



**SOFTBALL CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

**November 14, 2020
Virtual**

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting 2020
Saturday, November 14 – 2:30 pm EST
AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of the 2019 Annual General Meeting minutes
4. President's Report
5. May 31, 2020 Auditor's Report and
Financial Statements
6. Appointment of auditors for May 31, 2021 yearend
7. Constitution and Bylaws
8. Special Operating Rules
 - a. Canadian Championships
9. Rule Change Proposals
10. New Business
 - a. Elections
 - b. 2021 Softball Canada Congress
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

President Neiles called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, November 14, 2020 via ZOOM virtual call.

President Neiles welcomed everyone and announced the voting scrutineer for the meeting to be Jason Robinson from the Sport Law & Strategy Group. Jason acted as the voting administrator and all voting took place on the online voting platform Simply Voting, which is a credible and authenticated third-party voting platform. Jason ensured that all registered voters were entered on the system and that weighted voting is properly accounted for and tabulated within the system.

The Credentials report of votes is as follows:

Provincial/Territorial Associations	36 votes
Board of Directors	6 votes
Total	42 votes
President (in case of tie and elections only)	1 vote

He reminded everyone that a simple majority of fifty percent, plus one of the votes cast is required to approve all motions.

In consultation with Jason Robinson, the voting on motions was expedited in order to make the virtual meeting more efficient. For Notices of Motion #1 (agenda), #2 (Previous Minutes), #3 (President's Report), and #4 (Auditor's Report & Financial Statements) – these motions were approved by unanimous consent.

MOTIONS – AS MOVED FROM THE FLOOR

NOTICE OF MOTION #1

As moved from the floor

That the 2020 Softball Canada Congress agenda be adopted with the powers to add.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

NOTICE OF MOTION #2

As moved from the floor

That the Minutes of the 2019 Softball Canada Congress held in Richmond, BC be accepted.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

NOTICE OF MOTION #3

As moved from the floor

To accept the President's Report on behalf of Softball Canada's Board of Directors.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

NOTICE OF MOTION #4

As moved from the floor

That the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended May 31, 2020 be accepted as presented.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

Motions 1 – 4 approved by unanimous consent.

NOTICE OF MOTION #5

As moved from the floor

Moved by: Gary MacDonald

Seconded by: Scott Willis

That Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP be appointed as auditors for the year ending May 31, 2021.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NOTICE OF MOTION # 1

Constitution and Bylaws

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors and Softball Canada ODC

Moved by: Jackie Dugger

Seconded by: Andrea Wolf

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.)
Softball Canada Rule Book

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

The Article 3.1.e of the Softball Canada Constitution (Page 213 of the rule book) require the Association to establish a set of uniform playing rules that are to be based on the playing rules of the WBSC (with national federation amendments), and whereas the WBSC has recently re-organized, simplified and reformatted the structure of their playing rules beginning with the 2018-2021 rule book;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

The AGM support the adoption of the newly structured WBSC rules – with domestic rule amendments - as the basis of the Softball Canada rulebook (FP and SP) beginning in 2022-2023.

RATIONALE

This is not a proposal to adopt the WBSC rules in their entirety, but to simply adopt the simplified WBSC rules as the core of our rules code. Softball Canada would retain the current rule deviations from WBSC for domestic competition and would continue to be able to add / modify rules as deemed appropriate by the membership. A traditional, paper-based rulebook would continue to be published for members.

See Appendix A – Memorandum – Considerations on the Future of the Playing Rules / Rule Book (below) for details.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

Translation costs for WBSC FP & SP Rules into French (Softball Canada).

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

Appendix A - Memorandum

To: P/T Associations

Re: Considerations on the Future of the Playing Rules / Rule Book

In 2018 the WBSC completed a multi-year project that resulted in the delivery of a newly structured rule book for international competition. Except for Softball Canada and USA Softball, this new rule book is used by all national federations around the world. The new WBSC rule book uses more common language, is more concise, less repetitive and is much easier to comprehend by all participants.

Article 3.1.e of Softball Canada's Constitution establishes the rules of the WBSC – *with amendments* – as the standard rules for softball under the jurisdiction of Softball Canada. As we continue towards a more international focus in the sport, the ODC believes that we are best served by adopting the new structure of the WBSC rules as the basis for Softball Canada's rules going forward.

The new simplified WBSC code is reorganized into just five rules.

Softball Canada	WBSC
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Definitions2. The Playing Field3. Equipment4. Coaches, Players and Substitutes5. The Game6. Pitching Regulations7. Batting8. Batter-Runner and Runner9. Dead Ball -Ball in Play10. Umpires11. Protests12. Scoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Game2. Playing Field and Equipment3. Participants4. Pitching5. Batting and Baserunning

It is important to note that we are not proposing that Softball Canada adopt the WBSC rules code in whole, but rather use the WBSC rules as a basis for a reorganization of our rules. **All current rule deviations would remain intact and we would continue to manage our domestic rules.** Adoption of the WBSC code structure would have many benefits, including a simpler rulebook for participants, a smoother transition for teams, athletes and umpires who transition to international competition and a better awareness of the continued development of the sport around the world.

The new Softball Canada rulebook would be loosely modelled after Softball New Zealand and structured as follows.

- TOC, Introductions & Contacts
- **WBSC Slow Pitch Rules**
- Softball Canada Specific Slo-Pitch Rule Deviations from WBSC
- Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships Age Categories & Distance Tables
- **WBSC Fast Pitch Rules**
- Softball Canada Specific Fast Pitch Rule Deviations from WBSC
- Canadian Fast Pitch Championships Age Categories & Distance Tables
- Constitution
- By-Laws

- Special Operating Rules
- Special Olympics Rules
- Minor Rules

The Board has approved the ODC's request to present a motion at the 2020 AGM supporting the adoption in principle of the structure of the new WBSC rules beginning with the new Softball Canada rulebook in 2022-23.

The proposed project timeline is as follows:

- **AGM 2020** – Membership supports the reorganization of our rulebooks – Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch – to match the new format of the WBSC. (note there are NO rule changes being accepted in 2020)
- **December 2020** – Two working groups would be established (FP & SP) to identify all rule deviations between Softball Canada and WBSC rules. These would be itemized and rewritten into a series of specific rule deviations. Project timeline 6 months.
- **Summer 2021** – Current WBSC Rules submitted for translation.
- **Fall 2021** – WBSC Rule Changes for 2022-25 noted (WBSC Congress may be delayed to March 2022 but rule change proposals will hopefully be considered in 2021) and translations updated; Report from the Working Groups presented to the Softball Canada AGM, approved rule changes from Softball Canada 2021 AGM integrated into the Working Group's product. Final approval from AGM.
- **February 2022** – Softball Canada publishes a new 2022-23 rule book, which would include updated WBSC Rules for 2022-25 and a Softball Canada specific rules section for 2022-23 along with the other sections as currently in our rulebook.

While this is a large project and the timeline could be extended to an adoption date of the 2024-25 rulebook, we are confident the working groups efforts can be completed in time. If this proposal is approved, the working groups would be struck by the Board (based on recommendations of the NDU) to complete the tasks necessary for the implementation process noted above.

Jeff Whipple
National Director of Umpires

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NOTICE OF MOTION # 2

Constitution and Bylaws

Submitted by: Softball British Columbia

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.)
Article 8.2 page 223

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

A special meeting of the association may be called by the President, the Board of Directors, or upon the written requisition of members who hold five percent (5%) of the votes of the Association, and twenty-one (21) days prior, written notice shall be given to the membership of any Special Meeting, and such notice shall set forth the entire business to be conducted at that meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

Revision:

A special meeting of the association may be called by the President, the Board of Directors, or upon the written requisition of members who hold ten percent (10%) of the votes of the Association ...

RATIONALE

Under the current model, any individual province or territory would have enough votes to call for a special member meeting without needing support from the Softball Canada Board of Directors or another P/T. This could lead to frequent special member meetings, which would be potentially costly and time consuming. With a 10% threshold of votes required, a P/T would require support from at least one additional P/T or from board members, thus reducing the possibility of abuse of this privilege. As well, a majority of the Softball Canada voting board members would be required if the Special member meeting were initiated by the board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

Cost of holding a special member meeting, travel and expenses for PT to attend a meeting.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **OUT OF ORDER**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NOTICE OF MOTION # 3

Constitution and Bylaws

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Moved by: Jackie Dugger

Seconded by: Andrea Wolf

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Constitution & Bylaws: Article 11, Section 11.4, a & b, new, Renumber current 11.4 to 11.4, c Page 225

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

11.4 Notice of the proposed amendments to these bylaws and the constitution shall be provided to the relevant voting Members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

Addition: 11.4, a. Submission to change the Playing Rules of the Association must be received in writing by the National Office of the Association by October 1st **in odd numbered years only**. The National Office of the Association will forward copies of all proposed Playing Rule changes to the membership by October 7th. **A simple majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast from the Voting Members** is required to enact or repeal Playing Rule change proposals at the Rules Forum **and the Annual General Meeting. The voting strength at the Rules Forum will be one voting delegate from each Provincial/Territorial Association in good standing with the Association and 2 Softball Canada Board Members.**

Addition 11.4, b. Notice of the proposed amendments to the Playing Rules of the Association shall be provided to the relevant voting members of the Association by October 7th prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4

11.4, c Notice of the proposed amendments to these bylaws and the constitution shall be provided to the relevant voting Members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4

RATIONALE

Softball Canada is delaying the next edition of the Rule Book until 2022 to allow use of a current backlog of rulebooks. By moving to odd numbered years Softball Canada will align with one cycle of the WBSC Rule Book. Since the revision of the Softball Canada Bylaws to align with the Not For Profit Act it now only requires a simple majority to pass rule changes, SORs & Bylaws except for Fundamental changes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

SOR Motions 1 – 4 were approved via one formal motion and vote (including the amendment to SOR Notice of Motion 4).

MOTION - SOR Notice of Motions 1-4, as written and in their entirety, be adopted by the members.

SOR MOTION 4 AMENDMENT - by striking 'five (5) years' and inserting 'three (3) years.'

AMENDMENT – moved by Shelley Rudd and Seconded by Brian White

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 1	
Special Operating Rules	
Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors	
Moved by: Lisa Down	Seconded by: Jackie Dugger

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.) Page 238, Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships Age Category & Distance Table (Slo-Pitch) Page 249, Canadian Fastpitch Championships Age Category & Distance Table (Fastpitch)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.) See complete table on above pages

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion) DELETION: See complete table on above pages
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RATIONALE Many years ago the rule book was changed and the SORs and Constitution were removed. When the SORs and Constitution were returned to the rule book the Age Category and Distance Table was placed in the SORs as well as the Rules with no motion ever passed. The Age Categories, Distances and Ball Sizes are very important rules and should only be eligible to be changed every two years. As such they should appear in the Playing Rules only.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: CARRIED

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 2

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Ontario (Slo-Pitch Ontario Association)

Moved by: Tom Buchan

Seconded by: Darin Faubert

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

PART THREE – CANADIAN SLO-PITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS – ARTICLE 1.2 Participants a) Team Representation (Page 239)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

- a) Team Representation
 - i) All Canadian Championships will be filled to a maximum of twenty-four (24) teams, subject to hosting capacity. In the event that more than twenty-four (24) teams, or greater than the host’s capacity, indicate their intent to participate, then entry will be awarded as follows:
 - a) Initially to each province/territory in good standing, a host team and the previous year’s champion.
 - b) On a pro-rata system based upon provincial/territorial registrations in the respective categories.
 - c) No province/territory be allowed more than 4 teams except in the event that a province/territory hosting Canadian Championship would be or a province/territory sending the defending champion allowed up to 3 additional.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

- Revision:** c) No province/territory be allowed more than 4 teams including the Host Team.
ADD: d) The defending champion does not count as one of the 4 provincial/territorial teams.

RATIONALE

Allows provinces/territories to stay consistent with their Qualifying Criteria every year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: CARRIED

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 3

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Saskatchewan

Moved by: Darin Faubert

Seconded by: Tom Buchan

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Slo-Pitch SOR's, Article 1, 1.2 Participants, f, & g, page 241

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

- f) Any team from Manitoba attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five players from Saskatchewan, providing Saskatchewan does not have a team entered, with the release of that province.
- g) Any team from Saskatchewan attending the Canadian slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five players from Manitoba, providing Manitoba does not have a team entered, with the release of that province.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

REVISE TO READ: Any team from Manitoba or Saskatchewan attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five (5) players from each others Province with the release of the players home province. All releases must be handled as per the Softball Canada Guidelines.

RATIONALE

The rationale of the proposed rule change is multi faceted, firstly it would allow for the fielding of more teams from both provinces. This proposal would be extended to both the men's and women's championship which based on our small softball playing population base would allows both provinces to excel in leadership, development, and participation in Slo-pitch softball. We would like to have fair and inclusive access to either province in the hopes of growing the game and moving forward with the vison and mission of Softball Canada.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

None

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: CARRIED

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 4

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Saskatchewan

Moved by: Darin Faubert

Seconded by: Tom Buchan

AMENDMENT Moved by: Shelley Rudd

Seconded by: Brian White

REFERENCE : (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Part Seven – Amendments, Article 1 – Amendments a), iv), Page 263

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

Approved changes to the Special Operating Rules, excluding Part Six – Softball Canada Hall of Fame and the Special Olympics Canada Rules, may not be reversed or changed at a subsequent Annual Meeting prior to the approved change being implemented for at least a period of two years.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

REVISE TO READ: Approved changes to the Special Operating Rules, excluding Part Six – Softball Canada Hall of Fame and the Special Olympics Canada Rules, may not be reversed or changed at a subsequent Annual Meeting or Special General Meeting prior to the approved change being implemented for at least a period of ~~five (5)~~ three (3) years.

RATIONALE

Given some potential changes to age categories we believe there needs to be an extended period of time for major rule changes to be properly evaluated and assessed regarding their impact on our sport.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

None

Amendment: Change from 5 years to 3 years – CARRIED

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: CARRIED as AMENDED

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL 1

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2021 (year)

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Moved by: Andrea Wolf

Seconded by: Lisa Down

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	X	SLO-PITCH	X	ORTHODOX	X	ALL	X	
Rule:	Introduction	Page:	41	Page:	128	Number:		Letter:	

CHANGE IS: DELETION

CHANGE: **Delete:** Submission to change the Playing Rules of the Association must be received in writing by the National Office of the Association by October 1st in even years only. The National Office of the Association will forward copies of all proposed Playing Rule changes to the membership by October 7th. A two thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast from the Provincial/Territorial Associations is required to enact or repeal Playing Rule change proposals at the Rules Forum.

RATIONALE: Softball Canada is delaying the next edition of the Rule Book until 2022 to allow use of a current backlog of rulebooks. By moving to odd numbered years Softball Canada will align with one cycle of the WBSC Rule Book. Since the revision of the Softball Canada Bylaws to align with the Not-for-Profit Act it now only requires a simple majority to pass rule changes, SORs & Bylaws except for Fundamental changes. This will place changes to the Rules under the Constitution & Bylaws Section and remove it from the Introduction area of Fastpitch, Slo-Pitch and Orthodox Rules

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: CARRIED

There were five (5) Board of Director positions up for election, of which four (4) positions were elected for a two (2) year term and one (1) position was elected for a one (1) year term. There were six (6) nominations for these positions.

Candidate speeches were conducted for the six (6) nominations:

- Jake Dewitt
- Jackie Dugger
- Brooks Penrod
- Robert Stanton
- Lynda Turton
- Andrea Wolf

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #1

New Business

As moved from the floor

BY FORMAL VOTE

To accept the following Directors elected to the Board of Directors at the virtual 2020 Softball Canada AGM:

Two (2) year term

- Andrea Wolf
- Bob Stanton
- Brooks Penrod
- Jackie Dugger

One (1) year term

- Jake Dewitt

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

Motions 2 – 3 approved by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #2

New Business
As moved from the floor

That Softball New Brunswick host the 2021 Softball Canada Congress and AGM in Fredericton, NB to be held from November 11 – 13, 2021.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #3

New Business
As moved from the floor

That the virtual 2020 Softball Canada Congress be adjourned.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **CARRIED**