re-elected by acclamation as the Registrar.

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

Tony Golab nominates Russ Paterson for the position of Jr Rep Director, this is a 2-year term. Rob Hardy seconds the nomination. Russ agrees to let his name stand. Russ Paterson is elected as the Jr Rep Director.

### **Call for Nominations for the Position of Jr House League Director**

Cori White nominates Nicole Langlois for Re-election as a 2-year term. Rob Hardy seconds the nomination. Nicole Langlois is re-elected by acclamation as Jr House League Director

### **Call for Nominations for the Position of Technical Director**

Tony Golab nominates Shayne Courtorielle for Re-election as a 2-year term. Nicole Langlois seconds the nomination. Shayne Courtorielle is re-elected by acclamation as Technical Director.

### **Call for Nominations for the Position of Treasurer, this will be a one-year term to align with the bylaws.**

Steve Cummings nominates Alison Cummings for the position of Treasurer. Shayne Courtorielle seconded the nomination. Alison agrees to let her name stand. Alison Cummings is elected as the Treasurer.

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

Rob Hardy nominates Kurtus Millar for Re-election as a 2-year term. Pat Sullivan seconds the nomination. Kurtus Millar is re-elected by acclamation as the President.

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

Will be formally appointed at the December 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

## **6. SAMBA Executive Repots**

Before Kurtus presented his report. Darren Kirstiuk, Vice President, thanked Kurtus for all his time and efforts throughout 2022.

### **6A. SAMBA President's Report**

Kurtus' full report was handed out to the members in the AGM packet. He shared some key points verbally and took several questions. Kurtus made special mention of Tara Feser, City of St Albert, who is in attendance tonight and thanked her for her continued help.

## **Item**

Thank you to Joh Bresler for all his work with the umpires this past season. Umpires was a topic at this years Baseball Alberta Summit; how to train, retain and grow the number of umpires.

### **7. Financial Report**

#### **7A. 2022 Financial Review**

Jackie Colville, Treasurer, was not in attendance. The membership was given time to review the statements. Darren Kirstiuk, Vice President, provided an overview of the Financial Statements for 2022, and answered any questions.

Motion by Rob Hardy to Accept the 2022 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Scott Steiner. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **7B. 2023 Budget Review**

In Jackie Colville's absence Darren Kirstiuk, Vice President, presented the 2023 budget and answered any questions.

Motion by Travis Parker to Approve the Fiscal 2023 Budget, seconded by Rob Hardy. Motion carried unanimously.

### **8. New Business - From Membership**

- This Saturday is the Baseball Alberta Annual General Meeting.
- SAMBA will lose the use of Salisbury diamond this year due to a City of St. Albert construction project.
- Baseball Canada elected a new President at their convention held in Edmonton recently.
- The Blue Jays will be taking over the Rally Cap program.
- Sophia Jenkins, Marketing, thanked Kurtus for his work on the SAMBA video and encouraged all to watch it.

### **9. Adjournment**

Motion by Tony Golab to adjourn the Meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Darren Kirstiuk. Motioned carried unanimously.

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

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

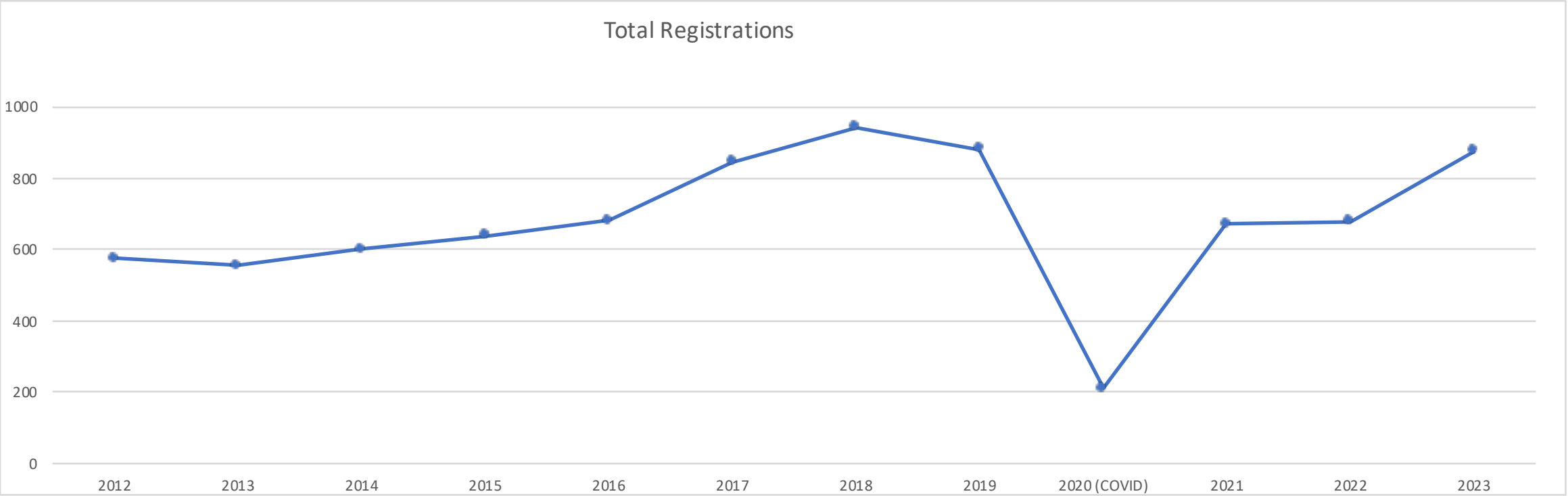
Brenda Bourassa  
Secretary  
November 24, 2022

Kurtus Millar  
President  
November 24, 2022

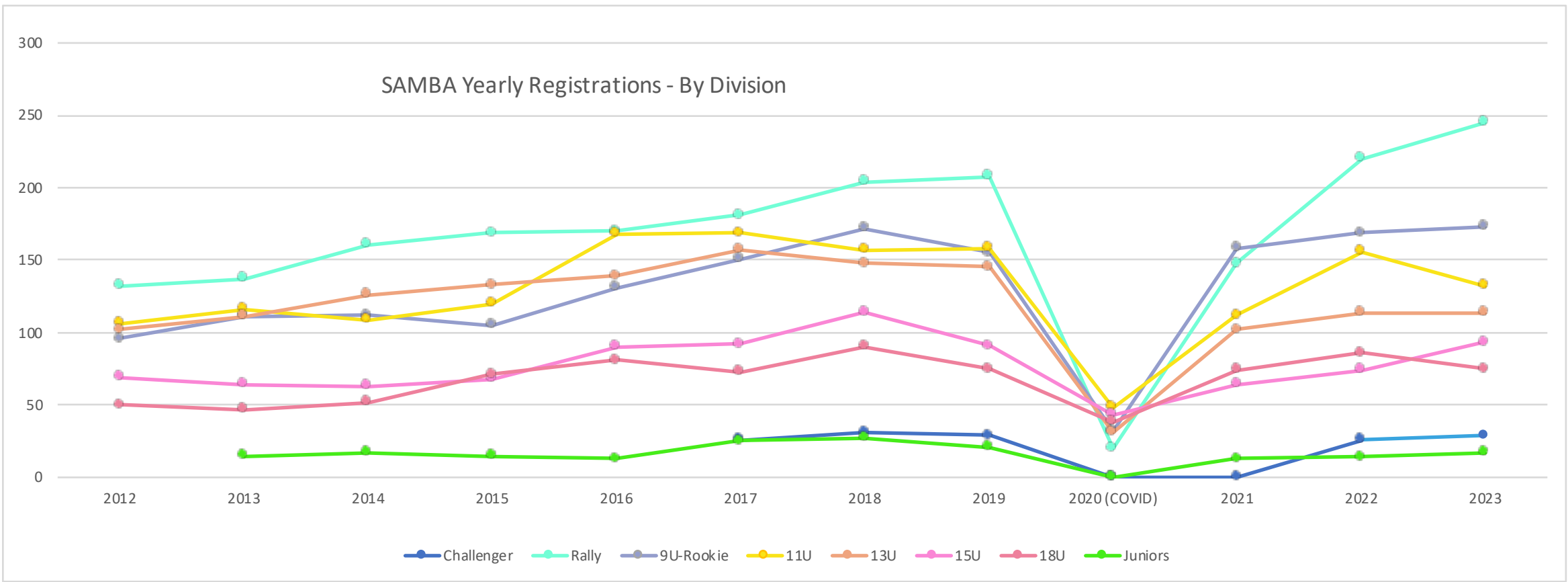


## SAMBA Yearly Registration Summary 2012 - 2023

|              | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (COVID) | 2021          | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|---------------|------|------|
| Challenger   |      |      |      |      |      | 26   | 31   | 29   | 0            | 8 (no season) | 26   | 29   |
| Rally        | 132  | 137  | 161  | 169  | 170  | 181  | 204  | 208  | 20           | 148           | 220  | 245  |
| 9U-Rookie    | 96   | 111  | 112  | 105  | 131  | 151  | 172  | 155  | 32           | 158           | 169  | 173  |
| 11U          | 106  | 116  | 109  | 120  | 168  | 169  | 157  | 158  | 48           | 112           | 156  | 132  |
| 13U          | 102  | 111  | 126  | 133  | 139  | 157  | 148  | 145  | 31           | 102           | 114  | 114  |
| 15U          | 69   | 64   | 63   | 68   | 90   | 92   | 114  | 91   | 43           | 64            | 74   | 93   |
| 18U          | 50   | 47   | 52   | 71   | 81   | 73   | 90   | 75   | 38           | 74            | 86   | 75   |
| Juniors      |      | 15   | 17   | 15   | 13   | 25   | 27   | 21   | 0            | 13            | 14   | 17   |
|              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |              |               |      |      |
| TOTAL        | 575  | 555  | 601  | 640  | 681  | 848  | 943  | 882  | 212          | 671           | 679  | 878  |
|              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |              |               |      |      |
| Total Male   | 515  | 507  | 542  | 567  | 617  | 710  | 788  | 848  | 801          | 200           | 618  | 787  |
| Total Female | 60   | 48   | 59   | 67   | 64   | 82   | 86   | 95   | 81           | 12            | 61   | 91   |



SAMBA Yearly Registrations - By Division





## 2023 President's Report

### General Comments:

The 2023 season was another good year for St. Albert Minor Baseball. We were up in registration from 2022 and offered a full roster of programming. From Rally Cap, Challenger, House League to Rep Baseball, SAMBA once again showed why we are a leader in our Province. The Development Program was strong, and growing again in 2023, and the addition of Acumen Clinic has proven its worth with our athletes.

### Programs:

As previously mentioned, SAMBA did offer a full roster of programs in 2023.

- A hybrid version of our Winter/Spring Camp was offered for a month before evaluations began. Coaches from the Cardinals Dev Program and SAMBA Rep program offered instruction to an 11U/13U group and a 15U/18U group.
- Evaluations began in late February in Millar Field House and Servus Place. I believe this process ran very well. All teams were selected by a group of coaches who genuinely cared and tried their very best to place each athlete fairly, on a team where the athlete would be able to play and compete.
- The Cardinals Development Program ran its 4th season, now in season 5, and went very well. We saw 74 athletes in the 7 month program run by a great group of coaches. We continued to look at ways to make the program better and give those athletes the best possible training to prepare them for their seasons and help develop them to the next level. We are currently running our 5th season of the program and I'm proud to say the program is stronger than ever. A great group of coaches and athletes are working hard towards the 2024 season. We partnered with Acumen Clinic to offer our strength and conditioning, now in our 2nd year with them, and we continue to receive great feedback. Thank you to all the coaches and our families for another great Dev Program season.
- House League: Rally Cap to 18U - A full season of HL baseball was offered in 2023 with a mid-season and year end tournaments. Our directors had to be creative this season, and put in some long hours with their scheduling to make sure all teams were able to practice and play games. Thank you to Legal Minor Baseball for their help hosting tournaments. A big Thank you to Cori White for her time and all her hard work and efforts. Cori is stepping down from her final position as Sr HL Director. Thank you Cori for everything!
- Rep Programs: 11U to 18U - We were one of the only associations in Baseball Alberta where all our coaches earned their correct level of certifications and we are pleased to report that all teams competed very well and showed well in Provincial Championships across our Province. SAMBA hosted the last chance NCCP clinics again this season, thank you to Baseball Alberta for their help in providing these clinics.
- Challenger Baseball - Always great to see our Challenger athletes back on the field! Thank you to Jays Care for their continued support. Thank you to all our coaches and buddies for another great season.
- 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.
- Unfortunately due to air quality, our annual Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament, formally known as Early Bird, had to be cancelled. Only the Thursday evening games were played. We plan to run the tournament again in 2024.



**Facilities:**

- Facilities is always one of the areas where I believe SAMBA takes tremendous pride. Kevin and his team did a great job again this season to provide a top notch facility for our players and players around the province. A season without much rain definitely offered some challenges but our crew did a great job!
- Millar Field House continues to be a huge benefit to all our members. Both Rep and HL teams used the facility throughout the season and helped take some pressure off our fields. Some repairs are required to the nets and some equipment needs to be replaced but I'm very grateful to have that building which gives our athletes another great experience. We added a second pitching machine to the facility which will also really help.
- Thanks to Ella Fystro who provided all our cleaning services. We received many compliments on the cleanliness and well keeping of our clubhouse. We are once again partnered with SANS preschool who operate their programs 5 days a week and pay SAMBA a monthly rental rate.
- Thank you to Leanne and Tony Arlia who ran the concession again this season. Nothing but good reviews to them as they provided delicious food and refreshments to all our members and visitors at a fair price. The addition of the payment square and deep fryer for fries were big hits.
- A big thank you to Jeannette Sullivan who continuously worked very hard at planting and maintaining the beautiful flower pots and beds throughout our facility.
- Big thank you to Steve Cummings and his company Super Save for donating and maintaining ports-potties through our facility saving SAMBA \$1000's in expenses. Steve has also provided us with a unit for the winter months. Super Save fence banners have been placed on all 4 fields.
- Another big thank you to Martin Deerline who once again sponsored us with a high speed mower, SAMBA exchanged advertising at our facility and on our website. This partnership was very beneficial to our grounds crew team. The mower cuts maintenance times down and took a lot of pressure off our other machines. We hope to continue this partnership for years to come.

**Marketability and Image:**

- Our Website continues to receive thousands of hits and we are going to update a lot of the information posted on there. SAMBA may look at moving over to Spordle to align with Baseball Alberta in the future.
- Facilities Sponsorships: Thank you to all our facility sponsors for their continued support. Eng-Con, Active Physioworks, Martin Deerline, Super Save, and Source for Sports continue to invest in SAMBA and we are very grateful. We are excited to bring in dozens of new sponsorships to other areas of our program and will have a complete list of those companies on our website.
- Big thank you to Sophia Jenkins for all her hard work and time putting together a sponsorship package and bringing in 18 HL sponsors. She has changed the role of the Marketing Director for the good and we are grateful for everything she has done for SAMBA. Sophia is stepping down from the position due to work and family commitments. Finding a replacement will be tough but we are hopeful that whoever fills that position will be able to continue the sponsorship support that Sophia has brought in.
- Social Media Exposure was at an all-time high this year. SAMBA hired Liam Froment to handle our social media and he did a fantastic job. We saw the number of followers on all our platforms increase and our social media presence is stronger. We hope to work with Liam again in 2024.

**Challenges:**

- While the Covid-19 pandemic still had some effects on SAMBA, getting back on our feet and offering full programming did have its challenges but we were excited to face them head on. Finding volunteers will always be a challenge but I feel that SAMBA is very fortunate to have many really great families who continually step up to provide baseball for our kids. We continue to see rising costs across the board and SAMBA will have to find more/alternate revenue streams to continue offering programs at affordable rates. We will continue to run Bingos and should see our Casino in the 4th quarter of 2023.
- Coach training and certification will be another focus point in 2024. Providing our athletes with a more consistent and structured development plan is one of our many goals. We are working with Baseball Alberta and Baseball Canada to look at improving coach certifications and communications.

**2024 Objectives:****Administration:**

- SAMBA will continue to work tirelessly to provide top notch programs and facilities to all our athletes. New house league programs are being discussed to allow membership growth. Rep programs are always being carefully monitored and tweaked to help provide support to our volunteers and better experiences to our players and coaches.
- Bylaws, policies, procedures and league rules: Review Update desperately required. Proper documentation and publishing of these would decrease a large amount of issues brought up during our season. Also looking into a SAMBA handbook like the BA handbook. The world of sport is changing and many new costs will come with these changes.

**Program:**

- Early coach selections and mentorship throughout 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.
- 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 Jr. Cards - SAMBA will schedule private meetings with each program to ensure all costs and needs are covered. Better and more clear terms from all parties should make life a lot easier on all members.

**Facilities:**

- Continue focus on a regular and efficient field and equipment maintenance program due to aging and mature trees and equipment. SAMBA is always striving to keep our fields at a very high level and I believe getting better every season to maintain our fields and improve daily routines to cut costs and maintenance times. We are looking at renovations to our 11U field in the spring of 2024.
- Light usage - Agreements towards the cost of running our 18U field lights need to be implemented. The hourly cost of \$250+/ hr. will only continue to increase and as such should be covered by the teams using them. SAMBA will look at a grant to switch over to LED's.
- A big thanks to Tara Feser from the City who time and time again, did whatever she could to support SAMBA's growing demands. We welcome Brendan Smith into this role and are excited to work with him.

#### 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.

#### Closing Comments:

Unfortunately due to, what I feel are lazy blanket policies put in place by the AGLC last May, I am required to step down from the position as President if we want to continue running bingos and casinos. In my opinion SAMBA should really look at alternate revenue streams as AGLC continues to restrict what monies can be spent on and funds do not increase. Their policies will handcuff not only our association but hundreds of non-profit associations across the Province. Volunteers are proving more and more difficult to find and I believe the AGLC should be looking at ways to assist non-profits to adopt new checks and balances that would allow members to fill multiple roles, because it's necessary in most associations, in order to operate and grow. As this will be my last season as president of SAMBA, I'd like to thank the board and our members for some really great memories and all their hard work. It's been a pleasure to lead this association for the past 10 years. I wish I was able to leave on more of my own terms but as I've always done, I will do whatever SAMBA needs to continue growing and thriving. Thank you to the St. Albert Minor Baseball Association board and our families for trusting me to steer this ship. I'm very proud of my time as President and look forward to continuing to assist in the future.

#### Executive and Board Members

- Kurtus Millar - President
- Trevor Townsend - Vice President
- Brenda Bourassa - Secretary
- Alison Cummings - Treasurer
- Pat Sullivan - Registrar
- Tony Golab - Sr Rep Director
- Russ Paterson - Jr Rep Director
- Shayne Courtorielle - Technical Director
- Cori White - Sr. HL Director
- Nicole Langlois - Jr. HL Director
- Candace Sloan - Special Events Directors
- Sophia Jenkins - Marketing Director
- Dean Liske - Facilities Director

#### Appointed Members

- Ryan Deren - SAMBA/MMBA Program Liaison
- Trevor Sheehan - SAMBA/Legal Program Liaison
- Emerson Buck - SAMBA/Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison
- Lorie Runnalls - SAMBA/Tigers Program Liaison
- Rob Sullivan - SAMBA/Jr Cards Liaison

**Non Board Positions**

- Brian Bourassa - Sr Advisor
- Brian Bourassa - Equipment Manager
- Vacant - Assistant Equipment Manager
- Brenda Bourassa / Erin Fisher - Challenger Baseball Coordinators
- John Bresler - Umpire Coordinator
- Ella Fystro - Clubhouse Janitorial Services
- Leanne & Tony Arlia - Clubhouse Concession
- Candace Sloan / Brenda Bourassa - Bingo/Casino Coordinators
- Brenda Bourassa - Website Administrator
- Kevin Millar - Head Grounds Keeper

Kurtus Millar  
President





## **2023 Facilities Director Report**

The 2023 season started off with a drought and a ton of smokey days due to the wildfires throughout western Canada and the Northwest Territories. The smoke exceeded the allowable air quality index on several days resulting in the cancelation of baseball activities including the Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament in May.

A new portable mound was installed on the 15U field. The mound allowed for the change over from 15U to 18U to be completed in a couple hours versus over a day previously. Several evening games for the Junior Cardinals and the Senior Cardinals were able to be shifted to that field. Thanks to Kevin and the crew for the work required to install and move the mound.

Kevin Millar returned as the head groundskeeper again this year. Kevin helps out with not only maintaining our fields and grounds but handling snow removal and clubhouse maintenance. Having Kevin on our SAMBA Facilities team has greatly reduced the hours that I have had to spend at the park. Thanks Kevin, for all your help over the years I have been involved with the SAMBA Facilities.

Kevin was supported this year by a team consisting of Mike Brisson, Jackson Moffat, Marc Brisson, Jack Hudson, Logan Colville, Luke Prostebly, Keenan Parker, Dayne Liske, Evan Gorr, Sam MacKenzie, and Jake Osolinsky. A special thanks to Ella Fystro who has taking over the clubhouse cleaning duties.

Martin Deerline, Greendrop, and Super Save returned as major corporate sponsors directly supporting the SAMBA Facilities. Thank-you again for your continued support. Looking forward to working with you again next year.

Our concession was operated again this year by Tony and Leanne Arlia and their family. They added a fryer to our kitchen and were able to offer some great fries to the patrons. Special thanks to Kurtus Millar and Cole Guenette for getting the fryer installed.

I would like to thank Tara Feser with the City of St. Albert for her continued support of SAMBA throughout 2023. Tara has been so helpful with all the interactions with the City.

Finally, this will be my last report as the Senior Advisor for the facilities group. I want to thank all of people that I have got to work with over the last 11 years. SAMBA has some truly great volunteers. A special thanks to Kurtus Millar for all his support. I have truly enjoyed my time supporting the facilities group.

Brian Bourassa  
Senior Advisor - Facilities



## 2023 Technical Director Report

The 2023 season for St. Albert Minor Baseball Association was a success.

### **SAMBA Player Evaluations**

The 2023 player evaluations ran smoothly and all athletes evaluated were assigned to the appropriate team. Millar Field House and Servus Place were both utilized and teams were selected well in advance of the season beginning.

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

| <b>2023</b>       |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| 11U               | 36         |
| 13U               | 47         |
| 15U               | 40         |
| 18U               | 36         |
| Senior AA (NCABL) | 17         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>176</b> |

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

| <b>2023</b>    |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 11U AA         | 2         |
| 13U AA         | 2         |
| 13U AAA        | 1         |
| 15U AA         | 2         |
| 15U AAA        | 1         |
| 18U AA         | 1         |
| 18U AAA (BAEL) | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>10</b> |

### **SAMBA House League & Development (Rally Cap Program)**

Another successful year with 73 teams competing from Rally Cap through to 18U. SAMBA had numerous parent volunteers to help coach at our House League Division and again, SAMBA appreciates all the efforts and commitment of time, without this support, there would be no success.

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

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

SAMBA sent two teams to the Rawlings Cup tournament in Sherwood Park in August. One team competed in the 16U Division while the other competed in the 14U Division.

## **SAMBA Off-season Programs**

### **2023 Winter Camps**

- In February 2023 SAMBA hosted a winter camp and utilized the Millar Field House and Servus place and offered a camp to two groups: 11U/13U and 15U/18U. Each group received 6 sessions of instruction.

### **2023 Spring Camp**

- No camp was offered this year.

### **2023 St Albert Tigers' Summer Camp**

- No camp was offered this year.

### **2023 Fall Baseball Season**

- Unfortunately, there was no Fall Ball Season offered this year.

## **Coach Development**

As per NCCP, all Rep coaches are required to complete mandatory courses prior to provincials so they are eligible to be on the bench. This year, there was only one team that had a coach unable to coach during provincials, this did not disrupt anything as all the other coaches were certified. As per previous seasons, SAMBA hosted a weekend of courses, prior to the deadline, to allow any coach to complete them.

SAMBA does a great job ensuring their Rep Coaches are certified and meet the Baseball Alberta criteria.

Shayne Courtorielle  
Technical Director



## **2023 Jr House League Director Report**

### **2023 Spring Baseball Season**

Spring baseball is a steadily growing sport in St. Albert. We ended up with 24 Rally Cap teams, 12 - 9U teams, and 9 - 11U teams.

Because of all the Rally Cap teams, and lack of diamonds to play on, we went with two different time slots: 5 to 6 pm and 6:15 to 7:15 pm. This allowed us to accept more registrations and not have to turn anyone away at this age level.

The weather was not much of an issue this year. There were a few rain out days and a few days we were dealing with the air quality from forest fires.

Pictures were set up at MVP for the weekend of June 3rd. Anyone who was unable to attend could call and go another time convenient for them. Pictures were once again included in registration fees.

This season the 11U teams were fortunate enough to utilize Millar Field House. Each team was provided 3 slots throughout the season. They were able to practice their hitting & pitching skills.

We did utilize the Grosvenor pump house this season. Half the pitching machines were stored at the Grosvenor pump house while the other half were stored at the Legion Memorial Ball Park in the trailer near the clubhouse .

With the high number of players (close to 500), it was very time-consuming with all the tasks required to set up and run Rally Cap, 9U, and 11U; therefore I had 2 division coordinators to help me out. One at 9U (Trevor Townsend) and one at 11U (Rob Hardy). I will require just as much help if not more for next year.

### **2023 Summer Baseball Season**

We were fortunate enough to be able to run summer ball this season. There was great interest from not only spring players but also new players. We had 7 teams at Rally Cap and 4 teams at 9U. We are looking to expand this next season.

### **Partnerships**

This year we were able to renew our partnership with Morinville Minor Baseball and Legal Minor Baseball. There were a few issues with Morinville coaches that we were able to work through.

### **Diamonds**

House League diamonds continue to be an issue. The issues range from the condition of the diamonds to the lack of diamonds. We were able to utilize diamonds in both Morinville & Legal. We look forward to continuing to work with Tara and the City of St. Albert to find solutions to field conditions and our shortage of diamonds.



## **Coaches**

We had an in-person coach's meetings to kick off the season this year. Equipment was picked up after the meeting. We had a few issues with coaches not following the rules we had laid out for each division and with constant communication, we were able to resolve these issues. A huge thank you to all our coaches who put forth numerous hours of their time to help teach the kids this great game.

## **Tournaments**

Rally Cap had end-of-the-season games played against teams that they did not see all season. The 18U AAA team hosted a Rally Cap Day this season that was very well received by players, coaches, and parents. All players were given a Blue Jays hat for participating.

There were mid-season and end of season games for all 9U & 11U teams, they were able to play teams that they otherwise would not see in the regular season. After the mid-season games, there were adjustments made for the end-of-season games to help run smoother.

Overall the season was a success and the kids had fun!

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

- Find new, fun, and creative ways to continue to deliver our programs and develop skills in our youth.
- Designate funds to continue replacing existing SAMBA House League Equipment.
- Look at creating a House League survey to determine SAMBA members' 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 of St. Albert to continue to help improve our programs and our access to facilities for our programs.
- Continue to improve our working relationship with Morinville Minor Baseball and Legal Minor Baseball to strengthen our programs.
- Continue to find ways to recruit, support, develop, and retain coaches.
- Find volunteers for division coordinator positions to help with the amount of work.

Nicole Langlois  
Jr House League Director  
Rally Cap Coordinator



## **2023 9U House League Coordinator Report**

### **2023 Spring Season**

The Spring season had 142 athletes registered creating 12 full teams. We were once again joined by Morinville Minor Baseball with 3 teams as well as Legal with 1 team.

We held our mid-season weekend games in late May in St. Albert and seemed to be successful. Some teams were short players, but were able to make do by sharing with the other teams.

We held our year end weekend games in late June and Morinville was gracious enough to host all of the festivities. This weekend was very successful and convenient having all games at one location. These weekend games are beneficial and fun as it allows the athletes to play against teams they don't normally play during the season.

The weather didn't seem to cause too many issues this season with minimal rain outs, we did however have to deal with the smoke this season and lost a couple of evenings due to this.

Team pictures were held on June 3rd at MVP, any player who was unable to attend could call and schedule to go in at a convenient time for them. Pictures were once again included in registration.

This season we went back to splitting the storage of the pitching machines at 2 locations, the trailer at Legion Memorial Ball Park as well as the Grosvenor rink pump house.

There was a coaches meeting prior to the season where the coaches were able to pick up all of their equipment for the season. It continues to be crucial for parents to step up and volunteer to help out with coaching at this level. Without the parents we would not be able to provide the opportunity for all these young athletes to play baseball. The more parents raise their hand and volunteer, the more the program will continue to grow. Thank you to all the coaches who volunteered this year!!

### **2023 Summer Season**

Summer baseball was once again back for the 2023 season. We had 48 athletes registered creating 4 full teams. The summer season ran for 6 weeks and provided the kids with another chance to play some baseball before the Fall came. It turned out to be a success!

### **Ideas/feedback**

- Review 9U rules and provide clarity on a few points that were brought up by some parents.
- Continue to find ways to recruit, develop, support, and retain coaches in SAMBA.
- Create a player evaluation system for the 9U division prior to the season.
- Improve on communication & understanding between parent, coaches, and SAMBA representatives.
- Create an open feedback system for improvements on the 9U program.

Trevor Townsend  
9U House League Coordinator



## 2023 Senior House League Director Report

### 2023 Spring Baseball Season

This past year has been a testament to the unwavering dedication and passion of our players, coaches, volunteers, and the entire St. Albert community. In the face of challenges, our league has thrived, providing invaluable experiences, fostering sportsmanship, and building lasting connections within our community. This report encapsulates the remarkable achievements, milestones, and the ongoing commitment that has defined St. Albert Minor Baseball.

Our numbers in the Senior divisions are holding strong and growing in 2023. Always great to see our numbers growing, even at the senior levels with the older kids.

2023 was an average year for weather delays. Between heat, fires, and a rainy June we did have some games missed, but overall got the majority of the season on the field.

This season the house league teams kept the Millar Field House busy on weekends with some much loved batting and skills practices. Divisions 11U to 18U rotated through the weekend slots to sharpen their skills and strengthen their swing.

As our community grows so do our baseball teams at the house league level. Our 13U division was able to field 1 extra team this year, which we love as it means we have many more years to watch these athletes grow.

Our 15U and 18U teams were once again part of the ERRBL which allows our players to play a variety of teams from Edmonton and area.

We were excited to have 3 teams at the 18U level this year with 1 of those teams taking home the Silver medal in the Tier 2 City Championships with the ERRBL.

We need to send out a huge Thank You to the SAMBA grounds crew who were able to prepare our diamonds so we could become the last minute host for one of the 18U ERRBL Tier 3 division finals. Without their commitment, and the hard work from our team parents and coaches, our teams would not have had a fantastic year end tournament weekend!

### Recommendations/Insights to Future Seasons

- Announce and promote the summer/fall ball right at the beginning of the season.
- Executing a SAMBA survey to gather new ideas and volunteers.
- Continuing to foster and develop relationships with the City to continue to help improve our programs and our access to facilities.
- Continue to find ways to recruit, support, develop and retain coaches. Create a coaches social after the first week of the season to give them the contact to help each other.
- Continue to build the information resources in the Google Drive for all coaches to reference.
- Order year end medals in May - ensure enough for the Summer league is included in the order.
- At the ERRBL level - include sponsors on the sleeve of the jerseys. Not the front of the chest. Teams need to have a proper name for identification on the field and throughout the ERRBL.
- Order uniforms by January with sponsors.

Below is a breakdown of our senior level teams over the years:

|             | <b>2023</b>    |               |              |                   |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
|             | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   |
|             | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> |
| <b>13 U</b> | 73             | 4             | 6            | 3                 |
| <b>15 U</b> | 51             | 1             | 4            | n/a               |
| <b>18 U</b> | 42             | 0             | 3            | n/a               |

|             | <b>2021</b>    |               |              |                   | <b>2022</b>    |               |              |                   |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
|             | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   |
|             | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> |
| <b>13 U</b> | 54             | 8             | 6            | n/a               | 60             | 5             | 5            | 2/1               |
| <b>15 U</b> | 38             | 0             | 4            | n/a               | 44             | 3             | 4            | n/a               |
| <b>18 U</b> | 27             | 1             | 2            | n/a               | 39             | 0             | 3            | n/a               |

|             | <b>2019</b>    |               |              |                   | <b>2020</b>      |  |  |  |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
|             | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   | <b>No Season</b> |  |  |  |
|             | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> |                  |  |  |  |
| <b>13 U</b> | 98             | 8             | 9            | 1/2               |                  |  |  |  |
| <b>15 U</b> | 49             | 1             | 4            | n/a               |                  |  |  |  |
| <b>18 U</b> | 25             | 1             | 2            | n/a               |                  |  |  |  |

|                | <b>2017</b>    |               |              |                   | <b>2018</b>    |               |              |                   |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
|                | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   |
|                | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> |
| <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               |

|                | <b>2015</b>    |               |              |                   | <b>2016</b>    |               |              |                   |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
|                | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   | <b>Players</b> |               | <b>Teams</b> |                   |
|                | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>SAMBA</b> | <b>Legal/MMBA</b> |
| <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               |



|                | 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        |

We are so thankful to all the coaches that gave their time and energy to make this season so much fun for all our players and their families.

Cori White  
Sr House League Director



## **2023 Junior Rep Director Report**

The 2023 season was a success in both the 11U and 13U divisions with great registration numbers. I am pleased to report that SAMBA was able to field two 11U AA teams, a 13U AAA team, and two 13U AA teams in 2023. Reducing the number of teams from the prior year made organizing practice and game times all that much easier.

The 13U age group had a good number of kids attend tryouts, with a large portion of that coming up from 11U the previous season. All three teams had a great season with good results even though no trophies were brought home. In addition to the athletes, families and volunteers I want to especially thank the head coaches of the 13U teams: Shayne Courtorielle (AAA), Brad Moon (AA Red), and Brian Rix (AA Blue).

11U is always an exciting level and the Board continues to work to help athletes, families and coaches transition to rep baseball. The AA Red team had an exciting year and finished as a runner up at the Tier 2 provincials. Some issues from the season were brought forward by parents and shared with the Board. Thanks to our 11U AA head coaches this year: Kevin Millar (AA Red) and Rob Hardy (AA Blue).

From a competitive standpoint we have no gold medals to report from any of the provincial championships, but I can report that all our teams developed, bonded, and played the game with respect that makes me proud. As is usual, all the teams were competitive once they were tiered.

I also want to thank all the volunteers from all of these teams. The quality of the volunteers perhaps has the most direct impact on the experience of the players over the season. It takes a lot of commitment from the parent group to support a successful rep ball team, and as always our SAMBA families have stepped up and shown why we are the organization that all others look to as an example. A special thanks to the OFMs and the team treasurers who are always working behind the scenes in a way that is not always appreciated.

This being my first year with the SAMBA board I do want to thank all of the Board members with helping me along the way, particularly Tony Golab. I am honored to be a part of such a great organization and I look forward to continuing to grow and contribute to the SAMBA family.

Russ Paterson  
Jr Rep Director



## **2023 Sr Rep Director Report**

### **Introduction**

2023 was a rebuilding year for the Sr. Rep program. SAMBA fielded 3 teams in the 18U Division and 3 teams in the 15U Division. We had very young teams this season as we aged out quite a few players in 2022. Although they were a young group of players they all worked hard to adjust to the bigger fields and intensity of the game. All of the coaches saw improvement in their players and feel they are in good shape for the 2024 season.

Evaluations went well this season. 18U teams were selected and in place by the end of February with the 15U teams being named after the first week of March started. We ran evaluations this year starting with the 18U players and working down from there. This seemed to work well as we were able to concentrate on getting through each division at a time. This is the same model we used in 2022 and I would recommend proceeding with it again for 2024.

### **15U DIVISION**

The 15U Division fielded 3 teams this year. One AAA Team and two AA Teams.

#### **15U AAA**

Head Coach: Brad Wolansky

Asst. Coaches: Ryan Marples, Tom Leatham, Doug Fystro

Team size: 15 players, 3 imports

League play: 8-25-2

Tournaments: Saskatoon with a record of 2-2.

Provincial Results: They did not proceed to semi finals

It was a difficult year for the team. With the majority of the team being made up of first year players, it was a difficult year from the start. The team just didn't have the physical strength to compete with bigger and older teams. They did not possess enough bats to score or an arm that could consistently shut down teams.

Their overall record ended up being 8-25-2. It's not an impressive record that has come to be expected from the team, but the fact that they went 5-6 in the last month of the season showed that the players were still working their hardest to win baseball games and improve.

### 15 AA RED

Head Coach: Scott Wilde

Asst. Coaches: Keith Sheldon, Phil Perron, Rikki McBride

Team size: 13 players, 5 graduating up to 18U next year

League play: 11-14-2

Tournaments: Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament (canceled due to forest fire smoke)

Provincials results: Hosted Provincials for Tier 3 with a record of 2-2. The Provincials went well as far as hosting. Thank you to the team for stepping up to host this year.

This year's team had several first year players for 15U. The coaches took the time to develop the players and prepare them for games. They worked hard to bring up their game physically and mentally. As Scott has said, although the record isn't what he was hoping for it is hard to not feel this team was successful as they developed quite a bit.

### 15 AA BLUE

Head Coach: Cory Phillips

Asst. Coaches: Kevin Warwaruk, Byron Whittal, Joel Patty

Team size: 13 players, 4 graduating up to 18U next year

League play: 5-14

Tournaments: Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament (canceled due to forest fire smoke)

Provincials results: Tier 7 with a record of 1-2.

Due to a registration error the team ended up being placed in Division 1 for AA. This is our second team and definitely should have been Division 2. As a result they really struggled to keep up for round one and two of the season. The coaches and players worked hard however it was a difficult couple of months. One thing the team experienced was a lack of commitment to games. They had several weekends with only 9 players as some players were involved in other sports or families took them on vacations. We will have to ensure we send the message to those trying out what the expectation of games and the team is during evaluations next season.

There was an issue with one coach this year on the team who had to be removed from the roster due to his temper and inability to work with the rest of the coaching staff. As one senior coach on the team said, "in all his years coaching he hasn't experienced that before".

## **18U DIVISION**

This year we only had enough numbers at our evaluations for 18U that we were able to field one BAEL AAA Team as well as one AA Team. We also fielded a Single A Team for July. .

### 18U AAA

Head Coach: Kurtus Millar

Asst Coach: Evan Bourassa, Liam Froment, Jackson Moffat

Team size: 17 players, 4 imports, 1 overage

Team results: The Cardinals had a rebuilding year with a young team, 16-20 overall. The season was a bit of a roller coaster. The team struggled with consistency but normal for a young group. Losing a group of skilled veterans was tough but the coaches stuck with their plan. They finished in 5th place in the BAEL. Lost in the semi finals of Provincials in game they could have been won with a hit and a catch early in the ball game. They went 3-2.

Tournaments: Best in the West Tournament in Kamloops to get the team ready for the season, the team went 0-3 but were close in every game. Spokane American Legion Wood Bat Classic. The team went 3-2. The boys played some great ball.

Provincial results: The team was in BAEL Provincials hosted by Red Deer this year. They finished in 5th place in the BAEL. Lost in the semi finals of Provincials in game they could have won with a hit and a catch early in the ball game. They went 3-2.. Due to a string of storms that came into the region one of the fields was unplayable for two days. Some games were moved to the Gulls Stadium in Sylvan Lake but in the end Provincials had to be extended to Monday.

Graduating players: The team graduated 3 of its players. Congratulations to Thomas Golab for completing 13 years with SAMBA (9 with the Rep Program), as well two of our imports have graduated. Congratulations to Evan Gunderson from Drayton Valley who has been with us for 4 years and Addison Michaluk from Gibbons who has been with us for 2 years. We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.

### 18U AA

Head Coach: Ben Grabia

Asst. Coach: Doug Morris, Mickey Kahn

Team size: 13 players (2 Overage)

Team results: 13-20 record in league play. They finished in Tier 2.

Tournaments: The team entered in the Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament (Canceled due to forest fire smoke). The team also traveled to Saskatchewan to play in the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Tournament in Saskatoon. This has been the second year for Ben taking a team here and has found the road trip and tournament to be a big team bonding experience.

Provincial Results: They lost in the semi-final.

This year was a success for our AA team in terms of team building. Traditionally Ben has coached the second AAA team but due to numbers and evals SAMBA chose to enter a AA team and Ben took it on without hesitation. We added Doug Morris to the coaching roster this year as well. Ben had a stellar season coaching. He has really stepped up in dealing with difficult situations with

players and parents. His development over the off season has shown and I look forward to having him back with a team in 2024.

Graduating Players: The team graduated 4 of its players this season. We wish Todd Whitney, Liam Logan, Brett Kolybaba and Connor Zaharichuk the best of luck in their next chapter.

### 18U A

Head Coach: George Whyte

Asst. Coach: Russell Eliuk, Ted Romanko

Team size: 17 players

The coaches did not submit a year end report as requested.

One thing to note with this year is it is the first year in a long while that Single A has fallen under the Rep Director. I'm not sure if this is something that has fallen through the cracks in the past but we took this on this season. Evaluations were held by the coaching staff. I think in future seasons I would like to have a BAEL Coach and the Rep Director attend evaluations as we do with AA and AAA to ensure we can answer parent complaints better.

### **Closing remarks**

Overall this season the Sr. Rep program was in a development year building experience for next season. We fielded 3 teams in the 18U division and 3 in 15U, with no teams being successful in provincials. We have pretty good numbers remaining and coming up from the Jr Program for next season.

Thank you to our Coaches for dedicating your time, energy, and patience. Your efforts are what makes SAMBA the best association in the province. A big thanks needs to go out to our parents of the players. Your encouragement to your athlete, countless hours spent volunteering in the press box, and driving to games all over the province make it possible for these kids to play ball.

Without the work of Kevin Millar and the grounds crew we could not have had the best facility in Alberta to play ball at. Thank you for the dedication you put in for these kids to play ball.

On a final note, I'd like to thank our board of directors. Without the countless volunteer hours working hard to improve every aspect of our association we could not provide the programming we do for these kids to come out and enjoy the game.

Thank you all.

Tony Golab  
Sr Rep Director





## 2023 Marketing Report

In 2023 SAMBA embraced initiatives to engage our membership and encourage our youth to participate in baseball. Marketing efforts were aimed at nurturing our grassroots efforts. With the popularity of baseball on the rise in Alberta, we continue to see our athletes strive for development of their skills & knowledge of the game. SAMBA must continue to develop new & beginning players hand-in-hand with fostering community relationships.

These initiatives increased our visibility and provided support to local partners. 2023 strategies & tactics included:

### Annual Registration Awareness:

- St. Albert Chamber of Commerce electronic billboards at south & north ends of St. Albert Trail
- Regular media blitzes on our social media platforms
- Umpire Training as an additional means to promote involvement in baseball

### Stronger Social Media Presence:

- Hired Liam Fremont, Freelance Designer, FromeMedia to provide management services for social media platforms from May to August. Liam is a SAMBA alum with social media expertise. His efforts included: creating content, monitoring analytics, and making recommendations / changes for optimization of the SAMBA profiles on Facebook, Instagram, and X, (formerly Twitter). Recommendations include:
  - Social media metrics are established and a strategy for growth should be developed in 2024
- Weekend home games and our two major field sponsors (Eng-Con & Active Physioworks) are actively promoted. Where possible, we tagged visiting teams with their social media handles.
- Social media used as the primary method for communicating with our membership & community for weekly games, events, and milestones

### Community Partnership Agreements (CPAs)

- Community Partnership Package for 2023/24 (aka *Sponsorship Package*)
  - Provides SAMBA background, membership stats & team representation, community impact and ways to get involved
  - Featured 2024 opportunities include:
    - House League Team sponsorship – Community partner's logo on team's jerseys. Team is named after the community partner and promoted on the weekly schedule
    - Select 2023 House League teams are featured in photo layout
    - HL Team sponsors were presented with a team photo in a commemorative photo frame that can be displayed at their places of business to share their support.
- Gear Swap – families were invited to donate used gear in good condition to be swapped. Held at the clubhouse with great turnout. Suggested to make this an annual event with stronger guidelines so that all families have a chance to get at least one or two swapped items.
  - Encouraged Food Bank donations, especially if a family did not have gear to donate.

- Sponsor Support 2023 (new & ongoing)
  - Best Western - \$500 for field banner
  - St. Albert Inn & Suites - \$500 for field banner
  - St. Albert Source for Sports, continued from 2022
    - \$10000 for a batting cage (\$2500/season x 4 years)
  - Canadian Brewhouse, St. Albert locations
    - Pizza party certificates for each HL & Rep team
  - Care at Home by Exquisicare
  - Green Drop – ongoing support of field maintenance
  - Martin Deerline – Groundscrew support
  - EngCon (18U Field)
  - Athletico (15U Field)
- 2023 House League Team Sponsors
  - Ardent Roofing
  - Body Polish
  - Canadian Brewhouse
  - Desjardins Insurance
  - Evolve Strength, North – 2 teams
  - Fix It Boys Heating & Cooling
  - Garry's Heating and Plumbing
  - Green Drop
  - Herc's Nutrition
  - Jiffy Lube
  - McDonalds
  - Oceanair Designs
  - Play It Again Sports
  - The Renovation Guy
  - Return on Wealth (formerly Wild Rose Insurance)
  - Riverside Honda
  - Select Equipment Rental
  - Soul Mechanical
  - Source for Sports
  - Super Save

Most of these teams were sponsored at \$550/team in conjunction with last year's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary promotion.

Sophia Jenkins  
Director of Marketing



## 2023 Umpire Coordinator Report

Once again, the crop of new and returning umpires did a great job covering local House League and BA League play. We had 17 returning umpires and were blessed with almost 20 new umpires. The weather was not as bad as last year, fewer games were cancelled due to weather or air quality.

The House League ran their program during the month of May and most of June. BA League and Provincial play went into early August. We had 23 umpires who worked both House and BA League Play. We had 13 umpires that worked some Provincial play. Some of these umpires have been identified and will be getting additional attention next year.

We had some challenges during the year. Most of our House League coaches displayed good sportsmanship, only had two serious issues but they were handled quickly. Most of the other problems they had were with two teams from Morinville and Legal.

SAMBA has committed to continue with our practice of lending out equipment to our umpires. A small change will be implemented starting next year. Returning umpires will be encouraged to start buying their own equipment, we feel that there may be a stronger commitment to come back year after year. Indications from this year's group is that this is a positive move to establish committed umpires.

SAMBA should hold a Coaches/Umpires evening next year to go over expectations from both sides; a great time to clear up historical beliefs of the rules and provide actual rules. Once expectations are addressed the game seems to run more smoothly.

I hope to be returning next year and we will be looking at a more electronic method of assigning games and tournaments.

I would like to thank the SAMBA board for all their support during the year.

John Bresler  
SAMBA Umpire Coordinator



## 2023 Challenger Baseball Report

2<sup>nd</sup> full year post COVID-19

Athletes ranged in age from 4 to 18. We had 6 female and 23 male athletes; 12 of whom were new to Challenger.

The program operated from 5 pm to 6 pm on Mondays starting May 1st with the last being Monday, June 26. We cancel 2 sessions due to weather.

Skills/drills and games were played on the 15U ActivePhysio Works diamond.

Coaching staff: Brenda Bourassa, Erin Fisher, Lori Gardner, and Matt Woodland. Having four coaches allowed us to set up a hitting station and a catching/throwing station which the athletes then rotated through before breaking into games. Splitting the athletes into two groups help to keep them engaged as well as allowed the coaches to better interact with them.

We were able to add more tees and bats this year with having the dedicated hitting station.

New this year was having some regular buddies for our athletes. The coaches would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for volunteering: Ryan Hnatiuk, Adeline and Hudson Eaton, Brent Doran, Quinn Lukay, Ryan Marples, and James.

### Challenges for 2023

- Inconsistent attendance made planning/splitting of players into groups difficult.
- Very few female buddies for female athletes – for some athletes this was an issue.
- Participation from some Rep teams was better than others with respect to Rep player engagement with the athletes.

### Recommendations for 2024

- Cap registration at end of March to allow adequate time for ordering t-shirts and planning.
- Continue to meet with all the Rep teams and their coaching staff before the season starts to discuss their volunteer commitment, what it involves, and expectations when Buddies.
- Fine tune the athlete check in process so athletes are assigned buddies shortly after their arrival.
- Continue to build on the regular buddy base to supplement the rotating Rep players; some athletes do better with a consistent buddy from week to week.

On behalf of the coaching staff, I would like to thank the athletes and their families, all our volunteers, and the SAMBA Board of Directors for their continued support of this program.

Brenda Bourassa  
Challenger Baseball Coach



## **2023 OPEN EXECUTIVE AND BOARD / NON-BOARD POSITIONS**

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

**CONTINUED Executive and Board Positions** (some may be 1 year terms to align with the Bylaws):

Secretary - Brenda Bourassa

Registrar - Pat Sullivan

Junior Rep Director - Russ Paterson

Junior House League Director - Nicole Langlois

### **OPEN / Re-Elected Executive and Board Positions:**

- President - Kurtus Millar - 1 year term
- Vice-President – Trevor Townsend
- Treasurer - Alison Cummings
- Senior House League Director - Cori White
- Senior Rep Director - Tony Golab
- Marketing/Fundraiser Director - Sophia Jenkins
- Special Events Director - Candace Sloan
- Technical Director - Shayne Courtorielle - 1 year term
- Facilities Director – Dean Liske - 1 year term

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

- Bingo/Casino Coordinator – Candace Sloan
- Umpire Coordinator - John Bresler
- Senior Advisor – Brian Bourassa
- Challenger Baseball Coordinator – Brenda Bourassa

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

- Equipment Coordinator
- Assistant Equipment Coordinator
- Grant Proposal Coordinator
- Girls Baseball Coordinator
- 9U House League Coordinator
- 11U House League Coordinator

### **APPOINTED Members:**

- SAMBA / Tigers Program Liaison - (Tigers Appointed)
- SAMBA / Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison - (Sr. Cardinals Appointed)
- SAMBA / Morinville Minor Baseball Association Program Liaison - (MMBA Appointed)
- SAMBA / Legal Baseball Program Liaison - (Legal Baseball Appointed)



## 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

### LOOKING BACK: Fiscal 2023

As required by SAMBA Bylaws, the fiscal 2023 financial statements have been assessed by two members, Raelene Liske and Ryan Diprose. Their **CERTIFICATION** is attached. I appreciate their diligence and attention to detail.

Fiscal 2023 was an exciting year for SAMBA with things finally back to "normal" post-pandemic. The Development Program kicked off the year strong, another successful winter camp was held and registrations for both Rep and House League continued to rebound. Unfortunately, the air quality did not cooperate with our Larry Rindero tournament this year, with only a couple of games able to be played, but we look forward to hosting this fun tournament again this coming season. Challenger Ball was again a great success, as were our bingos and casino.

As a result, revenues totalled \$687,430 which was greater than budgeted. Our gross profit came in at \$205,109 which was slightly less than budgeted and can be attributed to a combination of the cancellation of the Larry Rindero tournament due to poor air quality, the introduction of Acumen to the Development Program and a few higher than anticipated increases in the cost of items such as uniforms, and team equipment.

After operating expenses, which include things like utilities, insurance, maintenance, software, amortization, and other items not directly attributed to a program, we had a net loss of \$2,040 for the year. Increased utility costs greatly impacted our bottom line this year coming in at \$14,000 more than the prior year. In addition, we put more of a push on advertising resulting in additional costs, and some additional grounds and equipment maintenance was required this year. More detail on these figures is provided in the included **FISCAL 2023 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE**.

We ended the year with cash balances totalling \$249,849, as identified in the **FISCAL 2023 BALANCE SHEET**. About \$36,000 of these funds are informally held to support the potential for future grants, and an additional \$12,000 in cash is expected to be received in the new year from AGLC for our Casino held this past summer. We saw a decrease in the cash balances over the prior year as \$30,000 was spent on outdoor diamond equipment, a capital asset reflected on SAMBA's balance sheet. More cash will be required for capital expenditures in the coming years.

### LOOKING AHEAD: Fiscal 2024

Looking ahead to next year, we have budgeted for a relatively conservative year, while still anticipating a profit of approximately \$15,000. To arrive at these projections, we have assumed 680 House League and 148 Rep League participants. It is our hope that we will exceed these registration numbers. Development Program registrations of 66 have been budgeted.

We have budgeted for an increase to registration fees of \$65 per player in house league and \$110 per player in rep. After a review of other associations registration fees we determined that overall our fees were much less, and taking into consideration the possibility of a Baseball Alberta fee increase, the upgrades required to the diamonds and overall inflation across all expenses our board decided that this increase was necessary.

As we have communicated since the commencement of the Development program, the budget includes salaries for a Development Manager and a Development Administrator for their work in executing the program, as well as paid coaches. Payments made to the Development Program staff are completely separate from any board of director positions. Payments are highlighted here for transparency, as done in the past. To be clear, the revenues of the Development Program are set to recover all direct costs, including coaching and administration, to provide funds for a portion of SAMBA's operating costs and to contribute towards other future capital that may be required.

After review of other associations' structures, and to ensure compliance with AGLC requirements we have budgeted for a new salaried position of Executive Director for the next fiscal year. This is an appointed non-voting position, reporting directly to the Board of Directors, and this individual will oversee the overall operations of SAMBA. As this position will also assume some of the managerial tasks of the Development Program, the Development Program Manager's salary has been adjusted accordingly. The impact to SAMBA will be an increase to salaries expense of \$22,000 plus applicable payroll taxes.

As mentioned previously, our current projections show a net profit for fiscal 2024 of \$15,248. More details are included in the **FISCAL 2024 INCOME AND EXPENSE BUDGET**.

There are several capital projects totalling \$133,225 being considered for the upcoming year, which are detailed in the **FISCAL 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET**. The most significant of which are an upgrade to the 11U infield, the purchase of a Rapsodo and a HitTrax System. Significant upgrades to the other infields are being planned for in future years according to the greatest need. The cash flow situation will be reviewed before any capital expenditures are approved.

Respectfully,

Alison Cummings  
Treasurer