

## WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023

**Date:** October 25<sup>th</sup> , 2023

**Location:** Wilmot Rec Center – Meeting Room – ERB A

**Time:** 7:00pm start

- 1) Call to order/attendance sheet/welcome - 7:02 PM
  - a. **Members Present:** Mike Carey, Kevin Reich, Susan Hall, Kevin Hall, Jamie Hergott, John Vleeming, Mike VanDeWynckel, PJ Poirier, Tim Bartram, Ryan Roth, Shannon Van Alphen, Sarah Nicholls, Dan Lebel, Todd Lichty, Amy Balatoni, Dwight Brenneman,
  - b. Elaine Mason – Elections officer
  - c. Mike Carey welcomes everyone to our 2023 AGM
- 2) Review previous AGM meeting minutes – Kevin Reich – 7:12 PM
  - a. Motion to approve minutes as read: Mike C
  - b. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kevin Hall
  - c. All approve, motion Carries
- 3) Executive Reports
  - a. President – Mike Carey – 7:03 PM – See attached report
    - New Pitching Machine Purchases
    - REP Team results
    - Mike expresses his gratitude for the support over the last 6 years of his presidency. And is excited for the future of the organization
  - b. VP Report – PJ – 7:05 PM – See attached report
    - All registration numbers were up across the board
    - Increase of girls only teams
    - Hosted 8 week pitching clinic, catcher's clinic, LL pitching clinic – huge success – Shows how much our organization has grown, and continues to grow in the community
  - c. Report from Chair of Uniforms – Tim B – 7:06 PM – See attached report
  - d. Report from Registrar – Susan – 7:07 PM – See attached report
    - Total of 533 players, 51 teams in total
    - Ran a girl's drop-in session in winter 2022 which proved to increase girls' registration
    - Positive engagement with volunteers – 37 head coaches, 26 assistant coaches in Local League
  - e. Twin Centre Report - Amy Balatoni – 7:09 PM
    - Amy and Todd have been running TC Minor Baseball themselves for about 4 seasons, but have chosen to engage with Wilmot
    - Rebounded after COVID with registration at lower age levels, back to regular number of teams
    - With new Wilmot alliance TC has been able to have players cross over and made sure every player had a place to play for all age group

## **WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023**

- 4) Financial Summary overview report – Mike Van de Wynkle 7:11 PM – See attached Report
  - a. Registration Up, sponsorship was down slightly due to some renewals not due yet
  - b. Net loss this year of \$40,000 but we had large expenses of sound equipment, and pitching machine, scoreboards, bats, etc... due to extra revenue from last season
  - c. Final position: \$35,000 cash
- 5) Review proposed amendments to Wilmot Softball Association Constitution (7:15 PM)
  - a. No amendments proposed
- 6) Review proposed amendments to WSA By-laws (7:16 PM)

Proposed updated to Section 23 of the bylaws:

Currently Reads: Section 23 - Operating Rules:

Rules governing the operations of the Association may be passed and carried out by the Board of Directors as long as they are not contrary to the Ontario Corporations Act or the By-Laws, which will only be in effect until the next Annual General Meeting of Members. The Members may confirm, reject or amend Operating Rules passed by the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. Proposed amendments to the Operating Rules may only be submitted by Members, and must be submitted to the Secretary at least 60 days before the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed Update:

Section 23 - Operating Rules:

Rules governing the operations of the Association may be passed and carried out by the Board of Directors as long as they are not contrary to the Ontario Corporations Act or the By-Laws, which will only be in effect until the next Annual General Meeting of Members. The Members may confirm, reject or amend Operating Rules passed by the executive committee / board of directors at any meeting of the executive committee. Proposed amendments to the Operating Rules may only be submitted by Members, and must be presented 30 days before an executive committee meeting.

Justification:

This change will allow the association to keep rules and policies up to date in a timely manner, without requiring a special meeting or waiting until the following year's AGM.

Discussion:

- Discussion regarding need for 30 days notice on rules change proposals was discussed. Determined this clause needs to remain to prevent a rule being pushed through without proper oversight by the entire executive committee.

**Motion: To pass above WSA By-Law amendment as read – Mike Carey**

**Seconded by Kevin Hall**

**Vote; All in favor, Motion Carries**

## WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023

- 7) Discussion on joint venture with Twin Centre Minor Ball and WSA under one executive – Open to members from both associations. (7:22 PM)
- a. Amy Balatoni – A lot of initiatives naturally cross over between our two organizations, and the intention is for the Wilmot Exec to help support Twin Centre Minor Baseball to ensure they continue to exist
  - b. Amy notes that although registration numbers are lower than Wilmot, the organization does have positive cashflow
  - c. Todd; The goal is to have TC Minor Baseball continue to exist and grow but allow Wilmot's strong exec group to support where suitable.
  - d. Mike C: This alliance allows us to have a larger collective executive association
  - e. Amy; A great example is Umpire organization – Having Lance and Ryan assist with umpire scheduling took a significant amount of work away from Amy and Todd
  - f. Questions or comments?
    - i. Dwight Brenneman; Excited that this is a partnership to allow economy of scale by combined efforts to make TC (and Wilmot) a stronger group overall
- 8) Open Discussion on Player Releases – To and From Wilmot – 7:27 PM
- a. Mike Carey; In the past we have always erred on the side of allowing kids to play where they want to play – Meaning we don't prevent a release to leave or bypass our center if they really want to leave and play elsewhere. We have kids coming into Wilmot, kids leaving Wilmot to go elsewhere, and most notably players wanting to bypass Wilmot and get to another center.
  - b. Amy B: Wellesley / TC has worked to align their policies with Wilmot. Amy and Todd have struggled with this in the past in trying to retain players. Amy suggests we need to consider what type of organization we want to be known as – Are we a fair play type of association, or do we want to be considered an association that attempts to "buy" players but not release them
  - c. Mike V: Agrees that our current policy makes sense; Having a kid forced to play on our teams because we wouldn't release them makes an uncomfortable situation.
  - d. Mike C: This policy has never been formally written ie; we have never advertised to other associations how we handle this officially. This is more of a philosophy and/or guideline.
  - e. Kevin H; There is no perfect answer to this question. There will always be some conflict caused with these decisions. We always work to align with our goal as a community driven association but shouldn't lock ourselves into a policy as each situation is different. Our starting point should always be keeping kids playing ball no matter the situation.
  - f. Amy; It would be more important to establish formal guidelines to prevent abuse of this process.
  - g. Dwight; Appreciates the long term precedent set by Wilmot that we start from getting kids to play ball regardless of where they play.
  - h. Mike C; Suggests we should take up concerns with OASA as they have created the rules surrounding releases for competitive teams

## WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023

- 9) Elections of Executive/Directors - Facilitator Elaine Mason – 7:42 PM  
Open Positions – 2023 is a Full Election year – All positions open. See Website

Position	Name	Email Address
President	Ryan Roth, nominated by Kevin Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Susan Hall	
Past President	Mike Carey	
	Kevin Hall, nominated by Susan Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by PJ	
Vice President(s)	Amy Balatoni, nominated by Mike C, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Hergott	
	PJ Poirier, nominated by Kevin Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Hergott	
Secretary	Dan Lebel, nominated by PJ, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Hall	
Treasurer	Mike V, nominated by Susan Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Reich	
Chair of Registration	Susan Hall, nominated by Kevin Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by PJ	
Chair of Scheduling	Kevin Reich, nominated by Ryan Roth, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Hergott	
<b>Chairs and Vice Chairs:</b>		
Chair of Equipment	Jamie Hergott, nominated by Ryan R, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Susan Hall	
Chair of Uniforms	Shannon Van Alphen, nominated by Kevin Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Susan Hall	
Chair of Coach Development	Todd Lichty, Nominated by PJ, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Amy B	
Chair of Player Development	John Vleeming, nominated by Susan Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Mike V	
Sponsorship Coordinator	<b>Position remains vacant</b>	
Communications and Social Media Coordinator	Sarah Nichols, nominated by Kevin H, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Susan Hall	

## WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023

### **Other Volunteer Roles:**

Convener of Blastball, T-ball and Coach Pitch	Position remains vacant
Convener of Boys Local Leagues	Position remains vacant
Convener of Girls Local Leagues	Susan Hall, nominated by Mike C, 2 <sup>nd</sup> By Jamie H
Convener of Rep and Select	Kevin Hall, nominated by Susan Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Mike Carey
Chair of WSA Adult League	Position remains vacant
Chair of Umpires	Lance Nichol nominated by Ryan Roth, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Kevin R – Written confirmation he will stand for position
Volunteer Chair	PJ nominated by Mike C, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by John V
Tournament Convener - OASA, PWSA and National events	Position remains vacant
Fundraising Coordinator	Position remains vacant

## **WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023**

### 10) Vision and reviewing our future - 8:10 PM

- a) Continue to host Provincial Events
- b) National Events – Will continue to evaluate this for future seasons especially with Volunteer Coordinator in place
- c) Dwight Breneman; Wants to take the time to acknowledge the hard work of those in this room. Mike Carey for his hard work effort and dedication as president for WSA for the last 6 seasons. WSA's community focus with LL teams is crucial to continue to the growth of the sport. Seeing this many people is great, many organizations don't have the luxury of this much support. We are recognized as an elite organization in Ontario, and we should keep it that way.
- d) Ryan Roth – Before looking ahead, wants to look back. 7 years ago Dwight sent Ryan to a meeting with the Baden association to discuss a possible merger. Ryan believes we have a lot to be proud of as an organization, and lots more work to do. Nith River local league, growth in girls ball, umpires, navigating COVID, improving our facilities, and becoming a leading association in Ontario and Canada – Numerous provincial and national championships, and tournament hosting
- e) Ryan wants to thank all past members of Wilmot Softball for their hard work and dedication. Special thank you to Mike Carey for navigating the challenges of merging WSA. We appreciate your desire to step back from leading the WSA, but also remain committed to staying on board with the executive going forward.
- f) Hoping to continue improvement of facilities in our community, as well as hosting provincial and national tournaments.
- g) Ryan has 3 children who love this sport and that's why he's here. Ryan knows there is a passionate group of volunteers here that are dedicated to improving and growing the sport.

### 11) New Business or other – Open Discussion – Feedback on season.

- <sup>12)</sup> Next Executive Meeting date: Proposed Dates; November 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, virtual option – Room at the WRC.

### 13) Closing Remarks

### 14) Motion to Adjourn – 8:24 PM

- a. Motion to Adjourn by Ryan Roth
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Reich
- c. Majority in Favour, One Opposed, Meeting Adjourned

## **WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023**

### **2023 President's Report – Mike Carey**

Welcome everyone and thank you all for coming out tonight.

This year we set out to accomplish a number of items throughout the season. In 2022 we purchased our first scoreboard with an initial vision of one day owning 4. 2 for New Hamburg, 2 for Baden. In 2022 we added our second scoreboard of this initial vision. We also planned to upgrade our pitching machines and with help from our sponsors we were able to replace 2 machines with the latest and greatest technology. It was pretty amazing to once again invest back into the development of our players on this level.

We once again experience success on a provincial and national level. We have consistently done this since our inception in 2018. This year our competitive teams placed as follows:

U13 Majors – second place A division Provincials

U13 Minors B Division Champs Provincials

U15 – A Division Provincial Champions, Attended Canadians finishing tied for 5<sup>th</sup>

U17 – Attended Canadians finishing tied for 5<sup>th</sup>.

U20 – OASA B Champions

I want to take a moment and thank everyone on executive for their tireless work over the last year. The support of those that are in attendance tonight and have served on executive before during our first 6 years has been greatly appreciated. It has been a pleasure to serve with each and everyone and to see this association grow during that time. I thank you all for supporting me in my role and I know as I step back next year that I leave the association in great hands and the softball future remains bright for the children and families within our communities.

# WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023

## **Vice-President's 2023 Report – PJ Poirier**

Wilmot Softball Association had another successful year growing the program and expanding our support to local leagues to keep our membership playing ball.

### Local League Report (U7-U20)

At our local league level, we saw our numbers grow again this year. Our number can be roughly broken into 70% boys and 30% girls in the program. We were able to run our own local leagues at the U7(Coach Pitch) to U11 age groups. As in previous years we ran these leagues with Twin Centre. On the boy's side at U13 to U17, we had teams join the South Perth league and performing well against the competition in this league.

Our girls program saw the most expansion with the development of a girls only loop for T-ball and our own local league for U9 girls with Kitchener. We fielded more teams in the Huron Perth league from U11 to U17

### House League Teams by Age Groups

Age Group	Girls	Boys
<b>U7(LL had both Boys and Girl Teams)</b>	3	6
<b>U9</b>	2	5
<b>U11</b>	3	3
<b>U13</b>	1	3
<b>U15</b>	1	2
<b>U17</b>	1	1

Our teams saw success in the development of players and coaches this season. Teams that won our local league year end tournaments were:

- U9 Boys Team 1

Perth league was won by our U11 Rep Team.

### Development Leagues (Blastball, T-Ball & Coach Pitch)

We were happy to see many of the young kids come out and play softball this year. We ran a successful 8-week program for Blastball and T-ball. We had more than 50 youngsters participate in our Blastball program this year. T-ball's 8-week program had 12 teams with over 100 kids participating. These programs were only successful due to the hard work of all our coach volunteers and the support of every parent that joined their children out on the field. We want to take this opportunity to thank all those involved.

Coach Pitch had 9 teams participating this season. We were able to run our own local league with Twin Centre and PDP. At this level, we hosted a midseason tournament the was a success and had other teams from Perth league joining for a great day of softball.

In closing, our youngsters are developing well and having fun! Thanks again to all those involved at these levels. These children are the future of the Wilmot Softball Association.

### Development Clinics and Programs

WSA was able to offer some great off-season programs. We offered our annual spring clinic having



## **WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023**

a high number of our local league players participating in the 2-weekend program. Thanks to our volunteers that ran this program we saw these players succeed on the field. We offered a high-level Pitching and Catching clinic this year that was a great success. One of our great successes was our preseason free pitching clinic that we offered to the entire WSA membership. We had a high number of players come out for these clinic days. I believe that this program needs to continue into future years of player development.

### **Expansion Programs**

Moving forward, WSA has expanded our competitive program and started our U9 Rep team. This will be our first season moving into 2024 and we are hoping that this will continue into future years.

**Chair of Uniforms Report 2023 – Tim Bartram**

## **Local League Teams**

### **Blastball / T-Ball**

This season was the first for WSA that saw Blastball and T-Ball uniforms not furnished through donation from the Tim Hortons TimBits program after they halted their softball donation program. WSA supplied a numbered shirt and a hat for each player across four Blastball and twelve T-Ball teams. Royal shirts were provided for all Blastball players while unique colored shirts were provided across each of the twelve T-Ball teams. WSA also provided each coach with a shirt and hat.

### **U7-U17 Boys and Girls**

As in previous seasons, local league registration fees included the provision of a hat and numbered shirt for each player as well as a hat and shirt for coaches. Different colored player shirts were provided for each team within the same division. Stemming from feedback over previous years, U9-U17 girls teams were provided with girls and ladies shirt styles.

## **Rep Teams**

This was the second season for our new rep uniform styles. The number of options was pared down from last year to simplify the offerings and eliminate options that weren't popular.

Teams were once again responsible for covering the costs of all uniform items out of their individual team budgets. Uniform orders were facilitated through WSA to Dunny's Source for Sports in Stratford and billed directly to teams.

Uniforms were ordered for U11, U13 Minor, U13 Major, U15, U17, and U20.

## **Spring Clinic**

Once again, WSA supplied each attendee of our annual spring clinic with a T-Shirt featuring all our sponsors.

## **Summary**

Local league uniforms were generally successfully distributed this season. Most teams didn't receive their uniforms for a week after they had begun their on-field season. Further efforts need to be made to ensure that all teams are set up at least two weeks earlier in order to ensure all items are available on time.

There are a significant number of extra shirts now accumulated. These should be inventoried to determine what is available for use in future seasons.

Rep uniforms were almost entirely free of issue. There were some supplier complications which caused some delay and dissatisfaction for a single rep team. All other team orders were filled without delay.

All uniform costs for all local league and rep teams have been paid in full to our uniform vendor.

## WSA/TCMB - Annual General Meeting - 2023

### 2023 Registration Report – Susan Hall

- Total registrations for 2023 season was 533 players which is an 18% increase from 2022
- Our local league program had a total of 45 teams across all age groups
- 2023 was the first season in which we separated boys and girls teams starting at t-ball age
- Review teams by division
- We saw positive engagement with volunteers to help coach this season (37 head coaches & 26 assistant coaches in house league)

			Number of Teams			
Division	# of Registrants		LL Boys	LL Girls	REP	Total
Blastball	57		2			2
T-Ball	92		8	4		12
U7 Coach Pitch	63		6	3		9
U9	71		5	2		7
U11	77		3	3	1	7
U13	70		3	1	2	6
U15	51		2	1	1	4
U17	39		1	1	1	3
U20	13				1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>533</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>51</b>