

# WHITE BUTTE MINOR BALL ASSOCIATION



2023 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 terms of their skills, but also build their self-esteem and self-confidence. Our coaches are committed to creating sportsmanship, teamwork, and confidence in each player.

## **PRESIDENT – Submitted by Leigh Fuessel**

The 2023 Season began in January with registration, pitch club, player development sessions, athlete skill development sessions and evaluations. Evaluations for the U13, U15 and U17 divisions were held at the Regina Sports Performance Center February 25 and 26, with an alternate date of March 4th. All athletes were evaluated by independent evaluators from RBI. Our U11 divisions evaluations took place over several nights in local school gyms. These evaluations were run by volunteer board members and senior Storm Softball players. The goal in U11 was to draft equal skill based teams. 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. Head coaches for our AA teams were identified and announced prior to evaluations. 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. 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!

### **2023 Season Successes include:**

Season Kickoff Tournament- U17 AA Gold

Season Kickoff Tournament- U13 AA Silver

Queen City Classic- U13AA Gold

Lumsden Tournament- U11 Tornadoes Silver

Quad Town Tournament- U9 Thunder Gold

U11 South Provincials- U11 Lightning Gold

U11 South Provincials- U11 Storm Chasers Bronze

U13AA Provincials- U13 AA Storm Bronze

2023 RMSL U15AA Division- U15AA Storm Silver

2023 RMSL U13AA Division- U13AA Storm Silver

#### VICE PRESIDENT- Submitted by Mike Bourque

I would like to thank all the volunteers, coaches, and parents that continue to make Storm Softball a success. Storm softball has seen continual growth over the past few years, in part because of the volunteers committed to growing the sport. Programs like pitch club, player development, come try softball and Clash of the Cleats just to name a few are key pieces to player and association success. I would like to encourage everyone, regardless of your skill level/knowledge to continue supporting your child and get involved when/where you can. Our children and the association depend on volunteers.

#### SCHEDULER – Submitted by Shelley Stamm

The 2023 Softball Season saw great softball numbers which means very busy softball diamonds with lots of practices and an increase in home games.

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 am looking forward to a busy 2024 Softball Season!!

#### REGISTRAR - Submitted by Leigh Fuessel for Lee Peters

Storm Softball had another great year seeing growth or sustainability in all age divisions.

U7- 4 teams (49 players)

U9- 5 teams (67 players)

U11- 5 teams (59 players) - 2 provincial teams formed

U13- AA team (12 players), 4 B teams (48 players)- 1 provincial team formed

U15- AA team (12 players), B team (14 players)

U17- AA team (12 players), B team (13 players)

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

### **U5/U7-Submitted by Wanda Pillipow**

U5/U7 we had 4 teams with around 12 kids on each team. They did 1/2 practice and 1/2 games.

The showcase tournament was busy with the great weather. Everyone of the coaches planned ahead so when it was time they already had their volunteer coaches and managers in place.

### **U9-Submitted by Chris Ross**

5 Storm teams played between 11 and 12 regular season games against each other as well as against 4 teams from Lumsden. All 5 teams participated in the Clash of the Cleats tournament that was held in Balgonie on May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. The Twisters finished 1<sup>st</sup>, the Lightning finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Thunder finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. The U9 Thunder also won the Quad Town tournament.

### **U11-Submitted by Reena Legien**

This year for U11 we had 5 teams, the Lightning, Blizzards, Tornados, Twisters and Thunder. There were exactly 60 players registered for the draft, of which only 3 did not attend evaluations. Don't quote me on this exactly, but I believe 17 were 2<sup>nd</sup> year players leaving 43 players as first years. Our head coaches were Aimee Knoll, Shona Elder, Nathan Schmidt, Kristin Anderson and myself. U11 age division is not tiered (as of yet) so we ran an evaluation in our local gyms and utilized board members to score the players. We chose to run a draft this year as our team selection process. Prior to the draft only head coaches were selected and those 5 head coaches were allowed to pre-select 4 players including their own daughter. Of those 4 players only 1 was allowed to be a pitcher and 1 was allowed to be a catcher. Coaches chose players based on whatever criteria they wanted ex. Daughter's best friends, want a certain parent as an assistant coach. The remaining 6 or 7 players were selected in the draft. Pitchers and catchers were drafted first. We ensured that each team had one of the top scoring pitchers. Then the remaining positions were drafted in order of score and each player couldn't be in the draft for more than 2 rounds. I find this process worked really well. Teams were fair; parents and athletes seemed pleased. U11 plays in the RMSL league. We don't keep standings at U11 and there aren't any ump's unless we play in Balgonie. Out of the 5 teams we combined and made 2 teams that attended Provincials in Regina. There were 14 players on one team and 13 on the other. We were able to keep league team players together. Myself and Nathan Schmidt coached one team and Shona Elder and her coaching staff from the season coached the other team. Shona's team won gold and we won bronze.

Overall, a very successful year. Lots of growth and development.

I find that U11 has a lot of skill range. There are some girls that are very advanced for the age group and others we find that this is their first year attempting to play the sport. Apparently, that is the case around most communities. In Softball SK's town hall meeting there was lots of talk of tiering this age group for this reason, but no final decision was made at the AGM.

Going forward to 2024 I would run it all the same with maybe 2 changes:

1. Have players check a box at registration saying whether they are able to commit to Provincials.
2. Players who don't attend the evaluation can't be a part of the draft or the pre-selection. They are added to teams at the end of the draft process.
3. I would love nothing more than if we could remove our U11's from RMSL and combine with Lumsden,

Quad Town, Cupar, Indian Head, Grenfell. No umps, no ranking or play-offs and too many diamond mix ups.

I believe upcoming 2024 coaching applicants will be

Nathan Schmidt

Aimee Knoll/Josh Belair

Jared Mohr

Barb Vietch

Nate Wilson/Jenn Flaman

Lyle Andrusiak

### **U13- Submitted by Kara Felske**

We had great numbers in U13 this year with the AA team and 4 B teams.

#### Head coach Kari Griffin U14AA

The U13AA team had a fantastic year. We had an amazing group of girls, families and a very successful season. We took the opportunity to set out in our pinstripes and spread our wings (on a bus) and travel to find some different competition outside of the usual teams we had seen in past years. We traveled to Melfort, Warman and Brandon for some exciting exhibition games.

We had several successes throughout the season:

Kickoff Tournament – Silver Medal

Queen City Tournament – Gold Medal

Saskatoon Tournament – lost out in semi finals

League Finals – Silver Medal

Provincials – Bronze Medal

This will most definitely be a season we will always remember. We saw huge gains in the skill development and knowledge of the game in these girls and a genuine love for the sport which is the most gratifying thing of all.

#### U13 B Hurricanes Head coach Meghan Willson

The U13B Hurricanes had a fun and enjoyable season. We were a small and mighty team of 10. The Hurricanes were all first year U13 players except 1. We finished league play in the middle of the pack and finished playoffs in the middle of the pack. We had players starting the year not hitting the ball and by the end of the year they were consistently hitting every time they were up to bat. The players got a real feel for a faster pace game, with stealing, sliding, bunting, home runs, and using their skills to make the play and get the other team out. The best part of coaching this group was helping the players find their confidence, helping them build their self-esteem that translates on and off the field.

#### U13B Thunder Head coach Brent Maystrovich

We had a great season. I believe we finished .500 overall but I think it was good considering we did not have any second years on our team. The girls improved a lot through the year as some were

contemplating quitting prior to the year and now I've seen them have a renewed love for the sport as they have been in summer and fall camps. They really seemed to work well as a team and thrived when playing a new position. It was a pleasure coaching the team as they all seemed to want to be there and wanted to learn. This was new for me as that has not been my experience in the past so it was fun showing up at every practise. We played in a few tournaments and won a few games but with all first years it was tough going in some of the tourneys.

#### U13 Twisters Head coach Chris Bailey

We had a fantastic season. Finished tied for first after regular season. Ended up losing one league game and then the league final after having to battle on Sunday to make the final. We played Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon tournaments as well as had 5 girls play provincials. The girls made leaps and bounds again as many on the twisters I've coached most years. Confidence and skill level grew and they worked together as a team the whole season. There was never any negativity directed between the kids and the group of parents was fantastic! Hoping to have many of the same athletes on my team in the spring.

#### U13 B Heat Head coach Dave Devers

The U13B Heat had a very good season. We finished 3rd in the league and lost in the A-semi in the year-end tourney. It was fun to have a new batch of girls move into U13 this year, and our team was about half first-year girls and half second-year girls. Many of them had played ball or ringette together, so it was a very tight group. I know that many of the first-year players' families were excited to be in U13 where the girls are "really playing ball". It's fun to coach at this age, where the attention spans are a little longer and the majority of them really want to learn and improve.

#### Provincial Team Head coach Brent Maystrovich

For provincials I had a great group of girls as well. From the little practice they got to do the team bonded quickly and played very well as a team supporting one another like I haven't seen before. We had a very tough pool to come out of so didn't manage to make the playoffs. However the team we lost to did go on to the finals and based on the score we had with them we gave them the best run for their money.

A bit of feedback on the provincials was that there were too many teams and very different skill sets. Some of the house B teams from Regina and Saskatoon just got destroyed so I can't imagine that was any fun for them. It would be better if there was a way to set it up differently. With 36 teams in the tournament the best teams did not move on and it showed due to the single knock out format.

Overall the year was fun and I look forward to next year.

#### **U15- Submitted by Mike Bourque**

The U15 division had 26 registered players. Two teams of players were created AA, B

U15B Thunder

Finished regular season in 2 nd place behind Indian Head Angels with a record of 8-2  
Did not attend Provincial Championships.

#### U15AA Storm

Had three returning players from the previous year.

Finished regular season in 2 nd place behind the Moose Jaw Ice with a record of 13-7.

Finished 2 nd in city finals to the Regina Saints, with a playoff record of 3-1.

1 win away at Provincials to make it to playoff round.

Congratulations to Kate Elder! She was selected to play at he U15 Canadian Championships this past summer in the U15 division.

#### **U17- Submitted by Wanda Pillipow**

The U17 division had 26 registered players. Two teams of players were created AA, B

U17B Storm finished 7 of 8 teams

Due to commitment issues did not attend Provincial Championships.

#### U17AA Storm

Did not field a U17AA last year and therefore had no returning players from the previous year.

Finished regular season in 4th place just narrowly missing the 3rd place finish.

It was a great building year for such a young team.

Congratulations to Katelyn Zukewich and Camryn Fuessel who were selected to play at the U17AA Canadian Championships.

#### **U19/Ladies- Vacant**

Despite getting information out early and polling players we were unable to form a team for the 2023 season in the ladies division. We had enough interest but no pitchers, which makes fielding a team virtually impossible. Any Storm players wanting to play found teams in the city.

#### **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, Torchy's has been very accommodating in allowing late orders.

Pick up went well at Balgonie Hall during pictures as everyone was in attendance however some were hoping to have had shirts and socks available before hand for pictures.

We added new hoodies with a stitched logo for a more "college feel" that was very popular. We added new style joggers as well as a vintage t shirt for practice/informal wear.

We plan to do another order of the OKAY bags in January/Feb.

I plan to look at new tank tops.

We will continue with the same visors

Items ordered from the website at registration (ie sunglasses, snap towels, visors) did well but



trickled out throughout the season. People did not remember what they ordered in January and didn't attend clothing pick up if they hadn't ordered other items. I think it would be best to have these items prepared to go out with the equipment bags to the coaches.

#### 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. Many new items were purchased this year to replace worn out or damaged equipment. Game balls, indoor balls were a large expenditure, as well as new catchers equipment to ensure our players are protected. We also purchased more bow nets and batting tees. Several sets of jerseys were ordered this year to ensure that all teams had enough jerseys.

#### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT – Submitted by Kara Felske

We ran them out of Ecole White City and Pilot Butte last winter. The majority of all the sessions were full. Most of the girls registered were in the U11 and U13 age division. We specialized the groups by age. Typically U7 & 9 were together, U11 & 13, then U15 & 17. We had skill specific sessions. With each session never being more than an hour and a half, the focus was on quality reps. I took them as an opportunity to welcome coaches out to learn and get acquainted with drills and instruction. Overall it was a success and plan to continue this winter.

Pitch Club was run from October until the end of March every Friday with 6:00 and 7:00 sessions in Balgonie. We had a few older girls but mostly young ones which is great to see. There were noticeable differences in the progress of the pitchers that came on a regular basis.

In July we had the 222s program come out and run a fielding and hitting camp. The feedback from this was great. There were mainly young athletes there which is what we like to see to further develop our Storm program.

#### GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING – Submitted by Leigh Fuessel for Lee Peters

For the 2023 Season grants were applied for in all 3 communities.

Balgonie - \$500

White City - pending

Pilot Butte - pending

#### TOURNAMENTS – Submitted by Karleen Fraser

Clash of the Cleats, hosted at Balgonie Diamonds May 26-28 2023 - A total 12 teams participated (including 5 of our own), out of town teams included Weyburn, Lumsden and Indian Head. - This was the first year we used RAMP to register teams, once we had received the first couple it seemed to work great

for team registrations. - Sponsors included this year were Avana, White Butte Pharmacy, Broncos, Chatters, Capital GMC, DQ, Cross Country Foods, Western Cycle Source for Sports, RBI and Coldwell Bankers (Chris Untereiner) - Did a 50/50 through Raffle Box and promoted it through the Facebook page, it wasn't as successful as the previous year but it still did okay (winner took approx \$747) - Weather wise, it was decent and fair to play in. - Canteen was only open on Saturday & Sunday (not Friday) to make it easier for volunteer shifts, and the fact that Tim Hortons was nearby now we weren't sure how sales would go. - Received positive feedback that the tournament went over very well and the girls had a blast. Team Twisters took the candy cup! U7 Storm Softball & Broncos Jr. & Sr. Rally Cap Showcase, hosted at Balgonie Diamonds June 24 2023 - We had beautiful and sunny weather to enjoy the day. - We were a bit afraid if we were going to be short teammates as the day conflicted with Flag football and spring hockey windups for many of the players, however most families made it work and we had a great turnout of little players. - Canteen was a big success, it was constantly lined up and needed a run to Cross Country Foods for more ketchup. - Sponsors included were Cross Country Foods and Western Source for Sports

#### Coach Coordinator- Submitted by Pamela Kydd

- Storm Softball registered 89 coaches total.
- Every Coach provided us with the necessary credentials including Respect In Sport numbers, NCCP numbers and levels according to age group coached, recent within 2 years VSC. All applicants' information was checked and verified by myself before the affiliation deadline.
- I am very happy to report that all Coaches who I reached out to, to complete their required clinics and online courses, did put in the effort and got it done. This shows the passion and commitment in our volunteers.
- Head Coach's information was provided to Softball SK for the purpose of gaining them access to the new coaching resource app that supported them with practice plans, drills etc.
- All team head coach applicants were reviewed, and due to being qualified and ideal volunteers for the positions they were awarded their teams.
- Coaches who needed to obtain coaching clinics for their provincial coach requirements were given that information very early and many times throughout the spring. We were able to have all age divisions with a coach who qualified to coach in their provincials. U15B/U17B division teams did not attend provincials regretfully due to player and family interest in committing to the tournament.
- We held a pre-season meeting for all Head coaches of all teams to attend. We handed out printouts of the coaching information document as well as emailed it to all coaches. This meeting was attended by Leigh, Pam, and Shelley Stamm. Coaches had a chance to ask questions and give some discussion about plans and how to make the most of their season. I feel that this document was extremely thorough and provided all coaches with somewhere to turn first to remind themselves of the answers that they need. They were of course encouraged to reach out to myself or their division coordinators for anything they might need as well.
- Coach evaluations were sent out to our membership to receive non anonymous useful feedback to help support our coaches with their own growth and development. Total of 34 responses. U7: 3 responses, U9: 4 responses, U11: 12 responses, U13: 9 responses, U15: 3 responses, U17: 3 responses. Positive and appreciative feedback for our coaches, also constructive feedback to help find points for growth. All responses were forwarded to the

corresponding coach with a message thanking them for their time. Will continue with the non-anonymous approach to acquiring this feedback.

-Any post season coach development opportunities have been re-posted/promoted and sent out to our membership to help promote earlier preparation for our coaches gaining their requirements.

-Division coordinators did a great job at supporting and communicating with their corresponding coaches with group chats etc.

-The goal of Coach Developer continues to be: to successfully provide channels of communication between our coaches and our board members, and provide easily accessible answers somewhere for the coaches who are either experienced or brand new to feel equally supported by myself and Storm Softball.

Preplanning for 2024 season

-U13AA Head coach has been selected.

-U15AA Head Coach has been selected, and team has been formed and started their practice season together.

-U17AA Head Coach has been selected, and team has been formed and started their practice season together

-Plans are to send out an informational survey to all our registered Storm Softball coaches asking them what more as a board we can do to help them with their growth. From that I hope to have more ideas of where to aim the future energy toward helping them.

**UMPIRE COORDINATOR/ DEVELOPER- Submitted by Leigh Fuessel/Shannon Koch (outgoing) Welcome Audra Hill**

Storm Softball hosted a Softball Saskatchewan Umpire Clinic this April and trained and certified 10 plus new umpires. Storm Softball hosted 31 games in the U11 and U13 divisions only as many of the umpires were young and new to umping.

Umpires during these games were paid \$40/ game/ umpire at a total cost of \$2,475 by Storm Softball (home teams paid umpires and Storm Softball reimbursed them)

RMSL pays \$35/game to their umpires which resulted in a reimbursement to Storm Softball of \$2,100

Net cost for umpire fees was \$375

It was great to see these young new umpires out there and I know the kids and families appreciated the home games with 2 umpires, which often is not the case with league games in the city.

Thank you Shannon for all your hard work getting this off the ground, it wouldn't have happened without you.

TREASURER – Submitted by Michelle Maystrowich

For the 2023 season Storm Softball ended the year with net income of \$2,018 which was \$2,550 less than the budgeted profit of \$4,568.

Revenue of \$82,536 was \$17,387 above budget as it includes \$10,405 in tournament profits.

Registration income increased \$4,205 due to a combination of higher player numbers and a change in the timing of U15AA and U17AA team formations. Player development clinics continued to expand generating \$2,116 more revenue than expected. Storm Softball also received a \$1,411 MAP grant through Softball Saskatchewan.

Expenses of \$80,518 were \$19,937 higher than budget. Storm Softball donated \$8,000 towards the Town of Balgonie's softball diamond upgrades and was also able to invest \$11,197 in equipment and \$1,758 in uniforms, a combined \$2,273 above budget. Costs associated with Storm Softball branded items were \$4,191 more than budget primarily due to visor purchases. Higher player numbers contributed to some additional costs, most notably ball diamond and batting cage rentals (\$3,129 above budget) and RMSL fees (\$2,400 above budget). Thirty-one RMSL games for the U11 and U13 divisions were hosted by Storm Softball which also contributed to higher ball diamond rentals. Finally, evaluation expenses were \$3,137 higher than anticipated due to the change in timing of the AA tryouts.

**Storm Softball  
Income Statement  
2023**

	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 VARIANCE	2022 ACTUAL
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Registration Income	65,130	60,925	4,205	58,346
Tournament Profits (Note 1)	10,405	-	10,405	328
Player Development Clinics	3,355	1,239	2,116	1,215
Storm Softball Hat and Other Branded Items Sales	2,235	2,985	(750)	3,941
Grants	1,411	-	1,411	6,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 82,536</b>	<b>\$ 65,149</b>	<b>\$ 17,387</b>	<b>\$ 69,830</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Regina Minor Softball League Fees	22,100	19,700	(2,400)	17,450
Ball Diamond and Batting Cage Rentals	14,214	11,085	(3,129)	10,785
Equipment and Supplies	11,197	5,681	(5,515)	5,570
Donations	8,000	-	(8,000)	-
Evaluation Expenses	7,271	4,134	(3,137)	4,053
Softball Saskatchewan Affiliate Fees	5,414	5,069	(345)	4,982
Storm Softball Hat and Other Branded Items Cost	4,967	776	(4,191)	8,404
Bank Charges	2,104	1,737	(367)	1,703
Uniforms	1,758	5,000	3,242	1,858
Umpire Development	1,556	-	(1,556)	-
Player Development	873	1,763	890	-
Coaching Development	563	3,750	3,187	2,716
Other Costs (Deposits, Board meeting costs, etc)	502	561	59	550
Regina Ladies Softball League Fees	-	1,325	1,325	1,325
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 80,518</b>	<b>\$ 60,581</b>	<b>\$ (19,937)</b>	<b>\$ 59,396</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,018</b>	<b>\$ 4,568</b>	<b>\$ (2,550)</b>	<b>\$ 10,434</b>
<b>Current Bank Balance (Adjusted)</b>	<b>\$ 57,441</b>			<b>\$ 65,900</b>
<b>Current Tournament Account Balance (Adjusted)</b>	<b>\$ 17,483</b>			<b>\$ 8,020</b>

Note 1: In 2023 started to include net tournament profits with 2022 amounts included for comparison.

Note 2: Following the 2022 AGM, an agreement was reached with Broncos Baseball for the Scheduler fees to be paid from joint account.

