

President's Report for 2021 AGM:

2021 saw the return to meaningful baseball during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thorold Minor Baseball had an incredibly strong registration for the season.

- 173 Players / 53 Coaches
- 5U – 5 teams = 50 players = 15 coaches
- 7U – 4 teams = 39 players = 11 coaches
- 9U – 2 teams = 24 players = 10 coaches
- 11U – 3 teams = 35 players = 10 coaches
- 13U – 1 team = 12 players = 3 coaches
- 18U – 1 team = 11 players = 4 coaches

Our teams represented well in their interlock play. 9U Green and Yellow won Pod A Gold and Silver, respectively, 11U Grey won POD A Gold, and 18U won POD A Silver. Collectively Thorold teams were 33-7 against non-Thorold teams in the regular season. Our 5U and 7U programs were well attended and had outstanding leadership from the coaches. Their season was wrapped with an entertaining Hit, Run & Throw day at Sullivan in September.

The organization once again moved itself to the forefront of program delivery in Niagara. We saw families continue to return to Thorold, who had left in the past. In addition, we had new families from outside Thorold join us, and their feedback was incredibly positive.

Once again, the City of Thorold showed their full support and had our parks updated, in great shape and ready to go after a very wet start and very wet finish.

The organization's finances continue to be stable, and our reserves have slowly grown to ensure that our sustainability and growth can continue and thrive.

Our coaches were managed well, and we treated them to a great end of the year, "9 & Dine," to show our appreciation.

Our Select program was ready to roll until other centres in Niagara were not able to field teams. However, this didn't stop us; we ran development camps, inter-squad games and gave our players a great experience.

We were well represented at both the Niagara District Baseball Association and Niagara Interlock Committee levels. As a result, I was once again elected as the Vice-Chair of Interlock by our peer organizations.

Lastly, our year ended on a note of optimism. We held Rep tryouts for the 11U program and had 28 players try out for 13 spots. We brought on non-affiliated evaluators to ensure equity and ran three sessions for players. In the end, 13 players and 3 AP's were selected and entered into the 2022 NDBA Rep loop at 11U. This will mark the first Rep Team in Thorold over five years. It is expected that our involvement in Rep and Select will grow and that 13U and 9U will enter Select in 2022.

I have enjoyed serving in the capacity of President for Thorold Minor Baseball. I hold it an honour and strive to make all involved proud and inspired to continue our growth and success as the most powerful and brightest small association in Niagara.