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|  |  | Annual Report 2020White Butte Minor Ball |



Table of Contents

[Executive Director – SHELLEY STAMM 3](#_Toc56447969)

[President – JEFF HILCHEY 4](#_Toc56447970)

[Registrar – ANITA EHMAN 5](#_Toc56447971)

[Treasurer – DEAN CURSONS 6](#_Toc56447972)

[Project Coordinator – LONNIE GRIFFIN 8](#_Toc56447973)

[Player Development – ROB CHEREPUSCHAK 9](#_Toc56447974)

[Umpire Coordinator – JEFF THURMAN 10](#_Toc56447975)

[Equipment Coordinator – JASON LOCKERT 12](#_Toc56447976)

[Clothing Coordinator – COLLEEN GEYSEN 12](#_Toc56447977)

[Fundraising– NIKKI WILLIAMSON 13](#_Toc56447978)

# Executive Director – SHELLEY STAMM

The 2020 Ball Season for White Butte Minor Ball was a season that as an organization we could not predict or plan. It was a season filled with uncertainty and one that we were not sure was even going to happen. COVID 19 took away “normal” baseball like we all know. We all waited with anticipation for Baseball Sask to say the magic words of “LETS PLAY BALL”. When the words were finally said it brought new rules to this game from taking attendance, limited players in the dugout, social distance, limited spectators and so many more requirements. Despite all the requirements we played ball and had a good season. The season was short, but our teams enjoyed getting back on the diamonds. They embraced all the requirements of playing during COVID times. There were still celebrations in all our divisions from the first home run of the season to winning the Baseball Regina City Championship. White Butte is proud of all our players/teams/families both on and off the field.

It was another good season from a scheduling perspective. Prior to the season start, I again meet with all the rec directors from Balgonie, White City and Pilot Butte. All three communities supported the requirements needed to play during COVID times. Electronic calendars were again provided on a regular basis throughout the season, so that double booking did not occur, and billing would be accurate. Baseball practices were then coordinated and scheduled via email. We continue to have good usage on all our diamonds in all three communities despite COVID 19.

I am looking forward to the 2021 Baseball Season and continuing as the Executive Director of White Butte Minor Ball.

# President – JEFF HILCHEY

In late 2019, I resigned from my role of Umpire Coordinator and became President. My first task was to repopulate the Board of Directors as volunteer numbers had dwindled over the last few years prompting discussion about dissolving the association. I wrote an email to our membership describing the dire situation and included the incentive of refunding half of registration fees. The membership responded and we now have an almost-full board with 18 members.

I chaired the first meeting of the new board on March 3. Soon after, the pandemic forced the shutdown of baseball and I chaired all subsequent meetings virtually. In the lead up to restart of the season, I wrote updates to the membership and attended online meetings with Baseball Regina (BR) and Saskatchewan Premier Baseball League (SPBL). At these latter meetings, I advocated for schedules and procedures that ensured the health and safety of our athletes. I participated in our own Safety Committee.

Because my son recently played in 18U in Regina, I have relationships with those involved in 18U in BR and SPBL. Therefore, with the blessing of the 18U Division Director, I have been active in our 18U program, this season advocating for AA and helping form a combination team in A with BR, and laying the groundwork for a AAA team next year.

In the leadup to our AGM, I extensively rewrote the Operating Rules and Guidelines and made minor changes to the By-laws, which were approved by the Board of Directors.

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# Registrar – ANITA EHMAN

Online Registration for the 2020 Ball Season opened January 15, 2020 and closed February 28, 2020. We did allow some late registrations in age groups that still had room.

Registration numbers for the 2020 Season for Bronco Baseball is as follows:

**BASEBALL**

Junior Rally Cap 37 (4 teams)

Senior Rally Cap 23 (2 teams)

11U 35 (3 teams – AAA, AA, A)

13U 27 (2 teams - AAA, AA)

15U 13 (1 team – AA)

18U 20 (2 teams – AA, A)

Total baseball registrations: 155 (Down from 255 in 2019, mainly due to COVID and the delayed season, many people withdrew).

# Treasurer – DEAN CURSONS



All numbers as of October 24, 2020. Bank account balance at October 24, 2020 - $25,827.52

Notes:

1. Registrations down significantly due to COVID-19. Net of all refunds.
2. Sales of hats to members ($1,720) and purchases of hats by association ($2,983). Inventory is maintained by clothing coordinator.
3. Town of Pilot Butte lottery grant ($1,000) and scoreboard sponsorship ($999)
4. Baseball Sask and Baseball Regina fees
5. Baseballs
6. 18 U jerseys
7. Evaluation costs were significantly lower due to holding them outside.
8. Cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc. reimbursed to teams
9. Game fees paid to umpires
10. Player development sessions were cut short by COVID-19
11. Diamond rentals were about half of a normal year
12. Website includes RAMP administration fees as well as credit card merchant fees
13. Executive Director honorarium and meeting expenses

White Butte Minor Ball Association – Joint Account with Storm Softball

Account activity in 2020 related to the completion of the Balgonie Batting Cages Project - $3,500 was received from the Town of Balgonie and $2,293.48 of expenses were required to complete the project in 2020. Total cost of the project was $27,825, with $7,000 received from Balgonie.

Also, the insurance premium on the Seacan was paid ($527).

Account balance at October 24, 2020 - $14,775.60

# Project Coordinator – LONNIE GRIFFIN

In 2020 we completed batting cage construction in Balgonie.

Scoreboard for diamond 1 in White City was ordered and received with plans to install in spring.

Preliminary discussions took place and plans were drawn up for an upgraded 18U diamond in Balgonie.



# Player Development – ROB CHEREPUSCHAK

****Another year and another positive step for Broncos Baseball. I commend all of the volunteers, and Broncos families for helping our program provide a great experience on and off the field for our youth. Clearly this year was tremendously unique for everyone. However, the experience for families who chose to be involved was still tremendously positive.

 Our approach to player development will continue to provide off season training opportunities, effective player evaluations and most importantly continue to develop our program by promoting a positive culture throughout the community.

1. **Broncos Player 2020 Development Sessions**

To provide baseball development opportunities for busy families in our community, we offered affordable Player Development sessions for the eighth consecutive year. The sixty minute sessions were held at Emerald Ridge which provided easy access for the Broncos families in our community. Together with Justin Eiswirth we created a 16 week plan designed to engage our young athletes and develop their baseball skills. We are currently in a “wait and see” approach on development sessions for the upcoming season. This will be based on Covid-19 developments in the coming months.

1. **Broncos Player Evaluations**

A number of items go into an effective player evaluation. Facility, volunteers, evaluators and effective grading rubrics are vital. I would like to commend our volunteers for running a flawless evaluation experience during a pandemic. There is no doubt our vision, ability to work together and the understanding of people in our community led to this positive experience. The professional presence of our Broncos volunteers and transparency of our evaluations allow our program to place players in an appropriate level and further their development through the process. While it’s difficult to please everyone in any evaluation format, I do believe our process provides our Broncos families a couple of important items. We share our evaluation rubrics prior to evaluations and each athlete is evaluated by ten different people to limit mistakes. I believe these two items reflect important elements of any youth evaluation and is one of the many reasons our association is admired by others in the baseball community.

# Umpire Coordinator – JEFF THURMAN

Overall, the season was a success, but it had its challenges with COVID-19. This year saw a dramatic decrease in umpires. In 2019, there were 33 active umpires vs 14 active umpires this year, with one of them being new. 9 umps decided to sit out this year due to the late start of the season and 11 decided they were no longer interested in umping. There were a couple of 18U games were I needed to allow a youth ump in the same age group assist on the bases due to availability of adult umpires. Luckily, we only had 72 games in total and no tournaments. Assignments were handed out manually by me on a weekly basis with the intent to balance the amount of games between umpires but given that most of the umpires are players as well, availability was a challenge for some. This year I implemented the use of Google Docs to have the entire schedule always available online, but I am not sure how often it was used as I did post the current week directly into the email to umpires.

COVID pushed us to modify operating procedures for umpires this year. As a board, we decided that no umpire would be positioned behind home plate as social distancing of 6 feet could not be met. Instead, the “plate” umpire was positioned behind the pitcher and called balls/strikes from there. The “base” ump was always positioned at first base. Responsibilities of each ump were somewhat modified and all umpires were able to adapt quickly. Also, to minimize/eliminate shared equipment use, umpires were provided with indicators if they did not own one already. There is a surplus of extras that will be used for next year.

Clinics were only available online this year due to COVID and while it was stated that fees would be collected, none ever were. We had 5 new umpires this year and I highly discouraged them from umping due to the operating changes. I did have one of the new umps who was still interested and because of his skill as a player and understanding of the game, he managed to do OK.

We only had a couple of rainouts and a handful of games that were canceled due to player availability. Umpires were contacted as soon as possible. In some cases, just prior to the scheduled game start.

Given the short length of the season, only one payment was made to umpires. A final tally was sent to the treasurer to cut and distribute cheques. Umpires were given the option to pick up in person or have them mailed.

While many of the umps were able to adapt to the rule changes, there was still some confidence issues with calling pitches from behind the mound. It will be reviewed in the off-season to determine how we can return to calling pitches from behind the plate in the event that we are able to play with COVID restrictions.

During the off-season, I plan to investigate/evaluate an online assignment tool that would allow umpires to self-assign.

# Equipment Coordinator – JASON LOCKERT

Like everything else, equipment was a little challenging this year. Broncos Baseball purchased a new set of jerseys for the U18 team, game balls and a few small things, besides that we went with the equipment we had.

Before the season starts next year a full inventory of what we have and what we need will have to be done. As a board we are going to have to figure out a way to make pick up and return of equipment run a little smoother. Teams are not returning complete sets of equipment, then coming back with stuff at a later date. That makes it very hard to keep everything organized.



# Clothing Coordinator – COLLEEN GEYSEN

Two clothing initiatives were undertaken this year. Broncos partnered with 22 Fresh to offer a custom one-of-a kind royal blue hoodie and t-shirt. Uptake on the offer was good with 55 hoodies and 34 t-shirts sold. We were also able to squeeze in 2 clothing nights hosted by Torchy’s Sports Imagining and Embroidery prior to the pre-season being put on hold. One of the most popular items this year were the knee-high Broncos baseball socks which will definitely be on the list again for the 2021 season. Both vendors were very accommodating in getting clothing to the players. Torchy’s hopped in their van and distributed clothing at the diamonds while 22 Fresh offered curbside pick-up.

Hat sales remained on par with prior years. Majority of sales occurred the week prior to the season starting so rather than sell them during clothing nights, for the 2021 season they will be sold at different times during evaluations.

Two new sets of jerseys were purchased for the u18 teams, a black and a blue set. These were purchased through Resto Athletics with good reviews on style and quality. A review of the other jerseys will need to be done to determine if others need to be replaced as well.

# Fundraising– NIKKI WILLIAMSON

Due to Covid-19 no tournaments or provincials were held to raise funds for the association
Grants applied for and received:
Town of White City Sask Lotteries Grant: $2806.60
Town of Pilot Butte Sask Lotteries Grant: $2000.00
Baseball Sask Map Grant: $3500.00

