

WHITE BUTTE MINOR BALL ASSOCIATION



2022 Annual General Meeting
Season End Reports

White Butte Minor Ball Association is a non-profit organization that coordinates Storm Softball and Broncos Baseball in the White Butte Region. The Association is led year-round by a volunteer Board of Directors and is joined by additional volunteers during the ball season to coach and manage the teams. The Board is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Storm Softball within the rules, regulations and policies of Regina Minor Softball League, Softball Saskatchewan, and Softball Canada. Storm Softball is an independent, non-profit branch of White Butte Minor Ball Association. We are committed to providing all girls with an experience that fosters positive self-esteem, team spirit and individual growth through personal achievement and team play. Our softball program is well received by our community and the families we serve. Those families entrust us to teach their daughters various skills and we accept that honor with great pride. Each participating family plays an important role with countless hours of hard work and commitment, which coupled with your help, makes it possible for our program to instill the importance of integrity, hard work and dedication. Storm Softball's mission is to develop fast pitch softball players; not only in the terms of their skills, but also build their self-esteem and self-confidences. Our coaches are committed to creating sportsmanship, teamwork, and confidence in each player.

PRESIDENT – Submitted by Leigh Fuesel

The 2022 Season began with the restructuring of the age divisions based on the guidelines set out by Softball Saskatchewan and Softball Canada, which included base distance, pitching distance and minor rule changes for respective divisions (see chart below). Evaluations for the U11, U13 and U15 divisions were held at the Affinity Plex and RBI Training Facility at the beginning of March. All athletes were evaluated by independent evaluators from RBI. We also offered pre-evaluation skills camps prior to evaluations to allow for some prep. All teams were drafted by their division coordinators and coaches were identified. Teams began practicing in the gym in April. Our U7 and U9 divisions wrapped up their season mid June. The U9 teams hosted the Clash of Cleats Tournament at the end of May. The U7's held their end of year Storm Showcase mid June. The U11, U13, U15 and U17 teams played into mid July. Our Storm teams attended multiple tournaments throughout the province and saw many successes. Check out the Storm Softball Successes tab on the website. Provincials were held for the U11, U13, U15 and U17 divisions in July.

Our athletes, coaches and families continue to represent the Storm Softball Association with great pride. We are recognized as an association that builds great ball players, community leaders and amazing young ladies. We are looking forward to another exciting 2023 ball season!

Category	Size Ball	Pitching Distance	Baseline
U5/U7/U9	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U11	11" (27.95cm)	33' (10.06m)	50' (15.24m)
U13	11" (27.95cm)	38' (11.58m)	55' (16.76m)
U15	12" (30.50cm)	40' (12.50m)	60' (18.30m)
U17/U19/U23/Adult	12" (30.50cm)	43' (13.10m)	60' (18.30m)

VICE PRESIDENT- Submitted by Mike Bourque

Storm softball would like to thank all the coaches, volunteers and sponsors who made the 2022 season a success. This was the first full season post pandemic and our registration numbers paralleled previous seasons, which can not be said for many organizations. The enthusiasm displayed by the players, coaches and parents contributed to the success. The goal of Storm Softball is continued growth of the sport, player development and fostering a positive environment for the girls to play.

SCHEDULER – Submitted by Shelley Stamm

The 2022 Softball Season found us returning to normal softball scheduling after two years of COVID restrictions. This back to normal meant busy diamonds which was great to see once again. We continue to see strong softball numbers.

Prior to the season start, I again meet with all the Recreation directors from Balgonie, White City and Pilot Butte. We reviewed the previous seasons process and made a few adjustments from the previous season. Electronic calendars were once again provided on a regular basis throughout the season, so that double booking did not occur, and billing would be accurate. White Butte website was kept current and up to date.

I worked with the softball coaches/ managers and assisted with scheduling of practices and some home games. These dedicated coaches and managers were a pleasure to work with and I appreciate all their hard work.

I have agreed to stay on as Executive Director/Scheduler for White Butte Minor Ball. I am looking forward to the 2023 Ball Season and full diamonds once again.

REGISTRAR - Submitted by Lee Peters

We were very pleased to be back to a normal season this year following a couple of years of COVID modified seasons. It was the season where the age ranges changed so we did have some kids who were in the age division for a 3rd year.

This year we were able to open registration on January 1, 2022 and had registrations as follows:

U7 – 47 (5 teams) – this was up from 29 players (3 teams) in the 2021 season

U9 – 71 (6 teams) – this was up from 42 players (4 teams) in the 2021 season

U11 – 57 (5 teams) – this was slightly down from 59 in 2021 but the same number of teams

U13 – this is the first division of tiering in which we had an A team and two B teams. We had 39 total players, down from 40 in 2021 but with the same number of teams. We were able to combine the B teams to form a Provincial team for the U13 Provincials held in Regina (A and B Provincials)

U15 – we had 32 registered players from which three teams were formed (1A and 2B). This was down from 36 players in the 2021 season however with the same number of teams. The B teams were combined to form a Provincial team that played in Provincials in Saskatoon while the A team participated in Prince Albert.

U17 – we ended up with 14 registered players – this was down from 25 in 2021 season and as such only had one team in this age group.

Adult - had 13 registered players which was equal to the players in 2021

Total registration was 273 which was up from 244 in the 2021 season. This was up considerably from the year before which only had 99 registered players however was largely impacted by COVID. It is encouraging to see the increase in registrations in U7 and U9 which means strong support for the Association in years to come.

DIVISION REPORTS-

U6-Submitted by Wanda Pillipow

There were 5 teams they had about 12 practices each. The games were 1/2 practice 1/2 game play. They ended their season with a fun Showcase tournament between all the teams. Their season ran from may-June.

U9-Submitted by Chris Ross

6 Teams

Teams played between 7 and 11 games with as many practices as the coach scheduled. Ended the season with a game and a skills competition with prizes. The Clash of the Cleats tournament was held May 27th to 29th in Balgonie and 5 of the 6 teams participated.

U11-Submitted by Pamela Kydd (outgoing)- Welcome Reena Legien

For the 2022 season the U11 division athletes were put through pre season independent skill evaluations for the first time. This was done for the purpose of drafting the 5 teams based on skill based data to attempt a process where more evenly matched teams were created. (Rather than the past process of forming teams based on friend requests and residence location.) The boards decision to do this was based on the fact that the u11 division, like all other divisions had an age change and had a new plan on how their game would be played, Ex.) no coach pitch etc, more like playing what U12 would be. I believe it was the right decision to ensure these team all had a few experienced pitchers and catchers first and foremost. As always we are looking to grow and improve in all areas of our association so we will be making some improvements and adjustments on how we guide these next U11 coaches through their draft in seasons to come. We are very hopeful these improvements will help achieve the goal of forming evenly skilled teams and growing new softball relationships between athletes.

Some very positive points regarding this division are:

- Very passionate group of volunteer coaches who stepped up and put a huge amount of their own time into becoming certified in their needed coaching courses, both online and in person.
- Group chat was maintained between division director and all coaches throughout season. This was very helpful to keep everyone on the same page and supported with answers they needed. Many changes and confusion came about from RMSL rules/provincial team deadlines etc. so it was good to make sure we figured out the answers as they came about.

- 4 newly formed teams participated in provincial tournament. Kept teams together as much as possible like coaches requested.
- Teams played their regular season in the RMSL league. And some participated in tournaments of their choice.

2022 was not without its slight hiccups with age changes/provincials/league rules etc. But it proved to have many very passionate and enthusiastic Storm Softball players! Many participated in off season player development sessions.

We look forward to seeing this growth and development shine as these kids continue on with our association.

U13- Submitted by Kara Felske

In the U13 division there were 2 B teams and an A. The U13 B Heat won the C side end of the year playoff tournament. Combining the 2 B teams they were able to create a provincial team. The provincial team lost all 4 games, but no Regina or Saskatoon teams fared that well either. It was dominated by the mid-size communities that didn't have A-teams. They did alright, but didn't have pitching to the level that most of them did. The girls battled hard and enjoyed it though. The A team ended up in third place in league. Lost in the semi final playoff game. Didn't make it to Sunday for provincials. So would have placed 4th.

U15- Submitted by Mike Bourque

The 15U division has 33 registered players this season, allowing for 3 teams of 11 players.

U15A Division

Competed in 4 tournaments, league playoffs and provincials.

1st in league

2nd in city playoffs

6th at provincials

3 players (Camryn Fuessel, Hanna Bourque and Madeline Mokry) from the U15A Storm were selected to play at the U15 Canadian Softball Championships this past summer Congratulations ladies.

15B Division

Thunder and Rain

The Thunder finished 3rd in league play, with the Lightning finishing 6th.

The Storm Thunder won the city finals - Congratulations.

Unfortunately for the Rain they were knocked out of the playoffs after a head/head game against the Thunder.

Storm combined teams for 15B provincials and finished 6th. Congratulations.

U17- Submitted by Jason Nystrom via Head coach Georgina Carter

What went well:

- Having an Assistant Coach who I've coached successfully with before, and was committed and dedicated to attending practices and games, and helping out with the team. We each only missed one game/practice during the entire season.
- Having a strong dedicated pitcher (and two others I could sometimes count on) and having three experienced catchers
- Having several practices before and during the season to help the players learn new skills and develop existing skills, as well as bond as team (which made us stronger for games)
- Having 14 players on the roster (but still needed to pick up players for six games); however, I wouldn't want 15 on the roster (see my comment below in the 'player commitment' point)
- I won the first ever "Coach of the Week" award!

What could be improved:

- Medical issues - One player joined the team with known medical issues, missed 14 out of 15 games and practices and then quit the team about halfway through the season - Having a player join the team at that point (difficult to integrate her with the rest of the team, and obtain their acceptance of the new player) - Potential solution: When registration is occurring, ask if the players if they have any injuries or illnesses which would prevent them from playing fully in the season for its duration.
- Player commitment - One player in particular missed 20 out of 34 of the games and practices (83%), due to other sports commitments - Potential solution: When registration is occurring, ask if the players are committed and able to participate fully in the season (except for the occasional absence) for its duration.
- Survey - Have the survey to parents distributed earlier - so that feedback is received by the coaches midway through the season, and they have the ability to make improvements

How my team did:

- First place in regular season
- Second place in playoffs
- 1 win and 3 losses in Provincials
- achieved skills development, built/maintained friendships and had fun

U19/Ladies- Submitted by Jason Nystrom

Storm finished second in Division 3 of the Regina Ladies Softball Association. Their record was 6 wins and 5 losses (out of 11 games played). There were 14 athletes registered to play. The athletes got along very well, as most have played together since U12. In that age division, it is a challenge to field 9 players for every game due to work schedules, high school graduation, and other competitive sports that conflict with the ball schedule. We were able to field a complete team for 11 games, but had to reschedule 3 games (1 at the request of the other team). Unfortunately, we were unable to field a complete team for those rescheduled games. RLSA deemed this as "not completing the season" and withheld the refund of our bond (\$350.00).

CLOTHING/UNIFORMS - Submitted by Kari Griffin

We continued to use Torchy's for our clothing, sales were good as usual. The online store continues to work well. If people miss the order date, they still have the ability to order through Torchy's. They also continue to be very accommodating with the clothing pick up.

We transitioned from the hats to visors and received positive feedback. A smaller AJM visor for the younger girls and the flex fit for the older girls. We also added a flexfit hat for anyone wishing to wear but not part of the on field uniform.

Will continue with same visors for next year.

Plan to look into a vintage t shirt for practice/informal wear also possibly a new hoodie, thicker/softer/warmer.

We did experience some items out of stock or delayed this year due to covid.

We did an order for Storm OKAY bags, 13 bags were ordered. It was very delayed due to Covid however the bags did arrive prior to the season.

EQUIPMENT– Submitted by Chris Ross

This year equipment was handed out at Balgonie where all bags were pulled apart and cleaned and damaged equipment was replaced. All remaining divisions had new equipment bags ordered. We are continually purchasing game balls, indoor practise balls and items that coaches have identified. Catchers equipment and a few new bow nets were purchased. Next year will see more catchers equipment, batting tees and bow nets purchased to replace damaged items.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT – Submitted by Kara Felske

We were able to run pitch club Fridays from October to March. The majority of kids were in the younger ages which is great for our future development in pitchers.

Player development sessions were run on Thursdays starting in January and running until the beginning of April by Reena Legien. All U9/U11 Sessions filled quickly; U13/U15/U17 Sessions were usually full.

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING – Leigh Fuessel for Laurie Colhoun

For the 2022 Storm Softball only applied for the MAP grant through Softball Saskatchewan for hosting the Introduction to Competition coaching clinic in April. We received \$1410.67 in reimbursement from Softball Saskatchewan.

TOURNAMENTS – Submitted by Jen Cordick-Stephen

Clash of the Cleats, was a huge success

- started a facebook page for the tournament
- all teams participated to fulfill their volunteers shifts (next year - assign teams to shifts)
- weather wasn't the greatest but everyone showed up and did their best with the weather

U8 and Rally Cap Showcase

- again weather wasn't great, lots of complaints (possibly think of back up plan - some won't like to take another day or weekend of their time)
- canteen didn't make alot of \$, due to weather, lots of people left
- WE COULDN'T fill all canteen and volunteer shifts - assigning teams will need to be done next year
- actually fairly disappointed in people lack of engagement and responsibility to help out the organization (even though when you register their child, they agree to volunteer)
- the drills section and games were fun for the kids and they enjoyed them
- it was great to have the U15AAA Broncos come out, it would be great if we could get a few more older teams come out (I know its hard with tournaments and short season)

Coach Coordinator- Submitted by Pamela Kydd

The 2022 season brought a lot of new processes with regard to Storm Softball Coach selection, and Coach training requirements.

We implemented as a board an official process of selecting and appointing coaches to teams where there is more than one coach applying for the same position. The process was carried out in a very thorough and thoughtful manner by the Coach development coordinator, and a sub committee made up of experienced Storm Softball Board members that did not have children in that division. We were lucky to have very qualified and passionate applicants excited to work with our athletes. We will continue to adapt and work with this process to ensure our Storm players benefit from qualified and enthusiastic coaching.

Many of our Storm coaches participated and obtained many different coaching courses and training both online and in person. We guided our coaches through the pathways they needed to pursue to receive updated and proper information for the success of their teams. We were very thrilled with the uptake our dedicated volunteer coaches showed in their own development. We hope to see that continued commitment to the coaching pathway.

We hosted a weekend Coach course (Competition Intro) at Pilot Butte Hall. The Softball Sask instructors were wonderful and we had a large group attend from all over the province. Many of our coaches attended this as well.

We will continue to make Coach Development a priority to Storm Softball and show commitment to guiding the coaches through the training signup process and awareness of training opportunities.

UMPIRE COORDINATOR/ DEVELOPER- Submitted by Shannon Koch

Since COVID, Softball Saskatchewan has seen significant fluctuation in the number of registered umpires in our province. While total numbers are near pre-COVID totals, RMSL, the league in which Storm plays, is struggling to schedule umpires for each game required. This has a direct impact on the calibre of softball available for our players and a direct impact on their skill and game-knowledge development. This year was the first year Softball Saskatchewan hosted a U11 provincial championship. Each game had scheduled, certified umpires. This was the first time that many of these teams had played in a game with certified umpire. Whether at a competitive or foundational level, certified umpires assure that the game is played with integrity, the rules of the game are adhered to, and ensuring the safety of the players and sportsmanship of all involved. Without umpires, the calibre

of softball within our associations will decline. Storm softball, RMSL and Softball Saskatchewan are reliant on parents, family and friends of players as well as general fans of the game of softball stepping up to become an umpire. The alternative will be a more recreational-style game, with parent volunteers that (inadvertently) compromise all that is listed above as being integral to the great game of softball.

On a positive note, becoming an umpire is a great way to advance your knowledge of the game, be active and make some extra money. Having umpires in our home communities and our district will allow our teams to play games on our home diamonds and help to ease some of the scheduling pressures on our sister association, the RMSL. Storm softball funded certification of 4 association members for the 2022 season, however, these members are also high-level players/coaches, therefore they are already on the diamond the majority of the season playing/coaching. Storm softball will be looking to bid to host to an umpire certification clinic early Spring. Please stay tuned for dates and times. If you would like more information, please contact Shannon at stormsoftball.secretary@gmail.com.

TREASURER – Submitted by Michelle Maystrowich

For the 2022 season Storm Softball ended the year with net income of \$7,979 which was \$3,639 ahead of the expected profit of \$4,339.

Revenue was \$10,221 above budget. Registration numbers increased from 2021 levels which lead to \$5,036 higher registration income than expected. Storm Softball also received a \$6,000 MAP grant through Softball Saskatchewan.

Expenses were \$6,582 higher than budget as registration numbers resulted in additional league and affiliation fees as well as higher diamond and batting cage rentals. Costs associated with Storm Softball hats and other branded items were \$7,643 primarily due to the visors that were new this year.

**Storm Softball
Income Statement
2022**

	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	2022 VARIANCE	2021 ACTUAL
REVENUE				
Registration Income	58,346	53,310	5,036	50,060
Grants	6,000	-	6,000	-
Donations	-	-	-	3,648
Storm Softball Hat and Other Branded Items Sales	3,941	2,985	956	2,926
Tournament Profits	-	-	-	-
Player Development Clinics	1,215	2,987	(1,772)	2,928
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 69,502	\$ 59,281	\$ 10,221	\$ 59,562
EXPENSES				
Regina Minor Softball League Fees	17,450	14,700	(2,750)	10,450
Softball Saskatchewan Affiliate Fees	4,982	4,502	(480)	4,143
Regina Ladies Softball League Fees	1,325	1,225	(100)	1,315
Ball Diamond and Batting Cage Rentals	10,785	8,640	(2,145)	8,903
Scheduler	2,200	2,191	(9)	2,148
Evaluation Expenses	4,053	2,905	(1,148)	2,848
Player Development	-	1,763	1,763	1,728
Coaching Clinic (SS planned & SK Softball)	2,716	4,000	1,284	98
Storm Softball Hat and Other Branded Items Cost	8,404	761	(7,643)	746
Equipment & Supplies	5,570	7,292	1,722	7,149
Uniforms	1,858	5,000	3,142	-
Bank Charges & cheque stock	1,670	1,644	(25)	1,612
Other Costs (Deposits, Board meeting costs, etc)	511	319	(191)	313
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 61,523	\$ 54,942	\$ (6,582)	\$ 41,453
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 7,979	\$ 4,339	\$ 3,639	\$ 18,108
Current Bank Balance (Adjusted)	\$ 65,900			\$ 55,722