



**Softball Canada Congress
AND
Annual General Meeting**

**Congrès et Assemblée générale annuelle
de
Softball Canada**

November 7-9 Novembre, 2024

Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre

Address: 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7L 6M4

[T] 306.244.2779

Softball Canada Congress Meeting Brochure

Please bring this DIGITAL document to the Softball Congress.

You should familiarize yourself with the entire contents of this document and be prepared to vote on every resolution, as a representative of your Province or Territory.

Canada

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Nous reconnaissons l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

VISION 2024

VISION

The world leader in softball.

MISSION

Excelling in leadership, development, and participation in softball.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- LTPD framework guides decision making
- Programs and competitions meet participants needs
- Active for Life, Competitive for Life, and Podium Pathway streams support sustainability
- Effective communication in official language of choice
- Effective organizational management
- Respect for all

VALUES

Softball Canada believes in:

- Providing fair and inclusive access
- Supporting safe and fun environments
- Operating with respect and integrity

VISION

Le chef de file mondial au softball.

MISSION

Exceller au chapitre du leadership, du développement, et de la participation au softball.

PRINCIPES DE FONCTIONNEMENT

- Le cadre DLTJ guide la prise de décisions
- Les programmes et les compétitions répondent aux besoins des participants
- Les profils Actif pour la vie, Compétition pour la vie et Parcours vers le podium favorisent la pérennité
- Communication efficace dans la langue officielle de choix
- Gestion organisationnelle efficace
- Respect à l'endroit de tous

VALEURS

Softball Canada croit et désire :

- Offrir un accès équitable et inclusif
- Soutenir des environnements sécuritaires et amusants
- Fonctionner avec respect et intégrité

Softball Canada SALUTES

the following corporate partners for 2024

On behalf of SOFTBALL CANADA STAFF, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and the MEMBERSHIP, THANK YOU for your commitment to Softball in Canada.



SPORT PARTNER
PARTENAIRE SPORTIF



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2024

Softball Canada Congress SCHEDULE / HORAIRE

Thursday, November 7

8:30 am - noon	Board of Directors Meeting (<i>Manitoba Room</i>)
8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Officiating Development Committee Meeting (<i>Old Bowling Green</i>)
9:00 am - noon	Staff Forum (SC/PT) (<i>Courtyard</i>)
<i>noon - 1:00 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	SC/PT Staff 1-on-1 Individual Sessions (15 min/PT) (<i>Manitoba Room</i>)
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	PT Interaction Space (<i>Courtyard</i>)
6:45 pm - 7:30 pm	AGM Rookie Session (<i>Courtyard</i>)
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration, Welcome Reception (<i>Canadian Room</i>)

Friday, November 8

9:00 am - 10:30 am	Kick-off session - report on 2024 and look ahead (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>) Strategic Plan Review (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)
<i>10:30 am - 10:45 am</i>	<i>Break</i>
10:45 am - noon	Umpire Relations and Recruitment/Retention (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)
<i>Noon - 1:30 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Canadian Championships/SORs (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)
<i>2:45 pm - 3:00 pm</i>	<i>Break</i>
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Boulevard Travel (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	National/Provincial UIC Meeting (<i>Manitoba</i>)
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Tour of the Gordie Howe Complex
6:30 pm	SK Night Social - "Don't Mind Us Comedy Improv"

Saturday, November 9

9:00 am - 10:15 am	A) Male Fast Pitch (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>) B) Slo-Pitch (<i>Courtyard</i>)
9:00 am - noon	National/Provincial UIC Meeting (<i>Manitoba</i>)
<i>10:15 am - 10:30 am</i>	<i>Break</i>
10:30 am - noon	Host Workshop - AGMs, planning, future, events etc. (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)
<i>12:00 pm - 2:00 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	AGM (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Softball Canada Hall of Fame Banquet (<i>Saskatchewan B</i>)

HOTEL FLOOR PLAN / PLAN D'ÉTAGE DE L'HÔTEL



2024

REPORTS / RAPPORTS

2024

Softball Canada Congress PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Year in review 2024

It gives me great pleasure to submit my annual report on behalf of Softball Canada's Board of Directors.

As we gather to reflect on this past year, I want to take a moment to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the exciting developments on the horizon.

The 2024 season could easily be summed up in three words Opportunity, Accomplishment and certainly plenty of Excitement.

I am proud to report that both our men's and women's programs have excelled over the past year with every tournament attended resulting in no less than a top three finish. This level of consistency is a testament to the dedication of our coaching staffs, talent within our teams as it continues to set higher standards as we continue to move forward.

This year certainly started off with a bang, with late inning heroics at the U18 WBSC Men's World Cup in Mexico last November, resulting in a Bronze medal.

It carried through to our Women's team that demonstrated a never say die attitude in Italy at the WBSC Women's World Cup that saw them come back four games in a row earning a bronze medal in an 11-inning classic! The team was also crowned Champions at our very own Canada Cup International Softball Championship.

The U18 Women's team captured the silver medal at the WBSC America's Pan Am Championships in Colombia qualifying for the World Cup Group stage in Dallas. In that event, the team also finished second, punching their ticket to the U18 World Cup in 2025.

Thank you to the players who continue to represent the Canada uniform with an incredible amount of pride and passion.

Thank you to all the coaches, trainers and staff who continue to help prepare all our athletes with the right amounts of physical and mental abilities which helps ready them to accomplish great things on the world stage!

Moving forward we are particularly excited about a couple of initiatives that we have undertaken over this last year.

First and foremost, we will be unveiling and implementing our new strategic plan at this year's AGM. Softball Canada will continue to help lay a strong foundation enabling our future successes in Softball.

2024 has also seen Softball Canada help continue to grow and merchandise our brand.

We have done so with the introduction of new logos. This will also include the introduction of our new indigenous logo being presented at this year's AGM.

This logo will not only be a prominent feature on our Softball Canada line of merchandise but also be found on team uniforms and corporate clothing. It will symbolize our commitment to inclusivity and respect for the rich cultures that contribute to our sport.

Aligned with Softball Canada's vision, we are focused on increasing opportunities for our members.

The addition of qualifying rounds and new age categories at the WBSC level will help enhance the competitive landscape and provide more pathways for athletes, coaches and officials to showcase their skills at the National and World level.

One recent example has our U18 women's team set to feature no less than 32 players from round one to the World Cups in Dallas next summer. These opportunities will not only elevate our athletes but will also strengthen our programs as a whole.

2025 will allow us to showcase our U23 Men's, U18 Men's and U18 Women's team alongside our Men's and Women's teams who are all in action.



Softball Canada is also thrilled to introduce our inaugural U15 Women's National Team which will take the field in 2025. If the tryout camps are any indication, then this category has already and will continue to generate a lot of excitement across the country.

This expansion allows us to create more opportunities for players, coaches, fostering a richer environment for future development.

While all these opportunities are certainly exciting for the game, Softball Canada is tasked with the challenge of trying to accomplish more with less. With great opportunities of course comes additional expense.

With zero increase in sport funding for the last years Softball Canada has been tasked with handling additional team and travel expenses, additional workloads for staff as well as the basic inflationary costs of doing business.

The new year will see Softball Canada do its utmost to meet these challenges head on as we exhaust all avenues to create new and additional revenue streams.

A special thank you to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan who hosted a WBSC Men's World Cup Group Stage this past summer. More importantly they will be hosting the 2025 Men's World Cup Finals in July. This will be a great opportunity for all to get out and support our men's team on our own turf. Best of luck and thank you for your efforts to date.

A heartfelt thank to the Board of Directors team of Jackie, Robb, Bob, Kareena, Brooks and Neil. Your volunteerism and input are certainly appreciated by all.

Let's continue to always strive to be better as a team, allowing us to carry out our responsibilities to the best of our ability.

Thank you to CEO Mike Branchaud and his team of Gilles, Angela, Donna, Cassidy, Christine and Carla. Your efforts and support over the last year is truly appreciated by all.

In closing, thank you to Softball Saskatchewan and its host committee for the opportunity for us to gather here in Saskatoon. We know a meeting such as this requires an endless amount of hard work which does not go unnoticed.

I would like to thank the PTSOs for all your hard work and dedication. Together, we are building a vibrant community that empowers athletes, coaches and officials which helps celebrate our shared passion for our game.

Let's continue to push boundaries and create lasting opportunities for everyone involved in our great game of Softball.

Thank you.

Scott Neiles
Softball Canada, President

2024

Softball Canada Congress

CEO REPORT

As we navigate the evolving sports landscape in Canada, Softball Canada remains committed to supporting our diverse softball communities across the nation. The days of simply showing up to play are behind us; we are dedicated to adapting and responding to the unique needs of our participants. We promote inclusive access and strive to create a safe, welcoming environment for all. A heartfelt thank you goes to our Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations (PTSOs) for their daily efforts in overcoming challenges.

Sport Canada has undergone significant changes recently, and many emerging sports are seeking federal funding. While Softball Canada has collaborated with other sports to bolster core funding, the overall situation has remained stagnant for years. With the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) introducing new events and Softball Canada expanding its National Teams, funding is being stretched across multiple initiatives. Operating our Association amid rising travel costs poses challenges, but we remain committed to exploring revenue-generating opportunities while maintaining a cost-effective approach.

This year's Canadian Championships saw 160 teams compete in 12 events, matching last year's participation. We extend our gratitude to the hosts, volunteers, umpires, and sponsors who make these Championships possible.

We are especially thankful for our Officiating Development Committee (ODC), which leads our umpire program, making us an integral part of the international officiating community. Our umpires have consistently received high praise during international events, and we want to recognize the dedicated members of NDU Frankie Billingsley: Scott McLaren, Brent Chadwick, Gen Gaudreau, Jason Clark, Tonya Ribalkin Zanon, and Don Farr.

With the support of Sport Canada, we prioritize Safe Sport initiatives, working closely with the Office of the Sport Integrity Commission to ensure a secure environment for our athletes. We will continue to encourage alignment at the provincial and territorial levels to uphold safety standards across our sport.

Our Men's and Women's National Teams remain formidable competitors on the international stage. In November 2023, the U18 Men's National Team triumphed over the USA in a thrilling bronze medal match at the World Cup in Mexico. The Men's National Team also participated in the World Cup Group Stage in Prince Albert, SK, and with a berth secured for the final stage in 2025, the coaching staff fielded a development team that finished third behind Argentina and New Zealand. Excitement is building for both the World Cup and World Games in 2025. Meanwhile, the U23 Men's team is diligently preparing for the Pan American Championships in early 2025, aiming to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

The Women's Team capped off 2023 with a bronze medal at the Pan Am Games, followed by a championship victory at the Canada Cup—their first since 2019. Their successful journey continued in Italy, where they captured another bronze medal at the Women's World Cup after a series of dramatic comebacks. The U18 Women's Team participated in two events in 2024, earning a silver medal at the Pan American Championships and securing a spot in the World Cup final stage in 2025. We are thrilled to introduce a new chapter in the Women's National Team program with the inaugural U15 Women's World Cup in 2025, and open identification camps are already underway nationwide.

The Border Battle remains a highlight for our Slo-Pitch community, returning to Oklahoma City this year. Despite losing both featured games against strong USA teams, the direction of our program is promising, as many current and former Border Battle athletes are signing deals with bat manufacturers and elite USA club teams.



In 2024, we revamped our competition development clinics, with over five provinces/territories hosting workshops. With more than 400 NCCP events held last year, we're witnessing a significant influx of new coaches, signaling growth across the country.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion continue to be key focus areas for Softball Canada. Our dedicated team of volunteers is driving positive change within the organization and the broader softball community.

In conclusion, I want to extend my gratitude to our Board of Directors, led by President Scott Neiles and including Jackie Dugger, Robb Andison, Brooks Penrod, Bob Stanton, Kareena Zanolli, and Neil Teague, for their unwavering support and commitment to our programs. I also thank our hardworking staff—Gilles LeBlanc, Angela Ballantyne, Donna Ozarko, Christine Robertson, and Cassidy Burton—for their tireless efforts in promoting and growing our sport. I encourage everyone to read their individual reports, as this message only touches on a few highlights from their program areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Branchaud, CEO



2023

Softball Canada Congress NDU REPORT

Canadian Championships

Another great year of Canadian Championships! There are always some challenges along the way but, our provincial leaders really stepped up to staff all these events; their partnership is greatly appreciated! Interesting to note that for the first time in over 10 years, we had supervisors that needed to be replaced after Board approval had already been received. Not only had it been over 10 years since we had to do this, we did not have one, but three supervisors that we needed to replace.

We also had two umpires who (due to extenuating circumstances) were unable to attend their championship the day before their event was scheduled to begin. Again, thanks to the commitment and partnership of our provincial partners, we were able to fill those events seamlessly. The U20 Men's was the only event that could have used an extra umpire and the long days due to rain exacerbated this observation.

Training for the UIC/DUIC group focused on building a culture amongst the group of officials assigned to a specific event where they can come together as a team to enhance their opportunity to succeed and achieve their personal best performances.

A big change occurred at the SP Canadian Championship this year where we had one crew of officials for both tournaments! A major success – so many positive comments from players, coaches and the umpires themselves – a resounding success!

I personally visited 7 out of the 10 Canadian Championships and was overjoyed to encounter so many officials who were genuinely excited and enthused about their participation at their event! I am quite confident that our survey statistics will continue to show a 95% rate of agreement that umpires view our Canadian Championships as a positive and enjoyable experience. I felt this sense of excitement and enthusiasm amongst the working umpires everywhere I went but, nowhere as strong than at the SP Canadian Championships! I am overjoyed that our attempt to bring the women's and men's crews together for the very first time was a huge success! Umpires, players and coaches were very excited about this change – it will be hard to go back to the “old way” of separate crews after this resounding success! Also, amazing to note that there were six female umpires at the SP Canadian – our highest number ever in attendance. Overall, an awesome summer of Canadian Championships from an umpiring perspective!

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Registrations

Softball is one of the sports nationally that has rebounded and attained their pre-pandemic registration numbers. Although we have managed to accomplish this amazing feat – we still have a long way to go! Recruitment efforts are always underway, and it is important to note that 95% of officials in any sport either played or coached so we growing the sport in its entirety helps with umpire registrations.

Blue Convention 2025

Calgary is excited to host another Blue Convention after hosting it 20 years ago. This will mark the 12th gathering since the first event in 1997.

The 2025 year's theme is “Rise to Excellence: Engage, Evolve, Excel”.

A great slate of presenters with some exciting topics are planned.

Officiating Development Committee Selections

I am extremely pleased that all three members who were up for renewal – Jason Clark (AB), Don Farr (BC) and Scott McLaren (BC) have all reapplied, accepted and been reappointed for another 2-year term.

Level IV Appointments

Level IV umpires are the first step in our national elite umpire program, providing the core of our local and provincial program leadership. They can also be considered as UIC/DUIC's at a Canadian Championship.

To be considered for a Level IV appointment an umpire must be a fully certified Level III, have attended the Level IV Theory Clinic and have a successful performance at the U19 Women's/U20 Men's or the



Women's/Men's Slo-Pitch Canadian Championship.

The following individuals were successful and are now fully certified Level IV umpires in the National Officials Certification Program.

Slo-Pitch

Alan Johnson, AB
Kristen Kwiatek, AB
Tim Leblanc, NB
Martin Painchaud, QC

Fast Pitch

Craig Horbay, SK
Daphnee Plasse, QC
Marc Dugas, QC
Mark Webster, BC
Ron Boucher, ON
Ronda Danchak, AB
Tessa Murton, MB
Colin Hammermeister, AB

Level V Appointments

Level V umpires are at the top step in our domestic elite umpire program, a group who can obtain/maintain WBSC certification and represent Canada on field internationally and provide the core of our UIC/DUIC's at Canadian Championships. That are, in effect, our "national team".

To be considered for a Level V appointment an umpire must be a fully certified Level IV for two years, have completed a requisite qualifying event after their Level IV certification and have a high performance at the Women's/Men's Fast Pitch or Slo-Pitch Canadian Championship. Upon receipt of the evaluations/recommendations, the National Director of Umpires shall make the recommendation to the Board for appointment.

Based on their performance at the 2024 Men's and Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships, we are pleased to announce the following individuals for appointment as Level V umpires within the Softball Canada's National Officiating Certification Program.

Slo-Pitch

JR Simpson, SK

Carla Mackenzie, NS

Fast Pitch

Mark Taylor, AB
Brian Riess, ON
Gino Iannone, QC

WBSC Certification Clinic

With this new group of Level V umpires, we have a group who will likely want to seek WBSC certification. Canada will look to host another WBSC certification seminar in the next year or two.

International Appointments

We celebrated many Softball Canada umpires attending international events in 2024.

- Frank Fargey (MB) – Men's Open National Championship, New Zealand; January
- Mike French (PEI) & Emma Jerome-Smith (AB) – Pan Am U18 Women's, Colombia, March
- Daryl Helmer (AB) – Men's Group Stage A, Mexico; April
- Kris Hartley (AB) – U18 Women's Group Stage B, Brazil; June
- Shawn Miller (BC) & Gary Barnes (AB) – USA Softball Border Battle, Oklahoma City; July
- Scott McLaren (BC), Genevieve Gaudreau (QC), Mike Morrissey (ON) – Men's Group Stage B, Prince Albert; July
- David Jones (ON) – European SP Championship, Italy; July (Softball Europe Exchange)
- Justin Van Horn (ON) – USA Softball Men's Major Fast Pitch Championship, Michigan; August
- Laura MacMillan (BC) & Emma Jerome-Smith (AB) – U18 Women's Group C, Dallas; August
- Kearney O'Keefe (NL) – European Women's Fast Pitch Championship, Netherlands;



August (Softball Europe Exchange)

- Don England (ON) – USA Softball Men’s A/B Slo-Pitch Championship, Oklahoma City; August
- David Pritchard (ON) – USA Softball Men’s D Slo-Pitch Championship, Iowa; August
- Trevor Topping (ON) & Frankie Billingsley (ON) – Men’s Group Stage, Oklahoma City; September

We also have several umpires appointed to events this coming winter including,

- Steve Gallagher – U23 Men’s Qualifier, Colombia; February
- Ron Campbell – Australia Exchange, January 2025

Our exchange programs with USA Softball, Softball Europe, Softball New Zealand and Softball Australia continue to build important contact points with our international partners, support the development of our international umpires and encouraging the development of umpires around the world by modelling excellence on the field.

National Umpire Mentorship Program

For the first time ever, a national umpire mentorship program was piloted! All Level IV and V umpires were asked to sign up to be a mentor. The target audience for mentorship was our group of Level III umpires – this is a group of umpires who are right on the cusp of joining the elite program, should they choose that path and are successful in that endeavor. Twenty-three Level III umpires from around the country signed up to work with one a mentor and everyone participated in a kick-off meeting in early Spring. Pairings will last for two seasons.

Celebrations!!

Our youth continue to offer great things to our sport, including our officiating program. Each year we recognize at least official who is also a post-secondary student with a \$1000 scholarship named in honour of Ed Bitz, the first National Director of Umpires. Congratulations go out to Amy Clegg and Dana Edamura on being selected to receive this award in 2024!

We have many great leaders in our umpire program, all of whom deserve to be recognized and celebrated! We are pleased to recognize our leaders. Daryl Helmer (AB) is the Fast Pitch Umpire of the Year and Carla Mackenzie (NS) is the Slo-Pitch Umpire of the Year. Congratulations!

Shout Outs

Softball Canada is a world class organization that is successful due to amazing professional and volunteer leadership. Our national umpire program benefits from tremendous support from President Scott Neiles and the Board – for which we are very thankful.

CEO Mike Branchaud and the tremendous professional staff are always willing to offer wise counsel and lend a helping hand and advice with many initiatives and elements of our program. Their responsiveness always makes the job look easy.

We are fortunate to have so many amazing people who are willing to give of their time and expertise to support our program. Our journey continues to be challenging, but our Officiating Development Committee (ODC) have carried a big load in maintaining our national program and making it one of the best in the world!

Scott McLaren (BC) – Canadian Championships, High Performance, Rules Lead (FP)

Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon (BC) – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Special Projects

Don Farr (NWT) – Education, Rules Lead (SP), Reference Material Updates

Jason Clark (AB) – Recruitment & Retention Committee

Brent Chadwick (SK) – Education

Genevieve Gaudreau (QC) – Mentorship Program

A big thanks goes out to Robb Andison who serves as the Board Liaison on the ODC. Robb is a fully engaged member and brings a healthy, non-umpire view to our conversations which is extremely valuable!

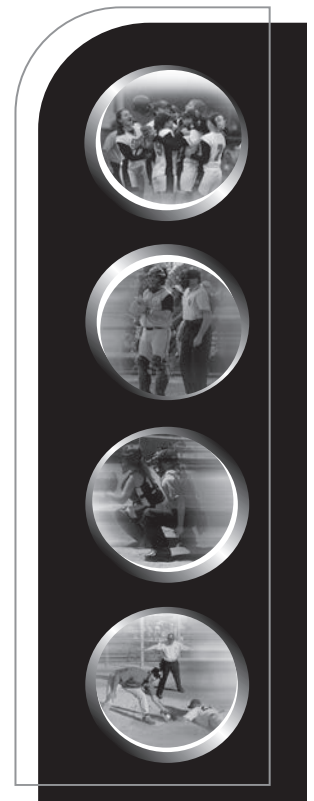
Thanks also go to Donna Ozarko, Softball Canada’s Manager of Officials and Recognition. Her commitment to the officiating program is unparalleled. We are fortunate to have her in this role!

What is to come...

It has been a very eventful first year in this role – everything I expected and more!! I can’t wait for the next year and am so grateful to my predecessor, Jeff Whipple, who left the program in such an amazing place!

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve in this role and can’t wait for what is to come...

Frankie Billingsley, National Director of Umpires



Canadian Championship REPORT

Submitted by Gilles LeBlanc - Manager Operations

Softball Canada's 2024 Canadian Championships were once again a tremendous success.

Our 10 Canadian Championship hosts did a fantastic job while facing various challenges to make each event an enjoyable and competitive environment for all of our participants, and we can't thank them enough for all the time and effort they put into planning, organizing and running our events.

Thank you to all of our Canadian Championship supervisors, umpires in chief, deputy umpires in chief, working umpires and host committee volunteers who heavily contributed to an extremely positive experience for the teams in attendance. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our sport!

Finally, Softball Canada thanks all the teams, athletes, coaches, managers, families and fans who attended the Canadian Championships. Your passion for our sport was on full display on diamonds across Canada this year, and we appreciate all the hard work and sacrifices you made to compete at the highest level.

Congratulations to all of this year's Canadian Championship medallists, and we look forward to another exciting year in 2025!

TOTAL = 160 TEAMS - 3,369 PARTICIPANTS - 683 GAMES

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Men's National Team REPORT

Submitted by Gilles LeBlanc - Manager Operations

The Men's National Team competed in three events culminating with the WBSC Men's World Cup Group Stage in Prince Albert this summer. Given the fact Prince Albert was awarded the WBSC Men's World Cup Finals in 2025, Canada was already assured of the host spot and the coaching staff gave more opportunities to other players from the Athlete Pool to make their case to represent Canada in 2025.

The U18 and U23 Men's National Teams each had their own World Cups in 2023, so the 2024 season was an "off-year" with scouting taking place to start building a list of potential athletes for their respective qualifying events that are both expected to be held in 2025.

2024 KELOWNA DEVELOPMENT CAMP AND MAY DAYS TOURNAMENT

All 36 members of the Men's National Team Athlete Pool were invited to attend a Development Camp in Kelowna, BC. With some of them unavailable, the coaching staff invited some potential U23 athletes to evaluate our next generation of National Team players. After two and a half days of fitness testing, training and intersquad games, players were released to compete in the May Days tournament with their club teams with the remaining players representing Canada's Development Team at the event. The Development Team went undefeated 6-0 to win the tournament.

2024 SUPER 8 INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL SUPER SERIES

Saskatoon hosted this tournament as a tune-up prior to the World Cup Group Stage, featuring the Hill United Chiefs, New York Gremlins, Canada, New Zealand, the Saskatoon Angels and the Saskatoon Jacks. Some Team Canada players played for their club teams for this tournament, with the Canadian team being filled with other Athlete Pool members. The Canadian team faced some good competition, winning tight games against the Jacks and Angels and losing a pair of equally close games to New Zealand and Hill United before a big loss to the Gremlins. The tournament was a great opportunity for our athletes to prepare for the WBSC event.

2024 WBSC MEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP - GROUP B

Despite missing half of its regular players due to club team commitments, the Canadian squad held its own at the Group Stage event, easily defeating Singapore (twice), Hong Kong and Israel, while taking competitive losses against Argentina and New Zealand (twice) who were at full strength. Argentina and New Zealand punched their tickets to the 2025 World Cup Final, with Canada taking the Host spot. The five other teams who have qualified for the 2025 World Cup Finals are Australia, the Dominican Republic, Japan, the United States and Venezuela.



Umpiring REPORT

As Submitted by Donna Ozarko

ODC portfolios

- Frankie Billingsley – National Director of Umpires
- Scott McLaren (BC) – Canadian Championships, High Performance, Rules Lead (FP)
- Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon (BC) – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Special Projects
- Don Farr (NWT) – Education, Rules Lead (SP), Reference Material Updates
- Jason Clark (AB) – Recruitment & Retention Committee
- Brent Chadwick (SK) – Education
- Genevieve Gaudreau (QC) – Mentorship Program

Umpire Registrations

Registration numbers have consistently increased across nearly all PTs. We have received most of these registrations and are currently exceeding pre-pandemic levels, which is a significant achievement. Based on expected registrations from all PTs, we anticipate surpassing the 2005 peak of 4,068 registrations.

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Canadian Championships

As usual, there were some behind-the-scenes challenges in coordinating UICs/DUICs and managing umpires for our Canadian Championships. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in this crucial work; your efforts are truly appreciated. Overall, the umpire crews performed exceptionally well—thank you all!

Level IV umpires represent the initial tier of our national elite umpire program, forming the backbone of our local and provincial leadership. In their leadership roles, they may also serve as UICs (Umpire-in-Chief) or DUICs (Deputy Umpire-in-Chief) at Canadian Championships. To be eligible for a Level IV appointment, an umpire must meet the following criteria: they must hold a full Level III certification, have attended the Level IV Theory clinic, and demonstrate satisfactory performance at either the U19 Women's or U20 Men's Fast Pitch Canadian Championship, or the Women's or Men's Slo-Pitch Canadian Championship.

Evaluations are conducted by the event UICs and DUICs, who submit their assessments to the National Director of Umpires. A score of 80 or above on the standardized rubric will result in a recommendation for appointment. Upon receiving these evaluations and recommendations, the National Director of Umpires will certify the umpires as Level 4 or 5 umpires.

Congratulations to the new Level 4 and 5 umpires who achieved their status through successful evaluations at these events.

Learning Resources

The NOCP manuals have been updated to align with the 2024/25 Rulebook and are now available exclusively in PDF format, with printed copies no longer provided. Moving forward, we aim to transition these manuals to an online format, similar to the Rulebook. However, this shift will necessitate a greater investment of time and resources.

Blue Convention

Preparations for the Blue Convention 2025 in Calgary, AB, are well underway! Scheduled for the Easter weekend from April 18 to 20, this year's event is particularly significant as it marks two decades since the convention was last held in the city in 2005.

With the theme "Rise to Excellence: Engage, Evolve, Excel," attendees can look forward to a rewarding experience centered on personal and professional growth. In addition to the usual clinics (I/E, Level 4, and Youth), there will be a variety of workshop sessions designed to enhance umpiring skills across Canada.

Registration is now open on the Softball Canada website. We encourage you to help promote this exciting convention!

National Clinics

Mechanics School Woodstock, ON and Regina, SK

In 2018, we increased umpire fees by \$2 to fund additional initiatives, including the Mechanics School. While these clinics are not profit-driven for Softball Canada, they aim to assist and support our provincial partners. Designed for umpires of all skill levels, the clinics focus on improving their abilities before the season begins.

In 2024, we hosted two Mechanics Schools: one in Woodstock, ON, in March, led by ODC members Don Farr and Scott McLaren, and another in Regina, SK, led by ODC members Tonya Ribalkin Zanon and Scott McLaren. Both clinics were highly successful for our provincial partners, and we plan to continue offering them in the future.



Photo of participants at the Regina, SK Mechanics School

Level 4 clinic on-line

In February and March 2024, we successfully conducted an online Level 4 clinic, consisting of six two-hour sessions. Led by Softball Canada instructors Don Farr and Laura McMillan, these sessions covered topics such as the psychology of officiating, advanced game management techniques, mechanics, and more. We had 23 participants registered for this clinic. Please note that there will be no additional Level 4 clinics offered until the Blue Convention 2025 in Calgary.

Instructor/Evaluator clinic on-line

An online IE clinic was held in February and March, led by ODC members Tonya Ribalkin Zanon and Jason Clark. The clinic featured six sessions, each lasting around two hours, with a total of 10 participants. The next IE clinic is set to take place at the Blue Convention in 2025.

Ed Bitz Scholarship

Congratulations to Amy Clegg and Dana Edamura from BC for being awarded the Ed Bitz Scholarship!

Umpire of the Year Award

Congratulations to Daryl Helmer, honored as FP Umpire of the Year, and Carla MacKenzie, recognized as SP Umpire of the Year. Both truly deserve this recognition!

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion REPORT

As Submitted by Donna Ozarko

Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Kareena Zanolli (AB), Sarah Manfred (QC)

Staff Member: Donna Ozarko

Committee Members: Kim Stemshorn (ON), Sarah Walz (YK), Jon Equina (SK), Lisa Brown (BC), Sheridan Hamilton (NB), Terry Klein (SK), Dakotah Pratt (AB) and JR Simpson (SK)

2024 DEI Working Groups/Projects

The DEI Committee holds monthly meetings, pausing in July and August to accommodate the busy softball season. The committee is organized into five working groups, each dedicated to specific projects aimed at identifying issues, providing support, and enhancing communication. These groups will meet independently of the regular DEI Committee sessions and are responsible for presenting summary reports at each meeting.

Below are the Working Groups and their respective committee members:

- Indigenous Participation and Partnerships: Kareena Zanolli, Donna Ozarko, Dakotah Pratt, Sarah Walz, Jon Equina and Kim Stemshorn
- Canadian Championship Publications Review: Sarah Manfred, Donna Ozarko, Lisa Brown, Terry Klein and Dakotah Pratt
- Women in Leadership: Sarah Manfred, Sarah Walz, Lisa Brown, Sheridan Hamilton and Kim Stemshorn
- Disability Access and Partnerships: Kareena Zanolli, Donna Ozarko, Sheridan Hamilton, Jon Equina and Kim Stemshorn
- Umpire DEI: Sarah Manfred, JR Simpson, Terry Klein and Tonya Ribalkin from the ODC

Report from Indigenous Long-Term Player Development (ILTDP) Workshop

Zanolli and Ozarko had the opportunity to participate in the Indigenous Long Term Player Development (ILTPD) Pathway Program Workshop in Yellowknife last April. Organized by Softball NWT and led by the Aboriginal Sport Circle (NWT) and Sport 4 Life, this workshop aimed to enhance our understanding of how to effectively support Indigenous participants and athletes in our programs.

The workshop was highly engaging, focusing on adapting the competitive pathway and revising certain policies to create a more inclusive environment for Indigenous individuals. It kicked off on Friday evening with the Kairos Blanket Exercise, a powerful activity that illustrated the complex relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Participants stepped onto blankets arranged to represent the land, embodying the roles of Indigenous peoples and gaining insight into the impact of colonization on those who lived here long before settlers arrived. This exercise fostered empathy and sparked important discussions on collaborative solutions.

Throughout the workshop, interactive sessions provided valuable insights into navigating the mainstream and Indigenous sport systems. We were equipped with tools and action plans to better integrate and support Indigenous participants in our programs. We also explored strategies to address the physical, mental, spiritual, and cultural needs of participants, promoting a more holistic approach to sports programming.

Overall, the workshop was an enlightening and enriching experience, deepening our appreciation for Indigenous history and culture and empowering us to drive positive change within our sport community.

Inclusive Calendar Project

One key insight from the ILTPD workshop was the scheduling conflicts between the Mainstream Sport System and the Indigenous Community System. This concern aligns with recent discussions about the need for greater awareness of important cultural and religious celebrations that may overlap with softball events. To address this, Ozarko will spearhead the creation of an Inclusive Calendar in the next few months to be shared with PTs, helping our membership stay informed about these significant dates.

Indigenous Logo

The DEI Committee has launched a new initiative focused on creating an Indigenous logo. A dedicated team, separate from the committee, has been formed to collaborate with designer Jamin Zuroski on this project. During a virtual roundtable discussion via Zoom, Jamin and the team brainstormed various elements to include in the logo, such as meaningful symbolism, cultural diversity, traditional artistry, harmony with nature, respectful representation, inclusivity, and a commitment to reconciliation.

The primary goal of this project is to raise awareness about Indigenous cultures and their contributions to softball in Canada. The logo will be used across multiple platforms, including apparel and uniforms, Canadian Championships (medal ribbons, banners), print materials, email signatures, websites and social media, promotional materials, facility signage, educational resources, public awareness campaigns, and publications.

The logo is set to be unveiled at the 2024 Softball Canada AGM.

Disability Pride Month

July was designated as Disability Pride Month, and Emmanuel Cormier, a neurodiverse individual with a passion for umpiring, made impressive strides by overcoming significant challenges. He successfully achieved his goal of umpiring at the 2023 U15 Canadian Championship in Brandon, Manitoba. His inspiring journey was highlighted on both the Softball Canada Facebook page and their website. You can read his full story: here:

<https://softball.ca/news/emmanuel-cormier-overcoming-challenges-and-finding-triumph-as-an-umpire-at-the-2023-u15-canadian-championships.htm>

Sport Development REPORT

COACHING

In 2024, there has been a strong commitment to providing National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) training to coaches across Canada. Softball Canada sincerely thanks the Provincial/Territorial Softball Associations and Coach Developers for their dedication to advancing and supporting coach education and certification. To the coaches, Softball Canada extends its appreciation for your continued efforts in developing the skills of softball athletes nationwide.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 400+ NCCP events (clinics/evaluations) held, with 3200+ Coaches in attendance and over 200 evaluations completed
- High influx of coaches at the Community level
- 2100+ Coaches completed FOCS Part 1 and 1300+ completed Part 2

COACHING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Coaching Development Committee, comprised of Kaleigh, Mark, Doug, Megan, Michelle, and Brandi-Rae. Their dedication and commitment to the development of our coaches have played a crucial role in enhancing our program's effectiveness and fostering a positive environment for all players.

We appreciate their continued efforts and the significant impact they have made and will continue to make. Thank you for your unwavering support.

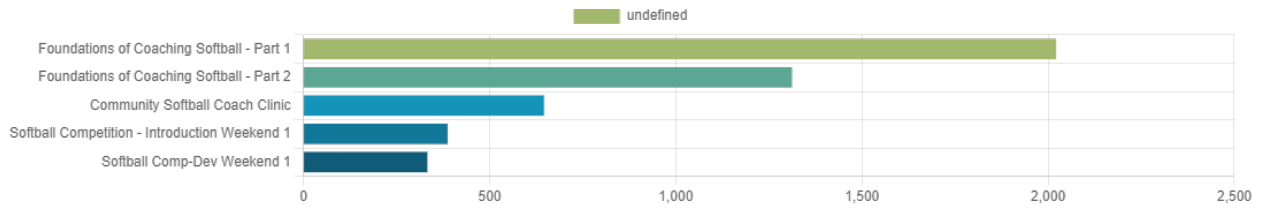
NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

NCCP Clinics

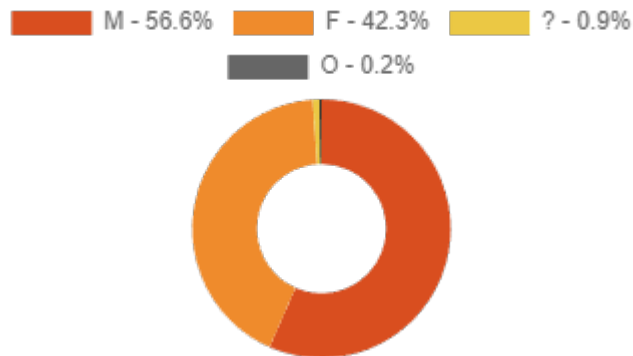
Over the past year, Softball Canada has made notable strides in its coaching clinics, hosting over 400 NCCP events, including clinics and evaluations, which attracted more than 3,200 dedicated coaches. Most of these clinics fall under the community stream, highlighting the influx of new coaches into the system. Moving forward, the focus should be on retaining and supporting these coaches, while offering additional learning opportunities and professional development to keep them engaged. This year, over 2,100 coaches successfully completed FOCS Part 1, and an impressive 1,300 completed Part 2. These achievements underscore our commitment to raising coaching standards and providing coaches with the knowledge and skills to thrive in softball.

Additionally, five Competition Development Weekend-1 clinics and four Weekend-2 clinics were held, with more scheduled before the end of 2024. With over 30 coaches having attended the clinics, some administrative details still need to be addressed, but it is evident that this enhanced delivery method has made this coaching certification stream more accessible.

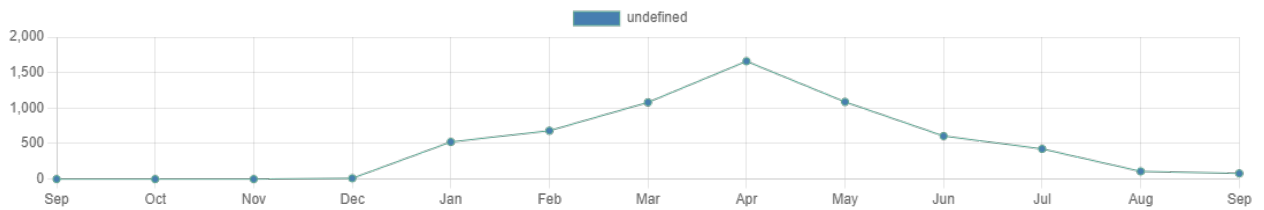
Participants per Clinic



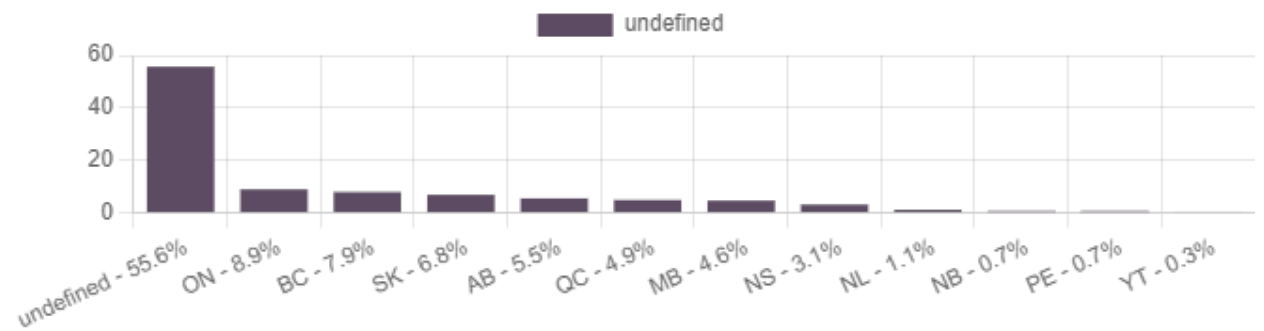
Gender Breakdown of Coaches Attending Clinics



Clinic Delivery by Month



Clinic Delivery by P/T



OPERATIONS MANUAL

Over the past year, the Coaching Development Committee (CDC) has worked diligently on the Softball Canada NCCP Operations Manual, which will launch this fall in advance of the upcoming clinic season. The manual provides a thorough overview of guidelines and procedures for successful implementation of the NCCP. While it is comprehensive, it is not intended to replace the NCCP Policies and Implementation Standards, nor to serve as a development guide. As clinics evolve, future updates are expected, but this document serves as an excellent resource for new staff members entering the Coaching Program in softball.

Special thanks go to Coach+ and Beth Barz, along with Jacqueline, Kim, Sarah, and Cassandra, for their invaluable support in creating this working document. We also extend our gratitude to Marc Dagenais from Adrenaline Solutions for translation.

SAFE SPORT

SIDELINE LEARNING

Softball Canada has partnered with Sideline Learning to enhance safety and risk management through a new multi-year technology initiative. Sideline Learning's platform will centralize compliance processes, tracking requirements, and member management for Softball Canada, making administration more efficient. The platform will create individualized profiles for players, coaches, umpires, and volunteers, helping them understand and follow Softball Canada's Screening Policy. The goal is to foster a safe, inclusive environment, free from abuse or harassment. This collaboration reflects Softball Canada's commitment to creating a secure, supportive atmosphere for all members of the softball community.

CENTRALIZED SUSPENSION DATABASE

Softball Canada's partnership with Sideline Learning also includes the development of a misconduct and suspension database within the broader platform. This new system will centralize the reporting and tracking of disciplinary actions across PTSO's and the NSO, ensuring transparency and accountability across all levels of participation. The platform will provide a clear record of infractions, misconduct investigations, and suspensions, making it easier for administrators to monitor compliance with Softball Canada's Policies. This enhanced oversight will help enforce safety protocols and foster a respectful environment, aligning with Softball Canada's commitment to maintaining a secure and inclusive atmosphere free from abuse, harassment, or misconduct.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM REPORT

The 2024 season was a standout year for the Softball Canada Women's National Team, marked by triumphs and milestones that demonstrated their growth and competitive edge on the international stage. The team captured Gold at the Canada Cup, securing their victory for the first time since 2019. Their success was bolstered by a productive exhibition series in Colorado, where they sharpened their skills against top-tier competition, showcasing their depth and preparation.

One of the key factors behind the team's ongoing success was their access to state-of-the-art, multimillion-dollar testing facilities, which provided cutting-edge support for player development. These resources allowed the team to stay ahead of the curve in strength, conditioning, and performance analytics, optimizing their growth both individually and as a unit.

Capping off the summer season, Team Canada delivered a thrilling performance at the WBSC World Cup in Italy, earning a hard-fought bronze medal. Their resilience and teamwork in this competition solidified their reputation as one of the top teams in the world, rounding out a year of excellence with pride and determination.

RESULTS

EXHIBITION SERIES

Denver Colorado	
TC COLORADO	W 13-3
LOUISVILLE LADY SLUGGERS	W 3-2
EPIC NATIONAL	W 6-2
TC COLORADO	L 15-9* Game halted due to darkness

CANADA CUP [1st Place]

In a 7-0 victory against TC Colorado, Canada clinched the 2024 Canada Cup Championship, a title they last won in 2019. Team Canada remained undefeated throughout the tournament.

Surrey, BC	
NZL	W 9-0
MEX	W 9-1
PHI	W 12-0
ISR	W 10-3
HKG	W 7-0
AUS	W 4-3
TC COLORADO	W 7-0

WBSC WORLD CUP [3rd Place]

In a heart-stopping eleven-inning showdown against the Netherlands, Canada clinched the bronze medal at the 2024 WBSC Women's Softball World Cup with a walk-off grand slam by **Callum Pilgrim** (Abbotsford, B.C.), securing an 11-7 victory.

Qualifying Round	
USA	L 5-2
CHN	W 7-2
ITL	W 5-4
NLD	W 6-3

Super Round	
JPN	L 7-2
NLD	W 11-7

IDENTIFICATION CAMPS

Women's National Team

This year, identification camps were successfully conducted in British Columbia and Ontario, resulting in six players being invited to the final selection camp for the Women's National Team (WNT) roster. These camps provide a valuable opportunity for aspiring athletes to gauge their skills and receive guidance from national team coaches. We encourage players interested in advancing their careers or potentially joining the WNT to participate in future camps.

U18 Team

Identification camps were held in various locations at the beginning of the summer in 2024 to identify promising athletes. Coaches also scouted talent at provincial and national tournaments. Following this assessment, a final list of 28 athletes was selected to attend a Selection Camp in Saskatoon, SK, in early August.

Looking ahead, the selection process for the 2025 U18 team will be announced after consulting with PTSO's, continuing the successful approach of incorporating ID camps and tournament scouting. The age groups for this team will include players born in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

U18 NATIONAL TEAM

The Canadian U18 Women's National Team had a strong showing in 2024, securing significant achievements on the international stage. At the U18 Women's Pan American Championship, the team earned a silver medal after a closely contested extra-inning 2-1 loss to Puerto Rico in the final. Despite the setback, their impressive performance guaranteed them a spot in the 2024 WBSC U18 Women's Softball World Cup Group Stage.

In the World Cup, Canada excelled in Group C, finishing in second place and securing a place in the 2025 World Cup Finals. After a challenging loss to the USA in the group final, the team showed resilience by defeating Mexico 9-2 in the repechage game, solidifying their position as a strong contender heading into next year's tournament.

RESULTS

WBSC PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP [2nd Place]

Monteria, COL	
USVI	W 18-0
PUR	L 3-1
VEN	W 7-0
BRA	W 5-3
CUB	W 10-2

PER	W 10-0
MEX	W 3-1
COL	W 5-1
PRI	L 2-1

WBSC WORLD CUP Stage 1 (2nd Place)

Qualifying Round	
MEX	W 9-0
USA	L 9-1
IRL	W 8-0
PHI	W 6-0
AUS	W 2-0

Super Round	
USA	L 7-0
MEX	W 9-2

U15 WNT

In summer 2024, WBSC announced a U15 World Cup for summer 2025, likely in Italy, though the exact date is not yet confirmed.

To qualify for this tournament, teams must first compete in a WBSC Pan American Championship, which includes teams from the Americas. The timing and location of this qualifier are still unknown, but it may occur in spring 2025. In response, U15 identification camps have been launched in BC, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick with more locations and dates to be announced.

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COACH RAFTER WEBINAR SERIES

Softball Canada is relaunching the High-Performance Coaching Webinar Series, featuring Seasons 1 and 2, hosted by Kaleigh Rafter, Head Coach of Canada's Women's National Team. This series is perfect for coaches looking to gain insights into national team operations and how to implement these concepts in their own practices. Each session includes a 60-minute video presentation followed by a 30-minute Q&A. The webinars are conducted in English, and subscriptions will expire on February 28, 2025.

THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Women's National Team Coaching Staff, including Kaleigh, Chris, Joey, Christian, Nat, Keith, Mel, Nikki, the pool coaches, and many others who have supported our teams this season.

Their dedication, expertise, and unwavering support have played a crucial role in the development and success of our athletes. The impact of their hard work and commitment to excellence is greatly appreciated by everyone involved in our program. Thank you for your continued contributions to our teams.

Angela Ballantyne – Manager, Sport Development

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

2024 was an outstanding year for softball in Canada, filled with thrilling moments from our National Teams to grassroots levels. It was a privilege to capture and share these memories throughout the year, showcasing the vibrancy and passion that defines our sport.

LOOKING AHEAD!

As we close the chapter on 2024 and set our sights on 2025, the excitement only continues. In July, the XVIII Men's Softball World Cup Finals will bring the world to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, promising an unforgettable experience on home soil. In August, the U18 Women's National Team returns to Dallas for the II U-18 Women's Softball World Cup – Finals (and this is just to name a couple).

On the national stage, we look forward to men's and women's softball shining at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's this August, where we'll witness the rising stars from Provincial and Territorial Programs. And of course, the beloved Canadian Championships, spanning from July to September, will bring fierce competition and inspiring performances as teams from across the country battle for top honours in their divisions.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

One of the greatest aspects of social media is its power to connect and engage with people who share our passion for softball. In 2024, Softball Canada was thrilled to host several exciting giveaways in collaboration with Rawlings Canada and Home Run Sports, further strengthening our online community.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GIVEAWAY WITH RAWLINGS

On March 8th, Softball Canada teamed up with Rawlings to celebrate International Women's Day by highlighting the strength and wisdom of women. Fans on Instagram and Facebook were invited to share valuable advice they had received from an influential woman in their life. Participants entered a draw, with the lucky winner receiving a gift package from Rawlings to present to the woman they honored.

WORLD BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL DAY

In the lead-up to World Baseball and Softball Day on May 10th, Softball Canada took a nostalgic journey, revisiting highlights from the past 10 years of Canadian National Teams. To mark the day, we partnered with Rawlings for an exciting giveaway of four brand new Rawlings Quatro Pro bats. Fans were asked to guess the total number of Rawlings

softballs used at Canadian Championships, with guesses ranging from 200 to over 4000. The four closest guesses, including one just two softballs off, won the coveted prizes!

HOME RUN SPORTS SLO-PITCH BATS GIVEAWAY

Slo-pitch enthusiasts got their moment in the spotlight with a special giveaway in partnership with Homerun Sports. Two brand new Miken Freakshow bats and Softball Canada swag were up for grabs. Participants entered by selecting their favorite bat (Ketchup or Mustard) and tagging three friends in the comments, with two winners chosen at random.

2024	Instagram	Facebook	X
Followers	19K	18.5K	17.1K
Posts	192	295	
Engagement	63.9K	41.5K	

As our social media platforms continue to grow, we are excited to promote our teams, events, programs, and partners with even greater reach and engagement. Looking ahead to 2025, we remain committed to delivering relevant, engaging, and exciting content that showcases the passion and energy of Canadian softball!

NEW MERCH LINE DROPPED!

This year saw an exciting refresh of Softball Canada's fan gear and a fresh look for our National Teams! In collaboration with Homerun Sports and with our softball community in mind, we launched a brand-new merchandise line featuring sleek new logo designs and high-quality, comfortable apparel. Fans can now gear up in style by purchasing the latest merch through the Softball Canada store or in person at Homerun Sports, ready to stand out at the diamond.



A special shoutout goes to National Team athletes Zoe Hicks, Dawn Bodrug, Ty Sebastian, and Tyler Pauli for being the first to proudly sport the new merch!

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS

This year, 12 Canadian Championships were hosted in 10 incredible locations across the country, offering an opportunity to showcase some of Canada's cities from coast to coast. Enter the **Touristy Trek!** In collaboration with each championship host, we highlighted the top five must-see attractions beyond the diamond. This initiative not only showcased the hidden (and not-so-hidden) gems of each city but also gave visitors the chance to explore local favorites, making the experience even more memorable.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK WITH RAWLINGS

This year, we loved seeing fans capture and share their favourite moments from the Canadian Championships! In an exciting new contest, Softball Canada teamed up with Rawlings to invite participants and fans at every championship to tag us and use the designated hashtag for their best game-day photos. A winner was selected for each participating Championship, with each winner receiving a Rawlings gift package.

After the Canadian Championships concluded, all weekly winners advanced to a final round to compete for the title of **Photo of the Canadian Championships**. The ultimate winner, determined by fan voting on Instagram, took home a brand-new Rawlings glove and a trophy.



Huge congratulations to the official Photo of the 2024 Canadian Championships!

SLO-PITCH

BORDER BATTLE XIV – OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

This summer, the Canadian Men's and Women's Slo-Pitch teams returned to Oklahoma City to compete in the 14th edition of the Border Battle. Over three days of intense competition, some of the best slo-pitch talent in the world were on display. The Canadian Men's Team posted an impressive 4-1 record, while the Women's Team finished with a strong 3-2 record heading into the ultimate showdown against Team USA.

Despite valiant efforts from both teams, Team USA claimed the Border Battle XIV title. The Women's team fell 12-0, and the Men's team fought hard but were edged out 21-14.

SLO-PITCH WORKING GROUP

A Slo-Pitch Working Group has been established to develop and implement strategies aimed at expanding and advancing the game of Slo-Pitch across Canada.

The group will focus on the following key areas:

Growth

Objective: Facilitate the growth and development of the Co-Ed discipline in Slo-Pitch at the national level through strategic initiatives. Key areas of focus include:

- Alignment with WBSC (World Baseball Softball Confederation)
- Player Selection Process
- Identification of Athlete Pool

Rules/SORs

Objective: Review and assess current Rules and Standards of Rules (SORs) to provide recommendations for improving safety standards and operational practices. Specific areas of evaluation include:

- Equipment: bats, batter's area, helmets, and defensive face protection
- Gameplay standards, such as the possibility of allowing stealing

A special thank you to the dedicated members of the Slo-Pitch Committee and Working Group for their commitment to the growth and success of Slo-Pitch in Canada:

- Robb Andison
- Tony Carnelos
- Michelle Lorenz
- Craig Carter
- Kareena Zanolli
- Gary Barnes
- Heather Drake

2024 PT

REPORTS / RAPPORTS

Softball BC



Report

2024 has been a year of change and transition for Softball BC, as we adjusted to staffing complement to address departures and leaves of absence, worked on a new governance model and embraced work that will lead to the development of a new strategic plan, new accounting system approach, and participation in an Operational Enhancement project delivered by viaSport and Sport Law.

Registration Numbers

- Girls are up 24% to 11,684. Boys up 12% to 1,879. We allow members to identify as X (non-binary). This number is down 85% to 120, bringing our total number of youth members to 13,683, an increase of 15% from 2023.
- Adult Women's registration is down 13% to 1,393. Men's is down 42% to 1,283. We have 28 adult players who identify as X (non-binary).
- Umpires are up 3% to 646, with 400 identifying as female, 245 as male and one as X.
- Coaches are up 27% to 2,942 from 2,314 in 2023. 1,170 identify as female of which 92% coach youth (U20) ball. 1,633 identify as male of which 91% coach youth ball. And 139 identify as X (non-binary), of which 99% coach youth ball.

Championship

- Hosted 12 provincial championships, offering 170 youth teams the opportunity to compete for a banner.
- Hosted four regional championships for our U13 community ball participants. 82 teams participated.
- Hosted five regional celebration events for our U11 community ball participants. 61 teams participated.
- Hosted two slo-pitch provincials with 7 men's and 5 women's teams.
- Hosted four women's provincials with 35 teams participating in total.

BC Summer Games

- City of Maple Ridge hosted the 2024 BC Summer Games.
- Eight teams representing seven BC regions (the host region had two teams) participated in the Games.
- Eight umpires, 31 coaching staff and 113 female players born in 2009 or 2010.

Canada Summer Games

- Planning and team preparation is well underway.

Staffing Changes

We thank Rick Benson for agreeing to return to the association as Acting Executive Director and subsequently taking on the role of Interim Operations Manager while our new Executive Director, Diane St-Denis, was onboarded to her new role. Softball BC recently launched a search for a Programs & Championship Director who will replace the Interim Operations Manager. The new hire will increase our staffing levels to four full-time employees and two part-time (0.2FTE) contractors. The staff list and portfolios can be found on our website.

2024 SOFTBALL ALBERTA REPORT



GAMES PROGRAMS

Canada Summer Games – 2025 Games first round of tryouts in were September 2023. Over the course of the last year both the Men’s & Women’s athlete pools have held several training camps and attended some tournaments within province. The Men’s team recently announced their final roster of 15 and will continue to train and enter tournaments over the next year. The Women’s team also recently announced their final pool of 17 and will name the alternates next year.

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY – We were able to hold 27 provincial championships this year. There was an increase of 57 teams from 2023.

Other Championships: Alberta held 5 championships this year:

- One Western Canadian Championship – U19
- 4 Canadian Championships this year – U17G / Women’s FP & Men’s & Women’s Slo-pitch.

NCCP

The NCCP program was busy in 2024. In March and April, we held a Comp Dev clinic – thank you to Mark Loehndorf and Mike Renney for instructing. We were happy to welcome the Men’s CSG coaches from BC to that clinic as well.

We held 4 Comp Intro hybrid clinics and 1 in person clinic. Our evaluators were extremely busy with the number of on field evaluations needed. We also held 8 Community Softball clinics. We look forward to training some new instructors this off season.

UMPIRE PROGRAM

Alberta registered 485 umpires in 2024 - up from 410 in 2023.



2024 Softball Canada AGM Softball Saskatchewan Report

Welcome everyone to Saskatoon and the 2024 Softball Canada AGM and Congress. We hope everyone has a great time while in the city of bridges.

2024 Membership Update

Our 2024 membership statistics are virtually the same as last year with a total of 16,550 members. Nicole continues to do a terrific job with our RAMP system and working with our members to complete the affiliation process. The following is a breakdown of our membership numbers.

Summary of Membership											
Female Members						Male Members					
D	Athlete	Coach	Man.	Ump	Total	D	Athlete	Coach	Man.	Ump	Total
1	1699	227	19	69	2014	1	465	123	1	55	644
2	985	68	2	33	1088	2	322	79	0	25	426
3	1155	108	4	41	1308	3	132	82	3	23	240
4	596	58	1	7	662	4	163	53	2	22	240
5	1718	157	32	64	1971	5	868	211	3	52	1134
6	1157	127	28	40	1352	6	510	180	6	47	743
7	1439	151	29	18	1637	7	422	141	1	46	610
8	1120	125	18	14	1277	8	867	125	2	35	1029
9	47	4	0	0	51	9	52	2	0	1	55
Total	9916	1025	133	286	11360	Total	3801	996	18	306	5121

"Other" Gender Members					
D	Athlete	Coach	Man.	Ump	Total
3, 9	0	0	0	0	0
1	2	1	0	0	3
2	1	0	0	0	1
4	2	14	4	0	20
5	24	0	0	1	25
6	1	0	0	0	1
7	1	0	0	0	1
8	14	0	0	0	14
Total	45	15	4	1	65

"Prefer not to Say" Members					
D	Athlete	Coach	Man.	Ump	Total
2, 4, 6-9	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	1
3	0	0	0	1	1
5	1	0	0	1	2
Total	1	1	0	2	4

Total "Prefer not to say":	4
Total "Other":	65
Total Male:	5121
Total Female:	11360
Total Members:	16550

Provincial Championships

We had a record number of teams enter our 2024 Provincial championships, following is the breakdown of overall team registrations of our 299 teams:

<u>Minor Female</u>	<u># of Teams</u>	<u>Minor Male</u>	<u># of teams</u>
U11 "A" North	10	U11 Open Boys	7
U11 "B" North	23		
U11 "A" South	12	U13 OPEN Boys	6
U11 "B" South	16		
U13 A Girls	17	U15 OPEN Boys	6
U13 B Girls	21		
U13 C Girls	31	U17 OPEN Boys	5
U15 A Girls	17		
U15 B Girls	32	U20 OPEN Boys	1
U15 C Girls	10		
U17 A Girls	11	Total Minor Male	25 teams
U17 B Girls	18		
U17 C Girls	7		
U19 A Women's	4		
U19 B Women's	5		
U20 C Women's	2		
Total Minor Female	236 teams		
<u>Adult Female Categories</u>	<u># of teams</u>	<u>Adult Male Categories</u>	<u># of teams</u>
Women's A	5	U23 A Men's	1
Women's OPEN	8	Men's A	3
Women's SP	3	Men's OPEN	11
		Men's Master	2
		Men's SP	5
Total Adult Women's	16 teams	Total Adult Men's	22 teams
TOTAL MINOR FP TEAMS	261		
TOTAL ADULT FP TEAMS	30		
TOTAL ADULT SP TEAMS	8		
TOTAL TEAMS (A New record)	299 teams		

We once again provided scoring updates immediately after all games of provincial championships using google docs and our website. This service is greatly appreciated by our members, and we received many positive comments about us doing this. By using our website to post the scores it really helps to drive people to it and become more familiar with it.

All players and coaches registered in our minor provincial championships receive a complimentary t-shirt, in 2024 we provided some 4,500 t-shirts that are distributed to the teams prior to their first game of provincials. All minor teams finishing in the top three at Provincials receive a gold, silver or bronze medal and the winning team is provided with a championship banner. Adult teams who finish first at provincials receive a hurler hoodie or cage jacket while finalists receive a t-shirt.

2024 Western Canadian Championships

I would like to thank Battlefords Minor Softball Association for hosting the U15 Girls and Boys Championship. I would also like to thank our Supervisors Judy Campbell and Yvonne Michnik and our UIC's Steven Hartmann and Wade St. Onge. All did an awesome job on our behalf.

Following is a breakdown of participation in the 2024 Western Canadian Championships by all Provinces/Territories. Please note 2024 was the first year for the U13 Western Championships.

2024 Confirmation of Participation Summary

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>BC</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>SK</u>	<u>MB</u>	<u>YK</u>	<u># teams</u>	<u># P/T's</u>
U13 Girls	Brandon, MB	3	-	3	3	-	9	3
U13 Boys	Brandon, MB	-	-	2	3	-	5	2
U15 Girls	Battleford, SK	2	2	3	2	1	10	5
U15 Boys	Battleford, SK	-	-	3	2	-	5	2
U17 Girls	Port Alberni, BC	3	2	2	2	-	9	4
U19 Women's	Irma, AB	2	3	2	1	-	8	4
TOTALS		10	7	15	13	1	46	

2024 Canadian Championships

We once again had a very good representation of teams attend Canadian Championships. We were the only province to have at least one team in every Canadian Championship. Congratulations to the Carnduff Southeast Steelers who captured the Gold medal at the Women's. We also had the Delisle Pride win the Silver medal at the U23 Men's, the Prince Albert Astros brought home the Bronze medal at the U17 Boys and the Melfort 222's won the Silver medal at the Master Men's. We also had several athletes receive All Star and Top player Awards, congratulations to them all.

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Following is the team participation summary:

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u># of Sask Teams</u>
U15 Boys	St. Leonard D'Aston, QC	2
U17 Boys	St. Gervais, QC	1
U20 Men's	Carp, ON	1
U15 Girls	Ile-Perrot, QC	3
U17 Girls	Calgary, AB	3
U19 Women's	Saskatoon, SK	3
U23 Men's	Kitchener, ON	1
Men's FP	Saskatoon, SK	3
Master Men's FP	Saskatoon, SK	2
Women's FP	Blackfalds, AB	1
Men's SP	Leduc, AB	3
Women's SP	Leduc, AB	2
FINAL TOTALS		25 teams

Canadian and Western Championship Information

In 2024 our Association provided \$50,000 to teams travelling Canadian and Western Championships. In addition each team registering in a provincial category leading to an out of province Canadian or Western contributes \$300 to a travel fund that in 2024 was a total of \$20,700. In total our teams attending 2024 Canadian and Western Championships received \$70,700 in travel funding. In addition, all players and coaches attending a championship received a Softball Saskatchewan water bottle, we provided some 750 of these this year. In 2025 Warman will be hosting the U17 Girls and Saskatoon will be hosting the U20 Men's and Women's FP Canadian Championships. For Western Canadians in 2025 we will be hosting the U17 Girls and Boys in Regina.

International Events

Prince Albert successfully hosted the 6 team 2024 WBSC Men's Qualifier in July and will now Host the 2025 WBSC Men's World Championships. The 8 team Championship will be held from July 8th – 13th at Prime Ministers Park and will for sure help add to an exciting summer of Provincial, Western, National and International softball events in our province in 2025. Events such as this, especially a male event certainly helps to promote and market our sport to male players locally and throughout the province.

2024 Saskatchewan Summer Games

I would like to thank Tanya Robertson and Tami Kappel from Lloydminster who were our host representatives. Given we do not have a member association in Lloydminster with any ties to us, could have resulted in this not being a successful event. However, that was certainly not the case as both these two ladies and the many volunteers they recruited all did an outstanding job. The 2024 Summer Games provided the most meaningful competition ever. The competition was very close with very few mercy games, the final standings are as follows:

Gold Medal	District 5 – Prairie Central
Silver Medal	District 3 – South West
Bronze Medal	District 8 – Lakeland
4th Place	District 1 – South East
5th Place	District 7 – Rivers West
6th Place	District 2 – Regina
7th Place	District 6 – Saskatoon
8th Place	District 4 – Parkland Valley

The 7th and 8th place teams both finished last in their pools with 0 – 3 records. However, all six of their round robin games were decided by 1 run, which indicates how close the competition was.

I would also like to congratulate and thank our umpires. We only had three umpires for the round robin, Leah Beausoleil from Delmas age 16, Linden Pavloff from Perdue age 16 and Connor Climenhaga from Delisle age 15. All three of these young umpires did a tremendous job and Jim Flynn our UIC was a big part of their success with his mentoring. Thank you as well to our UIC Bob Clothier who attended the final day when we needed one more umpire as two diamonds were used.

Officials Development

We had a record total of 595 registered umpires in 2024. We conducted 20 in-person umpire clinics as well as providing an opportunity to register online and learn via the online education modules. The following is a breakdown of our registered umpires by District over the past five (5) years:

<u>District</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District 1 – South East	19	22	63	97	125
District 2 - Regina	28	25	34	41	57
District 3 – South West	16	23	45	70	65
District 4 - Parkland	4	8	28	18	29
District 5 - Prairie Central	15	33	49	49	119
District 6 - Saskatoon	31	49	46	49	86
District 7 - Rivers West	4	15	22	63	64
District 8 - Lakeland	10	19	52	45	49
District 9 - Northern	1	1	3	1	1
Totals	128 (Covid)	194 (Covid)	342	433	595

To help with recruitment and retention we once again charged only \$35 to all umpires 18 years of age or under regardless of level. Below are some interesting facts about our umpire registrations in 2024:

- Of our 595 registered umpires, 364 are new registrants
- 398 are 18 years of age or under
- 299 are male, 293 are female and there are 4 others
- We have 45 Indigenous umpires
- 201 umpires from 2023 did not re-register in 2024, most being under 18

We now have some work to do to provide mentoring and development initiatives for these mostly new and younger umpires.

We sent 8 umpires to Western Canadians this year and another 15 to Canadian Championships. We are not getting as many applications from umpires to attend Westerns and Canadians as we once did. Umpires are finding it more challenging to take holidays away from family to umpire and some umpires miss opportunities to work at local events closer to home that they can get paid for.

Indigenous Sport Development

2024 was a Tony Cote Summer Games year with the event being held in LaRonge. The softball competition features girls and boys in the U13, U15 and U17 age categories. We had 60 teams participate. Thank you to Jim Flynn of Prince Albert who assigned the umpires and attended the event.

Canada Games Program

Female Team – The final team of 15 has been selected along with 3 alternates. The team will be doing some off-season training and will then look to attend the Canada Cup prior to the Games. Nevada Delver is our Head Coach along with assistants Ryan Ray and Karen Thull.

Male Team – We have had a challenging time putting together the male program due to conflict with other sports and activities. The team will be finalized over the winter months and they will be planning a “Sask. Tour” in the spring to prepare for the games. Our Head Coach is Dave McCullough along with assistants Brock Perry and Clayton McKenzie.

Athlete Development Programs

Our off-season Easton athlete skill development clinics continue to be popular with our membership. This program consists of camps held in Nov. & Dec and then again in Feb. and March in both Saskatoon and Regina. Most of the athletes participating in the program are in the U11 and U13 age groups. Other athlete development programs included:

- Two 1-day Summer Fever camps in Humboldt and Kerrobert with 107 players participating
- Two Canpitch clinics in Whitewood and Langenburg with 54 players participating
- A basic skills clinic in Weyburn for 35 players
- Three U9 Festivals in Saskatoon, Kindersley and Regina with a total of 42 teams involved. These festivals include both a skills zone and a fun zone to compliment the 2 days of modified competition.

Coach Development Programs

In addition to the NCCP we offer a variety of coach development programs, including the following:

- We held four Learn to Play Coach Orientations in Warman, Saskatoon, Yorkton and Fort Qu’Appelle with 181 coaches involved
- We held five online sport science mental performance workshops for 94 coaches

We continue to promote our Athlete Era mobile app to coaches involved in our younger age groups. The app provides coaches with drills, lesson plans, and communication features to share among coaches and parents. Thank you to Softball Canada for allowing us to utilize the Learn to Play manuals and Coaching Guides as the primary content within the app. In 2024 we had a record number of 539 coaches utilizing the app.

NCCP

In addition to organizing our athlete development and Canada games programs our Program Coordinator Jacqueline Eiwanger does an awesome job with our coaching program. The following clinics were held this year:

- **Community Softball Coach Clinics:**
 - Weyburn – 6 coaches
 - Battleford – 13 coaches
 - Rosetown – 15 coaches
 - Quad Town Minor Ball (Vibank) – 17 coaches
 - Langenburg – 16 coaches
 - Saskatoon – 29 coaches
 - Regina – 34 coaches
 - Moose Jaw – 12 coaches
 - Indigenous – One Arrow School (Duck Lake) – 6 coaches
 - Indigenous – Meadow Lake – 12 coaches
 - Indigenous – Piapot – 5 coaches

- **Comp. Intro On-line Modules & In-person**
 - On-Line Set 1: 17 coaches
 - On-Line Set 2: 16 coaches
 - On-Line Set 3: 15 coaches
 - Saskatoon – 30 coaches
 - Regina – 15coaches
 - Evaluations – Several

Marketing & Promotion

We completed the third year of our marketing project this April that featured the following advertising initiatives as part of our campaign:

TV	4 CTV stations involving 15 second spots from Feb. - April
Digital Audio (Spotify)	30 second clips running from Feb. – April
Online	15 second pre-roll video and 15 second You Tube pre-roll video
Paid Social	Facebook, Instagram, Twitter from Feb. – April
Outdoor (Billboards)	Billboards in the 8 largest cities in Sask. from Feb. – April
Radio	8 cities on 10 stations – 30 second spots from Feb. – April

Over the past three years we have spent just under \$500,000 on our marketing campaign and wish to thank Bravo Tango of Regina for their expertise and leadership in bringing this project to fruition. We keep a constant presence on social media and our website. Throughout the year we conduct a variety of promotions and contests to engage our members and have them win some Softball Sask SWAG. Our Administrative Assistant Nicole Herbert does a terrific job for us in this area.

Provincial Softball Leagues for Minor Boys and Girls

The Rawling Grand Slam girls and boys Leagues went ahead again in 2024. This year we were able to get commissioners in place, which really helped to take some onus off Softball Saskatchewan to do most of the organizing.

The following communities had teams in the boy's league: Parkland, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Delisle, Wadena, Laird, and Ochapowace. In the girls there were: Weyburn, Melville, Langenburg, Yorkton, Swift Current, Humboldt, Warman, Kindersley, Macklin, Maidstone, Unity, Shellbrook, Melfort, Tisdale, Rosthern and Prince Albert. Unfortunately, a couple of weekends were cancelled due to rain, but overall participation was very good.

Challenges

For us, minor male softball continues to be a concern and is certainly a part of our game that is desperately in need of some solutions to keep it alive long term.

Volunteer recruitment and retention at the local level is becoming a serious problem for many minor Associations. It is more and more challenging to find volunteers willing to step up to be part of and help operate local minor league executives. I believe we as provincial associations may have to take a more active role in helping to provide training opportunities and

Final Thoughts

All of us in Saskatchewan hope our friends from across the country are doing well and we look forward to seeing you all in person when we get together in beautiful Saskatoon.

Respectfully yours,
Guy Jacobson-Executive Director

#ThisIsSoftball

SOFTBALL MANITOBA 2024 REPORT



❖ REGISTRATION

- ◆ 2020 – 2024 Registration Trends. Softball Manitoba registered **569** teams in 2024. Here is an overview of the last 5 years of registrations at Softball Manitoba:

DIVISION	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Plus/minus from 2022
MINORS	227	186	443	489	524	+35
FAST PITCH	42	34	32	28	23	-5
SLO-PITCH	50	33	35	19	22	+3
TOTAL TEAMS	319	253	500	536	569	+33
UMPIRES	135	140	168	204	225	+21

2024 Classification	Female	Male	Coed	2024 Players	F	M	Non-Binary	Total
LTP Teams	0	0	171	LTP	1269	284	1	1554
Minor Teams	320	13	20	Minor	4004	330	7	4341
Fast Pitch Teams	12	2	0	Fast Pitch	255	73	1	329
Slo-Pitch Teams	0	1	21	Slo-Pitch	53	276	0	329
Orthodox	3	0	6	Umpires	97	127	1	225
TOTAL	335	16	218	TOTAL	5678	1090	10	6778

❖ MARKETING – PROMOTING SOFTBALL MANITOBA

- ◆ **Annual Awards** - Player, Coach, Team, Official and Volunteer Annual Awards & Recognition.
- ◆ **MOP Awards** – Most Outstanding Players presented at all Minor Provincial Championships. **New.**
- ◆ **RAMP Database** – RAMP (includes all our players, coaches, and umpires) with improved access to our membership. Improvements include online registration and other opportunities.
- ◆ **Media** - Conferences/Releases to announce Hall of Fame Inductees, hosting Major events, etc.
- ◆ **Softball MB Hall of Fame and Museum** – Annual Induction Dinner. Museum open May-Sept. Annual Memorial Awards presented.
- ◆ **Sponsorship Promotion** – Major Sponsors are included on Travel T-shirts and Development Camp T-shirts. Major Sponsors include Rawlings-Worth-Easton-Miken and Awards & More. These 2 and our secondary sponsors are promoted in our Information Handbook, Website, Major Events, Provincials and Coach and Umpire Clinics
- ◆ **Travel Team Recognition** - T-shirts, Pins and Funding for Provincial Champs & Travel Teams.
- ◆ **Softball Manitoba Website** – Up to date information for our Membership and a place for our Membership to share important Softball information/news.

❖ COACH DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ **NCCP 2024:**
 - Community Softball Clinics – Eleven clinics were held. 124 coaches were Certified.
 - Competition Introduction Softball Clinics – Five virtual clinics were held with a total of 39 coaches in attendance. Four hybrid-on field clinics were held with a total of 44 coaches in attendance.
 - Competition Introduction On-Field Evaluations – 33 coaches were Evaluated.
- ◆ **Respect in Sport:**

Respect In Sport is an on-line training course for Coaches (and now Parents) designed to assist them in identifying and dealing with abuse, neglect, harassment and bullying in sport. Softball Manitoba made this mandatory for all coaches registered with our Provincial Sport Organization with certification renewal requirements every 5 years.
- ◆ **Coach Screening:**

Starting in 2022 Softball Manitoba implemented criminal record checks (valid for 5 years) as part of our registration process. Our Board and Staff were the first to complete it, followed by all coaches competing in Provincials leading to Westerns and Canadians, all Travel Umpires, all our Clinicians as well as Coaches on any teams applying for Travel Permits. In 2024 100% of coaches were successfully screened as a requirement for ALL Softball MB registered Coaches.

❖ PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ **Softball Manitoba Regional Skills Development Academy: (2024 – Final Year)**
This past winter Softball MB ran our initial Regional Skills Development Academy for 12 weeks between January – April 2024. Our academy included defensive, offensive, pitching, and catching instruction as well as Sport Psychology. Three Classifications of Training were offered (levels included Grassroots, Competitive and High Performance) and a total of 195 applications were received. The 90 athletes that went through the program were from all minor female classifications (18 A / 30 AA / 42 AAA). The program included Defensive, Offensive, Pitching, Catching instruction, Strength and Conditioning and Sport Psychology and some intro to High Performance for those athletes looking forward to the 2024 MB Games and 2025 Canada Summer Games. Following the Development program (March 2023), Competition included Travel to Kansas with a U17 team (March-2024). Team selections matched US age categories as opposed to MB age categories resulting in a closer match in competition level.
- ◆ **Manitoba Softball Academy: (New for 2024/25)**
After wrapping up the 2024 RSDA, Paige Churchill (Smith) stepped up to fill the role of Program Lead. A full assessment of the program was completed, and it was determined that the program should be split into two streams, Elite and Developmental.
 - **Elite Academy:** The program will run from November 2024 to March 2025 for athletes born 2007-2012. The Elite Program will be for athletes who are working towards goals of playing collegiate softball, provincial team or national team. Over 90 applications were received in September with a plan of keeping 48 athletes. This will make up three travel teams (U14, U16, U18) plus alternates. The Elite Program will include, classroom sessions (rules, nutrition, goal setting, mental health and athlete talks), strength & conditioning, two USA travel tournaments and softball specific skills based on positions (pitcher, catcher, position).
 - **Development Academy:** The program will run from January to April 2025 for athletes born 2008-2013 targeting grassroots softball. The Development Stream will be for A/AA athletes and sessions will be based on player position. There will be six sessions for position players from January – March, and four sessions for pitchers/catchers in April. Registration for this program will begin in November.
- ◆ **Canpitch:**
Clinics included a spring and summer clinic then followed by Team training between October to April. Currently at 3 'trained' MPI instructors plus 10 Regional Pitching Instructors. 276 participants went through the program in 2024.
- ◆ **Inner City Programs:**
Softball MB provides 2-day camps for school programs where students are introduced to softball through foundational skills and play games/scrimmage. Within this programming is SPIN – These are after school camps hosted by the City of Winnipeg. Softball Manitoba provides clinicians and equipment attending various Inner-City locations throughout the City. The most successful of these projects here has been an inner city school (Elwick) we have been working with over the past years bringing Softball into the school curriculum. At Elwick we turned a few days of development and grassroots competition into 6 weeks of daily lunch hour Softball.
- ◆ **Sport Manitoba Sports Camps:**
Every year, Softball participates in the Sport Manitoba Camps and teaches kids introductory skills to Softball right here in the Sport 4 Life Center.
- ◆ **Tobacatch:**
We offer 2 excellent stages of Catching Development Programs (TOBACatch & TOBACatch Advanced). The TOBACatch Program covers Stance, Shifting, Receiving, Framing. Blocking, Throwing, Bunts Catcher's Responsibilities. Content of TOBACatch Advanced includes everything in Program 1 at an advanced level plus works on Passed Balls, Plays at Home, Pop ups, catching various pitches, Calling a game, and various defensive Drills for catchers.
- ◆ **Sport Manitoba Softball Bilateral Development Program:**
The BDP is a Sport Manitoba program we are involved with to develop coaches, officials and athletes in the Inner City and remote areas of Manitoba. Our objective is to continue to assist anyway possible beginning with removing barriers such as racism and cultural sensitivity and increasing development at the introductory level as well as at the competitive level.
- ◆ **SPIN and Winnipeg Newcomers Sport Association:**
Softball Manitoba participates in the WNSA Softball sessions by working with kids of all ages who are newcomers to Canada – teaching the basics of Softball. 2024 = 30 kids for 4 weeks.
- ◆ **Long Term Player Development:**
Softball Manitoba continues working on LTAD to better educate coaches on the principles of LTPD and ensure that we look at the development of athletes beyond winning a Provincial title.

❖ OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ National Officials Certification Program – In 2024 Manitoba certified 225 Officials (+21 officials).
- ◆ 8 Softball MB Officials worked Western Canadian Softball Championships this past year.
- ◆ 9 Softball MB Officials worked Softball Canada Canadian Championships this past year.
- ◆ In 2024 – 6 SC umpire clinician evaluations and 2 SC evaluator assessments were completed.
- ◆ 2024 Softball Manitoba Umpire Development Committee – Another outstanding year with Officials Development, Mentoring and Evaluating, League play, Promoting Umpire Recruitment and Retention, Coordinating and Preparing umpires for Westerns and Canadian Assignments, Formulating Advancement Opportunities, Supervising and working Provincial Championships, assisting in Dispute Resolution, and assisting the Softball MB Board and Staff with Membership questions concerning Rule Interpretations, etc.

❖ COMPETITION

- ◆ **In 2024 Manitoba hosted/participated:**
 - The initial U13 Male & Female Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.
 - Softball MB hosted 20 Provincial Championships (16 Minor / 4 Adult).
 - 248 teams entered into our Provincial Championships. (as compared to 224 in 2023)
 - 13 of our Minor Teams attended Western Canadian Championships.
 - 8 of our teams represented Softball MB at Canadian Championships.
- ◆ **In 2025 Manitoba is scheduled to host:**
 - The U19 Female Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.
 - The U20 Male Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.
 - *Unconfirmed* – Softball MB Host (Winkler) has entered a bid to Host the U15 Female Canadian Championships and the U15 Male Canadian Championships. (TBD)

❖ 2024 SOFTBALL CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

2024 CHALLENGES:

- ◆ Facilities – Indoor and Outdoor. Softball Organizations across Manitoba continue to struggle to find proper places to train in the winter and compete in the summer. Indoor facilities big enough to play games in – or - appropriate for outfield development are either a rare find or unavailable as our sport continues to wait in line - well behind traditional school sports like basketball, volleyball and badminton. Outdoor facilities are a struggle as well. While our number of teams and events continue to increase – Ball diamonds to compete on (especially in urban areas) continue to decline.
- ◆ Balancing Classifications – Softball MB's Board continues to work with Minor Division League Executives and our Membership (Grassroots programs/leagues AND Elite Leagues and Organizations) so that ALL 3 Classifications ('A'/'AA'/'AAA') can continue to grow at a productive rate. Looking at 'A' League competition at Provincials there is still a need to balance the competition in the U11 and U13 categories. In the past this was solved somewhat by breaking the teams off into 2 brackets (competitive playoff bracket for the top teams and a recreation (or consolation) bracket for the remaining teams. I believe this will continue until 'AA' is a classification on its own.
'AA' has matured a year but has yet to put forward a working Executive to overlook the entire Province's 'AA' Program and/or an established League, Constitution and Balanced Schedule. Other than the Provincial Championships and a few tournaments – this program remains within a compact timetable and will continue on in one until they break away from the required 'A' support.
'AAA' has its flaws as well – as Softball MB attempts to assist the 'AAA' Organizations in fielding teams in all 4 Age Categories (U13/U15/U17/U19).
The important thing in all of this is that we find a solution where our base ("A") has enough players (especially pitching) to support a "AA" team in each Region at All age Categories after our "AAA" Organizations have formed Teams in All Regions and in All Age Categories.
- ◆ **Boundaries** – Work is required here as Softball Manitoba continues to balance Population numbers with Region/Area regarding Softball growth. Questions need answers. In AAA, do we have enough players in the City of Winnipeg to support 4 Age Categories for 3 or 4 Organizations? Are the 1-year fixes we currently provide, suffice for future development of the MPLS? Do the Rural Boundaries require a re-assessment? Are any of the Rural Regions too big? Too small? Do we do a complete shift and move on to the Sport MB – Manitoba Games Boundaries? Should the Boundaries not match in all 3 Classifications ('A'/'AA'/'AAA') – currently they do not. Does it make sense to have 1 'A' League in each Region to feed their Regional 'AA' Program which in turn has players available that can be developed so that they are a step closer to compete for a position in the Regional 'AAA' Programs?

2024 SUCCESSES:

- ◆ **Softball Leaders** - The Membership and Softball Manitoba's Leadership Group. Our successes revolve around the work put in by our League Executives, Provincial Host Committees, our Volunteer Groups, our UDC, Hall of Fame and other Committee Members, our Superb Sponsors and of course the Players, Coaches and Officials who continue to work hard in putting a good product on the diamond. Together their incredible commitment along with the cooperation and commitment of our Board & Staff, Softball Canada, Sport Law and Sport MB has continued to increase our Team Registration and the Quality of our Sport.
- ◆ **Softball Club** - Elwick School – While we have tried desperately to get Softball into School programming and part of their phys. Ed. Curriculums, seldom do we receive the cooperation like we do with Elwick School. Here we are given the opportunity to showcase Softball, providing skill introduction and organized game play as well as an introduction to the roles of Umpires. This is also an opportunity for new Canadians to play and become familiar with the sport. Along with the students (some that seldom participate in their regular physical education activities) participating in this (supposed) three-day event, teachers were also offered an opportunity to take coach clinics and offered opportunities for enrollment in Umpire clinics as well. This past year we had 288 students participate in the program. Following the 3-day event we left them with a respectable equipment inventory, and they continued to compete 3 days a week (Noon hour Softball Club) throughout May and June. The students came back this Fall and it is reported that 100 students have already signed up and are participating in Fall Softball Club!

Rule #1 in Softball Club – Spread the word and talk about starting Softball Club in Your School!



Combining Softball and Studies never hurts. Ball + Books = A great Student.

Thank You All!
Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Klym'.

DON KLYM
Executive Director

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Softball Ontario 2024 Provincial Report





Softball Ontario CanPitch Committee Report

Since last year's reporting period, we've hosted fifteen CANpitch clinics throughout the province and have trained 112 new pitchers. Here are the centers that hosted clinics:

- Baden, Ontario- Fundamentals
- Baden, Ontario- Learn2Train
- Baden, Ontario- Train2Train
- Norwich, Ontario- Fundamentals
- Norwich, Ontario- Learn2Train
- Norwich, Ontario- Train2Train
- Burford, Ontario- Fundamentals
- Burford, Ontario- Learn2Train
- Embro, Ontario- Learn2Train
- Embro, Ontario- Train2Train
- St George, Ontario- Train2Train
- St George, Ontario- Train2Train
- Brampton, Ontario-Learn2Train
- Stouffville, Ontario-Learn2Train
- Uxbridge, Ontario-Train2Train

We currently have 22 active CanPitch instructors in the province. We have 7 new Instructors who were trained at our Can-Pitch Instructor Training Clinic in Elmira, ON in January. We had 6 of the active CanPitch instructors retrained at the Instructor Training clinic in Elmira, ON. We are looking to host another CanPitch Instructor Training Clinic in Spring of 2025.

Elissa Sivel
Canpitch Committee Chair



Softball Ontario Coaching Committee Report

This was a very busy year for Coach Education in Ontario. With the wide geographical area we serve, we tried to host clinics intentionally throughout the province so coach's would not have to travel very far to become trained.

We were pleased with the results and trained 509 in the Competition Introduction stream. We have noticed that many of the coach's becoming trained are younger and have less experience than in the past. Anecdotally we observe that some of these coach's would be better served in the Community Stream and are considering ways to better “stream” coach's so they are in the right context. One of the challenges with this is, the content of both streams seems similar and coach's have expressed frustration at duplicating their work if they take the community stream one year and competitive stream the next.

We are also looking for ways to better engage new coach developers. We have had some success recruiting new coach developers, but less success retaining them and are looking at strategies to better support those folks and also continuing to apply a DEI lens to our team to better represent the diversity of coaches in Ontario.

We are also challenging ourselves and our coach developers to improve. We ask each Coach Developer to complete a PD goal that is linked to the feedback they receive from participants. We are actively trying to shift the mentality of Coach Education from something coaches “have to do” towards something coach's see a benefit in.

Scott Searle
Coaching Committee Chair



Slo-Pitch Umpire Committee Report

The Slo Pitch Umpire program is alive and well in Ontario. Once again, we have combined registration in Ontario for our umpires. Umpires pay one fee and are registered for both SP and FP. This is helping support both programs in the province. We kept our Level 1 clinics at a reduced rate for new umpires and included their registration in that fee. This was well received.

SP program held a virtual level 1 & 2 clinics that were well attended. Our premier event, SPOA Eliminations, allowed us to use 24 umpires in a 3-umpire system for the event. Our regular Super Series had a full slate of events using 70 umpires with an average of 20-25 umpires per event.

There were a few girls' high school slo-pitch events this year that we were asked to staff. OFSAAA SP Championships were held in Hamilton for which we provided 8 umpires over the 2-day event, CWOSSA SP championships were held in Kitchener and 4 umpires were provided to work the event, and SPO held their high school Girl's tournament at which we were able to provide an all-female crew.

We sent 5 umpires to the Men's and Women's Canadian SP Championships in Leduc, AB. A Canadian Qualifier event closed out the season again this year at Slo Pitch City in Dorchester.

There were a few requests that came through the Softball Ontario office for umpires for various events outside of the regular league and provincial activities. Umpires are in high demand and spread thin due to a lack of numbers. Recruitment remains a priority to bring the numbers back up in the program.

Dave Jones
SP PUIC
Softball Ontario



Fastpitch Umpire Committee Report

In 2024 Softball Ontario hosted 55 umpire clinics that included 21 youth level clinics, 28 level 1 clinics, 3 level 2 clinics and 3 refresher clinics. Some of the highlights from 2024 include training 1067 umpires through the 55 clinics we hosted and having 1624 umpires registered in Ontario. We sent 24 Umpires to various 2024 Fastpitch Canadian Championships as well as staffing 38 Provincial tournaments and 3 Canadian Qualifiers for a total of 41 events in 2024.

Looking forward to another successful season in 2025.

John Snook
FP UIC
Softball Ontario



Provincial Womens Softball Association (PWSA)

PWSA welcomed 256 teams in the 2024 season, an increase of 34 teams over our 2023 numbers. We hosted 29 events including our Provincial Qualifiers, National Qualifiers and Provincial Championships, unfortunately our Annual High School Tournament was rained out. In 2024 eight of our U17 I teams competed in the Ontario Summer Games.

- U9/11- 32 teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A, B and C Divisions.
- U13 – 60 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A and B and C Division (Both tier I & II Divisions)
- U15 - 58 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A, B and C Divisions. (Both Tier I & II Divisions)
- U17 - 46 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A, B and C Divisions. (Both Tier I & II Divisions)
- U19 - 34 total teams participated in Provincials in A, B and C Divisions. (Both Tier I & II Divisions)
- U23/Women – 8 total teams participated in Provincials Women's
- Intermediate Ladies – 18 teams participated in the Provincials

We had 15 teams participate in 4 Canadian Championships and 10 teams participate in the Eastern Canadians. Our teams won 12 medals over the various championships.

We look forward to growing again in 2025!

Debbie Malisani
President PWSA Ontario



Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA)

This year the OASA had 80 teams compete in our Qualifiers, Eliminations and Provincial tournaments.

- U9 – 8 teams in Napanee and Wilmot
- U11 – 13 teams in Frankford, Jarvis and Tara
- U13 – 17 teams in Ponsonby, Springbrook and Wilmot
- U15 - 12 teams in Wilmot and Tara
- U17 – 9 teams in Napanee and London (Ontario Summer Games)
- U20 - 14 teams in Cobourg and Cambridge
- U23 – 4 teams in Tavistock
- Mens - 6 teams in Grafton

There were 3 Senior Men's teams representing Ontario at the Canadian Championships. Carp, ON was the host of the U20 Canadians and Kitchener hosted the U23 Canadians. Ontario sent 19 teams to the Canadian Championship and 4 teams to the Eastern Canadians this year. Overall our numbers are staying the same but we are seeing an encouraging increase in our younger ages.

Mike Mulvey
OASA President



Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO)

The 2024 season was a monumental and historical one for the sport of slo-pitch softball, seeing the merging of programs of Slo-Pitch Ontario Association and of Slo-Pitch National (Ontario Region) in our continuous efforts to build the sport and offer more benefits, programs and services, more opportunities to play and to umpire, more competition for teams of all calibres and in all divisions, more perks and rewards for our Members, and more opportunities for all lovers of our sport to get involved.

This season was busy from beginning to end!

- Ran 15 Super Series Events for Mens A, B and C caliber of play
- Ran 15 Super Series Events for Womens A, B and C caliber of play
- Ran 4 Grand Slam Series Events for Mens and Womens D teams
- Ran 2 Canadian Championship Qualifying Events (Elimination Championships and a "Last Chance" Qualifier) for Mens and Womens teams
- Ran 4 Senior Circuit Events for teams with players 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+ and 75+ of age
- Ran 7 weekends of Provincial Championships in 3 locations with over 475 teams competing in 30 divisions of play
- Hosted 1 National Championship for 41 teams in 5 divisions
- Hosted 1 Ontario Provincial High School Championship for 12 teams and 160+ female athletes competing

We are expending considerable resources including financial and man-hours, in continuing our development of a Member Registration System to accommodate players, team contacts and coaches, leagues, event administration, as well as our administrators, to assist in the management and provision of our programs and services to the mutual benefit of all involved, as well as a mobile app, rewards program and a unique scheduling program. This season, we offered two levels of Membership for players, and a choice of team registration for our Leagues so that players and leagues can 'customize' their membership for their individual slo-pitch season, and access the benefits and services that are most beneficial to them. All things considered, our Member Registration went fairly well this season with it being a new system to register with, especially for any of those Members who were previously only registered with Slo-Pitch National prior to our merge. We saw the registration of over 300 adult slo-pitch leagues, over 50 tournaments sanctioned with us, and our base membership more than doubled.

One of our biggest challenges approaching the 2025 season will be effectively communicating with League and Tournament Directors and all Members to ensure the understanding of all that we have to offer in all aspects of the sport of slo-pitch, and expanding the use of our mobile app and rewards program for our Members.

Tom Buchan
CEO Slo-Pitch Ontario



Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA)

The ORSA had 51 teams registered to play in ORSA provincial tournaments in 2024. This is an increase of 1 team from the 2023 season.

- U11 Girls - 3 teams entered
- U11 Boys - 6 teams entered
- U13 Girls - 7 teams entered, up 1 team from 2023
- U13 Boys - 13 teams entered, up 5 teams from 2023. We had an A division with 7 teams and a B division with 6 teams.
- U15 Girls - 4 teams entered
- U15 Boys - 8 teams entered, up 3 teams from 2023
- U17 Girls - 4 teams entered, up 2 teams from 2023
- U20 Men's - 2 teams entered, played a 2 out of 3 series
- U23 Ladies – 4 teams entered, played 2 out of 3 series' to decide the winner

8 ORSA Provincial Championships were hosted and awarded championship trophies in 2024. Two playoff series formats were held to determine a provincial ORSA champion in U20 Men's, and U23 Ladies.

Andy Triest
ORSA President



Softball Canada Annual Meeting - Softball Québec – 2024 Report

2024 was another good season for softball in Quebec!

Despite some issues related to competing softball organizations, we achieved our objectives of increasing membership and activities. Despite a small team of employees, we maintain the standards required by our government for the larger sport federations in Quebec.

We continued to work on certain aspects of our 2021-2026 strategic plan, several projects carried out in 2024 have continued or have been added to our long list to do-list in order to achieve most of our goals.

Once again, this year, social media was at the center of our communications strategy. Mainly as our way to highlight our activities, our members and their successes. Also, by investing small amounts in advertising to reach more people for player and umpire recruitment as well as to promote different special activities.

Facebook (more than 7,000 subscribers) and Instagram (1,755 subscribers) are our main platforms. Despite our small budget, our efforts are worthwhile but we must reevaluate our Instagram strategy to reach more users on this platform.

Integrity - Anti-bullying campaign

In 2024, we continued our "Ensemble, déNONçons l'intimidation" campaign. Through this campaign, we want to raise awareness among our members, regardless of their roles, of bullying situations that occur during softball activities.



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Whether towards a player, a coach, a referee, a parent, a volunteer or an administrator, bullying of all forms, physical and verbal violence have no place in sport. Everyone on the field has the right to practice their sport with respect and safety. This campaign is a step towards having healthy and positive environments to play softball.

During the 2024 season, we distributed more than 3,750 stickers to our members. We encouraged players to add this sticker to their batting helmet. We were pleased to see the stickers on helmets everywhere this summer. In addition, more minor associations put this logo on coaches' and volunteers' clothing and now even game uniforms.

We also presented our campaign on the nationally to other provinces to inspire them to run similar campaigns.

SOFTBALL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM

Coaches summit

This event was held for a 2nd consecutive year. The objective is to bring together as many coaches as possible regardless of their level of skill and commitment. For this edition, the headliners were current athletes from the women's national team, Natalie Wideman and Morgan Rackel.

Several other speakers were present:

- Charles Miller gave a workshop on dealing with failure
- Heidi Malo gave a workshop on the parent/coach relationship
- Evelyne Paré gave a workshop on base running

In total, just under 50 coaches from all levels (B, AA, AAA) participated. Although we offered a low-cost event, it was difficult to get coaches to sign-up. We believe that this type of training is beneficial for our coaches but currently, it is financially difficult to continue to hold it. We are therefore rethinking about how to offer this type of event in 2025.

New – Mes premiers Jeux – Initiation activity

In collaboration with Sports Québec, we organized one-hour softball clinics open to all where Female Team Quebec athletes and coaches offered children the opportunity to come and try softball. Thank you to Sports Québec for supporting us financially in the implementation of this project!

- QC/CA: 5 participants
- Montreal: 150 participants





- Laurentides: 13 participants
- Laurentides: 9 participants

Team Quebec regional clinics and activities

The U23 women's team went to Centre-du-Quebec where they offered a players' clinic and played two exhibition games against the U17 boys' provincial team. The U17 girls provincial team athletes not only offered clinics to players from the Lakeshore association in the spring, but also organized an outdoor clinic for these same athletes, before playing an exhibition match against U19 Team Quebec. Thanks to a strong advertising effort led by the association and perfect weather, the event took place under sunny skies, providing a great day to play. Finally, the U19 women's provincial team gave a players' clinic to players from the Laval region.

National team clinics

Taking advantage of Natalie Wideman (catcher) and Morgan Rackel (pitcher) already being in town for the coaches' summit, clinics were offered to athletes U11 and older. A total of 65 athletes participated in these clinics that they greatly enjoyed.

Canpitch

The Canpitch program was popular in this 2024 season. After its success in 2023, we kept the same operating format.

- Possibility of holding clinics over a period of 4 to 8 weeks.
- Fixed rates, regardless of the number of participants.
- Canpitch instructor trained in as many regions as possible



A total of 7 clinics were hosted in 2024:

- 2 - 6-week clinics
- 3 - 5-week clinics
- 2 - 4-week clinics

In 2025, we want to train new instructors and hope to attract new associations to this program.

Coaching Clinics

The number of training courses offered remained constant in 2024, with the addition of an initiation training in the Chaudière-Appalaches region in the spring. We are able to respond efficiently to requests received and offer training locally. However, a lack of communication between the regions and their coaches resulted in many coaches realizing mid summer that they didn't have all of their coaching requirements completed. As in 2023, a virtual information meeting was held in the spring, allowing participants to better understand their pathway. However, as the federation does not know who the new coaches are, it remains difficult to ensure that all the information reaches the right people.

Here are the number of participants for each training pathway:

- Initiation: 1 clinic, 9 participants
- Continued Participation – In person: 6 clinics, 88 participants
- Continued participation – Online: 6 clinics, 59 participants
- Introduction Competition – In person: 2 clinics, 34 participants
- Introduction Competition – Online: 6 clinics, 85 participants
- Introduction Competition– Evaluation: 23 participants

A positive point to highlight is that far fewer financial penalties had to be applied compared to last year, because of coaches respecting their coaching requirements at our provincial events.

Coach mentorship program – Ministry

In 2024, Aryane Désy began the second year of her program, benefiting from the support of Brad Pelletier, who mainly supports her on technical aspects. Geneviève Houle also played a mentoring role for Aryane, helping her master the skills necessary to manage a high-level team.

At the beginning of the summer, Éliane Cinq-Mars began her mentoring journey with Olivier Trudel, the volleyball coach of the Montreal Carabins, with the aim of strengthening her skills in leadership, organization, and performance planning. She also



benefits from the support of Mathieu Roy, who mentor's her to deepen her technical and strategic knowledge through exchanges of visions, and coaching methods in order to integrate these aspects into her process as a coach.

Diversity, equity, inclusion and the advancement of women in softball

Female coaches mentoring program – Softball Québec

This program was back for a 3rd year. Three (3) female coaches were able to benefit from the help of a mentor during the season. They had the opportunity to learn and develop with the support of the best coaches through group and duo sessions. Each mentee coach also had the opportunity to complete the NCCP training for free.

Podcast: " Le softball au féminin"

The Podcast "Le softball au féminin" was back with a new image in 2024. Now hosted by Léa Chevrier, the podcast has new episodes every month highlighting inspiring women in softball in Quebec. Guests include athletes, referees and administrators. Softball Québec thanks Égale Action for their financial support to relaunch a new season of the podcast.

Softball Canada DEI team

Softball Quebec continued its involvement at the national level with the presence of Sarah Manfred on Softball Canada's diversity, equity, inclusion team completing her second year as co-director of the committee. Notably, this committee put forward a new Indigenous logo for Softball Canada in 2024.

Development Structure - Ligue de Fastpitch Féminine Élite du Québec (LFFEQ) – AA

Although the season went smoothly, the LFFEQ encountered significant difficulties in managing the league. The board of directors has few members, and, for the second year in a row, Softball Québec took responsibility for organizing the league's playoffs.

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Here are the number of teams in the LFFEQ for the 2024 season:

- U13: 6 teams
- U15: 8 teams
- U17: 4 teams
- U19: 4 teams
- U23: 1 teams

Several regions managed to start new teams in the U13, U15 and U17 categories. The most notable additions are the arrival of the U13 and U17 Montreal Angels.

However, participation remains fragile across the province, and the creation of hybrid teams within the provincial teams was essential to strengthen the U15 and U17 categories. Without this, the U17 category would probably not gone ahead in 2024.

Provincial Scorekeeping training Program

After the success of previous years, Softball Quebec continued to develop and offer the provincial scorekeeper training program using an online format. This format allows us to reach more members across the province. Our training courses provide the opportunity for new scorekeepers to be introduced to scorekeeping and provide the opportunity for returning scorekeepers to advance their abilities.

Associations and leagues also had the opportunity to hold in person training with our instructors. This option was popular in 2024 with 5 courses offered including 4 level 3 courses to support Canadian championship organizing committees in preparation for their championship's.

This year, 187 scorekeepers were certified through our program.

Statsenligne

This local (Quebec owned) company allows us to offer our members statistics services, online scorekeeping, a mobile application and website. We offer these services free of charge to our member leagues (value \$188) which is very appreciated by our members!





Regional development

Gaspésie:

- Our involvement and work in Gaspésie in 2023 had a great outcome in 2024. For the first time, the Gaspé Pirates participated in the girls B Provincial Festival in the U15 category where they won gold.
- Associations in the region have demonstrated an interest in being more involved in the future by participating in coaching training and continuing to participate in the provincial championships. We will certainly work with them to continue to develop softball in their region in both women's and men's games.

Cree Nation:

- The James Bay league returned to normal in 2024 following a shortened season in 2023 due to the forest fire. This allowed Softball Québec to work with local associations and ESIRA on numerous events during the summer.
 - Chisasibi – Daniel Joly
 - 2 days of player and coaches' clinics
 - 7 coaches completed an in person continued participation module
 - Pitching instructor training to develop pitching coaches in the region
 - 4 clinics for youth (girls and boys) aged U9 to U19 for both pitching and defensive strategies
 - Waskaganish & Nemaska - Mathieu Roy et Marc-André Villeneuve
 - Waskaganish: 4 days with 5 groups of youths and adults with a total of around 75 participants
 - Nemaska: 3 days with 3 groups of youths and adults with a total of around 30 participants

Centre-du-Québec:

- Michel Leclair and Jean-Yves Doucet visited several elementary schools in the Centre-du-Québec region in the spring to initiate students to softball.
 - Notre Dame school: 49 students
 - Jean Rivard school: 96 students
 - Lyster School: 94 students
 - Laurierville school: 78 students

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"L'alignement Gagnant"

Given the slowdown in participation during the virtual workshops of the 2023 season, our objective for the 2024 season was to respond directly to the needs of associations. To do this, local or regional associations could complete a simple training request form. Only one association, St-Eustache/Boisbriand, requested a workshop on practice planning. Nearly 30 coaches participated and were greatly appreciative. Unfortunately, other associations have shown no interest.

In May, a workshop to better understand the NCCP pathways was offered to coaches and administrators. In total, 17 people participated in the workshop.

For the 2025 season, the option offered to associations will be back given that they are currently taking the lead to develop their coaches and/or administrators.

Timbits Softball

The Timbits Softball program had another successful year. We had 35 associations with a total of 677 children who participated in the program compared to 633 in 2023. Thanks to the exceptional work of our minor associations, we continue to see an increase in participation in the program.

The Timbits manual created by Softball Québec has continued to be popular because it is easy to use for coaches when preparing their practices.

Despite no new Timbits shirts being provided by Softball Canada, we managed to provide shirts to all our associations who requested them from our reserve from previous years. The first associations to order also received Timbits medals until we ran out.





EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Sport-études

The softball sport-étude program at St-Gabriel School continues to grow, now including 23 athletes, just one away from the 24 limit. New coaches have joined the team in an effort to optimize the athlete/coach ratio, which will contribute to an enriching learning experience for all.

However, our survey done at the beginning of the year to assess the possibility of opening new programs in other regions did not yield conclusive results. Unfortunately, the majority of coaches, being volunteers, have little availability to run such programs the full school year.



Synergy projects

In 2024, the synergy projects saw significant progress:

Project 1: Determining factors for the permanent retention of softball players in Quebec – "relève" and "élite" athletes

The project is completed and we received the final research report. The main recommendations included:

- Implement a comprehensive psychological and mental health support strategy
- Adapt training schedules
- Promote better conflict management

An in-depth analysis of the report will be done in the fall in order to develop an action plan for the upcoming years.

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Project 2: Determine the optimal rotation speed of the ball for pitchers based on pitch speed and the effect.

We managed to organize two days of data collection with pitchers from the women's provincial teams' program. We are now in the data analysis phase and hope to have a first report early 2025.

Female Team Quebec Fastpitch Program – Team Quebec AAA

Season and Canadian Championships

On the women's side, five teams (U15, U17, U17 Espoir, U19, U23) were in action for a total of 63 athletes and 17 coaches. The athletes continued their development and some teams were able to stand out during their Canadian championships.

Notably the U23 team brought home a bronze medal from the Senior Canadian championship. Our U15 team had an excellent 5th position at their Canadian championship our best finish in the last ten years. Our U17 Espoir, U17 and U19 teams competed well, but were unable to finish in the top twelve of the preliminary rounds.

Individually, several athletes distinguished themselves this year at the Canadian championships:

- Jade Mainville: Best pitcher at the U15 Canadian championship
- Mégane Ricard: All-star outfielder at the U15 Canadian championship
- Éléna Girard: All-star infielder at the U17 Canadian championship
- Megan Veilleux: All-star utility player at the senior Canadian Championship
- Emma Duncan: All-star outfielder at the senior Canadian championship

The U15, U17 Espoir and U17 teams' selection camps were held in September in preparation for the 2025 season. The U23 team will hold its final selection camp in December to allow athletes playing in the NCAA and NJCAA to participate.

Difficulty accessing indoor facilities as well as increasingly high rental costs continue to make logistics and respecting a budgetary framework difficult without impacting athletes' developmental opportunities.

Visit from Natalie Wideman et Morgan Rackel

Team Quebec athletes had the privilege of working with two athletes recognized at their positions: Natalie Wideman (catcher) and Morgan Rackel (pitcher). During the first day, pitchers and catchers were able to benefit from their valuable advice. While on the second day, all athletes were invited to work on their defensive and base running abilities.





Athletes' summit

For a second consecutive year, in parallel with the coaches' summit, athletes of the provincial team program had the opportunity to participate in a day of development workshops. They completed the Level 3 scorekeeper course, participated in a media day, and attended a mental preparation workshop with Charles Miller. The day concluded with softball specific workshops led by Natalie Wideman and Morgan Rackel, providing a comprehensive and enriching experience for developing their skills

Team Quebec tournament



The Quebec Invitation tournament held its last edition in Île-Perrot, after nearly fifteen years of success at this location. Due to the state of the fields, which no longer meets the required standards, as well as the constraints linked to the proximity of the new municipal swimming pool, the event will move to a new complex in 2025.

The 2024 edition was unfortunately overshadowed by a lack of teams in the U15 category, which led to the cancellation of this category. However, the tournament still brought together 22 teams in the U17 and U23 categories, taking place without a hitch and in a friendly atmosphere.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the city of Île-Perrot for the unwavering support it has offered us over the years. We can't wait to start this new adventure with the city of Chateauguay.

A special thank you also goes to our organizing committee, Pascal and Aryane Désy, who supported the event with passion and dedication for five years. Their commitment has been invaluable, and we send them a huge thank you for everything they have accomplished!

Restructuring of the women's program

During the 2024 season, we set up two hybrid teams: the U15 and the U17 Espoir. Athletes on these teams also play at the regional level (AA). After a first year of this format, adjustments were made, in particular by reducing scheduling for the month of May. This allowed the athletes to fully concentrate on their regional commitments.

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We also strengthened communication with the regional teams, although we have noticed that some parents and athletes still have difficulty expressing their fatigue throughout the year making it difficult for coaches to adjust accordingly.

This new structure has been beneficial, allowing the U15 AA category to develop and now include eight teams, while considerably raising the level of play. Likewise, four new regional teams were able to play in the U17 AA category, although it still remains fragile. The satisfaction rate at the U17 level is mixed, which puts this team in a dangerous situation of happening or not in 2025.

In terms of performance, the U15 team was able to surprise many by winning the New Hampshire tournament and finishing 5th at Canadian championship. This demonstrates that regional development is more promising than ever!

Restructuring the Team Quebec academy program

For the 2024 season, the objective was to offer clinics within practices of regional teams according to their needs. Unfortunately, given the lack of time of high-level coaches, this could not be achieved. We will try to review the academy project for the 2025 season.

Women's college softball in the United States

The list of Quebec athletes who are currently playing on college or university teams, or have agreed to play there next year, whether in the NCAA, the NJCAA or the NAIA has grown further. Here is the list of these athletes:

Emma Duncan, Colorado Christian University, Colorado (NCAA, Division II)
Naomi Cohen, Assumption University, Massachusetts (NCAA, Division II)
Léa Chevrier, Miami University, Florida (NCAA, Division I)
Estelle Audette, Cottey College, Missouri (NAIA)
Jenny Bouthillier, St Johns River State College, Florida (NJCAA, Division I)
Rosalie Dufresne, Tallahassee Community College, Florida (NJCAA, Division I)
Marianne Labelle, Tallahassee Community College, Florida (NJCAA, Division I)
Alyssa Legault, Bryant & Stratton College, Virginie (NJCAA, Division II)
Vivia Ma, Bryant & Stratton College, Virginie (NJCAA, Division II)
Noémye Letendre, Lake Land College, Illinois (NJCAA - Division I)





Koralie Morin, Lane College, Tennessee (NCAA - Division II)
Emma Pelletier, USC Union Lady Bantams, South Carolina (NJCAA, Division I)
Raphaëlle Bouchard, USC Union Lady Bantams, South Carolina (NJCAA, Division I)
Megan Veilleux, Florida Southwestern State College, Florida (NJCAA, Division I)
Marie-Soleil Rondeau, Midland College, Texas (NJCAA, Division I)
Léa Fréchette, Arizona Western College, Arizona (NJCAA, Division I)
Lily Kirlin, Bryant & Stratton College, Virginie (NJCAA, Division II)
Alexia Chevrier, Jefferson College, Missouri (NJCAA - Division I)

These athletes are proving to be true role models and proving that softball can be the springboard to remarkable achievements. This enthusiasm is manifested not only within the Team Quebec program, but also well beyond, inspiring the next generation. Many young athletes, driven by passion and the desire for success, aspire to follow in their footsteps, motivated by their achievements and their determination.

National team

Congratulations to Alexia Chevrier who earned a spot on the junior national team last April. Playing as an outfielder, she won a silver medal at the Pan American championship which took place in Colombia.

Brad Pelletier remains part of the junior national team coaching pool. He had the opportunity to participate in several selection camps over the past year.

New – Sport Ambition

We are delighted to have signed a partnership with Sports Ambitions, a Quebec agency specialized in placing high-end athletes in university athletics programs. This partnership marks a significant step in our commitment to supporting Softball Québec athletes, by offering them services adapted to their needs and ambitions.

This new agreement will allow us to join forces to provide a range of exclusive services, including video highlights of competitions and practices, as well as targeted promotion to JUCO and NCAA coaches, translating transcripts, analyzing courses, and verifying eligibility. This support will be offered throughout the process for a fee of \$3,000 + taxes.

Additionally, the Program will organize an annual conference, in collaboration with Sports Ambitions, targeting athletes and their parents. This conference will explain in detail the recruitment process to American colleges, thus offering a valuable opportunity for families to learn about and discuss the processus,

After carefully analyzing the services offered by several agencies, we are convinced that this partnership will bring added value to our athletes who wish to embark on this journey. We look forward to seeing the benefits of this collaboration and supporting our athletes in their quest for excellence.

Male Team Quebec Fastpitch Program

As in 2023 season, the men's excellence program focused its efforts on the U20 and U17 teams, unfortunately not being able to put together an U23 team. And what can we say other than WOW! The U17 team impressed by winning gold at the U17 boy's Canadian Championship, in front of their home fans in the Chaudière-Appalaches region. The U20 team, meanwhile, earned an impressive bronze medal after a slow start to the tournament at the U20 men's Canadian Championship. These remarkable performances demonstrate the constant progress of the next generation and showcased our excellent prospects for the 2025 Canada Games.

The U15 boy's Canadian Championship was also held Quebec soil, in St-Léonard-d'Aston. For the occasion, two regional teams represented Quebec. The Bellechasse team finished 7th while the Centre-Du-Québec finished 11th.

During these national competitions, a few players earned a spot on the all-star team of their respective Canadian championship:

- Antoine Latulippe, All-star catcher, Bellechasse U15
- Nathan Hetherington, All-star infielder, Bellechasse U15
- Elliot Michaud, All-star infielder, Centre-du-Québec U15
- Mark Tomatuk, MVP, Team Quebec U17
- Jérémy Breton, Best pitcher, Team Quebec U17
- Félix Lavallée, All-star outfielder, Team Quebec U17
- Julien Noël, All-star first basemen, Team Quebec U17





National Team

Mathieu Roy is the only male athlete to compete with the national team in 2024. Last July, he helped Canada finish 3rd in its qualifying group in Argentina for the 2025 World Cup. He continues to be an important player for the team as shown by his .412 batting average. With his team, the New York Gremlins, he won the World Series for the 4th consecutive season, where he was named to the tournament's all-star team as an outfielder. He was also named the 4th best hitter in the world, placing him 1st among Canadian athletes.

Jean-Yves Doucet remains part of the national team coaching pool. He is mainly supporting staff to the current coaching group but could be called upon to replace one of them at any time.

COMPETITIONS

2025 Canada Games – Women's and men's

Athletes and coaches have been engaged in the selection process for the past year to form the best possible team for the 2025 Canada Games. At the women's level, the tryouts ended with an exhibition tournament in Connecticut. In September, 14 athletes were selected to the Quebec U19 team. A fifteenth athlete will be added to the team prior to the event. On the men's level, the selection process is still ongoing. The team will be finalized in the spring of 2025.

A Cup competition circuit

For the third consecutive year, Softball Québec held the A Cups. This competition circuit was held in two categories this year: U11 girls and U13 boys. The structure of the women's circuit is different from that of the men's due to different realities. We saw an increase in participation in 2024!

Girls: This division includes teams from local associations. In 2024, five (5) associations made all-star teams to participate in the A Cups.

- St-Eustache/Boisbriand Rafales
- Valleyfield Panthers
- Laval Flames
- CMA Flames
- LBMMSJSR (St-Jean-sur-Richelieu)

Two cups took place:

- A cup SJSR: 5 teams
- A cup Valleyfield: 5 teams

In addition, for the girl's division, there is the final cup which represents the A provincial championship.

Boys: This division was once again organized at the regional level. Regions created teams according to athlete interest with teams of equal strength when a region has more than one team.

Two cups took place:

- A cup Centre du Québec: 3 teams
- A cup - Bellechasse: 4 teams
 - During the cup in Bellechasse, a girl's team to participate in order to prepare for their participation in the Girls B provincial festival.

Provincial Events – Women's Fastpitch

Provincial Championships – Girls "AA" fastpitch

Following the pilot project for Eastern Canadian Championship qualifying in 2023, we noted that the new format created complexity in terms of schedules for the teams. In addition, having made the provincial AA championship after the Eastern Canadian Championships, took away a lot of value from the provincial championship and the motivation for participation teams.

For 2024, the AA Provincial Championship returned to mid-July and was once again the qualifying event for the Eastern Canadian Women's Championships. As in the past, the best two teams per category will earn their spot at the Eastern Canada championship during the provincial championship.



The St-Jean-sur-Richelieu minor softball league held the 2024 edition of the championship in Iberville. Twenty-two (22) regional teams throughout four categories participated in the event:

- U13: 6 teams
- U15: 8 teams
- U17: 4 teams
- U19: 4 teams

Final A Cup – Girl's "A" fastpitch

The final A cup, the equivalent of the provincial championship, was held by the minor association of Auteuil (Laval). Five U11 girl's teams participated.

Provincial Festival – Girls "B" fastpitch

The Provincial B Festival maintained its growth from 2023. The competition was held in St-Lazare (U11, U15, U23) and Boisbriand (U13, U17, Intermediate) thanks to the work of the two local associations: the As from St-Lazare and the Rafales from St-Eustache/Boisbriand.

The competition brought together the best teams from each region in the U11 to U23 categories.

In total, 46 teams participated in the festival:

- U11: 12 teams
- U13: 9 teams
- U15: 11 teams
- U17: 4 teams
- U23: 7 teams
- Intermediate: 3 teams

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Eastern Canadian Championships – Fastpitch

In August, Quebec sent 7 girls' teams and 1 boy's team to participate in the Eastern Canada championships.

U13 girls:

- The Rive-Sud Stars, the Lac St. Louis Lions and the Sud-Ouest Dragons traveled to Nova Scotia for the U13 championship.

U15 girls:

- Three Quebec teams participated in the U15 Eastern Canada championship in New Brunswick: the Sud-Ouest Dragons, the QC/CA Rocket and the Lanaudiere Royales.
- Quebec double medaled with the Dragons winning gold and the Rocket winning Bronze.

U17 girls:

- The Montreal Angels traveled to New Brunswick for the U17 championship.

U15 boys:

- Our only boys team participating in the Eastern Canada Championship was Team Bellechasse from QC/CA who traveled to Nova Scotia for the U15 boy's Championship.

Eastern Canada Championship – Host Province

After hosting an Eastern Canada championship in 2023, we have had no success in finding an organizing committee for 2024. We had no choice but to send the U13 women's championship scheduled in QC to another province.

Canadian Championships – Host Province – Girls Fastpitch

Significant challenges had to be overcome in organizing the U15 girl's Canadian Championship. Despite numerous meetings with the City of Ile-Perrot, it quickly became clear that it had neither the time nor the resources necessary to make the infrastructure changes to meeting Softball Canada standards for 2024. It was therefore decided to hold the event on two sites,





with the addition of Philippe-Bonneau Park in Chateaugay. The format had pre-competition activities (meetings with coaches, officials, opening ceremony, etc.) to take place at Michel-Martin Park. Unfortunately, just three days before the event, flooding forced the organizing committee to rethink the banquet, as the originally venue had been closed due to flooding.

The preliminary round was separated on the two complexes while the final round took place at Philippe-Bonneau Park. Although the distance between the two was not ideal and management was duplicated, the event was a success. The City of Chateaugay has also confirmed its interest in hosting this type of event in the future, and Softball Canada has provided very good comments on this new complex.

Finally, a huge thank you to our organizing committee, Pascal and Aryane Désy, as well as to Sophie Bédard, who came in as reinforcement, who were able to deliver a high-quality event despite the many challenges encountered.

Quebec Games

Although it has been announced that we will not be at the 2025 Quebec Games, we are doing everything we can to ensure that our regions hold their regional finals, in order to maintain our recognition for years to come and hope for a return to the 2027 Games.

UMPIRES

We are happy to have achieved our main goal we have been working towards for the past several seasons: return to our pre-pandemic membership numbers. In 2024, we managed to affiliate 361 umpires recruiting 181 new umpires!

This year again we bonified our umpire offer to increase recruitment. We offered new umpires a starting kit which includes a dry-fit shirt with the Softball Québec umpires logo as well as a Rawlings kit with umpire accessories (broom, counting, ball pocket). This helps reduce costs and encourage young and old alike to try umpiring.

For recruitment, we once again focused on an advertising campaign on social media before the start of the clinic season. This campaign generated 763 clicks and 57 registrations and was viewed over 56,000 times by nearly 36,000 people in Quebec. This way of doing things may be old fashioned but yields a lot of results for just a few hundred dollars.

This advertising strategy must also be supported by effective use of social media. In addition to advertising, we must offer content on our activities, particularly clinics, and promote our members who stand out at Canadian championships and international events.

Year	Total	Minor	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Trained	Accredited
2018	334	56	95	53	41	20	7	0	62
2019	298	39	69	41	33	21	7	55	33
2020	207	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	207
2021	287	X	113	40	25	16	10		83
2022	256	X	104	30	29	19	10		64
2023	305	X	132	49	32	17	12		63
2024	361	X	199	50	32	17	13		50

Canadian and international championships and certifications

During the 2024 season, Quebec sent 17 umpires to Canadian championships; 15 in 9 fastpitch and 2 to slowpitch. Six of our experienced umpires were asked by Softball Canada to be umpire in chief for these championships, particularly in the three championships taking place in Quebec. Ariane Longtin was umpire in chief for the U15 girls, Jocelyn Lacroix and Sarah-Ève Jacob for the U15 boy's, Diego La Manna for the U17 boys, Geneviève Gaudreau for the women's OPEN and Patrick Chiquette for the slow pitch championship.

Only one referee represented Quebec and Canada at an international event this season. Geneviève Gaudreau was selected to officiate the Men's Fastpitch World Cup group qualifying stage in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.



Training and development

The CDA, with the help of regional umpires in chief, organized 25 clinics to accredit umpires this season. Seven of these clinics were given online and brought in 71 people! For the 19 in-person clinics, they were offered in 12 different regions and brought in nearly 230 umpires!

This season, the CDA organized the Softball Québec Umpire Symposium which was intended to be an opportunity to provide training outside of the accreditation clinic curriculum. The Symposium was held over two days at the Manoir D'Youville in Chateaugay in February. Several learning opportunities were on the agenda and the CDA including:

- Charles Miller, mental preparation consultant, on concentration in the face of adversity.
- Ariane Longtin, Patrick Chiquette and Diego La Manna on "Knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills"
- Jocelyn Lacroix on the rule book
- JD/Flex,
- Fastpitch pitching
- and the three-umpire system.

During the same weekend was also the annual Softball Québec umpires' gala where 14 recognition awards were given to umpires and umpire supervisors who stood out at provincial, national and international competitions during the 2023 season.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continued to grow at all level. Here are our 2024 season affiliation numbers:

League		Association	Teams		Timbits	Umpires	Tournaments	
Minor	Adult		Minor	Adult			Minor	Adult
13	190	51	292*	1527	655	361	24	40

*Missing number of teams from the JBMSL (Cree Nation)

Orthodox softball - Circuits

Unlike the majority of Canadian provinces, the most played softball in Quebec is orthodox. This discipline is popular from recreational to very competitive levels so we have a wide variety of tournaments!

The main circuit in Quebec is the "Organisation Softball Métropolitain" (OSBM) which hosts events in the greater Montreal metropolitan area, especially in the Lanaudière and Laurentides regions. The OSBM is divided into two: a B tier (competitive) which includes 8 teams and a C tier (semi-competitive) which includes 10 teams. Each tier had 5 tournaments during the season.



Another important circuit in Quebec is the "Challenge C du Centre-du-Québec" which has 8 permanent teams and at certain tournaments additional teams are invited. This season the circuit hosted 5 tournaments in the Centre-du-Québec and the Eastern townships regions, but teams from the Quebec/Chaudière-Appalaches region also participate in the circuit.

Although the provincial OPEN circuit no longer exists, certain tournaments are still held in this category which allows the best players and pitchers from Quebec to compete. In 2024, two OPEN orthodox tournaments took place: one in Quebec and one in St-Esprit, Lanaudière. 8 teams participated in each tournament and coming from Lanaudière, Laurentides, Rive-Sud, Quebec, Montreal and Centre-du-Québec.

Slow-pitch

Championnat canadien

The Canadian Men's and Women's Slow Pitch Championship took place in Leduc, Alberta this year and Quebec sent 3 teams. The men's championship had 20 teams and the women's championship had 16 teams.

On the men's side, Proaxion/Horizon Santé won the gold medal thanks to an excellent showing throughout the week! In addition, Josue Peley from Proaxion/Horizon Santé won best defensive player of the championship! Quebec was also represented by the Coffrage Daniel Lampron/Spartan who had an excellent run before loosing to BC1 in the quarter-final.



On the women's side, Quebec was represented by LS Slugger/Valentine, who won a second consecutive bronze medal!

RECOGNITIONS

Softball Québec recognizes the importance of highlighting on field performances, but also in highlighting the contribution of volunteers, coaches, athletes and referees who positively influence softball in Quebec. Several initiatives are put forward annually to recognize them. It is also important for us to highlight days or weeks dedicated to specific themes.

Special days and weeks

We take advantage of social media to highlight different special days or weeks such as International Softball Day in June and National Volunteer Week in April.

Thanking coaches – national coaches' week

During National Coaches Week, our main initiative was to hold a contest on our social media. Our members were invited to thank their coaches in comments on our post and we drew 3 gift cards from our partner Sports Rousseau among the participants. The contest generated 83 comments and 179 thank yous for coaches throughout softball in Quebec.

We also took advantage of National Coaches Week to highlight the free education activities offered by the Canadian Coaches Association (CAC) as well as lunch conferences offered by Sports Québec and the Institute National du Sport du Québec.

This year, Sports Québec added a "National Officials Week" component to this week and they took the opportunity to launch the new curriculum of the Multisport Officials Training (FMO) program. The first 3-hour module was given for free and covered the role of the official and their interpersonal skills.

National Volunteer Day (December 5, 2023)

To celebrate National Volunteer Day, Softball Québec asked its members to nominate volunteers who make a difference within softball associations/leagues. People could nominate any person who holds a volunteer position within organizations and who gives their time to carry out the organization's activities. We then published the nominees on our social media and drew a winner from among the nominees. In total we highlighted 27 volunteers.

Contest – Coaches Summit 2024

Leading up to Softball Québec's Coaches Summit in April 2024, two contests were done giving away tickets to this event.

The first contest was done on Valentine's Day with the theme "For the Love of Softball". The idea was for our members to identify who they would like to go to the Coaches Summit with and we gave the winner a pair of tickets to the event.

The second contest was held on International Women's Day and aimed to give a woman involved in softball a ticket to attend the event. Participants were invited to nominate a woman who they wanted to win a ticket to this event!

Sports Quebec Gala – November 7, 2024

In 2024, Sports Québec changed the date of its gala; instead of being in the spring, it was pushed to November 2024.

Léa Chevrier was selected as a finalist in the "Team sport athlete at the Canadian level" category. In 2023-2024, Léa stood out with the Florida Southwest Bucs by winning the NJCAA 1st Division World Series in 2023 and she had an exceptional 2024 season with 25 consecutive victories and 1 only lose in the last game of the season. Léa also played with the U23 provincial team where she helped her team win two consecutive bronze medals in 2023 and 2024 and she won best pitcher in 2023.

Jade Mainville was selected as a finalist in the "Athlete in team sport at the provincial level" category. Jade is a U15 pitcher who played with the Sud-Ouest Dragons (2023 & 2024) and U15 Team Quebec (2024). With Team Quebec, Jade finished 5th at the U15 Canadian Championship (out of 21 teams) and won best pitcher. With the Sud-Ouest Dragons, Jade won bronze at the Eastern Canada Championship in 2023 and gold in 2024. Jade earned the MVP award in 2023 and the best pitcher in 2024 at the Eastern Canadians. Jade also won the gold medal and the MVP award at the 2023 Provincial Championship and the bronze medal at the 2024 Provincial Championship. Jade is also involved as an umpire in her region and during minor B provincial events,

Égale Action's women of influence in sport Gala

Softball Québec submitted 2 applications for 2024:





- Audrey Desmarreaux-Houle in the national-international category
- Sophie Bédard in the recognition category

Unfortunately, our candidates were not selected as finalists.

Sports Merit Gala - City of St-Eustache

Congratulations to Koralie Morin from U19 Team Quebec who won the “Elite Athlete of the Year” award.

Foundations and Bursaries

Once again, we are happy to have several Espoir, Élite and Relève athletes in both women's and men's fastpitch having received scholarships from various partners linked to the ALÉO Foundation and the Nordiques Foundation:

- **Alexia Chevrier** won a \$2,000 scholarship for a 2nd consecutive year for her academic excellence thanks to the National Bank scholarship program. Alexia was part of the U19 women's provincial team.

Foundation Nordiques (Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches region only)

- **Sharl Leclerc** won a 3000\$ bursary
- **Hubert Asselin** won a 1500\$ bursary

Congratulations and thank you all for promoting Softball Quebec through your performances and honors!

Partners

Thank you to our loyal partners Jason and Kim from Worth/Rawlings/Easton, your support greatly helps us implement our programming. Also, a thank you to Sports Rousseau who continue to offer us quality service!

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Chantal Gagnon
Directrice Générale
SOFTBALL QUÉBEC





2024 Softball New Brunswick Annual Report

Overview:

2024 was a great season for softball in New Brunswick. We had record high numbers of team attendance at Provincial Championships, and Eastern Canadian Championship Qualifiers. We hosted nine Provincial Championships, in addition to the U15 Girls and U17 Girls Eastern Canadian Softball Championships. Moving into the fall we are gearing up for provincial team tryouts for our 2025 NB Selects program as well as 2025 Canada Summer Games, hosting our Annual Awards ceremony with our Hall of Fame, in the process of hiring a new Technical Director and are looking forward to heading to Saskatoon for the Softball Canada Annual General Meeting in November.

Registration:

Softball New Brunswick total membership was 3 115 in 2024, a 7.04% increase from 2023, which we are optimistic about. The incline was found across minor female, and adult participation as well as number of coaches and umpires. Softball New Brunswick recognized three new organizations this past year that we look forward to continuing to work with; the Grand Manan Sirens, River Valley Raccoons and Miramichi River Valley Rockets. Much like the rest of the country, Softball New Brunswick is working on strategies on how to continue to find new growth in all facets of the game, particularly in the male fastpitch game, slo pitch, and with officiating/coaching.

Minor Female Players: 1420

Minor Male Players: 289

Adult Players: 970

Female Coaches: 139

Male Coaches: 221

Female Umpires: 49

Male Umpires: 65

Total Membership: 3153

Teams: 13 timbits, 68 minor, 56 adult

Rawlings Provincial Championships:

In 2024, Softball New Brunswick our Rawlings Provincial Championships were all well attended and were well organized by each of the host committees. We are continuing to see growth in the number of recreational teams attending provincials, and have offered both 'A' and 'AA' categories in several of our minor championships. Softball New Brunswick unfortunately did



have to cancel some of our championships due to low registration numbers and lack of hosts. Softball New Brunswick has identified that getting those tournaments off the ground again in 2025 will be a priority. Congratulations to all of our participating teams on their accomplishments as well as Top Pitcher, Top Batter and MVP award winners from each category. A special thank you to Rawlings for their continued support.

U9 Girls - 5 teams

U11 Girls - 11 teams

U13 Boys - 5 teams

U13 Girls A - 11 teams

U13 Girls AA - 7 teams

U15 Girls A - 9 teams

U15 Girls AA - 7 teams

U17 Girls AA - 6 teams

Int. Men's - 4 teams

Eastern Canadian Softball Championships:

Softball New Brunswick had two Eastern Canadian Championships in the province in 2024; U15 Girls in Fredericton hosted by the Fredericton Fastpitch Association, and U17 Girls in Edmunston, hosted by Xplosion du Nord-Ouest. New Brunswick also had teams attend, U13 Girls in Dartmouth, NS, U13 Boys in Antigonish, NS, U19 Womens in Portugal Cove, NL and Intermediate Mens in Brookfield, NS

New Brunswick had a strong showing at the U19 Women with the Southern Black Bears taking home a Bronze Medal after a great weekend. Amy MacKenzie, and Jillian Hayward were both named to the All-Star Team and Avery Alward was awarded Top Pitcher of the tournament.

Coaching Clinics/Program:

Softball New Brunswick was very pleased to bring in Scott Searle from ON to co-facilitate Competition-Development coaching course with Bobby Despres (NB) in Fredericton, NB in early 2024. Six New Brunswick coaches, one Nova Scotia coach and three PEI coaches attended to receive training. We also held one Competition Introduction coaching course in St-Leonard/KV in the spring of 2024, th

Softball New Brunswick has identified that the demand for coaching courses has surpassed one annual clinic and we are looking to schedule additional courses throughout the year and look to add Community Stream. Identifying additional individuals interested in becoming learning facilitators will be key to increasing our number of courses.

Hall of Fame and Annual Award Ceremony:

Softball New Brunswick will be hosting our Hall of Fame and Annual Award Ceremony on October 4th. Congratulations to our Annual Award Recipients and Class of 2024 Inductees: Mark McLeod • Player, Edmond LeBlanc • Coach, 1996 West Kent Rovers • Team.



Umpires:

Our umpire registration in 2024 was 114, a slight increase from 2023 registration.

Junior Development Umpires: 50

Level 1 Umpires: 28

Level 2 Umpires: 11

Level 3 Umpires: 9

Level 4 Umpires: 12

Level 5 Umpires: 4

Our umpires association was very busy this past summer working in local, provincial, eastern and national level events. Softball New Brunswick sent seven umpires to represent the province at Canadian Championships across the country this past year.

Ron Campbell • Men's - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Josh Humphrey • U20 Men's - Carp, Ontario

Marc Dugas • U19 Women's - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Serge Niles • U15 Boy's - St-Gervais, Quebec

Marcus Peck • U15 Girl's - Île-Perrot, Quebec

William Doucette • Men's and Women's Canadian Slo Pitch Championships - Leduc, Alberta

Tim LeBlanc • Men's and Women's Canadian Slo Pitch Championships - Leduc, Alberta

As 44% of our umpires across the province are Junior Development Umpires, the Umpires Association will be working with the Softball New Brunswick Technical Director in the off season to develop a mentorship program to support these young umpires, and provide development opportunities for all of our umpires.

Grassroots Softball:

In 2023 due to limited capacity Softball NB did not run our Community Caravan program. Over the off-season, staff worked to revamp the Community Caravan program to support communities in starting up a new softball program, named the Community Development Program. With support from GoNB physical literacy grants Softball New Brunswick was able to provide 4 communities with opportunities to start a new softball program by providing leadership, equipment, and resources. The communities of Grand Manan Island and McNamee were very successful and had enough leaders and players to play a few exhibition games and attend a Provincial Championship for their category. Campobello Island and Woodstock had lots of interest but were not able to find a leader in the community to get a program up and running in the 2024 season. We had many inquiries from other communities and touching base with them to prepare for the 2025 season will be a priority through this off season.



High Performance Program:

2024 was the third season of our NB Selects Provincial Team Program. Our U15 and U17 Girls Team both competed in the Atlantic Softball Weekends against NS and PEI Provincial Teams and attended their respective Canadian Championships. The U20 Men's team competed in the East Coast Showdown and Intermediate Men's Eastern Canadian Softball Championships. All teams represented our province well, however in the off season we will look to increase our training to set our teams up for better success. We are looking forward to making strides and growing the program further in 2025.

U15 Girls Coaching Staff

- Cameron Rogers (Head Coach)
- Ricky LeBlanc (Assistant Coach)
- Rheel Levesque (Assistant Coach)

U17 Girls Coaching Staff

- Allan Hilche (Head Coach)
- Dan Mersereau (Assistant Coach)
- Troy Howe (Assistant Coach)

U20 Men's Coaching Staff

- Bobby Despres (Head Coach)
- Alex Harding (Assistant Coach)
- Dale Currie (Assistant Coach)
- Hunter Atwin (Assistant Coach)

East Coast Showdown:

Softball New Brunswick hosted the 3rd Annual East Coast Showdown Tournament in June at Prospect Street Park in Fredericton. This year's tournament saw a U17 Girls division for NB, NS and PEI Provincial Teams, and a U20 Men's division which consisted of two NL teams, two NS teams and one NB team made up of athletes from each provinces 2025 Canada Games athlete pools. This tournament is also an excellent training opportunity for higher level officials and for those who were preparing to attend various Canadian Championships in 2024.

Janiva Willis Memorial Scholarship:

Softball New Brunswick is proud to offer our annual Janiva Willis Memorial Scholarship again in 2024, to two deserving athletes attending post secondary education in the fall who have exhibited leadership traits and softball skills, while giving back to the sport. The 2023 scholarship recipients were Carmendy Bedford (Sussex Storm) and Renelle Bourque (Moncton Rebels).



Staffing:

In fall of 2018, Softball NB was informed that they would be qualifying for funding from the Government of NB in 2019 to hire a full-time Executive Director. Hillary Pineau was hired in February of 2019 and for the past 5 years, her vision, passion and leadership in the role was instrumental in the growth of Softball in New Brunswick and the entire organization. In May of 2024, Hillary left Softball NB to start a new role with the City of Saint John. Since leaving Hillary has joined our Board of Directors as Grassroots Coordinator. Thank you Hillary for your hard work and dedication to Softball NB, and your continued contribution!

Partnerships:

We wish to take this opportunity to thank each of our major sponsors - Rawlings Canada, the Fredericton Inn, Home Run Sports, and the Government of New Brunswick.

- **Rawlings Canada** - A special thank you once again to Jason Shipley and all of Rawlings Canada for your continued support of our program. We have worked consistently with Jason and Rawlings throughout 2024 being our Official Equipment supplier of our Provincial Team Program, Canada Games Program, Provincial Championships, etc. Rawlings has been an excellent provider, and supporter of our PSO!
- **The Fredericton Inn** - We also wish to recognize and sincerely thank Mr. John Waite and Robert Waite from the Fredericton Inn hotel. As the official home of the Softball NB Hall of Fame, the Fredericton Inn has continued to support Softball NB, and has provided top-notch accommodations for us.
- **Home Run Sports** - Thank you to Home Run Sports for their commitment to Softball in Canada. They have done a terrific job with their Fan Zone and Umpire Apparel, and offering a wide variety of equipment.
- **Government of New Brunswick** - A special thank you to the Government of New Brunswick for your continued support of Softball New Brunswick. They have been a tremendous partner and have supported our PSO greatly in 2023 with various funding, grants, partnerships, etc.

Yours in Softball,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Rogers".

Cameron Rogers

Executive Director

Softball New-Nouveau Brunswick



Administrative

Softball PEI has hired a full-time Executive Director in 2024. A big thank you is extended to Kerri Hyde for her commitment to Softball across the island.

We had another successful year with our minor registration season with RAMP; continuing to have all 8 associations across the Island using our online registration. Over the 2024/25 winter, work needs to be put in place to add Adult online registration for our 5 Adult leagues which will assist in streamlining our entire process. We continue to place more focus on our social media accounts and push more good news stories and news articles to our followers; seeing our new followers rate continue to increase on both Facebook and Instagram.

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Minor Program

At the minor level, Softball PEI again had a great 2024 season here on the Island. Minor ball registration increased 11% across the Island from 2023. This 2024 season, we were still excited to have 981 players registered to play in minor softball leagues across the Island ranging from Timbits to U17 on 71 different teams in 8 different local Associations. Our season ran from early June to mid-September. This is our fourth season running an A and AA league in U13, U15 and it continues to be well received by players and parents, but unfortunately, we were yet again not able to run an AA league at U17. The plan is to see AA return to U13, U15 and U17 in 2025. We had 6 communities run successful Timbits and U9 programs (18 teams) with 264 registered players (241 females, 23 males).

We were able to successfully host our U9 jamboree, and U11, U13A and AA, U15 A and AA and U17 A Provincials. Our final provincial weekend wrapped up Sept 5-8th weekend.

In the winter of 2024 (January to March), Softball PEI once again hosted its full indoor league in Summerside for athletes across the Island in U13 and U15/17 which saw 98 athletes participating. Based on feedback taken this fall, we will be offering this program again in 2025 from early January to the end of March.

Adult Program

In 2024, Softball PEI continued to sanction our existing leagues; one Men's Slo-Pitch league (9 teams), one Women's Orthodox league (5 teams), one Men's Orthodox league (5 teams), and one Co-ed Slo-Pitch league (31 teams). This saw our slo-pitch and orthodox membership numbers reach over 700 for the season. Our primary goal for the 2024 season will be to get our Adult leagues all registering online and continue to recruit new slo pitch leagues under SPEI.

Eastern and Canadian Championships

Softball PEI sent two U13AA teams, two U15AA teams, and one U17A team to the Eastern Canadians in 2024. Softball PEI was not able to host any Eastern Canadians this past season as we were not able to secure a host for the U17 division. PEI medaled in one event; U13AA – West Royalty Rockets – Bronze.

Our U15, U17, and U19 Provincial teams participated in Atlantic Fastpitch League with NS, NB and NFLD, seeing three weekend events hosted across the Maritimes over June, July and August.

Softball PEI sent U15, U17, and U19 PEI Whitecaps Teams to Canadian Championships with all teams having very competitive games with some of the best teams in the country. The Whitecaps program is PEI's high-performance program which offers more training to its athletes in all aspects of the game to help them develop and compete on the National stage. Softball PEI hopes to continue to send teams to U15, U17 and U19 Canadian Championships in 2025. The Whitecaps program also expanded to a U13 and U15 Development Program (Prospects) to start high performance training for younger athletes on PEI.

Officials Development

Like each season, 2024 season continued to be struggle for officials on the Island. While we saw our numbers increase to 61 officials, we had several games canceled due to a serious shortage of available officials most nights. The majority of our officials are minors and have part time jobs and continue to play minor ball themselves, making their availability low week to week. We have a few senior umpires who continue to make our Umpire Mentorship Program successful; monitoring games and working with junior officials but more work needs to be done to recruit and retrain up and coming officials.

Our blue crew carries umpires of all different ages and levels; with members ranging from 12 years old to 6 years young. As softball continues to bloom here in PEI with increased membership numbers and leagues coming on board, so does the need to

recruit and retain umpires. We have been very fortunate to have so many experienced and knowledgeable senior umpires willing to work with, teach and mentor many of our young officials as they suit up in blue for their first few seasons behind the plate. But more plans and work need to be put in place for the 2025 season.

Coach Development

We were once again able to successfully offer in-person Competition-Intro Weekends 1 and 2 in May and June, with 12 coaches (4 females, 8 males) attending. Our regularly offered ongoing participation courses held in the spring, prior to the minor leagues starting up, were held in person in two locations with 26 coaches (9 females, 17 males) in attendance.

CANpitch

Our CAN Pitch program saw a great increase in clinics across the Island this past year. Although we were down an instructor, we were still able to offer 12 clinics in two locations; Montague, and Richmond. Our clinics were run by two certified pitching instructors. Every pitcher received quality instruction from a trained RPI and Softball PEI has been able to maintain a low athlete to instructor ratio to enhance skill development. This past winter saw 57 females take part in 6-week clinics.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig MacDougall
Executive Director, Softball PEI



Provincial Report 2024

Overview

The 2024 Softball NL season was a very busy and successful one. Registration continues to grow and needless to say, so too do the programs and services. We were fortunate to see tremendous participation throughout our province in both the minor and adult leagues and when the final numbers are tabulated for the 2024 season, we anticipate that our total membership numbers to be around 3500 members. There continues to be strong potential in other regions of the province outside of the Avalon Peninsula as we are seeing more and more minor associations register, especially in the slo-pitch divisions. This bodes well as we try to reach more of the goals for Softball NL including identifying ways to increase membership throughout the province.

Softball NL is currently in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan which will help guide us in the future. Over the next several months, we look forward to having a Minor Symposium which will bring together many of our local leaders with a goal to determine best practices and strategies for a more efficient and effective delivery of our programs and services for 2025. We will continue to find ways to engage our minor and adult, slo and fast pitch associations and leagues to build the sport of softball throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and to strengthen our delivery opportunities.

In 2025, we anticipate offering more coach education/delivery programs to our associations to ensure our coaches receive timely and efficient training. We also plan to work with our Umpires Association to also provide more clinics and to identify gaps throughout our province. We will also hold meetings and symposiums to consult and work with our groups to ensure we work collaboratively in the future.

We also plan to build on the momentum of our High Performance programs and to develop a plan for an even more efficient program so as to develop our High Performance athletes to compete on the National and International level.

Plans for 2025 are well underway as we continue to find better and efficient ways to deliver our programs to our members. 2025 will be a very busy season for Softball NL as our Province plays host to the 2025 Canada Summer Games and given the fact that we hosted the last Canada Summer Games in 1997, there is a tremendous amount of excitement, especially in our Softball community. We also anticipate a full slate of Provincial Championships, minor and adult leagues as well as preparing several teams to the 2024 Eastern Canadian and Canadian Championships.

Minor Program

There were 27 Minor Associations affiliated with Softball NL this past summer with approximately 3300 minor males and females registered in the minor system. Over the summer, we hosted 26 provincial and invitational tournaments including fastpitch and slo-pitch from U11 to the U20. We also hosted three adult Provincials including the U23 Men's Provincials along with the Senior Men's Provincials and a 4-team Women's Provincials. We also partnered with Tim Hortons to provide Timbit Jamborees, one for U7 and two for U9.

Along with the Provincial Tournaments, Softball NL had 6 minor teams participate in the 2024 Eastern Canadian Championships winning a silver medal in U13 boys and a bronze medal in U15 boys. We, along with host Craig Power, hosted the U19 Female Eastern Canadians in Portugal Cove – St. Philips. It was a tremendous success with 6 teams participating including two from Ontario, one from New Brunswick and three from NL.

Softball NL also had nine teams compete in the 2024 Canadian Championships we were successful in winning the Gold Medal in Men's (Galway Hitmen) and U23 (Murno Mariners) as well as a bronze medal for our U15 Provincials Selects team. All other teams competed very well and we anticipate a big slate of teams competing in the 2025 Canadians.

During this summer, Softball NL continued to work with our local Associations to build on the development of minor Fastpitch Leagues for both Girls and Boys. In 2020, fastpitch leagues were established for boys and girls in divisions including U12, U14 and U16. In 2024, the goal was to increase the number of leagues to from U11 to U20. At the end of the day, we were very excited to see a total of 6 minor fastpitch leagues and this is a great sign for the future. Special thanks to the Divisional Coordinators and Associations for assisting in making the leagues for 2024 a tremendous success. The work doesn't stop so we anticipate working with our partners to find ways to improve league opportunities for 2025.

In 2024, Softball NL continued with a very impressive High Performance Program. We had excellent participation for the U15 and the U17 Boys and Girls Programs as well U19 Women and U20 Men. The goal was to bring together and develop HP Programs for these four groups in preparation for the 2024 Canadian Championships. As a next step, Softball NL will be hosting Identification camps for 2025 boys and girls programs for both U15 and U17 Divisions late September – early October.

In the coming months, the Minor Committee will convene to review the past summer and make suggestions/recommendations for 2025 which will include more skills camps, Canpitch, RPI, the 2025 Canada Games Program, and to identify ways to strengthen the communication process to ensure optimal uptake in our programs.

School Program

Softball NL continues to identify areas to grow the fastpitch game. One of the goals of the Board is to identify potential opportunities in the school system. In recent years, only slo-pitch has been played at the high school level including provincial championships. For a third consecutive year, Softball held School Invitational Fastpitch tournaments in May/June, 2024 with boys and girls Junior and Senior High

School Divisions. Softball NL will continue to build on this initiative with the intent of increasing the number of teams in all four divisions for 2025.

As an addition to the Fastpitch school- based programs, Softball will be hosting Grade 4 – 6 Slo-pitch invitational tournaments for both boys and girls. We're anticipating approximately 28 teams so our plan is to have two boys and two girls tournaments. Following this initiative, we will follow up with fastpitch invitationals for grades 4 – 6 in the spring of 2025.

Women's Program

2024 was another exciting year for Women's Softball with a 6-team Women's League called "The East Coast Fastpitch League (ECFL)". It was an exciting league which saw some 70 women play in a well-organized fastpitch league on the Avalon Peninsula with games mostly played in Outer Cove. The league was a tremendous success and plans are in place to build on this season with the hopes of adding another team in 2025. Also, Corner Brook continued with its Women's League in 2024 with four teams and it was another very successful season.

The 2024 Women's Fastpitch Provincials was a tremendous success with four teams competing in a very competitive tournament which drew a lot of fans throughout the weekend. We look forward to another great year of Women's Fastpitch in 2025 and another excellent Provincial Championship and our hope is to send team(s) to the Eastern Canadians and/or Canadian Championships in 2025.

Molson St. John's Senior Men's Fastpitch League

The Senior Men's league was established in 1957 and has been in operation for the past 66 seasons. In 2023, the Men's league played out of Lion's Park with a 4-team league. The teams played a 24-game schedule and all four teams participated in John Gorman Memorial Senior Men's Provincials in September.

One of the highlights for 2024 was Softball NL was the Galway Hitmen capturing the Gold Medal at the 2024 Canadian Men's Championships which took place in Saskatoon. The Galway Hitmen has now won 9 Men's Canadian Championships which makes them one of the most successful sports teams in the history of Sport in Newfoundland and Labrador. Honourable mention goes out to Physio and Co, Softball NL's second entry at the Men's Canadians who continues to improve each year and this year they finished 8th with a 2 and 4 record.

U23 Men's Fastpitch League

In 2024, NL Fastpitch U23 Men's Fastpitch League had a great second year, since evolving from the Intermediate League. The U23 Men's league replaced the Intermediate Men's Fastpitch league and the goal was to create a league that would provide more of an opportunity for developing players a chance to play. The league was a tremendous success and will provide a building block for our Senior Men's League for the future.

NL Summer Games

Due to Covid-19, the 2020 NL Summer Games was postponed until 2024. Bay Roberts and region hosted the 2024 NL Summer Games and they were a tremendous success. Fastpitch softball was included and we were able to have two fantastic tournaments. The U15 Girls was in the first half and included 7 teams while U17 boys played in the second half with 4 very competitive teams. Sports are already preparing to participate in the 2026 NL Summer Games with Host Region to be determined.

Canada Games

St. John's will be hosting the 2025 Canada Summer Games and Softball NL is well on the way in identifying and training our athletes. Softball NL has held several ID Camps, etc this past summer for both the Men's and Women's Programs. Approximately 46 Males and 28 Females participated in one or more of the ID Camps. We anticipate selecting our teams early in 2025 and we will begin indoor training this fall and winter.

Coaching

In 2024, Softball NL held 6 Softball Canada NCCP coaching courses including Weekends 1 and 2 of Competition Introduction and Community Sport - Ongoing Participation. We also held a number of evaluations of coaches who required certification for the Canadian Championships and the Canada Games. We also held our first virtual hybrid course for Comp Intro and the uptake was phenomenal with 30 participants. We also held weekend one for the Canada Games coaches (Comp Dev) with Scott Searle from Ontario visiting our Province to deliver the course.

Softball NL saw considerable uptake with the online Foundations of Coaching Softball (Parts 1 and 2) to our membership as both an introductory softball coaching course as well as a prerequisite for the in-class courses including Community Sport and Competition Introduction. Softball NL continues to work with Softball Canada as more and more online coaching opportunities become available.

Umpiring

In 2024 the Softball NL Umpires Association (NLUA) provided several umpire clinics this past summer. We have seen registration and certification in our umpires increase to pre-pandemic numbers with approximately 136 umpires trained and/or registered. The NLUA, under UIC Kearney O'Keefe, continues to work with Softball NL to identify gaps and areas in need, especially around Recruitment and Retention. One of the goals is to train umpires at the local level where provincial championships take place to ensure local development and legacy.

Looking Ahead

Softball NL will be very busy in the offseason as we continue to develop a new Strategic Plan and set policies for the 2024 season. We will be convening several committees to work together to plan and prepare for 2024.

Softball NL looks forward to continuing to partner with all stakeholders to ensure we continue to provide many opportunities for our members to enjoy the great game of SOFTBALL.



Softball Nova Softball Nova Scotia Provincial Report for 2024

Softball NS has a successful season in seeing our associations growth, and being able work with our provincial government to access funding opportunities for association to assist them with equipment and Softball programs

Coaching Development, the organization has made significant strides in developing and certifying coaches to enhance competition quality and player development: • Competition Introduction Coach Clinics: 4 Ongoing Community Participation aimed at strengthening grassroots coaching. and 4 Competition Introduction clinics held across the province, providing foundational training for Provincial and regional coaches and one Competition Development Clinic aimed at increasing the level of competition expertise for elite teams.

Grassroots Development Programs and Events, U9 girls Jamboree: A highly successful event with 114 children in attendance, emphasizing player engagement and skill-building at the grassroots level. Intro to competition on field evaluations were done in seven different locations certifying a total of twenty-four (24) coaches. In all, we had 77 coaches attend clinics.

Softball NS continue to hold Provincial Championships: • U11, U13, U15, U17 Girls, • U11, U13, U15 Boys. Softball NS continues to support our Provincial Program for U15 Girls and U17 Girls this year our U15 Girls provincial program.

Teams Participating in Fast Pitch Canadian Championships: Mastodon Men's Senior Team, U15 Boys East Hants Team, U15 Girls' Team, U23 Men's Team, U17 Girls' Team

• Teams Participating in Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships: two (2) Men's Slo-Pitch Teams, One (1) Women's Team.

Athlete Development, able to utilize the position of the SNS Technical director to provide a comprehensive development program for aspiring pitchers and catchers, focusing on skill enhancement, physical conditioning and game play. Our program catered to athletes ages U13-15 aiming to refine their abilities, build confidence, and prepare them for higher levels of competition. Our pitching clinic focuses on athletes mastering proper pitching mechanics, ensuring and efficient delivery. Athletes were taught different types of pitching



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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

2024 Annual Association Report

BASEBALL 5

In the past we have found that assembling more than a few kids in a community during summer months for a clinic can be difficult; with this in mind, we decided to take a more strategic, player-centric approach. We teamed up with the school districts in the area and met the youth where they were. We brought softball to the school gymnasiums during school hours. This approach was an unequivocal success. Throughout our week in town, our programming reached approximately 250 players and 25 teachers.

So how does one teach the rules of and skills needed to play softball in -30C temperatures during the winter? Enter B5, a variation of softball and baseball that is being promoted by Softball Canada. As with all sports, B5 also promotes the development of community leaders, increases kids' resilience and ability to tolerate discomfort as they try new things, and helps create community culture ties by getting members to come together to share physical activity, fun and laughter.

During B5 games, we tried our best to take the back seat when we could and let kids explain the rules to one another, and gave them the opportunity to resolve disputes amongst themselves. Teachers and school administrators were encouraged to participate, and we ensured they were left with the knowledge and tools needed to continue to lead the game after our departure. Several teachers commented on how easy it was to pick up the game, and said they intended to work it into their rotation of gym class activities.

Giving the youth in the communities this experience supported NWT Softball's approach to grassroots development, which encourages kids to try the sport and provides them with the tools needed to become community leaders, softball ambassadors and coaches to future generations. Thank you Softball Canada and Aboriginal Sports Circle for providing funding for this great event.

REPRESENTING NWT AND TRAINING

Teams are eager to continue traveling to represent the NWT. This past season we had a U19 C girls team travel to the Alberta Provincials for the second straight year. They got great exposure by playing in competitive games all weekend. Winning a silver medal represents the development that this age group has gone through. A Men's team traveled to the Alberta B Provincials, as well as the NAFA Championship in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The team hopes to travel to more Canadian tournaments this year, with the peak goal of competing at the Canadian Nationals. We also were represented by a women's slo pitch team who traveled to Edmonton to compete in the 2024 Women's Slo pitch Alberta/NWT Provincials and National Qualifier.

This summer we hope to send U15 female and male teams to Western Canadians, as minor ball numbers continue to rise. Capitalizing on NWT Softball's training facility we opened our doors to private rentals, pitching and hitting clinics to train our grassroots and competitive ball players.

CELEBRATING OUR PAST

2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of 1974 Jr Merchants winning the inaugural Jr National Championships in Ottawa, ON. A picture and write up of the team will be displayed at the Yellowknife field for future generations to read and look at the greatness that occurred 50 years ago.



2024 Annual Report

Overview

The 2024 season marked another year of expansion and success for Softball Yukon. We witnessed significant advancements across all areas of our programming with exceptional growth in the Sundogs Softball development programming. As a result, it reflects our commitment to nurturing talent and enhancing the sport's presence in our territory.

Umpire Development

Fastpitch Umpires (Softball Canada Certified)

Total - 21
Male - 18
Female - 3

Slopitch Umpires (SPN Certified)

17 umpires
Male - 16
Female - 1

Registration

We experienced an increase across categories of our programming from Minor ball to adult divisions

Participation Numbers

Whitehorse Minor Softball

U5 - 89
U7 - 104
U9 - 95
U11 - 79
U11 All Female - 38
U13 - 66
U13 All Female - 43
U15 - 58
U18 - 52
(Male - 387, Female - 237)
Self-identified as Indigenous - 141

Coed Slo-pitch - 799 members

Male - 429
Female - 369
Non-binary - 1
Self-identified as Indigenous - 197

Men's Slo-pitch - 6 teams, 97 players

Women's Slo-pitch - 4 teams, 57 players



Player Development

Sundogs Softball Program

Female - U11, U13, U15, U17
 Male - U11/U13, U15, U17

Female Program

- U15/U17 (3 Out of Territory Tournaments)
 - Okotoks, AB
 - Elkford, BC (2024 Alberta "D" Provincials)
 - North Battleford, SK (2024 Western Canadian Championships)
- U13 (2 Out of Territory Tournaments)
 - Okotoks, AB
 - Provost, AB (2024 Alberta "D" Provincials)
- U11/U13
 - Tournament in Dawson City, YT

Male Program

- U15/U17 (1 Out of Territory Tournament)
 - Provincials (Saskatoon, SK)
- U11/13
 - Tournament in Dawson City, YT

Coach Development

NCCP Community Coach Clinic

19 Coaches
 Male - 9
 Female - 10

Whitehorse Minor Softball

109 Coaches
 Male - 60
 Female - 49



Adult Programming

Dustball International Slopitch Tournament

19% increase in registration numbers and teams from Yukon, Alaska, Ontario, and Alberta.

68 teams
 Men's - 15
 Women's - 11
 Coed - 42



AUDITOR'S

REPORT

RAPPORT DU

VÉRIFICATEUR

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MAY 31, 2024



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members,
Canadian Amateur Softball Association:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Canadian Amateur Softball Association ("the Entity"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at May 31, 2024, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at May 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity, or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

OHCID LLP

OUSELEY HANVEY CLIPSHAM DEEP LLP

Licensed Public Accountants
Ottawa, Ontario
October 21, 2024



CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MAY 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 1,150,058	\$ 870,600
Investments (note 4)	1,180,649	1,105,551
Accounts receivable	48,754	152,621
Prepaid expenses	<u>128,226</u>	<u>75,114</u>
	2,507,687	2,203,886
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (note 5)	<u>1,369</u>	<u>2,737</u>
	<u>\$ 2,509,056</u>	<u>\$ 2,206,623</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 202,652	\$ 225,438
Deferred revenue (note 6)	<u>630,647</u>	<u>553,869</u>
	<u>833,299</u>	<u>779,307</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in property and equipment	1,369	2,737
Claude Deschamps Memorial Fund	24,416	25,047
Ethel Boyce Achievement Award Fund	14,294	15,026
Reserve Fund	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	<u>1,335,678</u>	<u>1,084,506</u>
	<u>1,675,757</u>	<u>1,427,316</u>
	<u>\$ 2,509,056</u>	<u>\$ 2,206,623</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Director

Director



CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
INVESTED IN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 2,737	\$ -
Addition	-	4,106
Amortization	<u>(1,368)</u>	<u>(1,369)</u>
Balance - end of year	\$ <u>1,369</u>	\$ <u>2,737</u>
CLAUDE DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL FUND		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 25,047	\$ 24,775
Donations	1,369	2,272
Awards	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>
Balance - end of year	\$ <u>24,416</u>	\$ <u>25,047</u>
ETHEL BOYCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FUND		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 15,026	\$ 15,504
Donations	1,268	1,522
Awards	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>
Balance - end of year	\$ <u>14,294</u>	\$ <u>15,026</u>
RESERVE FUND		
Balance - beginning and end of year	\$ <u>300,000</u>	\$ <u>300,000</u>
UNRESTRICTED		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 1,084,506	\$ 789,596
Net revenue for the year	249,804	297,647
Addition of property and equipment	-	(4,106)
Amortization	<u>1,368</u>	<u>1,369</u>
Balance - end of year	\$ <u>1,335,678</u>	\$ <u>1,084,506</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>1,675,757</u>	\$ <u>1,427,316</u>

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUE		
Contributions		
Sport Canada	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,352,663
Other	28,694	15,695
Sponsorships	172,597	252,342
Coaching Association of Canada	26,066	26,303
Membership fees	205,000	205,000
Programs - officials	75,924	110,787
- other	232,406	118,385
Canadian championships	255,294	246,052
Sales	158,967	124,644
Investment	91,802	22,499
Donations	25,192	-
Miscellaneous	2,453	-
	<u>2,374,395</u>	<u>2,474,370</u>
EXPENSES		
Administration	178,675	198,859
Cost of sales	28,102	49,959
Board and staff travel	8,852	10,422
Human resources	529,766	585,197
Meetings	115,616	76,068
Officiating development	33,606	58,430
Marketing	37,720	52,693
National team	830,614	692,338
Canadian championships	207,343	180,905
Coaching program	27,108	30,857
Program development	120,217	240,995
International representation	6,972	-
	<u>2,124,591</u>	<u>2,176,723</u>
NET REVENUE FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 249,804</u>	<u>\$ 297,647</u>



CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net revenue for the year	\$ 249,804	\$ 297,647
Net revenue (expenses) of funds	(1,363)	(206)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization	1,368	1,369
Realized and unrealized loss (gains) on investments	(71,608)	(11,156)
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	103,867	(104,063)
Prepaid expenses	(53,112)	(44,408)
Accounts payable	(22,786)	(53,632)
Deferred revenue	76,778	257,116
	<u>282,948</u>	<u>342,667</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(257,700)	(350,000)
Sale of investments	254,210	356,242
Purchase of property and equipment	-	(4,106)
	<u>(3,490)</u>	<u>2,136</u>
INCREASE IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	279,458	344,803
Cash - beginning of year	<u>870,600</u>	<u>525,797</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,150,058</u>	<u>\$ 870,600</u>

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MAY 31, 2024

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Association, in partnership with the Provincial and Territorial Associations and related organizations, ensures provision of a full range of softball opportunities for all Canadians through the development, delivery and promotion of programs and services, both domestically and internationally.

The Association is incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act and is a Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association under the Income tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

a) Estimates and assumptions

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. The estimates and assumptions are reviewed annually and, as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the financial statements in the period in which they become known.

b) Claude Deschamps Memorial Fund

This internally restricted fund was established in 1984 in honour of the longtime Executive Director of the Association. Annual awards are made to applicants from the region hosting the annual general meeting.

c) Ethel Boyce Achievement Award Fund

This internally restricted fund was created in 1998 by a donation in the name of Ethel (Phoebe) Boyce by her sister, Ruth A. Laing. Annual awards are made to applicants who have exhibited leadership qualities and skills in softball.

d) Reserve Fund

This internally restricted fund was created to provide financial stability for the Association and is not available for other purposes without approval of the Board of Directors.

e) Financial instruments

Investments quoted in an active market are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently measured at the year-end fair value. Other financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently measured at cost, amortized cost or cost less appropriate allowances for impairment.

f) Property and equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on the straight line basis over 3 years.



CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MAY 31, 2024

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g) Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when they are received or become receivable. Membership fees are recognized as revenue over the period to which they relate. Other revenues are recognized in the period in which the event is held or the revenue is earned.

h) Sport Canada and other contributions

Contributions received are subject to specific terms and conditions regarding the expenditure of the funds. The Association's records are subject to audit by contributors to identify instances, if any, in which amounts charged against contributions have not complied with the agreed terms and conditions and which, therefore, would be refundable to the contributor. In the event that adjustments to prior years' contributions are requested, they would be recorded in the year in which the contributor requests the adjustments.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments of the Association consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency, credit, liquidity or market risks arising from its financial instruments and the risks have not changed from last year.

4. INVESTMENTS

Investments are carried at year-end fair value and consist of:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 277,777	\$ 38,502
Fixed income	203,109	457,018
Bond and income funds	<u>699,763</u>	<u>610,031</u>
	<u>\$ 1,180,649</u>	<u>\$ 1,105,551</u>

Market risk is the risk the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Association is exposed mainly to interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk is the risk the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed income and bond and income funds investments.



CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MAY 31, 2024

5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Office furniture and equipment	\$ 67,158	\$ 65,789	\$ 1,369	\$ 2,737

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue represents revenue received relating to next year as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Canadian Olympic Committee	\$ -	\$ 9,000
Sport Canada contributions	275,500	255,500
Sponsorships	141,750	73,750
Programs	25,300	25,100
Blue Convention	335	-
Donations	187,762	187,762
Other	-	2,757
	<u>\$ 630,647</u>	<u>\$ 553,869</u>

Deferred revenue changed as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 553,869	\$ 296,753
Less - amount recognized as revenue in the year	(333,607)	(37,490)
Plus - amount received related to following year	<u>410,385</u>	<u>294,606</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 630,647</u>	<u>\$ 553,869</u>

7. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Association is economically dependent on Sport Canada as during the year 46% (2023 - 55%) of its revenue was received from this single source.

The assumption underlying the preparation of these financial statements is that the Association will be able to realize assets and discharge liabilities in the normal course of operations for the foreseeable future. Continued financial support of the contributors will be required for the Association to maintain operations. If continuing funding is not attained, amounts realized for the assets may be materially less than the amounts recorded in the financial statements.



CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

UNAUDITED SCHEDULE OF SPORT CANADA REVENUE AND EXPENSES BY BUDGET CATEGORY
FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024

	<u>Total revenue claimed</u>	<u>Total expenses</u>
Contribution blocks - Core Mainstream		
Administration	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Staff salaries	350,000	350,000
Coaching salaries and professional development	85,000	85,000
National team programs	340,000	340,000
Operations and programming	134,000	134,000
Official languages	13,000	13,000
Safe sport and gender equity	<u>28,000</u>	<u>28,000</u>
	<u>\$ 1,050,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,050,000</u>

SOFTBALL CANADA
BOD and STAFF /
CONSEIL ET PERSONNEL

CONTACTS

2024
SOFTBALL
CANADA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
/ CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Scott Neiles

Position: President/Président

Jackie Dugger

Position: Director/Directrice

Robert Stanton

Position: Director/Directeur

Brooks Penrod

Position: Director/Directeur

Robb Andison

Position: Director/Directeur

Kareena Zanolli

Position: Director/Directrice

Neil Teague

Position: Director/Directeur

SOFTBALL CANADA

STAFF Contacts DU PERSONNEL

Chief Executive Officer – Mike Branchaud

mbranchaud@softball.ca
Phone: 613-558-1117

Manager – Officials / Recognition – Donna Ozarko

dozarko@softball.ca
Phone: 613-296-2954

Manager – Operations – Gilles LeBlanc

gleblanc@softball.ca
Phone: 613-795-1996

Manager – Sport Development – Angela Ballantyne

aballantyne@softball.ca
Phone: 613-558-4663

Manager – Financial – Christine Robertson

crobertson@softball.ca
Phone: 613-447-6711

Manager – Marketing/Communications – Cassidy Burton

cburton@softball.ca
Phone: 613-523-5761



Softball Canada

223 Colonnade Road, Suite 212, Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7K3
Phone: 613-523-3386 • Email: info@softball.ca

**Providing Softball
Opportunities to all Canadians**

www.softball.ca

2024

RECIPIENTS / RECIPIENDAIRES

AWARDS / PRIX

2024 SOFTBALL CANADA AWARDS / PRIX

PRIX MÉMORIAL CLAUDE DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL AWARD

•
Arshleen Bajwa (BC)

•
Sydney Zapesocki (AB)

PRIX DE RÉUSSITE ETHEL BOYCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

•
Jordan Bruce (NS)

•
William Myers (ON)

BÉNÉVOLE DE L'ANNÉE ROSE HODGSON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

•
Vanessa Kosteroski (SK)

ARBITRE DE L'ANNÉE HOME RUN SPORTS UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

•
(SP/BL) Carla MacKenzie (NS)

(FP/BR) Daryl Helmer (AB)

ENTRAÎNEUR DE L'ANNÉE HOME RUN SPORTS COACH OF THE YEAR

•
Mario Lavallée (QC)

ATHLÈTES DE L'ANNÉE HOME RUN SPORTS ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

•
(Women's FP / BR Féminin) Erika Polidori (ON)

•
(Men's FP / BR Masculin) Mathieu Roy (QC)

•
(Women's SP / BL Féminin) Shelby Craig (ON)

•
(Men's SP / BL Masculin) Steele Lewis (ON)

2024

INDUCTÉES / INTRONISÉS

**HALL OF FAME /
TEMPLE DE LA RENOMMÉE**

2024

**SOFTBALL
CANADA**

HALL OF FAME / TEMPLE DE LA RENOMMÉE
INDUCTÉES / INTRONISÉS

ATHLETE

•

Trevor Ethier (SK)

•

Dean Holoien (SK)

•

Keith Mackintosh (SK)

ENTRAÎNEUR / COACH

•

Don Bates (SK)

BÂTISSEUR / BUILDER

•

Bryan Kosteroski

ARBITRE / UMPIRE

•

Gary Skjerven (SK)

WORKSHOPS / ATELIERS

RULES OF ASSEMBLY FOR WORKSHOPS

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chair.
2. The Chair shall decide the format for the assembly whether it is to follow the set procedures, or to ban an “open” discussion.
3. Each Province/Territory shall be entitled to one vote (if required).
4. There shall be a limit of three participating representatives from each Province/Territory with the power to speak on questions raised.
5. There shall be no limit, within reason, of those attending workshops as observers.
6. The Chair of the AGM Workshop DOES NOT have a vote at any AGM Workshop.
7. At the AGM Rules Forum, a two-thirds majority of the Province/Territory Associations and Board of Directors is required to enact or repeal a playing rule change.
8. The majority vote shall be ascertained, based on the number of votes cast.
9. Abstainers shall not be counted either “for” or “against”. They simply have elected not to vote and therefore, their vote does not count.
10. After the Chair or his spokesperson has stated the proposal, any member with the power to speak is entitled to hold the floor. Each speaker shall speak once, unless otherwise granted permission by the Chair.
11. All remarks must be addressed to the Chair. Chair to judge relevancy.
12. Chair must decide, subject to appeal, all questions of order and procedure; he must at all times preserve that order and decorum essential to calm deliberation, effective employment of available time.
13. The Chair shall have the power to speak on the questions in regards to points of clarification. He shall not offer an opinion, or in any way influence the vote.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

AGM ROOKIE SESSION

6:45 pm – 7:30 pm

Are you new to the world of the Softball Canada AGM or feeling a bit uncertain about what to expect? Join us for the Rookie Session, where we will provide you with the perfect introduction to this event. This session is designed specifically for first-time attendees, newcomers, or anyone seeking a refresher on AGM procedures. We understand that the AGM weekend can appear complex, but with our guidance, you'll effectively make the most of your AGM experience.

During this Rookie Session, you can expect to hear about: AGM Basics, the Agenda, Q&A, & Networking. Our aim is to ensure that you leave this Rookie Session feeling empowered, informed, and ready to actively participate in the Annual General Meeting Weekend. Whether you're a new board member, or an employee, this session will equip you with the knowledge and tools you need to navigate the AGM with confidence.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

KICK-OFF SESSION – REPORT ON 2024 AND LOOK AHEAD and STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

9:00 am – 10:30 am

This session will focus on:

- 2024 in review
- Upcoming activities
- Strategic Plan Review

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UMPIRE RELATIONS AND RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

10:45 am – noon

Please join the ODC in a workshop on the recruitment and retention of umpires! Softball is one of the few national sports that has returned to pre-pandemic registrations and better! Come and find out how they did it! Data and research have informed recruitment and retention strategies that have obviously worked - perhaps there are some golden nuggets that can be parlayed into other areas of our sport - we look forward to seeing you there!

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS/SORS

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

SOR Review

- Review of all motions presented

2024 Review / Participation Charts

- Participation Numbers and Financial Reports by Event
- Feedback from Canadian Championship Surveys

2025 Championships

- Assigned dates / locations and potential conflicts

Discussion on ways to improve Canadian Championships

BOULEVARD TRAVEL

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For the past X years, Softball Canada has partnered with Boulevard Travel, a national leader in sports team travel management. Boulevard Travel is committed to supporting Sport Travel and reducing costs for our National teams as well as a number of Provincial organisations. Their "Sports Air Program" ensures lowest rates at time of booking, with exclusive benefits and much flexibility to modify, cancel and change any ticket including baggage negotiations.

Boulevard Travel will present the details of the program as well as engaging our members in a special fundraiser "heads or tails". Please make sure you have purchased your qualifying ticket prior to Friday.

GORDIE HOWE COMPLEX TOUR AND INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Buses will take delegates for a tour of the softball facilities in Saskatoon including the Gordie Howe Indoor Training Centre. There will be some interactive activities at the indoor facility so dress casually and we will see who can hit one out of the park.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00 am - 10:15 am

A) MALE FP

This interactive workshop will heavily focus on group discussion to identify and explore new opportunities to develop and promote Male Fast Pitch.

We ask each PTSO to come to the workshop prepared to discuss the current state of Male Fast Pitch in their area, share examples of what has worked well, and identify challenges/opportunities that could be addressed to move the discipline forward.

B) SLO-PITCH

In this session, we will introduce the members of the Slo-Pitch Working Group and outline the group's key goals and objectives. Attendees will gain insight into our strategic direction and collaborative efforts. Participants will also share updates from their provinces and territories, fostering a collaborative discussion on current initiatives and opportunities for growth in slo-pitch.

HOST WORKSHOP - SOFTBALL CANADA AGM/DISCUSS NEW CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP P/T ALL-STAR TEAM

CONCEPT

10:30 am - noon

SOFTBALL CANADA AGM

Get input from all P/T's and Softball Canada on the future direction for the national AGM. Host SK will share information on costs associated to host this year's AGM and past hosts can do the same. Is hosting the AGM becoming cost prohibitive due to rising hotel costs and newer liquor laws for hospitality suites. Is it time to re-consider Softball Canada having to pay the cost of travel for two delegates. Come and share your experiences and thoughts.

DISCUSS NEW CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP P/T ALL-STAR TEAM CONCEPT

Is it time to consider having a National Championship made up of P/T All-Star teams in one female and one male age group. Could this be an additional event in late August for the U15 age group or could it replace the existing U15 Canadian Championships. Now that it appears there will be a U15 Girls National Team would this help everyone provide exposure to and identify the top players in Canada. Would this type of event help to grow male softball or hurt it? Bring your "A" game to the discussion folks.

AGM

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



2024
SOFTBALL CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL
ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

MEETING

SOFTBALL CANADA CONGRESS

RULES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Robert's Rules of Order shall apply whereby not covered here.

1. Article 6 of the Bylaws and Constitution shall govern voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting.
2. Any questions of a delegate's right to vote shall be decided by a "Credentials Committee" declared by the Board of Directors.
3. If for any reason, an approved delegate MUST leave the Assembly permanently, a replacement may be named as long as he meets the criteria of the Credentials Committee. The assembly shall be informed of the change and its approval when it is finalized.
4. The voting power of the Assembly shall be announced at the start of the business meeting.
5. Any amendments to the Constitution/Bylaws shall be by two-thirds majority, in accordance with Article 11 of the Bylaws, before they can be taken to the General Assembly.
6. Any amendments to the Special Operating Rules shall be by a simple majority, in accordance with Part 7 Article I a) of the Special Operating Rules.
7. The Chairman of any session is eligible to vote, and in the case of a tie, has a second and casting vote.
8. After the Chair has stated the motion, any voting delegate has the privilege of speaking to the question (motion).
9. The maker of the motion is entitled to open and close debate on the motion.
10. All other official delegates may speak only once concerning a main motion or each amendment to the main motion.
11. Any new proposal is a main motion.
12. There may be only two amendments to a main motion on the floor at any one time without calling for the vote.
13. An Amendment (#2) to the amendment (#1) to the Motion (main motion) shall be voted on first. If this passes, the amendment (#1) (as amended) to the Motion (main motion) will be voted on next. If this passes, the Motion (main motion) will be voted on last. If amendment (#2) to the amendment (#1) to the Motion (main motion) is defeated, we vote on the amendment (#1). If this is defeated, we vote on the Motion (main motion). The Chairman's final question is "Shall the main motion as amended carry?" OR if the amendment was defeated: "Shall the main motion carry?"
14. An abstaining vote shall not be counted either "for" or "against". They simply have decided not to vote and therefore, their vote does not count.
15. The Chairman of the Assembly ensures efficient conduct of business before the Assembly without himself participating in debate. He remains objective and impartial. Seeing that conflicting opinions receive equal expression.
16. All remarks shall be addressed to the Chair. Chairman is judge of relevancy.
17. The Chairman must decide, subject to appeal, all questions of order and procedure. He must at all times preserve that order and decorum essential to calm deliberation, effective employment of available time.
18. Voting for directors shall be done by ballot.
19. On the first ballot for a director's position, all approved candidates shall be granted time to address the Assembly. Amount of time to be ascertained by the Chair based on the number of candidates.
20. Following the first ballot, the candidate receiving the least amount of votes shall be struck from the second ballot. This method shall continue on succeeding ballots until a successful candidate receives a simple majority of the ballots cast.
21. The Chair shall appoint a minimum of three scrutineers. Said scrutineers not to carry a vote.
22. When a subject has in the opinion of the Chair, been fully discussed, and it appears that the meeting is ready to vote, the Chairman asks: "Is the meeting ready for the question?" The vote shall be taken by the raising of the hand. The scrutineers shall count any question of the result of the voting.
23. NOTICES OF MOTION merely a statement of intention and may be made by any delegate at any time in the meeting. Requires no second and is not at that time debatable.
24. MOTION TO ADJOURN the debate/or meeting is always in order. Must be seconded but is NOT debatable. It is the means by which a decision on a question may be deferred. If the motion to adjourn is carried, the matter under consideration may be put aside, but it can be reinstated at a later meeting. If it does not carry, the meeting merely carries on as if nothing has occurred.
25. If it should be decided that a subject demands fuller attention that can be given at the meeting, a motion may be made that it be referred to a standing or special committee for further study. Such a motion may be debated, but only with reference to the referral, not the subject at hand.



Annual General Meeting 2024

Saturday, November 9 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of the 2023 Annual General Meeting minutes
4. President's Report
5. May 31, 2024 Auditor's Report and
Financial Statements
6. Appointment of auditors for May 31, 2025 yearend
7. Constitution and Bylaws (none for 2024)
8. Special Operating Rules
 - a. Canadian Championships
9. New Business
 - a. Elections
 - b. Hall of Fame
 - c. 2025 Softball Canada Congress
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment



2024
NOTICE / AVIS

MOTIONS

MOTIONS – AS MOVED FROM THE FLOOR

NOTICE OF MOTION #1

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the 2024 Softball Canada Congress agenda be adopted with the powers to add.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NOTICE OF MOTION #2

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the Minutes of the 2023 Softball Canada Congress in Niagara Falls, ON be accepted.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NOTICE OF MOTION #3

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

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

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NOTICE OF MOTION #4

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended May 31, 2024 be accepted as presented.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NOTICE OF MOTION #5

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP be appointed as auditors for the year ending May 31, 2025.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

2024
SPECIAL OPERATING
/ RÉGLEMENTS FONCTIONNELS

RULES / PARTICULIERS

MOTION #1

Submitted by: Board of Directors P/T Affiliation: Softball Canada

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

Part One, Article 2.1 c) ii) (p. 214)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

ii) The hosting fee schedule is as follows:

Fast Pitch

Men's	\$25,000
Women's	\$6,000
U23 Men's	\$12,500
U23 Women's	\$4,000
U20 Men's	\$6,000
U19 Women's	\$8,000
U17 Boy's	\$4,000
U17 Girl's	\$8,000
U15 Boy's	\$4,000
U15 Girl's	\$8,000

Slo-Pitch

Men's/Women's	\$5,000
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BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

REVISION

Fast Pitch

Men's	\$25,000
Women's	\$6,000
U23 Men's	\$10,000
U23 Women's	\$4,000
U20 Men's	\$6,000
U19 Women's	\$10,000
U17 Men's	\$6,000
U17 Women's	\$10,000
U15 Men's	\$6,000
U15 Women's	\$10,000

Slo-Pitch

Men's/Women's	\$8,000
---------------	----------------

RATIONALE

Softball Canada's costs (flights, accommodations, per diem) to send Supervisors, UICs/DUICs and officials to Canadian Championships have increased due to inflation so a revision of the hosting fees is in order.

The U15/U17/U19 Championships on the Women's side each regularly attract 20+ teams and have been extremely profitable for the hosts, so an increase is warranted. These events receive multiple early bids.

The U15/U17 Championships on the Men's side were introduced at a lower hosting fee (\$4,000) to attract hosts. The Championships are now fully established and regularly attract between 8-12 teams.

The U23 Men's event regularly attracts 6-8 teams, so a reduction is in order.

The Men's/Women's Slo-Pitch Championships attract 32+ teams combined. While they typically don't charge a gate fee, there are plenty of other opportunities for the host to make money with that amount of participants.

The U23 Women's Canadian Championship is no longer being offered.

Finally, U15/U17 Championships will be renamed from Boy's/Girl's to Men's/Women's to be consistent with the terminology used for WBSC World Cups.

New hosting fees would come into effect for the 2026 Canadian Championships, as 2025 hosting agreements are already in place.

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

Total increase of \$10,500 in hosting fees paid by hosts to Softball Canada.

Final Recommendations: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

MOTION #2

Submitted by: Board of Directors P/T Affiliation: Softball Canada

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

Part One, Article 2.1 d) i) (p. 214)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

d) Passes

i) Tournament passes will be issued up to the following maximums:

Players	17
Coaches and managers	5
Bat boy/girl	1

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

REVISION

d) Passes

i) **Participant** passes will be issued up to the following maximums **according to the Official Player List:**

Players	17 <u>(20 for Women's Slo-Pitch and Master Men's)</u>
Coaches	5
Bat boy/girl	1

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. Women's Slo-Pitch and Master Men's teams are now allowed up to 20 players on their Official Player List.

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

Cost of up to three additional participant passes per team for Canadian Championship hosts in Women's Slo-Pitch and Master Men's categories. Savings to hosts from participants sharing their pass.

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #3

Submitted by: Board of Directors P/T Affiliation: Softball Canada

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

Part Two, Article 2.6 d) (p. 218)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

d) No player of U20 category age, or under, may exercise Provincial Non-Resident (“import”) status.

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

DELETION

RATIONALE

Some U20 aged import players could help teams attend and compete at the U23 and Men’s/Women’s Fast Pitch Canadian Championships. The Canadian Championship Committee has allowed it to happen in the past for the betterment of the tournament.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

MOTION #4

Submitted by: Board of Directors P/T Affiliation: Softball Canada

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

Part Three, Article 2.1 a) iv) (p. 223)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

iv) If 20 or more teams are entered, teams will be split into 2 pools and each will play teams within their own pool. The top 2 teams from each pool will advance to the Championship Round with double life and the next 2 will have single life.

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

REVISION

iv) If **18** or more teams are entered, teams will be split into 2 pools and each will play teams within their own pool. The top 2 teams from each pool will advance to the Championship Round with double life and the next 2 will have single life.

RATIONALE

With 18 teams entered, we would form two pools of 9 teams and each team would play 8 round robin games. Feedback from teams is they would prefer to avoid a modified round robin format when possible.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

MOTION #5

Submitted by: Board of Directors P/T Affiliation: Softball Canada

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

Part Four, Article 2.1 c) iii) b) (p. 235)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

b) The total runs scored in all games, with a maximum of 10 runs scored per game, will be used.

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

REVISION

b) The total runs scored in all games, ~~with a maximum of 10 runs scored per game,~~ will be used.

RATIONALE

The maximum of 10 runs scored per game was put in when runs scored was the next criteria after plus/minus and teams were running up the score. Now that total runs against is ahead of runs scored in the tiebreaking criteria, teams place more emphasis on preventing runs and the maximum runs scored is no longer as important. Tiebreaking criteria should use the actual final score of games for runs for and against.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

MOTION #6

Submitted by: Board of Directors P/T Affiliation: Softball Canada

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

Part Six, Article 12 (p. 245)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

The annual limit shall be set at a maximum of five (5) selections, not including the Trailblazers category.

Up to five (5) entrants to the Softball Canada Hall of Fame may be named each year. Except in special circumstances, nominations will only be considered for inductees from the region hosting the Annual Meeting that year. Trailblazers may be inducted any time at Softball Canada’s discretion.

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

ADDITION

NOTE: In special circumstances, the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Hall of Fame Committee, can add additional members beyond the annual limit of five (5) inductees.

RATIONALE

This will give Softball Canada the flexibility to add extra Hall of Fame Inductees in the event there is a backlog of deserving inductees to be recognized.

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

Possible costs to Softball Canada related to having additional inductees (travel, hotel room, tickets, etc.)

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

2024
NOMINATIONS

DIRECTORS / DIRECTEURS



August 23, 2024

To: Softball Canada Nomination Committee
c/o Mike Branchaud, CEO
via electronic mail at mbranchaud@softball.ca

Subject: Board Nomination – Jackie Dugger

Dear Mr. Branchaud,

On behalf of Softball BC, I have the honour to again nominate Jackie Dugger for the position of Director to the Softball Canada Board.

Jackie Dugger has provided strong leadership and contributed on multiple levels to the game and the members she has served so faithfully. Her experience and passion for the sport continue to benefit participants across the country. Softball BC is proud of the many accomplishments Jackie has brought forward and we can think of no better representative for this position.

Thank you,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Parkes".

Lisa Parkes
President, Softball BC

Copy: Softball BC Board of Directors



August 31, 2023

Softball Canada
Mr. Mike Branchaud, Chief Executive Officer
#212-223 Colonnade Road South
Ottawa, Ontario
K2E 7X3

Dear Mike

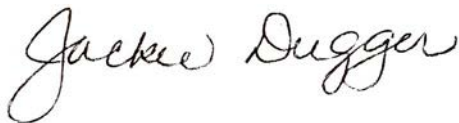
It is with continued gratitude and pleasure to accept Softball British Columbia's support in my bid for re-election to the Softball Canada's Board of Directors

It is my pleasure to serve and work on behalf of all our P/T's as we continue to make our sport to be the best that we can be. I am really proud of the work the Board and all the Staff do in developing & implementing new programs , clinics, updating our current programs and adding supporting workshops that have helped all our members in their journey to make Softball better.

As always I remain passionate about our Sport and feel incredibly honored to be part of Softball Canada in our continued quest to improve our game.

I believe in giving back to the sport from which I have gained so much. For that reason I still want to continue to dedicate my time to our Game by accepting my nomination for the Softball Canada's Board of Directors.

Respectfully Yours



Jackie Dugger
14375-17A Ave.
Surrey, B.C., V4A 9W2
604-506-6437

Resume For: Jackie Dugger

**14375-17A Ave.
Surrey, B.C. V4A 9W2
(604) 506-6437
e-mail: jduggersoftball@gmail.com**

Experience & Responsibilities:

Softball Canada:

- 2024 Supervisor U19 Women's Canadian Championship, Saskatoon, Sask
- 2024 Supervisor Women's Canadian Championship, Blackfalds, AB
- 2023 Supervisor U23 Men's Canadian Championships, Saskatoon, Sask
- 2023 Supervisor U17 Girls Canadian Championship, Saskatoon Sask.
- 2022 – Supervisor 17 Boys Canadian Championship, Saskatoon, Sask.
- 2022 – Supervisor U23/Women's Canadian Championship, Saskatoon, Sask.
- 2022 – Supervisor U15 Girls Canadian Championship, Saskatoon, Sask.
- 2019 – Supervisor U14 Girls Canadian Championships, Montreal, Quebec
- 2019 – Supervisor U16 Girls Canadian Championships, Calgary, Alberta
- 2018 – Supervisor U16 Girls Canadian Championship, Winnipeg, MB
- 2018 – Supervisor U23 Men's Canadian Championship, St.Leonard-d'Aston, QC
- 2017 – Supervisor U19 Girls Canadian Championship, Lloydminster, AB
- 2017 – Supervisor U14 Boys Canadian Championship, Palmerston, ON
- 2016 – Supervisor U16 Girls Canadian Championships, Montreal QC
- 2016 – Supervisor U16 Boys Canadian Championships, Owen Sound, ON
- 2015 – Supervisor U16 Girls Canadian Championships, Calgary, AB
- 2015 – Supervisor Jr Women's Canadian Championships – Summerside, PEI
- 2013 – Supervisor Jr Men's Canadian Championships – Owen Sound, Ont.
- 2013 – Assist Supervisor Pee Wee Girls Canadians – Montreal, Quebec
- 2010 – Supervisor Senior Women's Slo-Pitch, Surrey, B.C.
- 2009 – Supervisor Pee Wee Girls Canadians – Guelph, Ontario
- 2007 – Supervisor Sr. Women's SloPitch Canadian Championships , Surrey B.C.
- 2005 – Supervisor Bantam Girls Canadians – Cloverdale, B.C.
- 2004 - Assist Supervisor Midget Girls Canadians – Calgary, AB

Western Canadians

- 2006 - Supervisor Bantam Boys & Girls – Port Alberni BC
- 2005 – Supervisor Midget Boys & Girls – Rutland, BC

Western Canada Summer Games 2011 – Technical Director – Kamloops, B.C.

- 2013 President Softball B.C.
- 2011 – 2013: 1st Vice President Softball B.C.
- Director in Charge of BC Summer Gam
- Member of SBBC Management Committee
- 2001 - 2010: Minor Director – Softball B.C.
- 1990 – 2000: District 6 Coordinator
- Director in charge of Team B.C. 2005 Canada Summer Games
- Director in charge of Team B.C. 2003 Western Canada Summer Games.
- PSO Adviser for BC Summer Games – 2012, 2010, 2008, 2006, 2004, 2002.
- Director of Provincials Championships & Board Reps. for all Minor Provincials,

- Director in charge of all minor activities in the province of B.C. Organized and chaired all meetings dealing with Minors – AGM & Leadership.

1992- 2000 – District Minor Coordinator –Softball B.C.

- Oversaw District 6, Burnaby, New Westminster, & Richmond for both the boys and girls programs.
- Organized and ran all District Championships for Divisions and classifications that led to Provincials
- Chair and supervise Provincial Championships from Squirt C to Midget A
- Member of B.C. Committee for Western & Canada Summer Games since 1994.
- Support staff at Western Canada Summer Games for Team B.C. in Abbotsford, B.C in 1995. Support staff at Canada Summer Games for Team B.C. in Brandon, Manitoba in 1997.

Prior to 1989 and Up to 2005

- Held many executive positions including President with Burnaby Minor Softball.
- Statistician Chair Western Canadians Midget Boys & Girls.
- Organized and ran many Provincials and tournaments.
- Statistician Chair for the Canadian Midget Girls Championships in 2003

World Championships

- 2016 Women’s World Championships–Surrey. B.C.: Director & Sports Management Chair
- 2012 Women’s World Championships – Whitehorse, Yukon: Score Keeping
- 2008 Jr Men’s World Championships – Whitehorse, Yukon: Score Keeping

Canada Cup:

- Organized and produced Coaches manual of information and stats for all athletes/teams in the Futures events for all College scouts attending Futures Tournament at Canada Cup.
- 2016- Present: Director Canadian Athletic Softball Society
- Canadian Open Fastpitch Championship Scheduler: 2010 – 2021
- Technical Director for: Women’s International Division, Women’s Elite Division, Futures Gold & Silver Division & Bantam Gold & Silver Divisions.

Softball Canada - Director

2012 – Present

- Director in charge of Can Pitch
- Director in Charge & Committee for LTPD and ADM
- Chair Canadian Championship Committee
- Committee Policy Review
- Hall of Fame committee
- Finance Committee



Friday, September 27th, 2024

Mike Branchaud
Chief Executive Director
Softball Canada
223 Colonnade Road Suite 212
Ottawa Ontario
Canada K2E 7K3

Attention Mike

The Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association, Member Organization of Softball Saskatchewan is requesting to forward a Nomination to Softball Canada for a Director Position within the Softball Canada Board of Directors. The Nomination request is for Vanessa Kosteroski, residence of Saskatoon Saskatchewan and a present Board of Director with the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association.

If you have any questions, please contact me immediately

Sincerely

Bryan Kosteroski

Bryan Kosteroski
President
Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association
Po Box 28048 RPO Westgate
Saskatoon Saskatchewan
Canada S7M 5V8

I am accepting the nomination for Softball Canada Board of Directors!
Thank you

Vanessa Kosteroski
126 Borland Place
Saskatoon, Sask.
Cell: 306-241-9797
Kosteroski71@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Presently sit on the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association board as 3rd Vice President since 2011
- Member at large Zone 3 executive 1998
- Treasurer Zone 3 Executive 1999-2002
- Commissioner of Zone 3 Lasers that are part of Saskatoon Minor Softball 2006-2008
- Midget committee chair Saskatoon Minor Softball 2009
- President Saskatoon Minor softball 2009-2012
- Host committee 2015 ISF Men's
- Host committee for several Softball Canada Canadian Championships 2009-Present
- President of Saskatoon Minor Softball association 2017-2024
- Lead Saskatoon Minor Softball with a review of the governance and operations as well as updated all by laws and helped zones to align with those bylaws
- Started a new fall ball program that has grown over the past four years to record number of players this season at 335 from U11-U17
- Led Saskatoon Minor Softball through two years of covid
- Led Saskatoon Minor Softball through zone boundary changes for 2022 year
- As well has host several President Tournaments through Saskatoon Minor Softball as well as several Softball Saskatchewan Provincial Championships

Mr. Mike Branchaud
Chief Executive Officer,
Softball Canada
223 Colonnade Road, Suite 212
Ottawa, ON K2E 7K3

Dear Mr. Branchaud

Please accept this letter as an acknowledgement of my intent to run for re-election for the Softball Canada Board of Directors.

As being introduced to the game of softball at a very young age, I am extremely passionate about this great game and would love to be a member on this board to interact with members of similar interests across Canada to seek opportunities to continue to improve the sport.

I currently sit on both the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association and have been lucky enough to work with great people at local and provincial level. I also have been part of numerous National and International Championships host committees. This opportunity has allowed me to pick the brains of many delegates, coaches etc. from around the world for ideas to help grow the game.

I am a very fortunate husband of 25 years to my wife Alison and a father of 2 young ladies who have been very active in the ball community and have had the pleasure to watch them grow from the grassroots level to where they are today still playing minor softball. I have also been very fortunate to have been a Board member of Softball Canada since 2020 and would love to continue moving forward, as sitting on this that has taught me valuable skills and introduced me to many influential people from all around this great country and world that I will continue use. As I am very passionate of the sport of softball both in the male and female games.

Thank you for the opportunity and look forward to hearing from all of you.

Brooks Penrod

Brooks Penrod
6 Cory Place
Saskatoon, SK S7M 5G8
Cell: (306) 280-5229
brookspenrod.sc@gmail.com

COACHING EXPERIENCE

- **2011 – U14 Boys Saskatoon Phantoms Boys**
- **2012 - U14 Saskatoon Phantoms Boys - Western Canadian Gold Medalist**
- **2013 – U12 Saskatoon Phantoms Girls**
- **2013 – U16 Saskatoon Phantoms Boys - Western Canadian 4th Place finish**
- **2013 – Assistant Coach U21 Softball Sask Men’s - International cup – 4th Place Finish**
- **2014 – U16 Saskatoon Selects Boys – 8th Place Finish Canadian Championships**
- **2015 – U18 Saskatoon Selects Boys– 4th Place Finish Canadian Championships**
- **2016 – U18 Saskatoon Selects Boys– Canadian Championships Gold Medalist**
- **2016 – U14 Saskatoon Phantoms Girls -**
- **2018 – U23 Saskatoon Jr. Diamondbacks Men’s – Silver Medalist Canadian Championships**
- **2019 – U23 Saskatoon Jr. Diamondbacks Men’s– Bronze Medalist Canadian Championships**
- **2020 – U23 Saskatoon Jr. Diamondbacks Men’s- 1st place Finish SASA League play no Nationals due to Covid 19**
- **2021 – U23 Saskatoon Jr. Diamondbacks men’s**
- **2022 – Assistant Coach U21 Male Softball Sask Canada Games Team – Bronze Medalist**
- **2022- U17 Saskatoon Phantoms Girls**

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Presently sit on the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association board as Vice President since 2004
- Commissioner of the Zone 4 Saskatoon Phantoms that are part of the Saskatoon Minor Softball League 2019-2021
- Host Committee - Accommodations Director and Vice Chair for the 2009 and 2015 ISF Men’s World Fastpitch Championships
- Sat on Organizing and Host Committee for 3 Western Canadian Championships, 18 Softball Canada Championships and 4 International events
- Softball Canada Board member 2020 – present

- U18 Men's National Team leader at WBSC Qualifier in Sincelejo Colombia September 2023
- Men's National Team leader at WBSC Qualifier in Prince Albert, SK - July 2024
- Canadian Championships U23 Men's Supervisor Kitchener, ON August 2024

WORK EXPERIENCE

May 2015 - Present

Saskatchewan Contract Sales

Centaur Products Ltd, Vancouver, BC

2005- 2016

Account Manager

Supreme Office Products, Saskatoon, SK



September 3rd, 2024

Softball Canada
Chair Nomination Committee
212-223 Colonnade Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 7K3

RE: Board of Director of Softball Canada - Robert (Bob Stanton)

Dear Chair Nomination Committee,

On behalf of Softball New Brunswick, please accept this nomination of Robert (Bob) Stanton for a 'Director-at-Large' position on the Board of Directors with Softball Canada (SBC).

Bob's involvement with the game of softball has provided him with a wealth of experience from every aspect of the sport: athlete, coach, official, clinician, administrator, etc.

A few of Bob's highlights include the following: Level 5 SBC official; SBC's National Director of Umpires, member of the SBC Officials Development Committee, WBSC Director of Umpires-Softball, Deputy Director of Umpires for the ISF, and being named Umpire in Chief at the 2008 Beijing and 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, and being named a member of the Softball Canada Board of Directors in 2020. Since his tenure on the Board of Directors Bob has supervised numerous Canadian Championships as well as the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ontario.

His professional background, management skills, and experience as a negotiator, mediator and in conflict resolution would continue to contribute to his role on the Board of Directors.

As a builder, Bob has been involved at the grassroots of leagues/associations humble beginnings and still provides leadership to our Softball New Brunswick membership when asked. Bob's knowledge, passion and dedication to the game of softball certainly makes him an ideal candidate to continue to help lead Softball Canada.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Scott Willis
Softball New Brunswick
President

Robert (Bob) Stanton
571 Afton Lane, Fredericton, NB, E3B 7L7

September 3, 2024

Scott Neiles
Chairman, Nomination Committee
Softball Canada
212-223 Colonnade Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 7K3

By E-mail

Re: Board of Directors of Softball Canada – Nomination of Robert (Bob) Stanton

Dear Chairman

I am honoured to have been nominated by Softball New Brunswick as a candidate for one of the positions on the Board of Directors of Softball Canada.

I consent to the nomination and agree to allow my name to stand for a position on the Board of Softball Canada at the elections held at the Annual General Meeting.

While many may associate my connection to softball through umpiring, I can assure everyone that my passion has always been for all aspects of the game of softball, be it playing, coaching, umpiring or administration.

I would be honoured to serve as a Director on the Softball Canada Board of Directors and commit to being approachable, accessible and ready to dig in on each and every issue that needs addressing. I appreciate the support of Softball New Brunswick and this opportunity to run for the Board of Softball Canada

Yours in Softball



Robert (Bob) Stanton

RESUME

Name: Robert (Bob) Stanton

PERSONAL INFORMATION

DOB February 4, 1950
Marital Status Single
Address 571 Afton Lane, Fredericton, NB, E3B 7L7
Phone 506 461-8030
E-mail robert.stanton@rogers.com
Skype bob.stanton3

EDUCATION:

1972 Bachelor of Arts – Saint Thomas University
1974 Bachelor of Laws – University of New Brunswick
2002 Certificate in Public Service Management - University of New Brunswick
2003 Certificate in Negotiations, Mediation and Conflict Resolution- St. Mary's University
2006 Advanced Certificate in Negotiations, Mediation and Conflict Resolution – St. Mary's University

EMPLOYMENT:

2016 – Present – Retired
2010 – 2016 – Lead Provincial Negotiator – Modern Day Treaty Process, Jordan's Principle
1987 – 2010 – Province of New Brunswick – Various Management Positions
1974 – 1987 – Self-employed - Private Sector

BOARD EXPERIENCE:

2000 – 2010 – Director - Fundy Trail Development Board – Provincial Representative
2006 – Present – Secretary – Fredericton Fast Pitch Association
2008 – 2012 – Director – Fredericton City Club
2020 – 2024 - Director – Fredericton City Club
2021 – 2024 - Director – Softball Canada Board of Directors

HONOURS:

1995 Inducted into the City of Saint John Sports Hall of Fame – Team Member
1998 Softball Canada Umpire of the Year – Umpire
2001 Sport New Brunswick – Official of the Year
2009 Inducted into Softball New Brunswick Hall of Fame
2009 Official of the Years – Sports Officials of Canada - Umpire
2010 Inducted into the City of Fredericton Sports Hall of Fame - Umpire
2010 Inducted into the Sports Officials of Canada Hall of Fame - Umpire
2011 Inducted into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame – Builder
2015 Inducted into the International Softball Federation Hall of Fame – Builder
2023 Inducted into the Sports New Brunswick Hall of Fame

SOFTBALL ACTIVITY

1968 – 1984 – Player – Intermediate and Recreational

1982 – Present – Registered Softball Canada Umpire

2000 – 2004 – Coach of UNB Lady Reds Softball Team

1984 – 2004 – 5 Canadian Championships as an umpire, 6 Canadian Championships as an umpire supervisor

2000 – 2004 – Member of the ODC

2004-2008 – Director of Umpires – Softball Canada

2006 – 2008 – Assistant Director of Umpires – ISF

2008 – 2022 – Director of Umpires, Softball – ISF, WBSC. UIC for 2008 and 2021 Olympics

2022 – Softball Canada Supervisor for Canada Summer Games - Female and Male

2023 – 2024 – Softball Canada Supervisor 2023 U17 Boys Canadian Championship, 2023 Women's Canadian Championship, 2024 U17 Boys Canadian Championships, U15 Boys Canadian Championship



SOFTBALL ALBERTA

"The Original Game of Summer"

9860 – 33 Ave NW | Edmonton, AB | T6N 1C6

Phone: 780-461-7735 | www.softballalberta.ca

August 28, 2024

Softball Canada
Mike Branchaud
Chief Executive Officer
212 - 223 Colonnade Road South
Ottawa, ON K2E 7K3

Dear Mike:

On behalf of Softball Alberta, I would like to nominate Kareena Zanolli for a position of Director with Softball Canada.

Kareena has many years of experience with the Softball Alberta Board of Directors, attending multiple Softball Canada AGM's on our behalf and because of this experience, she would be an asset to the Softball Canada Board. Kareena has been a player, coach and administrator for many years and through this commitment and passion for the sport we believe it makes Kareena a great candidate.

Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this nomination to the 2024 Softball Canada Annual General Meeting

Regards,

Todd Neuman
President

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Kareena J. Zanolli
24 Drake Landing Heights
Okotoks, AB T1S 0L4

September 23, 2024

Softball Canada
Mike Branchaud
Chief Executive Officer
212 - 223 Colonnade Road South
Ottawa, ON K2E 7K3

Dear Mike,

I am writing to formally accept the nomination from Softball Alberta for the position of Director with Softball Canada. It is an honour to be considered for this role, and I am eager to continue contributing to the organization's mission and growth.

My work with the DEI Committee has been incredibly rewarding, Promoting inclusivity and ensuring everyone feels welcomed and valued in the softball community remains a priority for me.

I am also excited about the creation of the new Slo-Pitch Working Group, and the opportunities to further develop and promote the sport at all levels within Canada and on the international stage.

After working together with our dedicated team to develop our next five-year strategic plan, I am deeply committed to seeing those goals and targets through. I am enthusiastic about the future of Softball Canada and the important work ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our membership for the last two years. I hope to continue working with all of you to achieve our shared vision for the growth and success of softball in Canada and beyond.



Kareena Zanolli

Kareena J. Zanolli
24 Drake Landing Heights
Okotoks, AB T1S 0L4

Softball Player History

Fastball:

Gold Medallist - 1992 Bantam B Girl's Manitoba Provincial Championship, Team: Portage Bantam Girls

Participated in 1993 Midget A Girl's Canadian Fast Pitch Championships, Team: Manitoba Magic

Participated in 1995 Midget A Girl's Canadian Fast Pitch Championships, Team: Winnipeg Illusion

Awarded All Star Fielder award at 1995 Midget A Girls Canadian Fast Pitch Championships

Silver Medallist - 1997 Junior A Women's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Team: Smitty's Terminators

Softball Manitoba Hall of Fame member - Team Category - 1997/98 Smitty's Terminators

Slo-Pitch:

Participated in the Senior Women's Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships the following years: 2003-2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012-2015.

Gold Medallist – 2010, 2013

Silver Medallist – 2005, 2008, 2014

Awarded 2010 Championship Round MVP

Awarded 2010 Softball Alberta Women's Slo-Pitch Player of the Year

Softball Administration & Volunteer Experience

2023-Present Softball Canada Board of Directors

2023-Present Co-Chair Softball Canada Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team

2023-Present Softball Canada Slo-Pitch Committee

2024 Supervisor for Softball Canada U17 Girls Canadian Championship

2023 Supervisor for Softball Canada Senior Women Slo-Pitch Championship

2017-2022 Director of Slo-Pitch for Softball Alberta

2022 Softball Canada Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team

2022 Asst Supervisor for Softball Canada Senior Women Slo-Pitch Championship

2018 Softball Canada's Slo-Pitch Safety Committee

2018 Softball Alberta's Hokkaido Exchange Selection Committee

2016-2017 Director Minor Softball for Softball Alberta

2014-2016 Softball Alberta Zone 1 Slo-Pitch delegate

2010-2011 Statistician for Lethbridge Ladies Slo-Pitch League

Coaching Experience

2024 Head Coach Aftermath Ladies Slo-Pitch

2022 & 2019 Assistant Coach Team Canada Women's Slo-Pitch Border Battle Team

2022 Player-Coach Relics Women's Slo-Pitch Team

2021 Grade 7 Boys Volleyball team at Ecole Okotoks Junior High School

2011 Coach of St.Mary's High School Girl's Slo-Pitch team

Other Volunteer/Community Involvement

2020-2021 School Council Secretary Dr. Morris Gibson School, Okotoks

2016-2020 School Council Co-Chair at Children of St.Martha's School, Lethbridge

2015-2016 Director Chinook Autism Society

2012-2015 President Chinook Autism Society

2011-2012 Vice-President Chinook Autism Society

2024
NEW / NOUVELLES

BUSINESS / AFFAIRES

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #1

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

To accept the names of the following individuals inducted into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame at the 2024 Softball Canada Congress in Saskatoon, SK.

- ATHLETE – Trevor Ethier, SK
- ATHLETE – Dean Holoiien, SK
- ATHLETE – Keith Mackintosh, SK
- BUILDER – Bryan Kosteroski, SK
- COACH – Don Bates, SK
- OFFICIAL – Gary Skjerven, SK

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #2

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

That Softball Nova Scotia host the 2025 Softball Canada Congress and AGM in Halifax, NS to be held from November 5 – 8, 2025

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated