



**SOFTBALL CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

November 12, 2022
Fredericton, NB

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting 2022

Saturday, November 12 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of the 2021 Annual General Meeting minutes
4. President's Report
5. May 31, 2022 Auditor's Report and
Financial Statements
6. Appointment of auditors for May 31, 2023 yearend
7. Constitution and Bylaws
8. Special Operating Rules
 - a. Canadian Championships
9. New Business
 - a. Elections
 - b. Hall of Fame
 - c. 2023 Softball Canada Congress
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

President Neiles called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, November 12, 2022 in Fredericton, NB. He acknowledged that the AGM originated on the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'gmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy people.

President Neiles welcomed everyone and announced the Credentials Committee. He appointed George Arcand (YK/SK) and Guy Jacobson (SK) as official scrutineers for the voting process. The credentials report of votes is as follows:

Provincial/Territorial Associations	36 votes
Board of Directors present)	4 votes (Directors Wolf/Searle not present)
Total	40 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 the appointed Parliamentarian (Kevin Quinn), the meeting was expedited in order to make the meeting more efficient. For Notices of Motion #1 (Agenda), #2 (Previous Minutes), #3 (President's Report), #4 (Auditor's Report & Financial Statements), and #5 (Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP appointed as auditors for the year ending May 31, 2023), voted in one slate motion.

MOTIONS – AS MOVED FROM THE FLOOR

One slate motion

Moved by: Don Klym (MB)	Seconded by: Larry Giesbrecht (MB)
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NOTICE OF MOTION #1

As moved from the floor

That the 2022 Softball Canada Congress agenda be adopted with the powers to add.

NOTICE OF MOTION #2

As moved from the floor

That the Minutes of the 2021 Softball Canada VIRTUAL Congress be accepted.

NOTICE OF MOTION #3

As moved from the floor

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

NOTICE OF MOTION #4

As moved from the floor

That the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended May 31, 2022 be accepted as presented.

NOTICE OF MOTION #5

As moved from the floor

That Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP be appointed as auditors for the year ending May 31, 2023.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 1

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Moved by: Jackie Dugger (BOD)

Seconded by: Brooks Penrod (BOD)

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

SOR – PAGE 213 – Article 1 – Eligibility and Penalties – 1.1 Eligibility e)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

e) Male players are not eligible to compete on female teams.

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

REVISION

e) Girls/Women’s Championships are open to athletes that self-identify as girl/woman, non-binary, gender diverse, trans, and two-spirited.

AMENDMENT:

Delete e)

RATIONALE

This revision takes an approach of harm reduction to equity deserving groups versus risk mitigation. This revision would support Softball Canada’s core value of “providing fair and inclusive access”. As well, to align with the Transgender and Non-Binary Inclusion Policy where it states “The Organization believes that all Participants deserve respectful and inclusive environments for participation that value the individual’s gender identity and gender expression. The Organization wants to ensure that all Participants have access to programming and facilities in which they feel comfortable, supported, and safe. The Organization is committed to implementing this policy in a fair and equitable manner.”

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

NONE

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Carried as Amended

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 2

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Moved by: Robert Stanton (BOD)

Seconded by: Ryan DeBelser (BOD)

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

SOR – page 215 – Part Two – Article 2 – Provincial Non-Residents (Fast Pitch Only) – 2.6 b)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

- b) In Men's and Women's Canadian Championships, all but two (2) players, and only one of these will be allowed to be a pitcher, on any provincial/territorial representative team to a Canadian Championship must be a bona fide resident of that Province/Territory by the official residency date for the year of competition.

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

- b) In Men's, **Master Men's** and Women's Canadian Championships, all but two (2) players, and only one of these will be allowed to be a pitcher, on any provincial/territorial representative team to a Canadian Championship must be a bona fide resident of that Province/Territory by the official residency date for the year of competition.

RATIONALE

The Master Men's Canadian Championship has established itself as a permanent and prestigious event that now draws the same planning and attention as other Canadian Championships (full schedule, individual awards, etc.). We are past the point of teams needing to pick up players from neighbouring provinces to be able to field a team and are looking to apply the same Provincial Non-Resident ("import") rule as the Men's and Women's Canadian Championships to ensure a fair level of competition.

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

NONE

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 3

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball New Brunswick

Moved by: Scott Willis (NB)

Seconded by: Mark Gough (NB)

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

SP – page 219 – Part Three – Article 1.2 c) iv) e)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

Any team from the Atlantic provinces attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championship can pick up to five (5) players from any Atlantic province providing that province does not have a team entered with the release of the province that player is registered with.

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

REVISION

Any team from the Atlantic provinces attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championship can pick up to five (5) players from any of the Atlantic provinces with the release of the player's home province. All releases must be handled as per Softball Canada guidelines.

RATIONALE

The current rule limits players being able to participate in the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championship if a team(s) from their province attends and they are not a member of that team.

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: Gary MacDonald (SK)

Seconded by: Diego LaManna (QC)

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

SP – page 220 – Article 2 – Tournament Procedures – 2.1 Tournament Format c)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

Final standings in the qualifying round shall be established using the following criteria:

- i) Won/Lost records. If still tied, then:
- ii) Winners of games between tied teams NOTE: In order to use this criteria, all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the teams they are tied with to be ranked higher. The remaining teams then go to the next criteria with no reverting back.

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

REVISION

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

Final standings in the qualifying round shall be established using the following criteria:

- i) Won/Lost records. If still tied, then:
- ii) Winners of games between tied teams NOTE: In order to use this criteria, all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the teams they are tied with to be ranked higher. The remaining teams then revert back to i) and continue on.

AMENDMENT

Reference to Slo-Pitch (p. 220) and Fast Pitch (p. 231).

RATIONALE

Our perspective is that, when possible, head-to-head results are the best tiebreaker.

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

None

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried as Amended**

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 5

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Alberta

Moved by: Peter Gogich (AB)

Seconded by: Kareena Zanolli (AB)

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

FP – page 227 – PART FOUR – ARTICLE I – Organization & Participation – 1.2 Participants i)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

- i) Canadian Championship events will be hosted ranging from five to seven days, with the maximum number of teams dependent on the host capacity.

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

ADDITION

- i) Canadian Championship events will be hosted ranging from five to seven days, with the maximum number of teams dependent on the host capacity.
 - a) *No province/territory be allowed more than 4 teams, including the Host Team.*
 - b) *The defending champion does not count as one of the 4 provincial/territorial teams.*

RATIONALE

This will also help create a better balance of representation across Canada and not be lopsided with up to 8 teams from one province.

Allowing Provinces to send up to 4 teams will still ensure proper representation from each province.

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

NONE

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 6

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Moved by: Brooks Penrod (BOD)

Seconded by: Ryan DeBelser (BOD)

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

FP – page 228 – Part Four, Article 1 – Organization and Participation – 1.2 Participants
b) Managers and Coaches, ii)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

The Head Coach is Competition - Introduction Certified in the National Coaching Certification Program and is in attendance at all games and on the team's bench. All Assistant Coaches are Competition - Introduction Trained.

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

REVISION

The Head Coach is Competition - Introduction Certified in the National Coaching Certification Program and is in attendance at all games and on the team's bench. All Assistant Coaches are Competition - Introduction Trained at U20 and below categories.

RATIONALE

As athletes grow older and start playing in adult categories, it is often difficult to find and keep one Coach who is certified let alone having the ACs trained. In most cases at adult levels, the Coaches box is filled with players. We feel that the certification is very important at the younger levels and we should have some flexibility at the adult levels to encourage teams to participate. With the one fully certified coach on the OPL and in attendance, it is felt that that is sufficient for our adult Canadian Championships.

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

NONE

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 7

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Alberta

Moved by: Peter Gogich (AB)

Seconded by: Kareena Zanolli (AB)

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

SOR – page 237 – PART FIVE – UMPIRES AT CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS –
ARTICLE 1 – SELECTION PROCESS

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

1.1 Selection

1.2 Right of Refusal

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

ADDITION

1.3 Provincial / Territorial Representation

Any provinces / territories that are sending a team(s) to a Canadian championship, shall provide 1 umpire per team that is attending the Canadian championship. If a province / territory cannot send an official, then they shall be assessed a fine of \$500.00. This fine will be paid to the province / territory that has sent extra officials to the Canadian championship to help with the cost of travel to get the extra officials to the championship.

RATIONALE

With the championships getting bigger and the cost of travel increasing, it has become very taxing on umpire programs to send officials to championships. Provinces / Territories should be able to send officials to championships and not have to worry about cost.

(The WCSA currently has a similar policy in place)

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

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Defeated**

SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 8

Special Operating Rules

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Moved by: Ryan DeBelsler (BOD)

Seconded by: Robb Andison (BOD)

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

Page 239, Softball Canada Hall of Fame, Article 8 - Specific Eligibility Requirements, f) Pioneers

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

Pioneers - An individual or team that has compiled outstanding accomplishments or made significant contributions to softball in Canada at the national or international level prior to Softball Canada's foundation in 1965

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

Change the category from "Pioneer" to "Trailblazer"

RATIONALE

Oxford dictionary defines the word Pioneer as "a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area" and offers suggested synonyms of "settler", "colonist" or "colonizer".

This history and legacy of that term is a difficult one for many Canadians. The term "settler colonialism" is a term that is used to describe the ongoing process and structure where settlers are brought in to replace an existing Indigenous population. The first of these settlers were called pioneers.¹

When we think about racism, we have a tendency to look for specific "racist acts". This allows us to think about racism as a race, and lamentable act that can easily be condemned. A different way of thinking about racism is to think about racism in the plural as "racisms". This definition recognizes that our society includes systematic exclusions that are enacted towards members of specific groups. Often, we inherit past exclusions and accept them as normal when we belong to the group that benefits.

A better way of thinking about racisms recognizes that they are systematic exclusions and not just the isolated acts of badly-intentioned people. Prejudices don't just fall from the sky; they are enacted towards members of specific excluded groups. People make racist exclusions and benefit from them. We inherit past exclusions and see them as normal when we belong to the group that benefits. Understanding racisms as exclusions helps us to recognize and address the effects of the racism, rather than the intentions of people who benefit from the status quo.² Some of these systems have become so part of our vocabulary and existence that we don't see them anymore. They become accepted as normal and are so part of our life they become as invisible as wallpaper on a wall. These patterns that are continually present and so taken for granted that they are like wallpaper on a wall, that is until the wallpaper is torn.³

The goal of this category is to honour people who worked to develop softball in Canada, before Softball Canada became a formal entity. The contribution of these individuals is significant and should be celebrated. Changing the name from "pioneer" to "trailblazer" is a relatively simple shift, that has no financial impact and will make Softball a more inclusive sport.

¹ Eiding, A., & McCracken, K. (2019, April 3). *Imagining a better future: An introduction to teaching and learning about settler colonialism in Canada*. Beyond The Lecture Innovations in Teaching Canadian History. Retrieved February 28, 2022, from <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/beyondlecture/chapter/imagining-a-better-future-an-introduction-to-teaching-and-learning-about-settler-colonialism-in-canada/>

² *Thinking through racisms and Antiracisms in schools - rsekn.ca*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 28, 2022, from <https://rsekn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Thinking-through-Racisms-and-Antiracisms-in-Schools.pdf>

³ History: Stanley, T. J. (2009). The banality of colonialism: Encountering artifacts of genocide and white supremacy in Vancouver today. In S. Steinberg (Ed.), *Diversity and multiculturalism: A reader* (pp. 143-59). New York: Peter Lang.

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

None

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTIONS

President Neiles noted there were four (4) Board Director positions up for election. All positions are elected for a two (2) year term. All 4 accepted their nomination (no speeches were given).

The 4 nominations were from the following:

- Jackie Dugger
- Brooks Penrod
- Robert Stanton
- Kareena Zanolli

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #1

New Business

As moved from the floor

Moved by: Mark Gough (NB)

Seconded by: Gary MacDonald (SK)

To accept the following Directors elected to the Board of Directors at the 2022 Softball Canada Congress in Fredericton, NB

Jackie Dugger
Brooks Penrod
Robert Stanton
Kareena Zanolli

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #2

New Business

As moved from the floor

Moved by: Richie Connors (NS)

Seconded by: Mark Gough (NB)

To accept the names of the following individuals inducted into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame at the 2022 Softball Canada Congress in Fredericton, NB

BUILDER – George Gillett, NB
BUILDER – Terry Henderson, NS
UMPIRE – John MacEwen, NS

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #3

New Business

As moved from the floor

Moved by: Debbie Malisani (ON)

Seconded by: Caroline Crooks (NS)

That Softball Ontario host the 2023 Softball Canada Congress and AGM in Niagara Falls, ON to be held from Nov 8-12, 2023

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #4

New Business

As moved from the floor

Moved by: Jackie Dugger (BOD)

Seconded by: Robb Andison (BOD)

That the 2022 Softball Canada Congress held in Fredericton, NB be adjourned.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: **Carried**

CONCLUSION

Following the AGM was recognition and awards to the following:

- Geneviève Gaudreau – 2020 WBSC Umpire of the Year.
- Robert Stanton – retiring WBSC Director of Umpires; and
- Hugh Mitchener – retired Softball Canada CEO.