



Softball Canada Congress AND Annual General Meeting

Congrès et Assemblée générale annuelle de Softball Canada

November 9-11 Novembre, 2023

Crowne Plaza

Address: 5685 Falls Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6W7

[T] 905.374.4447

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 2023

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 2023

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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2023

Softball Canada Congress SCHEDULE / HORAIRE

Thursday, November 9

8:30 am - noon	Board of Directors Meeting – <i>Simcoe Room</i>
8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Officiating Development Committee Meeting – <i>Victoria Room</i>
9:00 am - noon	Staff Forum (SC/PT) – <i>King George Room</i>
noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Rawlings VIP Experience (9 Adi Dassier Way, Paris, ON)
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	AGM Rookie Session
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration, Welcome Reception

Friday, November 10

9:00 am - 9:30 am	Kick-off session – report on 2023 and look ahead – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Rules – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
<i>11:00 am - 11:15 am</i>	<i>Break</i>
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	A) Slo-pitch – <i>Brock Room</i> B) Jays Care – <i>Niagara Room</i>
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	National/Provincial UIC Meeting – <i>King George Room</i>
<i>12:15 pm – 1:45 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:45 pm- 2:45 pm	NBC Sports Next Presentation – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
<i>2:45 pm – 3:00 pm</i>	<i>Break</i>
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Canadian Championships/SORs – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	National/Provincial UIC Meeting – <i>King George Room</i>
7:00 pm	ON Night Social

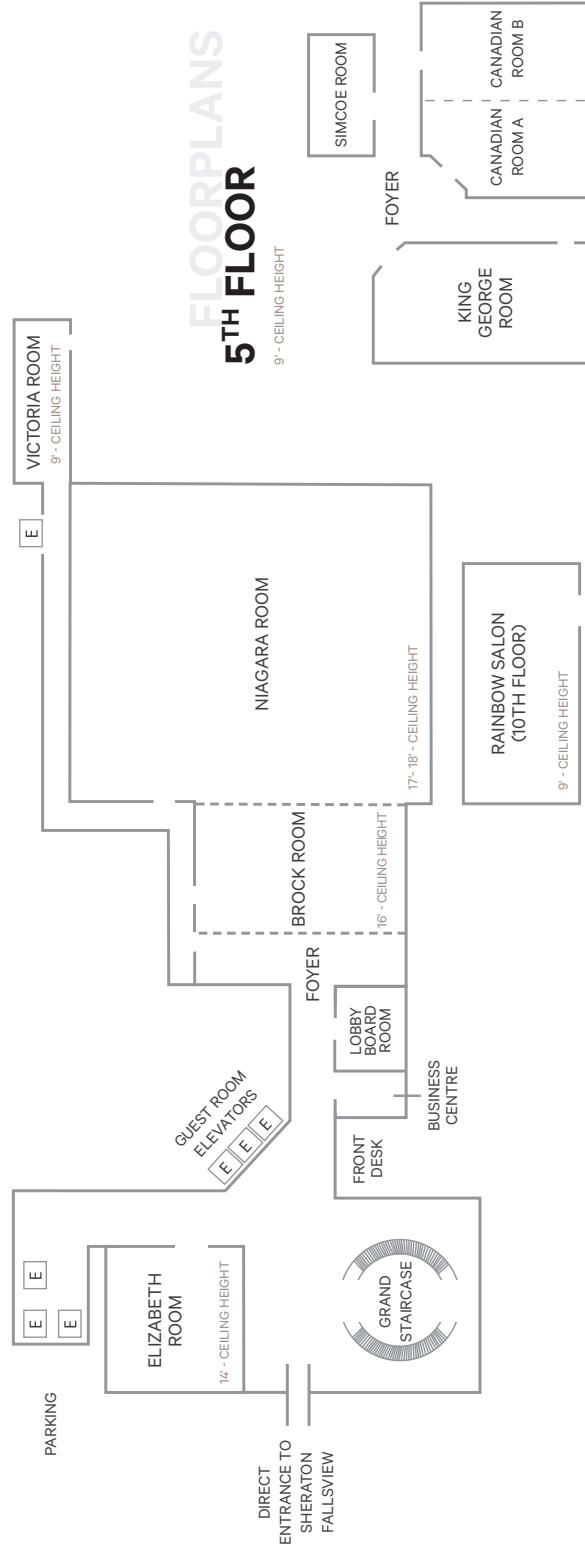
Saturday, November 11

9:00 am – 10:15 am	A) Male FP – <i>Brock Room</i> B) Player Development / Social Media – <i>Niagara Room</i>
9:00 am – 10:15 am	National/Provincial UIC Meeting – <i>King George Room</i>
<i>10:15 am – 10:30 am</i>	<i>Break</i>
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Rules Discussion – Part 2 – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Remembrance Day Ceremony – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
11:15 am – noon	Rules Discussion (continued) – Part 2 – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
<i>12:00 pm - 2:00 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	AGM – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cocktail Reception – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Softball Canada Hall of Fame Banquet – <i>Niagara/Brock Room</i>

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

CROWNE PLAZA
 NIAGARA FALLS - FALLSVIEW

FLOORPLANS
UL LEVEL



FLOORPLANS
5TH FLOOR
 9' - CEILING HEIGHT



**Softball Ontario would like to congratulate
this year's Hall of Fame Class, and all the
Award Winners on their tremendous
accomplishments!**

**We hope you enjoy your stay in Niagara
Falls!**



2023

REPORTS / RAPPORTS

2023

Softball Canada Congress

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to submit my annual report on behalf of the Board of Directors.

It was a short 4 years ago in Richmond BC when I had the opportunity to speak to everyone on a platform of change. While certainly not always as linear as I would have hoped for, I could not be more pleased with what our entire team has accomplished especially over the last 2 post Covid years.

In any endeavor, whether it's in business, sports, or life, the ability to adapt and change in response to the situation is essential. This adaptation can be likened to a coach making a strategic substitution during a game or an office leader adjusting their strategy to achieve the desired results. Change is something that takes time to become accustomed to, and even the most experienced individuals may initially resist or find it challenging to embrace.

Our goal to become a world leader in Softball extends far beyond just on-field performance. In my humble opinion, the key to our success lies in the combination of exceptional leadership and a strong work ethic demonstrated by both our National Office staff and our Senior National Team coaches Kaleigh Rafter and John Stuart. They have allowed the Softball Canada team to stay consistent with our core values of excelling in leadership, development, and participation moving forward.

A heartfelt thank to the Board of Directors Ryan, Jackie, Robb, Brooks, Scott, Kareena, and Bob. Your volunteerism and input is certainly appreciated by all. We may not always see eye to eye but as long as your thoughts are delivered with the best interest of our sport, we will always be able to get where we need to be.

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

To our members, the P/Ts, thank you for reaching out when you needed and also for being available when I required.

I would like to say a special thank you to outgoing NDU Jeff Whipple. Jeff's leadership has been instrumental in Softball Canada's umpires being regarded as some of the best in the world. Thanks again and good luck to you Jeff! Congratulations to Frankie Billingsley who was selected as the new NDU that will lead the ODC and our umpires across the land. Welcome Frankie, we know you will thrive in your new role!

In closing, thank you to Softball Ontario and its host committee for the opportunity for us to gather here in Niagara Falls. We know a meeting of this magnitude requires an endless amount of behind the scenes work. Hard work that enables us to all come together to grow our friendships and to work as a team to help better our game.

My Sincere Thanks

Scott Neiles

Softball Canada President



2023

Softball Canada Congress CEO REPORT

We are back! The voices of millions of softball athletes, coaches, officials and fans across the world have officially helped as the LA28 Organizing Committee and International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted the addition of five sports to the 2028 Olympic Sport Program – including Softball. This will be the 5th time softball will be played in the Olympics. Our athletes, coaching staff and supporters, could not be any happier with the news. Planning and preparing for the next five years are already underway.

Our Men's and Women's National Teams continue to be a strong force on the diamonds. In December 2022, the Men's Team travelled to New Zealand and continued their winning ways eventually bringing home a silver medal. Canada is the only country to medal on the Men's side in the last 4 World Cups with a gold, a silver and 2 bronze medals. Head Coach John Stuart and the Coaching Staff are deep in planning for 2024 World Cup Stage 1 and the Final Stage in 2025. Both events will be held in Prince Albert Saskatchewan.

The U23 Men's team received an invite to the first ever U23 World Cup that was played in Parana, Argentina in April. With the team unable to travel to the Pan American Qualifier due to the Government of Canada travel restrictions for Venezuela, the invite to the World Cup came December 23rd. It was a great Christmas present for the athletes and coaching staff. With a short 3 months to prepare, the team had its ups and downs at the World Cup, eventually finishing 5th. It was great to see the next generation of potential Men's National Team players.

The U18 Men's Team has recently qualified for the World Cup (now taking place in Mexico) with a bronze medal performance at the Pan American Championships this past September in Colombia. We wish Head Coach Mark Quinn and the rest of the staff and athletes the best of luck at the event. Safe travels.

The Women's Team finished off 2022 with a bronze medal at the Pan American Championship in Guatemala which qualified them for the first stage of the World Cup this past July in Italy. The team finished second highlighted by a round robin victory against Japan, which qualified the team for the final stage of the World Cup next July back in Italy. Coach Kaleigh Rafter and the athletes are currently preparing for the Pan Am Games being held in Chile at the end of October. We wish the team and staff safe travels and the best of luck.

The U18 Women's Team Coaching Staff have been hard at work with ID camps and scouting throughout the 2023 season. At this time there is no date or location for either the Qualifier or the Stage 1 World Cup which are both supposed to happen in 2024. Head Coach Keith McIntosh and the staff and athletes are eagerly waiting for more information from the WBSC.

The Border Battle continues to be a big feature event for our Slo-Pitch Community. This year in Cleveland Ohio, both of our Men's and Women's Teams had strong showing in the Border Battle final games vs the USA. Both games were very close and went the full 7 innings. Next year, the event is back in Oklahoma City at Hall of Fame Stadium.

Over the last few years, many budgets and forecasts were completed only to be redone weeks and months later. We are finally getting back to somewhat of a normal calendar both nationally and internationally which will help in our planning and preparation. We are continuing strong budget management as our expenses are now climbing after catching up from 2 lost years of International competitions.

The 2023 Canadian Championships saw 160 teams participate in 12 events which is our second biggest number yet. With our recent partnership with NBC Sports Next, our streaming will be enhanced for all Canadian Championships moving forward. Thank you to the many hosts, volunteers, umpires, and sponsors who make our



Championships possible.

Winnipeg welcomed umpires across the country as the Blue Convention was a huge hit over the Easter weekend. With almost 200 registered participants, there was plenty of learning through workshops and clinics as well as a celebratory awards banquet. Special thanks to the Blue Convention Host Committee, its many volunteers and of course the Softball Canada Officiating Development Committee (ODC) for staging this great event after several years of cancellations. Calgary 2025 is next!

We are extremely grateful to our ODC as they continue to lead our umpire program and we remain an integral part of the international umpire program. The umpires we send to international events and exchanges continue to receive high praises from teams and hosts. A special thank you to outgoing NDU Jeff Whipple for his many years of service and insight in building our umpire program to where it is today. A warm welcome to Frankie Billingsly who has replaced Jeff as our NDU. We look forward to your enthusiasm.

On the programming side of things, Timbits Softball experienced yet another successful year distributing over 14,000 t-shirts and medals to minor associations across Canada. Thank you to Tim Hortons for their continued support in minor softball! Canpitch released updated videos supporting a new curriculum. It is always important to continue to improve proper pitching mechanics and drills to our young athletes.

Softball Canada, with the leadership of Sport Canada, continues to make Safe Sport a priority in raising awareness for our members officially joining the Office of the Sport Integrity Commission and with the ever-changing nature of sport in Canada, we will continue to support P/T alignment to ensure a safe environment for our sport across Canada.

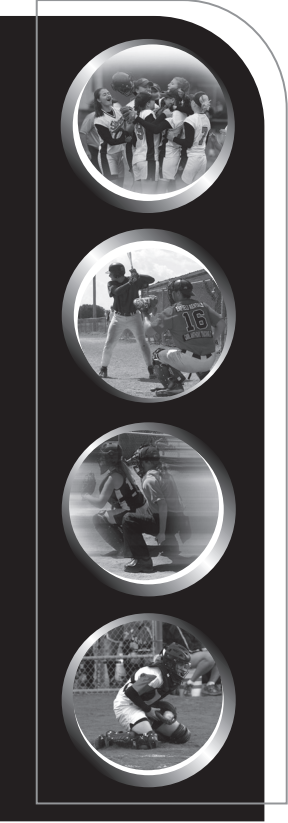
2023 once again saw a rise in Coaching Clinics and NCCP certifications. Softball Canada would like to thank the Coaching Development Committee (CDC) for their years of service and look forward to the new initiatives moving forward. It was once again a banner year for clinics and NCCP certifications.

An area of focus for Softball Canada continues to be Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Our team of dedicated volunteers have been instrumental in continuing to steer positive change within the organization and softball communities.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Board of Directors led by President Scott Neiles, consisting of Jackie Dugger, Ryan DeBelser, Robb Andison, Brooks Penrod, Bob Stanton, Kareena Zanolli, and Scott Searle for their efforts and support in our programming and planning. Our Softball Canada staff continue to work tirelessly to ensure all aspects and commitments are completed. Thank you to Gilles LeBlanc, Angela Ballantyne, Donna Ozarko, Christine Robertson, and Cassidy Burton who have all contributed to the growth and promotion of our game. I encourage everyone to read their individual reports as I have only touched on a few highlights from their program areas.

Respectively submitted

Mike Branchaud - CEO



2023

Softball Canada Congress NDU REPORT

Our journey to adapt to a new landscape – as a society, sport, and program – continued in 2023, evidenced by several milestones over the past few months.

Canadian Championships

Canadian Championships always presents challenges in terms of crew staffing for a few events, but many of our provincial and territorial programs stepped up to provide extra support. In total, 144 umpires worked at our 12 Canadian Championship events.

We continue to be blessed with great program leaders who are willing to share of their time and expertise as a UIC or DUIC to make the Canadian Championship experience a positive one for our umpires. The results continue to be born out on the data provided from the post-event umpire surveys with 95% of umpires agreeing that their Canadian Championship was a positive and enjoyable experience.

Registrations

It was a huge challenge, but many individuals have worked diligently to overcome the registration hit from the pandemic, and our national registration numbers now surpass 2019. While there are many factors that contributed to this recovery, this is quite an achievement and worthy of great celebration. We must give recognition to the efforts of ODC member Frankie Billingsley and the recruitment and retention leaders in our provincial programs.

However, we need to be cautious in declaring mission accomplished in terms of recruitment. We have lost – and continue to lose – a lot of experienced umpires who covered a lot of games. One new youth umpire working a couple of nights a week between their own games and other activities cannot replace the load carried by many of our retired veterans who worked several nights a week. Umpire staffing issues are still critical to the health and growth of the sport in general and we remain on a long-term pathway to ensure our sport is healthy in all facets.

2023 Umpire Registrations

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alberta	401	83	263	330	410
Manitoba	244	146	141	168	208
Saskatchewan	383	128	194	342	433
Newfoundland	133	33	62	140	139
Ontario	1,273	380	354	713	1,402
British Columbia	766	366	405	505	625
Nova Scotia	88	18	71	80	85
Quebec	301	207	285	255	304
Yukon	0	0	0	16	7
PEI	28	25	35	39	40
NWT	22	15	22	27	30
New Brunswick	109	39	118	109	111
TOTAL	3748	1440	1950	2724	3,794



Blue Convention 2023

After a postponement of a year, our blue family gathered in Winnipeg on the Easter weekend for Blue Convention 2023. As Canada's only single-sport national officials gathering, Blue Convention marked the 11th gathering since the first event in 1997.

This year's theme was Connect – Learn – Celebrate, and participants certainly did a lot of all three. Almost 200 participants joined together to connect with old friends and make new ones, enjoying three keynotes and eight breakout sessions led by many of our program leaders. To top it off, we welcomed over 20 new members into the renowned Indicator Club at the closing banquet.

A huge round of thanks to Val, Janet, Frank, and the rest of the host gang at Softball Manitoba for a great event!

We look forward to Blue Convention 2025 in Calgary!

Officiating Development Committee selections

This is a year of transition in the leadership group of the national umpire program. We welcome Frankie Billingsley (ON), who has taken over the role of National Director of Umpires. Together with the retirement of ODC member Sandra Forand (who we owe much thanks for her leadership for the past several years) two new members were welcomed to the Officiating Development Committee.

After a very competitive process, Jason Clark (AB) and Tonya Ribalkin Zanon (BC) will join the Officiating Development Committee. Brent Chadwick (SK) and Genevieve Gaudreau (QC) were also successful in their reappointment to the committee.

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/DUICs at Canadian Championships.

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 satisfactory performance at the U19 Women's / U20 Men's Fast Pitch Canadian Championship 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 – Marc Decosse, Komoko, ON; Rodney Juniper, Chatham, ON.

Fast Pitch – Carlos Avila, Saint John, NB; Pat Chiquette, St-Hyacinthe, QC; Paige Cross, Abbotsford, BC; Kevin DiDomenico, Hamilton, ON; Heather Doupe, Napanee, ON; Erin Fuller, Lacombe, AB; Josh Humphrey, Fredericton, NB; Guy Lafreniere, Prince Albert, SK; Dennis Marchiori, Yellowknife, NWT; Mack Walske, Morden, MB; Cameron Woodcock, St. Catharines, ON.

Level V Appointments

Level V umpires are 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 UICs / DUICs at Canadian Championships. They 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 recommendations to the Board for appointment.

Based on their performance at the 2023 Women's and Men's Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships, we are pleased to announce the following individuals for appointment as Level V umpires within Softball Canada's National Officiating Certification Program.

Slo-Pitch

David Pritchard, Niagara Falls, ON

Fast Pitch

Jocelyn Lacroix, Quebec City, QC

New WBSC Certified Umpires

For the second year in row, we were able to partner with our friends at USA Softball and host a WBSC international Umpire Certification seminar at Canada Cup in Surrey, BC. We also had one candidate attend a WBSC seminar in Italy. As a result, we are excited to celebrate that five of our Level V certified umpires were successful in obtaining their WBSC certification in 2023.

Congratulations go out to Audrey Desmarteaux-Houle (QC), Steven Gallagher (ON), Ariane Longtin (QC), Kearney O'Keefe (NL), and Valerie Pelleck (MB)

Our thanks go out to WBSC and USA Softball for partnering on this event and supporting with the attendance of their umpire candidates.

International Appointments

We celebrated many Softball Canada umpires attending international events in 2023.

- o Marni Bodnarchuk (BC) & Trevor Topping (ON) – WBSC Women’s World, Cup Group Stage, Ireland; July
- o Mathieu Leclerc (QC) – WBSC Americas U18 Men’s Qualifier, Colombia ; September
- o Diego La Manna (NS) – European Women’s FP Championships, Italy, August (Softball Europe Exchange)
- o Jeff Butler (ON) – European Co-ed SP Championships, Slovenia, August (Softball Europe Exchange)
- o Sandra Forand (ON) & Don England (ON) – Border Battle, Cleveland, OH
- o Mark Gough (AB) – USA Softball Men’s A Slow Pitch Championships, Oklahoma City, September
- o Pat Chiquette (QC) – USA Softball Men’s C/D Slow Pitch Championships, Virginia, September
- o Kris Hartley (AB) – USA Softball Men’s Major Fast Pitch Championships, Minnesota, September

We also have several umpires appointed to upcoming events this fall and winter, including,

- o Laura MacMillan (BC) – Pan Am Games, Santiago, Chile
- o Frank Fargey (MB) – New Zealand Exchange, January 2024

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.

Celebrations!!

Youth continue to offer great things to our sport, including our officiating program. Each year we recognize a student – official from our program with a \$1000 scholarship named in honour of Ed Bitz, the first National Director of Umpires. Congratulations go out to Kelsey Nasasdi and Zoe Prizzon on being selected to receive this award in 2023!

We have many great leaders in our program, all of whom deserved to be recognized and celebrated! We are pleased to recognize two of these leaders who are always ready to pitch in and support their local and provincial programs. Mark Gough (AB) and Kearney O’Keefe (NL) are honoured as the Home Run Sports National Slo-Pitch and Fast Pitch Umpires of the Year. Both have been successful both on and off the field and provide great leadership in their provincial programs.

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 – continuing even during a pandemic.

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 pivoting many of our activities to adapt to new realities.

Frankie Billingsley (ON) – Recruitment & Retention, Webinars

Brent Chadwick (SK) – National Education Officer (clinics, education initiatives)

Don Farr (BC) – Rules transition, Reference Materials updates

Sandra Forand (ON) – Women in Umpiring, Rules Lead (SP), Slo-Pitch

Geneviève Gaudreau (QC) – Umpire Recognition Program, Canadian Championships, Women in Umpiring

Scott McLaren (BC) – Digital Content Development, Elite Umpire Development, Rules Lead (FP)

Our Board liaison, Robb Andison (YT) has proven to be invaluable in supporting our program over the past year. He is always able to navigate the space between our program and the needs of the organization and sport with grace and ease.

Of course, our biggest thanks are reserved for Donna Ozarko, Softball Canada’s Manager of Officials and Publications. Her commitment and leadership to the officiating program makes us all look good. She is a true professional and we are fortunate to continue to have her in a staff leadership role.



Mic Drop

There comes a time when you know the time is right to hand the baton off to those who can run faster, higher, and stronger – individuals who will move the program to the next level. That time has come.

Last fall I informed the ODC and the Board that, after ten years serving as National Director of Umpires, I would be retiring at the end of my term. While I will miss the daily buzz of the phone calls, emails and, most of all, chats with people who are not just colleagues but friends, I am also excited to be able to watch where this current ODC group, under the leadership of new NDU Frankie Billingsley, will move our program. The future is tremendously bright.

With that, on October 1st the torch was passed. I will follow the traditions of my Wolostoquey friends and neighbours here in western New Brunswick, who have no word for “good bye”, and simply say “see you later”.

Jeff Whipple

National Director of Umpires (ret.)

Coaching REPORT

In 2023, there has been a consistent commitment to delivering National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) training to coaches all across Canada. Softball Canada extends its deep appreciation to the Provincial/Territorial Softball Associations and Coach Developers for their unwavering dedication to advancing and supporting coach education and certification. To the coaches themselves, Softball Canada extends its heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing efforts in enhancing the skills of softball athletes from coast to coast.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 320+ NCCP events (clinics/evaluations) held, with 2700+ Coaches in attendance
- 1/3 of the total clinics were Hybrid making coach education even more accessible
- 2100+ Coaches completed FOCS Part 1 and 1170+ completed Part 2

COACHING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)

In 2023, the Softball Canada Coaching Development Committee initiated a series of strategic adjustments. The committee diligently redirected its efforts towards the refinement of the Terms of Reference and the identification of specific areas of focus. Softball Canada wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the CDC for their historical contributions and unwavering support to the Coaching Program.

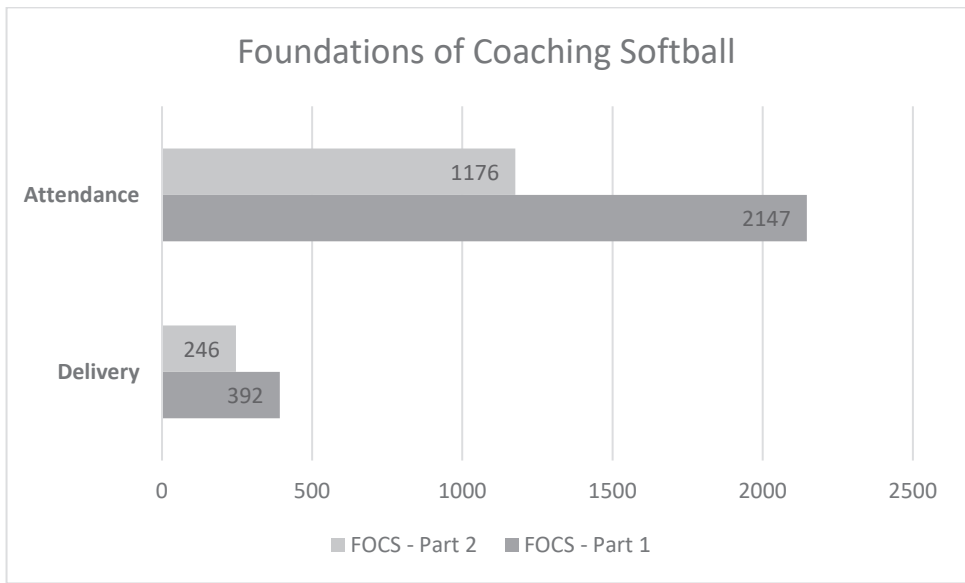
As we approach the autumn of 2023, an updated roster of committee members will be put in place with a renewed mission to underscore and bolster Softball Canada's commitment to fostering coach development and education within the sport.

NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

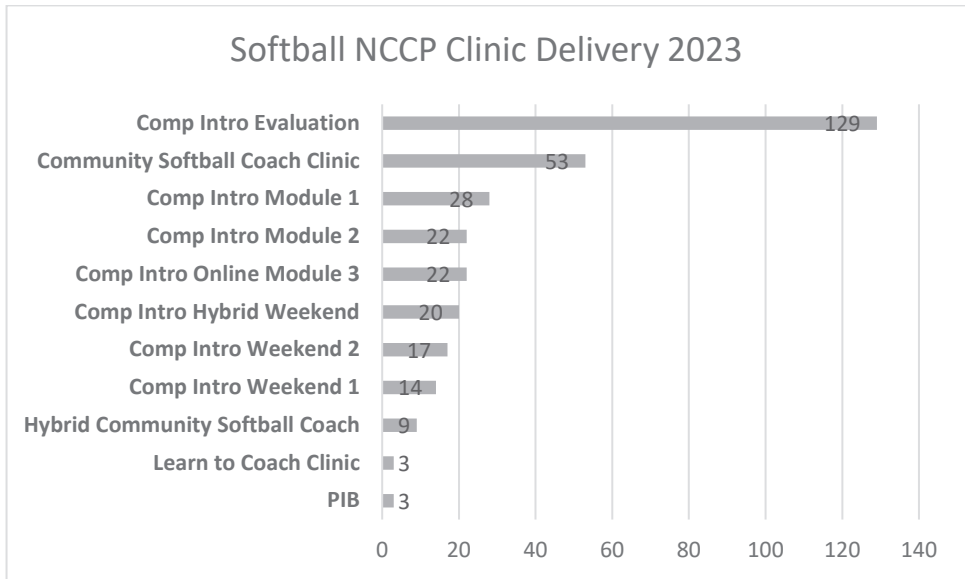
NCCP Clinics

Over the past year, Softball Canada has achieved significant successes in its coaching clinics, hosting a remarkable 320+ NCCP events, including clinics and evaluations, which drew in a substantial audience of over 2700 dedicated coaches. A notable achievement has been the integration of Hybrid clinics, accounting for one-third of the total offerings, thereby enhancing the accessibility of coach education. These efforts have not gone unnoticed, with more than 2100 coaches successfully completing FOCS Part 1, and an impressive 1170 coaches successfully completing Part 2. These accomplishments reflect our commitment to elevating coaching standards and equipping coaches with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in softball.

Foundations of Coaching Softball



Softball NCCP Clinic Delivery 2023



2022 MASTER COACH DEVELOPER (MCD) MEETING

The 2022 Master Coach Developer (MCD) Meeting convened in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 26th and 27th. This gathering marked a significant milestone as it was the first in-person meeting since the onset of the pandemic, providing a valuable opportunity to reunite this cohort of Coach Developers.

The primary focus of the weekend revolved around the exchange of knowledge and the enhancement of skills through a combination of on-field technical sessions and in-class theory sessions. Each participant assumed responsibility for reviewing and contributing to the group's collective body of knowledge.

Furthermore, the attendees had the privilege of hosting Andrew Paris from CSIAtlantic, a seasoned consultant in the realms of sport and recreation, with expertise in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I). Serving as the Coaching Lead for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and

Mentorship at the Canadian Sport Institute Atlantic, Mr. Paris delivered an insightful presentation on DE&I principles and the creation of inclusive environments. This session constituted a valuable opportunity for professional development among our MCDs.

Under the suggestion from the CAC, the 2023 MCD meeting will be held virtually.

COACHING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (CAC) ALIGNMENT

With changes in staff and committee composition, it has become evident that a comprehensive evaluation of the coaching program's structure and alignment is warranted. To address this, a NCCP Operations Manual is currently in development, which will delineate the following directives issued by the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC). This manual will subsequently be disseminated to Provincial/Territorial Organizations (P/Ts):

- Provincial/Territorial Sports Organizations (PTSOs) and Provincial/Territorial governments bear the responsibility for overseeing coaching education and training within their respective jurisdictions.
- National Sports Organizations (NSOs) are tasked with the development and maintenance of sport-specific components within the NCCP framework.
- NSOs are also responsible for the selection, training, and advancement of sport-specific Master Coach Developers, with a preference for collaboration with PTSOs when feasible.
- NSOs are entrusted with supervising the execution of sport-specific Learning Facilitator and Coach Evaluator training and advancement. This should be done in conjunction with their PTSO counterparts, involving formal planning and evaluation meetings with regional Master Coach Developers.

In line with these principles, Softball Canada is committed to decentralizing the delivery of the NCCP to the greatest extent possible, entrusting this responsibility to Provincial/Territorial organizations. Softball Canada stands ready to provide mentorship and guidance to P/Ts as they undertake the organization of coaching clinics, offering assistance whenever necessary or requested.

Angela Ballantyne – Manager, Sport Development

Safe Sport REPORT

OSIC

Softball Canada has joined Abuse-Free Sport, an independent program focused on preventing and addressing maltreatment in Canadian sport. This centralized initiative, led by experts, replaces individual systems for handling complaints and is dedicated to eradicating harassment, discrimination, and abuse across all levels of sport. The Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner administers complaints, conducts investigations, and recommends sanctions when violations of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport occur. This program ensures transparency and prevents individuals from evading sanctions by moving between sports or jurisdictions, benefiting Softball Canada and its national stakeholders.

MANDATORY TRAINING

Softball Canada recognizes the importance of creating a safe and inclusive environment for all participants in the sport. To uphold this commitment, we utilize the Safe Sport Training module provided by the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) at no cost to our members. This training not only meets the essential standards for mandated safe sport training for Sport Canada-funded organizations but also equips our community with valuable tools and resources to infuse Safe Sport principles throughout our organization. We firmly believe that fostering a culture where everyone can thrive is a collective endeavor. Safe Sport Training has been meticulously developed to empower individuals involved in sport, regardless of their level of direct contact with athletes or their role within the organization, to champion physical, psychological, and social well-being, all in accordance with the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport.

PROMOTION

Throughout the year, Softball Canada demonstrated its steadfast support for Safe Sport initiatives by actively distributing visually impactful materials such as hats, backstop signage, and various other giveaways. These tangible symbols serve as constant reminders of our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment within the sport of softball, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding the well-being of all our participants.

Angela Ballantyne – Manager, Sport Development



Women's National Team REPORT

RESULTS

The Women's National team enjoyed yet another successful summer, embarking on a journey that took them from open identification camps in BC, SK, and ON to an exciting exhibition series in Clarksville, TN. This served as a warm-up for the 2023 Canada Cup, where they would face formidable international competition.

Their homecoming in Surrey was exciting, playing in front of enthusiastic hometown crowds and winning six out of ten games, ultimately securing a commendable 3rd place finish in the tournament. The team's unwavering commitment to community engagement was evident as they conducted a youth clinic, nurturing the future generation of softball enthusiasts, and engaged in numerous autograph signing sessions, deepening their connection with their devoted fanbase.

The journey continued as the team set its sights on Udine, Italy, where they participated in the WBSC World Cup Stage 1 Qualifier. A highlight of this event was the team's victory over Japan, marking their first win against them in eight years. This triumphant opening round performance solidified their position in the upcoming WBSC World Cup in 2024, bringing an exceptional summer season to an end.

Looking ahead, the team now gears up for the Pan American Games, set to be held in Santiago, Chile. To prepare for this event, a pre-Pan Ams training camp has been scheduled in the GTA from October 21st to the 25th.



EXHIBITION SERIES

Clarksville, TN	
Vibe	W 10-4
Vibe	L 14-6
Vibe	W 5-4
Team TN	W 15-0

CANADA CUP [3rd Place]

Surrey, BC	
AUS A	W 9-0
GRE	W 7-2
ITA	W 7-4
TC COL	L 8-0
MEX	W 13-2
IRL	W 5-0
JPN	L 8-1
TC COL	L 2-1
MEX	W 11 - 4
ITA	L 6-2

WBSC WORLD CUP STAGE 1 [2nd Place]

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Qualifying Round	
PHI	W 5-0
VEN	W 6-2
JPN	W 6-5
NZL	W4-0

Super Round	
JPN	L 7-1
ITA	Rained Out

IDENTIFICATION CAMPS

Three Women's National Team ID Camps were held in the spring. With over 60 participants registered for the camps held in BC, SK, & ON. In addition, over 305 participants have registered for the Junior Women's National Team camps held in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC & NS. Members of the coaching staff as well as pool coaches and guest coaches had the opportunity to evaluate player from across the country.

Softball Canada has established a strategic partnership with College Sports Evaluations (CSE), aimed at providing attendees of our camps with an enhanced and invaluable opportunity. Coach Rafter elucidates, "In recent years, the softball community has witnessed remarkable advancements in data collection and utilization. Data transcends subjectivity, offering an objective means to assess a player's performance and measure it against their peers. This analytical approach, which we employ extensively within our national team, allows for precise evaluation and progress tracking over time, providing indisputable evidence of improvement. Recognizing the significance of this data and the need to make it more accessible to players,

Softball Canada identified a gap in our program. To bridge this gap, we have forged a partnership with CSE, renowned for its excellence in gathering consistent and reliable data. This collaboration presents a unique opportunity to grant all participants access to their comprehensive testing services."

U18 NATIONAL TEAM

As preparations for the upcoming WBSC Americas Qualifier continue, Softball Canada has secured its coaching team, with Head Coach Keith Mackintosh and Assistant Coaches Melissa Basilio and Trevor Ethier now in place. While the key coaching personnel are ready, we are currently awaiting confirmation of the dates and location for the qualifier event. In the meantime, Coach Mackintosh, along with Coach Ethier and Coach Rafter, actively scouted potential talent during the U15, U17, and U19 Canadian Championships held in August in addition to the open ID camps held earlier this year. These combined efforts reflect our commitment to assembling the best team possible for the challenge ahead.

COACH RAFTER WEBINAR SERIES

Head Coach Kaleigh Rafter continues to support coach education as she hosted a 6-week High-Performance Coaching Webinar Series. In this webinar series, coaches had the opportunity to learn the information and techniques Rafter and her coaching staff use to lead the Women's National Team. All webinars were held via Zoom and included a 60-minute session followed by 30-minutes of Q&A.

With over 175 registered participants, these sessions received excellent feedback and were seen as a valuable resource. Recordings of the webinars were available to registrants only and were accessible for 30 days after the last installment.

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Angela Ballantyne – Manager, Sport Development

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion REPORT

Softball Canada leads a unified softball community that makes every member feel they are included and heard, and where we champion diversity, equity and inclusion in all areas of our organization.

In 2023, the newly established Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee marked its inaugural year, convening its first meeting in April. Over the subsequent months, the committee engaged in a multifaceted agenda, which included a comprehensive briefing by Inclusion Incorporated on the Inclusion Index Survey. Furthermore, the committee devoted considerable effort to the strategic planning of various DEI initiatives, and reviewed the DEI Action Plan, embarking on the execution of four targeted projects.

Notable highlights from the committee's accomplishments in recent months encompass a spectrum of activities, including:

- The dissemination of informative and engaging social media posts that spotlight numerous DEI initiatives, events, and outstanding community members.



- The committee successfully organized an Indigenous Design contest, with Rachelle Vilness of Kitimat BC emerging as the deserving winner. With commemorative buttons shared with Canadian Championship participants, and P/T members as well as t-shirts available for purchase through Home Run Sports. Proceeds from the sale of the shirts will be donated to Hazelton to support Indigenous softball within their community.
- The committee focused its productive work through dedicated subgroups, addressing three specific action plan items.



Softball by way of equipment donations and it extended support to the Eeyou Itchee Sports & Recreation Association through a grant program, working in conjunction with Softball Quebec.

- Softball Canada continues to foster relationships with key organizations such as the Aboriginal Sport Circle, Sport for Life, Jays Care, and Inclusion Incorporated.
- Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, Softball Canada has generously contributed to Wheelchair Softball by way of equipment donations and it extended support to the Eeyou Itchee Sports & Recreation Association through a grant program, working in conjunction with Softball Quebec.
- Softball Canada's budget continues to incorporate designated funds allocated for the specific purpose of advancing DEI initiatives, reflecting our steadfast commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and the broader softball community.

Special thanks to the following DEI Committee members for their continued support and work in this area:

Brent Foote (NL)

Kim Stemshorn (ON)

Terry Klein (SK)

Sarah Walz (YK)

JR Simpson (SK)

Sarah Manfred (QC)

Dakotah Pratt (AB)

Kareena Zanolli (AB)

Angela Ballantyne – Manager, Sport Development

Long Term Player Development Program

REPORT

The advancement and implementation of resources aimed at bolstering long-term player development remain a paramount focus within LTPD Programs. In 2023, significant milestones have been achieved, marked by the introduction of new and enhanced resources, alongside the inventive strategies designed to best support softball within Canada.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The launch of the Timbits Softball e-learning
- 14,000+ Timbits Softball t-shirts and medals distributed throughout Canada
- The development the Competition Pathways Graphic
- Male Gold Medal Profile data collection continues
- The development of the Skills Assessment Program
- The development of B5 Practice Plan(s)

CANPITCH



Canpitch continues to have another successful year after the much-anticipated launch of the updated Canpitch curriculum and videos. A big thanks to the Canpitch committee, Softball BC, Softball ON, and Softball QC for their contributions towards this program update. The Canpitch videos are available for purchase on the Softball Canada Website.

CANPITCH COMMITTEE THANK YOU!

A special thank you to the Canpitch Committee for their ongoing commitment to the development and support of the Canpitch Program.

Elissa Sivel (ON)

Jackie Desilets (BC)

Lori Zehr (BC)

Mark Quinn (PEI)

TIMBITS SOFTBALL

The Timbits Softball Program maintains its esteemed status as an invaluable introductory initiative. In the 2023 season, a total of 14,000 Timbits T-shirts and medals were distributed nationwide to local associations, facilitating, and engaging an inclusive avenue for children to learn the game of softball.

Furthermore, this year marked the launch of the Timbits e-learning clinic, a vital resource aimed at empowering Timbits coaches to enrich their knowledge to effectively deliver the Timbits Program. Softball Canada values Tim Hortons contributions towards providing children the opportunity to participate in the game of softball.



TIMBITS COMMITTEE THANK YOU!

A sincere thanks to the Timbits committee for the creation of the Timbits e-learning clinic.

Andrea Wolf (SK)

Elissa Sivel (ON)

Kelly Lynch (NB)

Sean Cadigan (NL)

Susan Owans (SK)

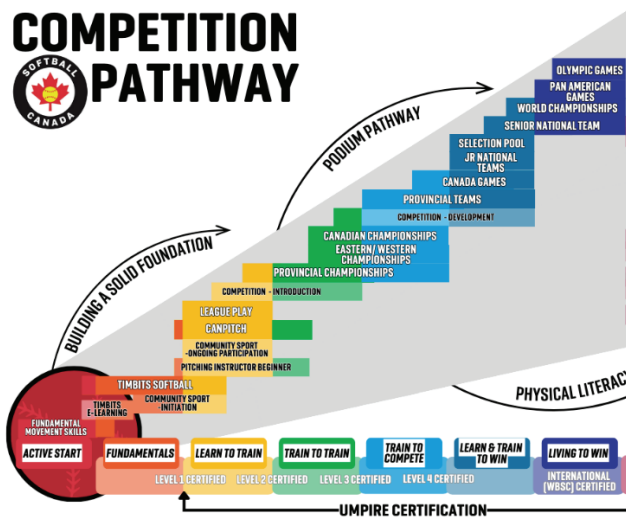
Tracey Oye (BC)

B5

Notable advancements continue to unfold within the WBSC's innovative program, B5, on the international stage. In support of this initiative, Softball Canada has undertaken the distribution of kits nationwide to Provincial and Territorial associations, thereby fostering the opportunity for Canadians to engage in this dynamic version of the game of softball.

In conjunction with this endeavor, Softball Canada is developing an off-season training resource designed to equip coaches with the tools to leverage B5 to further enhance and solidify softball-specific skills. This resource provides an avenue to understand how the skills cultivated in B5 align with the softball-specific proficiencies portrayed in Softball Canada's ADM (Athlete Development Matrix). The official release of this program material is scheduled for the forthcoming months, allowing coaches to integrate this resource into their off-season training regimens.

Competition Pathway



The Competition Pathway Graphic has been carefully crafted to align with Softball Canada's Athlete Development Matrix (ADM) and Gold Medal Profile (GMP). The ultimate objective is to offer a comprehensive and simplified overview of the competitive landscape, encompassing available training programs and certification opportunities.

Canada Games

Softball Canada eagerly anticipates the forthcoming 2025 Canada Summer Games to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland. We are pleased to announce the official age categories for this event, with men's softball being U20 and women's softball U19.

Men's and women's softball teams participating in the 2025 Canada Summer Games is held in high regard. Softball Canada enthusiastically anticipates witnessing the nation's most talented youth athletes compete for the podium during this prestigious competition.

Cassidy Burton, Program Coordinator

LTPD COMMITTEE THANK YOU

A special thanks to the LTPD committee for their contributions towards the development of this graphic and their overall contribution towards long-term player development.

Dave Paetkau (BC)

Jennifer Lukas (NWT)

Emily Stea (ON)

Adam Walker (ON)

Ryan Friedrich (AB)

Scott Searle (BOD)

Slo-Pitch REPORT

Border Battle

Softball Canada's goal was achieved to complete the full seven innings against USA Softball for both the men's and women's team. Both teams showed notable opportunities to pull ahead within the competition but in the end fell short.

The Canadian men's team started off strong in their exhibition series leading up to the ultimate showdown versus Team USA with a 3-1 record. In the end, Team Canada lost to Team USA 16-9.

The Canadian women's team put up solid fights throughout the weekend in their exhibition schedule but couldn't pull out a win entering Sunday 0-4. In the Border Battle game, Team U.S.A prevailed on top winning 14-7.

Looking ahead, the Border Battle for the forthcoming year is anticipated to be scheduled around the same timeframe as the previous year, July 24-28 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Cassidy Burton, Program Coordinator



Communications REPORT

We continue to use our social media platforms to tell Softball Canada's story, and the stories of our national team members. Our National Teams continued their success with podium results, including a silver medal for our Women's National Team at the 2022 Pan American Championship, a silver medal for our Men's National Team at the 2022 Men's Softball World Cup, and a bronze medal for our U18 Men's National Team at the 2023 WBSC Americas Pan American Championship. All these achievements were highlighted across our social media platforms, allowing us to share these special moments with our members and fans.

Social media continues to be the most effective and critical way to communicate with our members, fans and to promote the sport of softball. We continued to push our brand further by using different types of content to tell our brand story and the story of our athletes. By using different formats of content such as graphics, videos, and photos, this allows us to appeal to different audiences and to increase our engagement across all our platforms. To continue to reach a wider audience on different social media platforms, we need to continue to create different types of content.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We were fortunate to have an intern again this summer to help develop social media content for our Canadian Championship events. Our followers continue to increase across our three major platforms – Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram.

2023	Facebook	X	Instagram
Followers	16,956	16,947	15,560
Posts	513	588	355
Reach	663,532	1,976,204	576, 576
Engagement	42,789	65,473	38,436

Date Range: January 1, 2023 – October 20, 2023

Followers: Number of accounts that follow us.

Posts: Content sent through the channel (posts, pictures, videos, etc.)

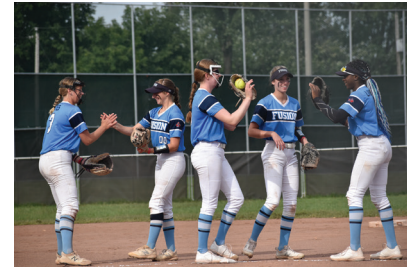
Reach: Number of unique accounts that have seen the post.

Engagements: Number of likes and comments on posts.

Softball Canada's communications strategy will continue to prioritize creating appealing and engaging content across all three of our social platforms. By doing this, we will continue to trend in a positive direction when it comes to increasing our analytics.

Canadian Championship REPORT

2023 Canadian Championships in Review



Softball Canada was pleased to have 160 teams participate in 12 Canadian Championships in 2023, an increase of five teams from 2022. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the event hosts, volunteers, participants, coaches, and umpires from coast to coast who contributed to another successful championship season.

U15 GIRL'S AUGUST 9-13TH
Brandon, MB

24 TEAMS
327 PLAYERS
84 GAMES

10 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, QC, ON, NL, NB, NS, PEI

GOLD: BC SILVER: ON BRONZE: AB

U15 BOY'S AUGUST 9-13TH
Prince Albert, SK

10 TEAMS
137 PLAYERS
42 GAMES

4 Provinces: SK, ON, NL, NS

GOLD: ON SILVER: NL BRONZE: ON

QUICK HITS:

- # Teams: 160
- # Players: 2,406
- # Fields: 29
- # Total Games: 656
- # Provinces: BC (30), AB (20), SK (21), MB (7), QC (12), ON (45), NS (11), NL (8), NB (4), PEI (2)

U17 GIRL'S AUGUST 9-13TH
Saskatoon, SK

24 TEAMS
327 PLAYERS
84 GAMES

10 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, QC, ON, NL, NB, NS, PEI

GOLD: BC SILVER: ON BRONZE: BC

U17 BOY'S AUGUST 2-6TH
Saskatoon, SK

10 TEAMS
136 PLAYERS
41 GAMES

7 Provinces: BC, SK, ON, QC, NB, NL, NS

GOLD: ON SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON

Men's & Master Men's AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3RD
Surrey, BC

MEN'S: 13 TEAMS 210 PLAYERS 46 GAMES	MASTER MEN'S: 8 TEAMS 145 PLAYERS 32 GAMES
6 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, ON, NS, NL	4 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, ON
GOLD: ON SILVER: NL BRONZE: ON	GOLD: ON SILVER: SK BRONZE: ON

U19 WOMEN'S AUGUST 2-6TH
Langford, BC

16 TEAMS
220 PLAYERS
57 GAMES

7 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, QC, ON, NB

GOLD: BC SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON

U20 MEN'S AUGUST 15-20TH
Napanee, ON

8 TEAMS
122 PLAYERS
34 GAMES

4 Provinces: SK, QC, ON, NL

GOLD: ON SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON

SLO-PITCH AUGUST 13-19TH
Dorchester, ON

WOMEN'S: 13 TEAMS 238 PLAYERS 78 GAMES	MEN'S: 20 TEAMS 335 PLAYERS 102 GAMES
6 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, ON, QC, NS	6 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, QC, ON, NS
GOLD: ON SILVER: BC BRONZE: QC	GOLD: ON SILVER: NS BRONZE: ON

WOMEN'S AUGUST 16-20TH
Île-Perrot, QC

7 TEAMS
105 PLAYERS
28 GAMES

4 Provinces: BC, SK, QC, ON

GOLD: SK SILVER: ON BRONZE: QC

U23 MEN'S AUGUST 2-6TH
Saskatoon, ON

7 TEAMS
104 PLAYERS
28 GAMES

4 Provinces: SK, ON, NL, NS

GOLD: ON SILVER: SK BRONZE: ON



Men's National Team REPORT

It was a very busy year for the Men's National Team program with all three teams having a World Cup in the last 12 months as the WBSC caught up on competitions affected by the pandemic years.

2022 MEN'S WORLD CUP

The Canadian Men's National Team was first up, travelling to Auckland, New Zealand in pursuit of their first World Cup gold medal since 2015. The team travelled to Palmerston North a week earlier than usual to compete in the International Invitational Series featuring the top six teams in the WBSC Men's Softball World Rankings. After finishing third in that event, Team Canada went 5-0 in the preliminary round with key wins over Japan and Australia. Starting the Super Round with a 2-0 record, Canada lost its second game to Argentina but defeated the United States and Cuba to earn a spot in the Gold medal game, eventually dropping a tight game to Australia to come home with the Silver medal. A total of three Canadians were recognized on the tournament All-Star team – Sean Cleary (Pitcher), Quinten Bruce (Right Field) and Bryan Abrey (Designated Player).



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2023 U23 MEN'S WORLD CUP

After not competing in the 2022 Pan American Championship, the Canadian U23 Men's National Team earned a Wild Card entry in the World Cup in Argentina in April 2023. With less than four months to prepare for the out-of-season competition, the coaching staff put its roster together and the team travelled to Parana for the inaugural World Cup in the U23 Men's category. Canada opened the tournament with a tough loss to Venezuela but earned a key win against New Zealand later in the preliminary round to qualify for the Super Round with a 1-1 record. Unfortunately, the team's bats went cold in the Super Round and Canada lost all three games against Argentina, Mexico and Australia for a fifth-place finish. Mitch McKay (Catcher) led Canada offensively and was named to the tournament All-Star team.

2023 U18 MEN'S PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Pan American Championship was played this September, with Team Canada earning the Bronze medal to qualify for the World Cup in Mexico in November. The Pan Am roster was selected shortly after the U20 Men's Canadian Championship and began its journey to Colombia only one week later. It took a few games for the players to adjust to the international game, and the team had a disappointing loss to Venezuela in the second game of the tournament before turning things around. After dropping a close game to Argentina, the red and white bounced back with a 7-6 win in eight innings over the eventual champions (USA), followed by an eight-inning 1-0 shutout win against Argentina to earn Bronze and qualify for the World Cup.



2023 PT

REPORTS / RAPPORTS

2023 SOFTBALL ALBERTA REPORT



GAMES PROGRAMS

Alberta Summer Games - 8 Zones participated (112 athletes & 30 coaches)

Canada Summer Games – 2025 Games first round of tryouts in September - 240 registered

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY – We were able to hold 28 provincial championships this year. 1 was cancelled because of smoke.

Other Championships: there were no Western Canadian or Canadian Championships held in Alberta this year.

NCCP

The NCCP program was busy in 2023. We held 3 hybrid and 1 in person Comp Intro clinics. The online modules were well attended with almost every one of them full. We were able to work with neighboring provinces to get their coaches through the Comp Intro training as well. On top of the Comp Intro clinics, we also held 14 Community Softball clinics.

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UMPIRE PROGRAM

Alberta registered 410 in 2023 up from 330 in 2022.



2023 Softball Canada AGM Softball Saskatchewan Report

2023 Membership Update

We have not yet completed our membership statistics as we had a couple of large events in late August which we are still finalizing, however our membership numbers will be very similar to the 16,288 we had last year.

Athlete Development Programs

Our spring/summer athlete skill development programs continue to be popular with our membership. We held four 1-day Summer Fever camps with 194 players participating. We also held several Canpitch, hitting, catching and basic skills clinics with another 179 players taking part. Our off-season Easton athletes skill development camps which are held between October – December and January and April were also well attended with another 333 players involved.

NCCP

We held 7 in-person Community Softball Coach clinics with 126 participants. For our Competition Introduction Hybrid clinics we held 5 sets of 3 online modules and 2 in person clinics with 189 coaches involved. We also held 6 Timbits Coach Orientations with 211 coaches taking part.

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Canada Games Program

We have all our coaches in place for the 2025 Games and we held our initial ID camps for the girls this September and had 121 players register. Due to conflicts with hockey and other activities we will not be holding our ID camps for the boys until the spring of 2024.

Provincial Championships

We had a record number of teams enter our 2023 Provincial championships, following is the breakdown of overall team registrations of 267 teams:

2023 Provincial Championship Registrations

<u>Minor Female Categories</u>	<u># of Teams</u>	<u>Minor Male Categories</u>	<u># of teams</u>
U11 Open Girls North-Humboldt	18	U11 Open Boys	8
U11 Open Girls North-Battleford	18		
U11 Open Girls South-Carnduff	8	U13 OPEN Boys	7
U11 Open Girls South-Regina	12		
U13 AA Girls	15	U15 OPEN Boys	6
U13 A Girls	9		
U13 B Girls	34	U17 OPEN Boys	3
U15 AA Girls	17		
U15 AW Girls	5	U20 OPEN Boys	2
U15 B Girls	29		
U17 AA Girls	12	Total Minor Male	26 teams
U17 AW Girls	8		

U17 B Girls	8
U19 AA Women's	3
U19 AW Women's	6
U19 B Women's	3
Total Minor Female	205 teams

<u>Adult Female Categories</u>	<u># of teams</u>	<u>Adult Male Categories</u>	<u># of teams</u>
Women's A	3 teams	U23 A Men's	1 team
Women's OPEN	9 teams	Men's A	1 team
Women's SP	2 teams	Men's OPEN	14 teams
Total Adult Women's	14 teams	Men's Master	2 teams
		Men's SP	4 teams
		Total Adult Men's	22 teams
TOTAL MINOR TEAMS	231 teams		
TOTAL ADULT FP TEAMS	30 teams		
TOTAL ADULT SP	6 teams		
TOTAL TEAMS	267 teams		

For the 2nd year in a row, we 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 for 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.

Western Canadian & Canadian Championships

We sent a total of 7 female teams to Western Canadians consisting of (2-U15, 2-U17 & 3-U19). Male softball is mostly non-existent in Western Canada, and we all have much work to do if we hope to see it make a comeback.

For Canadian Championships we had a total of 21 teams attend as follows:

7 minor boy's teams	8 minor girl's teams
3 adult men's FP teams	1 adult women's FP team
1 adult men's SP team	1 adult women's SP team

Congratulations to the following teams who medaled at this year's Canadians:

Women's	Gold Medal	Carnduff Southeast Steelers
U23 Men's	Silver Medal	Delisle MMKL Pride
Master Men's	Silver Medal	Melfort 222's

U13 District Showcase

The 2023 U13 District Showcase was held in Nipawin who wanted to bring a softball event to the area to try and encourage more participation. Thank you to Yvonne Michnik for being our supervisor and to Jim Flynn and Barry Schroeder for arranging the umpires. The competition was very close with very few mercy games, the final standings were as follows:

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

The District Showcase allows us to extend the softball season for athletes in our U13 age group who are selected for our eight District all-star teams to compete in this annual event. In 2023 we will not hold the District Showcase as it will be a Saskatchewan Summer Games year in our province. The Summer Games are held every four years and we also use the U13 age category for this event.

OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT

We had a total of 433 registered umpires in 2023. Following is a breakdown of our registered umpires by District over the past five (5) years:

<u>District</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
District 1 – South East	75	19	22	63	97
District 2 - Regina	34	28	25	34	41
District 3 – South West	47	16	23	45	70
District 4 - Parkland	21	4	8	28	18
District 5 - Prairie Central	40	15	33	49	49
District 6 - Saskatoon	51	31	49	46	49
District 7 - Rivers West	34	4	15	22	63
District 8 - Lakeland	76	10	19	52	45
District 9 - Northern		1	1	3	1
Totals	382	128	194	342	433

To help with recruitment and retention we lowered the registration fee for all umpires under 18 years of age of any level to be a total of \$35 which included the Softball Canada Reg. Fee. Of our 433 registered umpires this year, 256 are under the age of 18 which represents 60% of our umpires. We now have some work to do to provide mentoring and support initiatives for these mostly new and younger umpires.

We sent 7 umpires to Western Canadians this year and another 14 to Canadian Championships. All reports to date are that everyone did a great job.

INDIGNEOUS SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Most of our indigenous sport development initiatives in 2023 involved the preparation and selection of teams that participated in the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) held in Halifax. Unfortunately, the weather did allow final games to be completed so there were a number of ties. Congratulations to our teams who finished as follows:

- U16 Boys Gold Medal (Tie)
- U19 Men’s Bronze Medal (Tie)
- U16 Girls Bronze Medal (Tie)
- U19 Women’s 5th Place

In late August of this year, we assisted the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations with their provincial championships. The adult championships were hosted by the Ochapowace First Nation in Saskatoon with 22 teams participating and the youth championships were hosted by Goerge Gordon’s First Naton in Regina with 44 teams participating.

MARKETING/PROMOTION

We are about to enter the third year of our marketing project that features 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

We shot new video and still photography this summer so that our media campaign will have a fresh look in 2024.

We also provide a unique t-shirt to all players and coaches who register in all our minor Provincial Championships except U19 women's and U20 men's. This year we provided just under 3,400 t-shirts to the participants. Another initiative in this area saw us provide a Bluetooth speaker to all players, coaches and umpires attending a Western or Canadian Championship. In total we provided about 600 of the speakers.

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.

PROVINCIAL SOFTBALL LEAGUES FOR MINOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The Rawling Grand Slam Leagues went ahead again in 2013. 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. Commissioners were as follows:

U11 Boys – Tyler Kuzma (PA)	U13 Girls – Heather Chatfield (Warman)
U13 Boys – Justin Johnston (Hanley)	U15 Girls – Brett Knoll (Rosthern)
U15 Boys – Cameron Climenhaga (Delisle)	

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

CHALLENGES

Dispute resolution issues are taking up more and more time for both our volunteers and staff. In today's environment there are simply no real shortcuts when dealing with disputes and this results in more use of our human and financial resources.

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

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 Niagara Falls.

Respectfully yours,
Guy Jacobson-Executive Director

#ThisIsSoftball

SOFTBALL MANITOBA 2023 REPORT



❖ REGISTRATION

- ◆ 2019 – 2023 Registration Trends. Softball Manitoba registered 536 teams in 2023. Here is an overview of the last 5 years of registrations at Softball Manitoba:

DIVISION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Plus/minus from 2022
MINORS	405	227	186	443	489	+46
FAST PITCH	42	42	34	32	28	-4
SLO-PITCH	81	50	33	35	19	-16
TOTAL TEAMS	528	319	253	500	536	+6
UMPIRES	244	135	140	168	204	+36

2023 Classification	Female	Male	Coed	2023 Players	F	M	Non-Binary	Total
Minor Teams	347	16	126	Timbits	1215	321	0	1536
Fast Pitch Teams	13	2	0	Minor	3295	441	2	3738
Slo-Pitch Teams	0	0	19	Fast Pitch	276	98	0	374
Orthodox	3	0	10	Slo-Pitch	50	269	0	319
Umpires	81	122	1	Total	4836	1129	2	5967

❖ MARKETING – PROMOTING SOFTBALL MANITOBA

- ◆ **Annual Awards** - Player, Coach, Team, Official and Volunteer Annual Awards & Recognition.
- ◆ **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 Canada TV Ads** – A great Marketing Tool and viewed by many of our Membership.
- ◆ **Softball MB Hall of Fame and Museum** – Annual Induction Dinner. Museum open May-Sept.
- ◆ **Sponsorship Promotion** – Major Sponsors are included on Travel T-shirts and Development Camp T-shirts. Major Sponsors include Worth-Rawlings-Worth-Miken-Easton 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.

❖ COMPETITION

- ◆ **In 2023 Manitoba hosted/participated:**
 - Softball MB hosted 21 Provincial Championships (18 Minor / 3 Adult).
 - 224 teams participated in our Provincial Championships. (as compared to 183 in 2022)
- ◆ **In 2024 Manitoba is scheduled to host:**
 - The U13 Male Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.
 - The Masters Male & Female Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.

❖ COACH DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ **NCCP 2023:**
 - Community Softball Clinics – Twelve clinics were held. 131 coaches were Certified.
 - Competition Introduction Softball Clinics – Four virtual clinics were held with a total of 39 coaches in attendance. We were able to hold more clinics (with smaller #s) by hosting “Hybrid” Comp-Intro clinics that were partially virtual and partially in-person. Three hybrid-on field clinics were held with a total of 34 coaches in attendance.
 - Competition Introduction On-Field Evaluations – 13 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 2023 a total of 712 coaches were successfully screened out of 940 that registered as a requirement for ALL Softball MB registered Coaches.
- ◆ **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.

❖ **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

- ◆ **Softball Manitoba Regional Skills Development Academy: (*New for 2023)**
This past winter Softball MB ran our initial Regional Skills Development Academy for 12 weeks between January – April 2023. Similar to Softball Canada’s program, 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 open to the first 100 participants that registered. 104 athletes went through the program (30 ‘A’ / 12 ‘AA’/62 ‘AAA’ players) that 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 Georgia with the U15 group and travel to Missouri with the U13 & U17 teams (April-2023). Team selections matched US age categories as opposed to MB age categories resulting in a closer match in competition level.
- ◆ **Canpitch:**
Clinics included a spring and summer clinic then followed by Team training between October to April. Currently at 4 ‘trained’ CP instructors. 244 participants went through the program in 2023.
- ◆ **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. Softball Manitoba worked with MASRC to help prepare for the 2023 North American Indigenous Games and provided equipment and various clinicians to help evaluate the tryouts.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 kids and adults the basics of Softball.

❖ **OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT**

- ◆ National Officials Certification Program – In 2023 Manitoba certified 204 Officials (+36 officials).
- ◆ Blue Convention - Winnipeg 2023 – Softball Canada and the Softball MB UDC performed an excellent job hosting 100s of Officials all across Canada with a weekend of Umpire Development, friendship and memories that will be valued for the remainder of the careers.



❖ 2023 SOFTBALL CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

CHALLENGES:

- ◆ John Blumberg Softball Complex. After 30 years of what was once a World Class venue, repair and maintenance costs were heavily outweighed by any funding available – including the city and/or Province. Reviewing all of this over the past 2 years with the City of Winnipeg left our Board with a tough decision - not renewing the Ball Park's lease.
- ◆ Balancing Minor Division Operating Rules between Grassroots programs/leagues AND Elite Leagues and Organizations so that BOTH levels can continue to grow at a productive rate. 'A' League competition at Provincials have become a little unbalanced at the U11 and U13 categories to the point where we may need to return to our past 'Sunday Splits' where we have a competitive playoff bracket for the top teams and a recreation (or consolation) bracket for the remaining teams. A serious review with our Membership is required here. 'AA' in its infant stage is struggling to break out on its own and is currently caught in requiring 'A' support with a desire to compete on its own. 'AAA' has its flaws as well – as Softball MB attempts to assist all 8 'AAA' Organizations in fielding teams in all 4 Age Categories (U13/U15/U17/U19).
- ◆ Those we lost in 2023. Filling the 'gaps' left behind of those greatly experienced Softball Leaders we lost this past year. Rest in Peace Evelyne, Charlie and the others that have passed in 2023. Thank You for all you have done in building our Sport – You are truly missed.

SUCCESSES:

- ◆ 'AA' Softball. This is a new development program originally designed to bridge the skill gap between the A and AAA categories. The vision was to create a competitive program giving grassroots players ('A') and coaches an opportunity to be involved in a more competitive environment while advancing skill level and knowledge of the sport with an extended season. While still suffering growing pains, this new program is growing at an aggressive rate to the point where the classification is getting to the point where it is almost ready to survive on its own - without the support of the 'A' classification. This past year we had 30 teams (368 players) participating in the 'AA' Provincials. (U11 to U17). In those same Age Categories – 125 teams competed in 'A'. (Outstanding!) With 45 teams in the U11A draw, 37 teams in U13A, 28 teams in U15A and 15 teams in U17A are we ready to separate 'AA' from 'A'? If we don't – and continue on as combined – Zone playdowns might have to return to keep the tournament numbers down to a total where we can get through a weekend without 'time' concerns. A great problem to have.
- ◆ Softball Manitoba Umpire Development Committee – Total Success! Year after Year this group does an outstanding job 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. Softball MB as a whole would suffer dearly without this Committee. They continue to be the envy of Softball Committees across Canada and are looked upon heavily for direction by several other Sports within Sport Manitoba.
- ◆ 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 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.

Thank You All!

Respectfully Submitted,





SOFTBALL ONTARIO

2023 PROVINCIAL REPORT





Softball Ontario CanPitch Committee

Since last year's reporting period, we've hosted thirteen CANpitch clinics throughout the province and have trained 122 new pitchers. Here are the centers that hosted clinics:

Aurora, On – Fundamentals

Sydenham, On – Learn2Train

Topham, On – Fundamentals

Topham, On – Learn2Train

St-George, On – Learn2Train

Embros, On – Learn2Train

Embros, On – Train2Train

Kingston, On – Learn2Train

Kingston, On – Train2Train

St-George, On – Train2Train

Freelton, On – Fundamentals

Freelton, On – Train2Train

Richmond Hill, On – Fundamentals

We currently have 15 active CanPitch instructors in the province who will be retrained in the spring (first post-pandemic training) where we will also be doing a call for additional applicants so that we can better serve smaller communities that are further from major city hubs.

While we still have some work to do in terms of reaching more communities across the province, our numbers have been climbing every year and we're hoping to offer even more clinics in the 2023/2024 off-season.





Softball Ontario Coaching Committee

Since last year's reporting period, we've hosted sixteen coaching clinics throughout the province and have trained 507 coaches. Here are the centers that hosted clinics:

Barrie, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Etobicoke, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Etobicoke, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 2
Kitchener, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Kitchener, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 2
Kingston, On - Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Kingston, On - Comp. Intro Weekend 2
Oshawa, On - Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Oshawa, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 2
Toronto, On – Community Coaching
London, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 1
London, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 2
Mississauga, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Mississauga, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 2
Wallaceburg, On – Comp. Intro Weekend 1
Newmarket, On – Community Coaching

We hosted a Coach Developer Training session with the goal of increasing the number of Coach Developers and Coach Evaluators. We struggled a bit to engage those new people and are looking for additional strategies to engage and help them become more active. We are also actively working to apply a DEI lens to our team to better represent the diversity of coaches in Ontario.





Fast Pitch Umpire Committee

In 2023 Softball Ontario Hosted 51 Umpire clinics!

- 48 Level 1/Youth Clinics
- 2 Level II Clinics
- 1 Level III Clinic

Season Highlights:

- Trained 856 umpires during 2023 clinics
- Registered 1402 Umpires across Ontario
- Sent 26 umpires to the 2023 Fast Pitch Canadian Championships
- Staffed 35 provincials and 3 Canadian Qualifiers for a total of 38 events in 2023





Slo-Pitch Umpire Committee

SLO PITCH UMPIRE COMMITTEE

Slo Pitch Umpire program is alive and well in Ontario. This is the second year for combined registration in Ontario for our umpires. Umpires pay one fee and are registered for both SP and FP. I believe this is helping support both programs in the province. There were several level 1 clinics this year at a reduced rate for new umpires and those that hadn't registered since 2019 to try and get some numbers back. This was well received. SP program held a level 3 clinic in conjunction with one of our Super Series weekends to assist in offsetting the cost of the clinic for the attendees. Our premier event, SPOA Eliminations, allowed us to use 30 umpires in a 3 umpire system for the event. Our regular Super Series had a full slate of events using 79 umpires from Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and Buffalo, NY, with an average of 20-25 umpires per event. The Men's and Women's SP Canadian Championships were held in Ontario. We sent a total of 13 umpires to these championships. 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. Once again umpires were in high demand and spread thin due to lack of numbers. Recruitment is a priority to bring the numbers back up in the program.

Dave Jones
SP PUIC
Softball Ontario





Provincial Women's Softball Association (PWSA)

PWSA welcomed 222 teams in the 2023 season

An increase of 10 teams over our 2022 numbers

We hosted 31 events including our Provincial Qualifiers, National Qualifiers and Provincial Championships, and our Annual High School Tournament.

U9/11- 27 teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A and B Division

U13 - 41 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A and B and C Division

U15 - 49 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers (Both Tier I & II Divisions)

U17 - 48 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers (Both Tier I & II Divisions)

U19 - 27 total teams participated in Provincials (Both Tier I & II Divisions)

U23 – 9 total teams participated in Provincials

Women's- 2 teams affiliated

Intermediate Ladies – 17 teams affiliated

We had 15 teams participate in 4 Canadian Championships and 12 teams participate in the Eastern Canadians. Our teams won 11 medals over the various championships

We look forward to growing again in 2024!





Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA)

Overall the OASA had 81 teams participate in 18 Qualifier, Elimination or Provincial tournaments as well as a U9 event in 2023.

U9 - 5 teams in Grafton

U11 - 14 teams in Grafton, Tara and Cobourg

U13 - 14 teams in Springbrook, Ponsonby and Tara

U15 - 9 teams in Napanee and Wilmot

U17 - 15 teams in Stratford and Grafton

U20 - 15 teams in Wilmot and Cobourg

U23 - 6 teams in Grafton

Masters - 3 teams in Kitchener

Senior Men had 3 teams from Ontario represent us at the Canadian Championships. Ontario hosted 1 male Canadian Championship, the U20 Men in Napanee.

Overall Ontario teams performed very well at all these events. 21 teams participated in 6 championships, taking home 6 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze.

In the 2 male Eastern Canadians, 3 teams participated with Ontario taking home gold and silver in the U15's and bronze in the Intermediate Men's events.

While still not quite back to pre-pandemic numbers we are trending in that direction and look forward to the 2024 season.





Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO)

2023 marked Slo-Pitch Ontario's 41st season, and it was a busy one from start to finish!

- Ran 14 Super Series Events for Mens A, B and C caliber of play
- Ran 9 Super Series Events for Womens A, B and C caliber of play
- 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
- Hosted the 2023 Softball Canada Men's and Women's Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships held August 13-19, 2023 with 13 Women's Teams and 22 Men's Teams from across the country competing for the highest award available in Canada for slo-pitch softball
- Ran 6 weekends of Ontario Championships with over 150+ teams competing in 22 divisions of play
- Hosted 1 Ontario Championship for High School girls with 12 teams and 160+ athletes competing

Our individual Member Registration went well this season, with more League Directors and Members understanding the benefits of it, and the ease of the process, and we registered over 125 adult slo-pitch leagues this season. Some leagues were only back to playing a full season in 2023. Next season will be the true test when registration opens and we can then properly assess its success by the return of leagues, teams and number of players, and we are looking forward to expanding the use of our mobile app and Rewards program for our Members.





Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA)

The ORSA had 50 teams registered to play in ORSA provincial tournaments in 2023. This is an increase of 13 teams from the 2022 season.

U11 Girls - 4 teams entered, same as 2022

U11 Boys - 13 teams entered, went with an A and B division, and increase of 5 teams from 2022

U13 Girls - 6 teams entered, up 4 teams from 2022

U13 Boys - 8 teams entered, up 1 team from 2022

U15 Girls - 7 teams entered, up 2 teams from 2022

U15 Boys - 5 teams entered, up 1 team from 2022

U17 Girls - 2 teams entered - played 2 out of 3 playdown series. No teams were entered in U17 Girls in 2022, so an increase of 2 teams.

U17 Boys - 5 teams entered, up 1 team from 2022

8 ORSA Provincial Championships hosted and awarded championships in 2023, and 1 playoff series to determine a provincial ORSA champion in U17 Girls.





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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

2023 Annual Association Report

Affiliation and Registration

NWT Softball is working towards the growth of our grassroots development of Softball. The communities of the Northwest Territories have battled with threatening wildfires, smokey conditions and flooding. Despite this, the resilience of Softballers of the North have not stopped the rebuilding of fields, playing through less than ideal circumstances. With the continued rise of youth softball players and more communities affiliating with NWT Softball, we believe we are headed in the right direction. We believe that continued exposure to quality coaching and real games for our youth will grow our sport further.

Our season was unfortunately cut short due to wildfires across the territory and more than half the population being evacuated or on evacuation alert. A special shout out to all of the evacuees across the NWT, and the volunteers and contractors who stayed behind helping to fight the wild fire and for the countless firefighters across the NWT, Canada and globally that came to assist us. We also thank other jurisdictions for contacting us during our difficult time, including many of our southern neighbours who kindly offered up office space to allow us to continue to operate.

Coaching

Jennifer Lukas, our VP of Player Development was qualified to give the Competition Introduction training course, the first in the territory to reach this far in coaching development. Mark Quinn, was flown up to co- deliver this event, as well as pitching course at our new training facility. A special thank you on behalf of NWT Softball to Mark Quinn, you're a terrific professional having completed 6 straight days of pitching training, and congratulations on your recent Bronze Medal!

NWT Softball ran our annual Junior Softball Jamboree in Hay River, and offered training in the village of Fort Simpson. This winter we are applying for funding to send our association to more communities to introduce B5 to these remote schools and youth. Also, working with Jays Care to create more programs in our schools and try to expand our youth base into smaller Indigenous communities - provide another outlet to play outdoors during our long northern summers.

Umpires

Mentoring young or new officials seems to be one of the most difficult parts of the game / we cannot play without them, making them a vital component to our sport. Continuing to get more umpires certified across the NWT will allow for less burn-out and to ensure getting all our games scheduled, including in our ever-growing youth divisions. Dennis Marchiori traveled to Victoria, BC in an attempt to obtain his final part of his level 4 training. With the increase in numbers of our youth members, more have shown interest in umpiring and learning the rules of the game, a positive for NWT umpires.

Championships and Representing NWT

NWT Softball held an adult and junior division Fastball tournament in Hay River in July of 2023. Our first time in recent memory hosting a junior division in between men's games showcased the great ball being played coming up through the ranks. Female and Co-Ed slo-pitch Territories were held in Yellowknife and Inuvik.

NWT U19 girls were welcomed generously by Softball Alberta (thank you) to their provincial championships. The Yellowknife Wolverines lost their first game of the tournament and then went undefeated to win the D provincial title. These girls were great role models to youth female softball players, who began the dream to discover the joys of competitive softball.

Yellowknife Adult Fastball League also sent a men's intermediate team to Alberta B provincials. Winning all four round robin games, they fell on Sunday to the eventual winners, Erma Tigers.

Highlights (successes, challenges & continuous planning)

As NWT Softball continues to grow, we look to expand our relationships outside of regional centers. The majority of our communities are remote (fly-in only) with very little all-season roads connecting the communities. Therefore, we must look for additional funding to allow us to travel to them or have them join us in a regional center.

The Multi Sport Training Facility: NWT Softball joined in a partnership agreement with NWT Hockey and the Aboriginal Sport Circle to allow us to have access to a dedicated indoor training facility. Last spring we were able to get youth teams working on fundamental skills earlier than ever and look to do the same with youth umpires. We hope this facility will increase year round training, and develop more pitchers.

We also hope to work with Softball Canada and other organizations to bring the game of B5 to our northern and isolated residents. This may be an excellent way to teach softball fundamentals during the winter and allow for play in the summer when the majority of teachers and other professionals leave our smaller communities to visit family in the south. We view this version of our sport as a great way to grow the in-depth learning of softball.





Softball Nova Scotia Provincial Report for 2023

Overview

The 2023 season has been a very successful year for Softball Nova Scotia. We have experienced an increase in our membership. Our goal is to reach out and identify ways to increase membership in some of our most rural regions in the province.

Softball NS continues to collaborate with our clubs, leagues and associations assisting them with Softball program funding opportunities, however we continue to struggle with providing skilled female pitching programs.

Minor Program

Softball Nova Scotia held its High-performance Provincial Program for the 2nd year to allow us to identify and provide benefits and value to our high-performance athletes. The response of the SNS Provincial Program was overwhelming with fair representation from all regions of the provincial in both age groups of U15 and U17 age categories from across Nova Scotia. Resulting in one U15 Girls and U17 Girls teams as well as a development U15 Girls team that attended the Quebec Rebelles tournament and the Canadian Championships games. We are committed to continuing our provincial program and as well as strengthening our development and identification process.

Coaching

Softball Nova Scotia is pleased to report a very good year for coach training in 2023.

We now have three new learning facilitators and coach evaluators.

We completed (10) clinics this year, five (5) were OGP clinics that a total of thirty-seven (37) participants attended. The five (5) other clinics were Introduction to Competition Hybrid clinics where we had a total of forty (40) coaches in attendance.

We delivered three sets of the online modules with 24 people attending.

Of the 40 coaches that took the Intro to Competition clinic, 17 completed the on-field evaluations to become completely certified.

In all, we had 73 coaches attend clinics. This is a step in the right direction but now that we have more learning facilitators and coach evaluators, I think we can look at better coordination with associations, earlier in the year, to allow for all the training that their coaches will need for the summer. Overall, it was a good year, with more new and young coaches coming forward.



Softball Nova Scotia Provincial Report for 2023

North American Indigenous Games

The 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) were the largest sporting event to be hosted in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 15-23, 2023; and will be hosting 16 sport competition events, while welcoming 5000+ participants; Softball Nova Scotia partnered in hosting the Softball sporting competition event. Softball Nova Scotia took on the responsibility of coordinating and delivering Softball for NAIG 2023.

Furthermore, this partnership with the NAIG committee helped to foster connections and relationships between the Indigenous communities and Softball Nova Scotia through community engagement, and support. As part Softball NS responsibilities in working with NAIG the committee, Softball Nova Scotia was responsible for, coordinating all sports equipment required Undertake all scheduling /draws, Engage the match officials & Sport Specific Volunteers Conduct the event and produce results on a timely basis, Provide Local timing/scoring/result solutions for each sport, coordinate medical requirements along with NAIG medical team, manage accommodation/travel if required for any outside officials, liaise with the NAIG 2023 Director of Sport and Venue for ongoing event updates, nominating the main point of contact for NAIG 2023 liaison and appointing the main technical delegate for Softball to manage/Supervise the competitions. the Softball event a success. Softball had approximately 462 participants with a total of 32 teams 14 teams from the United States and within Canada the NAIG games were a success.

Respectfully submitted.

Caroline Crooks

Executive Director

Softball Nova Scotia



2023 Softball New Brunswick Annual Report

Overview:

The 2023 season was a busy, yet very exciting year for Softball New Brunswick. Despite being a very wet season, we were very fortunate to be able to hold our annual Provincial Championships, host the 2023 U17 Boys Canadian Fastpitch Championships and host the U15 Boys Eastern Canadian Championship. Our membership number was 2910 (Coaches, Players, and Officials), which is happily up from the 2022 season. Softball NB is looking forward to an exciting fall 2023, where we will transition to tryouts for the 2024 NB Selects provincial team program, hold our annual awards ceremony, and attend the Softball Canada Annual General Meeting in Niagara.

Registration:

Softball New Brunswick total membership was 2910 in 2023. This total is an overall increase of 22.8% from 2022, which we are very optimistic about. The incline was found across all registration categories, with minor female participation up 13.3%, minor male participation up 18.5%, adult participation up a significant 60.8%, with the return of some slo pitch leagues, coaching registration increasing by 21.7%, as well as umpires being up just under 2%. Softball NB recognized three new organizations this past year that we look forward to continuing to work with: Kingston Minor Softball Association, Association de balle-molle du Nord Ouest, and the Chipman Thunder. Much like the rest of the country, Softball NB 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. Softball New Brunswick continues to see growth in our number of teams participating in Provincial Championships on an annual basis, with a significant rise in both the 'A' and 'AA' level championships. In 2023, Softball NB also transitioned to RAMP Interactive for our registration platform and website, which was a learning curve for all; however, we look forward to modifying and streamlining the process in 2024, so members have a seamless experience when registering with the organization.

2023 Total Membership – 2910

Minor Female Players – 1376

Minor Male Players – 385

Non Binary Players - 1

Adult Players - 735

Female Coaches – 131

Male Coaches - 171

Total Umpires - 111

Total Teams - 149 teams (98 minor, 51 major)

Provincial Championships:

In 2023, Softball New Brunswick was very excited to once again host our Provincial Championship

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2023 Softball New Brunswick Annual Report

tournaments. Our tournaments 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. SNB unfortunately did have to cancel some of our championships due to low registration numbers and lack of hosts, including: U17, U19 Male, Men's/Women's Orthodox, and COED Slo Pitch. Softball NB has identified that each of these championships are a priority to get going again in 2023. Each of the provincial championships dawned new champions as well as Top Pitcher, Top Batter, and MVP awards were distributed. Softball NB extended our season in 2023 by moving several championships to September to allow teams to have a longer playing season and maximize a very rainy summer.

U9 Girls
4 Teams

U13 'AA' Girls
4 Teams

U17 Girls
5 Teams

U11 'A' Girls
7 Teams

U13 Boys
4 Teams

Intermediate Men's
4 Teams

U11 'AA' Girls
3 Teams

U15 'A' Girls
5 Teams

Intermediate Women's
5 Teams

U11 Boys
3 Teams

U15 'AA' Girls
7 Teams

U13 'A' Girls
10 Teams

U15 Boys
4 Teams

Eastern Canadian Championships:

Softball New Brunswick hosted an Eastern Canadian Championships in 2023 (U15 Boys) as the PSO. NB had teams attending championships at the U13, U15, U19 and Intermediate Women's categories, and in the U15, and Intermediate Men's categories.

The U15 Boys Eastern Canadians were hosted in Fredericton with 8 teams participating. Teams from NB, NS, NL, ON, and QC attended. The Minto Hawks were the NB representative (HOST). This championship was very successfully run and the host did a fantastic job overall.

New Brunswick also had a very strong showing at the U19 Women's Eastern Canadians in PEI. The Oromocto Silverbacks took home the Gold Medal after a very strong showing all weekend. Kate Parker (Silverbacks) was named Most Valuable Player, and Gracelyn Walsh (Silverbacks) was named Top Batter.

Coaching Clinics / Program:

Softball New Brunswick was very pleased to offer the Comp-Intro coaching course in KV/Oromocto in the spring of 2023. 20 coaches received training. In addition to 20 coaches receiving training, several



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coaches became Comp-Intro certified and many have identified an interest in the Comp-Dev clinic when it is offered next.

Softball NB has identified that the demand for coaching courses has surpassed one clinic annually, and will look to schedule an additional clinic in the fall of 2023, so there is ample opportunity for members to receive the required training. We will also look to add a Community Stream course onto the calendar for our more introductory/novice coaches in the spring of 2023.

Hall of Fame Ceremony:

Softball NB hosted our 28th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, April 22nd. The ceremony was well attended by 139 guests. Our newest inductees include: Kelly Lynch (Builder), Brad Jennings (Builder), Mark Young (Player), Sandra Allan (Official), 1982 Miramichi Fireballs . Congratulations to all!

Canpitch Program:

SNB did not host any Canpitch programs in 2023 at the Provincial level. At the club levels, clinics were held by regional pitching instructions. Softball NB has continued to attempt to find a qualified candidate to fill the role of Master Pitcher Instructor (MPI). In April, we hosted a Pitcher Instructor Beginner clinic (Facilitated by Elissa Silvel) in Fredericton. We opened up one free spot for each association to send a representative to assist in the development of their pitching at the local level. There were 15 coaches that participated in the PIB clinic. The course was very well received and it was evident that there is a high demand for pitching training in the province. Softball NB will continue to prioritize pitching development across the province, and look for new ways to generate more facilitators to have consistent teaching around NB.

School Programming:

Softball NB Board of Directors continues to work on different areas to develop our youth fastpitch program, with one area we are targeting being the school system. The Middle School Provincial Championships were held in Sussex back in June, with 7 teams competing in the girls 'AA' division, 3 teams competing in the girls 'A' division, and 4 teams in the boys 'AA' division. Based on feedback from schools throughout the province, we anticipate new schools generating middle school softball programs in 2024, leading to increased participation in all divisions.

Softball NB is excited for the opportunity to expand our school programs, and by doing so, we anticipate seeing a higher number of athletes move from school softball to our summer programs - increasing our overall membership. We also plan to begin getting involved with the school physical education programs by having summer students offering 'Come Try Softball Events' during gym classes.

Logo/Branding:

In January 2023, Softball New Brunswick introduced a new logo to represent the organization. This logo

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www.softballnb.ca



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aligns with the direction Softball Canada and other PSOs have moved to recently. It is fresh and functional. When coming up with the concept for the design, it was important to develop an identity that can be applied to each of our major programs (NB Selects, Timbits, Umpires, etc.). We have taken our main logo and created variations of the logo and applied it to each of those programs. The logo has been very well received from the membership, and through this rebranding it has enhanced our organizations identity locally and across the country.

Website:

In January 2023, Softball New Brunswick also introduced a new website through RAMP Interactive to the membership. This website is significantly more user friendly and has driven more members to it to find any information required.

Social Media:

In 2023, through the development of a new organization logo, Softball NB has prioritized the enhancement of our social media presence and brand content. As part of the SEED program, we hired a Marketing and Media Coordinator to develop social media strategies and content for the organization. This coordinator was also responsible for capturing images/video of our NB Selects players/coaches to be displayed in much of our content. As a result, our social media output has been significantly elevated and has been more consistent. We have seen growth in our social media following (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), and are receiving an overall increase in impressions (reactions, comments, shares, link clicks, etc.) on each post.

Annual Awards Banquet:

Softball New Brunswick is once again currently planning for the 2023 Annual Awards Banquet for October. This event will honor our most accomplished members and highlight their accomplishments from the past season. We will also award our two Janiva Willis Memorial Scholarships (\$500/each) to two deserving members during this event.

Umpires:

Our umpire registration in 2023 was 111, which is an increase over 2022 registration. Our umpires association was very busy this past summer working in local, provincial, atlantic, and national level events. 6 Softball NB umpires represented the province at Canadian Championships across the country this past year, all having positive experiences.

- Ron Campbell (Deputy Umpire in Chief - U17 Boys Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Fredericton, NB)
- Marc Dugas (U17 Boys Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Fredericton, NB)
- Serge Niles (U17 Boys Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Fredericton, NB)



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- Josh Humphrey (U19 Women's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Lanford, BC)
- Carlos Avila (U20 Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Napanee, ON)
- Andrew Godin (Senior Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, Surrey, BC)

The Umpires association was able to secure a GoNB Physical Literacy grant in 2023 to go towards the development and enhancement of the umpire program. The umpires association will also be working in the off season with the Softball NB Technical Director to develop a recruitment and retention strategy to increase membership for 2024, which has been identified as one of the main priorities for the organization.

Timbits Softball & Community Caravan:

Unfortunately in 2023, the Timbits Softball Community Caravan did not run due to limited capacity. As a prominent program within the organization, Softball New Brunswick will be reviewing the program this fall and plans to reintroduce a new and improved Timbits program for the 2024 season. Timbits T-Shirts and Medals were distributed to associations to provide to their athletes at the end of their seasons.

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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Softball NB Membership:

A major highlight within the organization was seeing an overall 22.8% increase in our membership this past year. We are eager to have seen a positive trend in registrations and look forward to expanding on that increase going forward

East Coast Showdown

Softball New Brunswick hosted a 2023 East Coast Showdown tournament in June. This tournament, held in Fredericton, was hosted for our U15 Girls, U17 Girls, and U17 Boys Provincial Teams and featured teams from all around Atlantic Canada and Quebec. This tournament was also an excellent training opportunity for our officials intending to attend a Canadian Championship in 2023. The tournament was a big success, despite portions of the tournaments being canceled due to severe weather conditions. All proceeds from the tournament were distributed to the 3 participating New Brunswick teams to go toward their team expenses.

2023 U17 Boys Canadian Fast Pitch Championships

Softball New Brunswick hosted the U17 Boys Canadian Fast Pitch Championships in Fredericton, in August 2023. The tournament featured 10 teams from across the country, including 1 from New Brunswick. The tournament was a major success and drew strong crowds from across the country for 5 days of fast pitch action. The tournament was kicked off by a very entertaining MacTavish's Source For Sports Home Run Derby as the welcome event for teams, and had local entertainment (Riley Taylor) and



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Greens Catering as the food option. New Brunswick's representative, Austin Jones, was the derby winner, receiving a Rawlings Bat and Easton swag as the first place prize.

Provincial Team Program:

We were very happy to have our second season of the NB Selects high performance program take place in 2023. 4 provincial teams (U15 Girls, U17 Girls, U19 Women's, U17 Boys) represented New Brunswick well at Canadian Championships across the country (Fredericton, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia). This program is a significant step in Softball NB's high performance program, and development of our elite athletes. We look forward to growing this program even more in 2024.

U15 Girls Coaching Staff

- Rob Scott (Head Coach)
- Terry Burke (Assistant Coach)
- Daniel Desjardin (Assistant Coach)
- Jennifer Leger (Manager)

U17 Boys Coaching Staff

- Scott Willis (Head Coach)
- Brent Evans (Assistant Coach)
- Jeff Harding (Assistant Coach)

U17 Girls Coaching Staff

- Dan Mersereau (Head Coach)
- Peter Mersereau (Assistant Coach)
- Sue Appleton Elliott (Manager)

U19 Women's Coaching Staff

- Kevin Walsh (Head Coach)
- Jeremy Tracy (Assistant Coach)
- Thaddee Bourque (Assistant Coach)
- Kerry Laviolette Rowe (Manager)

Scholarship:

Softball NB is proud to offer our annual Janiva Willis Memorial Scholarships again in 2023: 2 \$500 awards to go to 2 deserving athletes attending post secondary education in the fall who have exhibited leadership traits and softball skills, while giving back to the sport. The awards were last distributed in 2022 to Shane Huggard (Hoyt Schooners) and Carly Muise (Oromocto Silverbacks). This scholarship will be distributed once again in the fall of 2023.

Partnerships:

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



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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 2023 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. The Fredericton Inn was also the official hotel of the 2023 U17 Boys Canadian Championships, and went above and beyond for us throughout the event.

Tim Hortons - A sincere thank you to Tim Hortons for your continued support of the Timbits Softball program. This partnership has allowed us to provide FREE t-shirts and Medals to our Learn to Play programs across the province. Many photos seen on social media reflect that these athletes enjoy wearing these T-Shirts and medals both on and off the softball fields.

Kahunaverse - Thank you to Kahunaverse 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 cursive script that reads "Hillary Pineau".

Hillary Pineau
Executive Director
Softball New-Nouveau Brunswick



Provincial Report 2023

Overview

On May 6 – 7, 2023, Softball NL held our first AGM and Hall of Fame Banquet since COVID-19. It was a great event which saw the Election of Officers for our new Board of Directors. The new Board now includes, Gary Corbett (President), Les Howey (Vice-President), Bill Barron (Treasurer), Gerald Gosse (Secretary), Sean Cadigan (Minor Director), Victoria Davis (Female Director), David Kennedy (Male Director), Peggy Colbourne (Western Director) and Tom Healey (Central Director). Softball NL would like to acknowledge outgoing Western Director, Ross Crocker for his outstanding long-term service with the Board and Softball NL.

Congratulations to the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees who were inducted at this year's event including Ed McDonald, Kathy Lukeman, Tim Murphy, Don King, Don Cleary, Lee Hawco, Joe Maynard and Paul Smith. Welcome to the Softball NL Hall of Fame and thank you for your contribution to our great game.

The 2023 Softball NL season has been a very busy and successful one. Registration continues to grow and that speaks volumes after two years of uncertainty with COVID-19. We were fortunate to see tremendous participation in our province in both the minor and adult leagues and when the final numbers are tabulated for the 2023 season, we anticipate that our total membership numbers to be around 3600 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.

In the near future, the Board will host 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 2024. 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 2024, 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 2024 are well underway as we continue to find better and efficient ways to deliver our programs to our members. Next year will be a very busy season for Softball NL as 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.

Softball NL is also excited to participate in the 2024 Newfoundland and Labrador Summer to be hosted in Bay Roberts on August 10 – 17, 2024. This multisport event will be an exciting opportunity for our U15 male and female fastpitch programs.

Minor Program

There were 28 Minor Associations affiliated with Softball NL this past summer with approximately 3300 minor males and females registered. Over the summer, we hosted 26 provincial tournaments including fastpitch and slo-pitch from U11 to the U20. We also hosted three adult Provincials including the first ever U23 Men's Provincials along with the Senior Men's Provincials and a 6-team Women's Provincials. We also partnered with Tim Hortons to provide Timbit Jamborees for U7 and U9.

Along with the Provincial Tournaments, Softball NL had 2 minor teams participate in the 2023 Eastern Canadian Championships. Softball NL also had eight teams compete in the 2023 Canadian Championships.

A highlight for Softball NL for 2023 was our U15 Male Canadian Championships winning the Silver Medal which took place in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. This was an amazing accomplishment and we are so proud of this team along with our U15 Female, U17 Male and Female and U20 Male teams who also performed exceptionally well at the 2023 Canadian Championships.

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 2023, 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 8 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 2023 a tremendous success. The work doesn't stop so we anticipate working with our partners to find ways to improve league opportunities for 2024.

In 2023, Softball NL continued with a High Performance Program. We had excellent participation for the U15 and the U17 Boys and Girls Programs. The goal was to bring together and develop HP Programs for these four groups in preparation for the 2023 Canadian Championships. As a next step, Softball NL will be hosting Identification camps for 2024 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 2024 which will include more skills camps, Canpitch, RPI, the 2025

Canada Games Program, the 2024 NL 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. Moving forward, Softball NL will liaise with School Sport NL and the School Districts to determine potential fastpitch opportunities in both Junior and Senior High. Softball NL will endeavor to offer Junior and Senior tournaments for boys and girls in June 2024.

Women's Program

2024 was an exciting year for Women's Softball with the introduction of a newly formed 5-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 2024. Also, Corner Brook continued with its Women's League in 2023 with four teams and it was another very successful season.

With a break in 2022, the Women's Fastpitch Provincials went ahead in 2023 with 6 teams participating. It was a great event and provided a great opportunity for our Women's and High Performance teams to play in a competitive tournament. We anticipate another great year of Women's Fastpitch in 2024 and another excellent Provincial Championship and our hope is to send team(s) to the Eastern Canadians or Canadian Championships.

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 5-team league. The teams played a 24-game schedule and all five teams participated in John Gorman Memorial Senior Men's Provincials in September.

One of the highlights for 2023 was Softball NL was the Galway Hitmen capturing the Silver Medal at the 2023 Canadian Men's Championships which took place in Surrey, BC. The Galway Hitmen had won 8 out of the previous 9 Men's Canadian Championships and put forth a valiant effort in this year's event. Honourable mention goes out to Physio and Co, Softball NL's second entry at the Men's Canadians.

U23 Men's Fastpitch League

In 2023, NL Fastpitch introduced a new U23 Men's Fastpitch 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.

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 held three ID Camps this past summer for both the Men's and Women's Programs. Approximately 52 Males and 45 Females participated in one or more of the ID Camps. Softball NL has already appointed the Head Coach and one of the Assistant Coaches for each team. We anticipate selecting pools of athletes from each group to begin indoor training this fall and winter.

Coaching

In 2023, Softball NL held 7 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.

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 2023 Softball NL worked with the NLUA to develop a new 3-year agreement which will provide a thorough operational guide as move forward to continue to developing a top-notch umpires program. 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 140 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.

Technical Director

On August 1, 2022, Softball NL hired a Technical Director which was a new position to the organization. Mark Nash was hired and will continue with Softball NL as the TD on a full-time basis. Mark is currently Softball NL's Master Coach Developer (MCD), NCCP Learning Facilitator and Evaluator, Head Coach of several past and present local and provincial teams and is the Assistant Coach of Softball NL's 2025 Men's Canada Games team. Mark has brought a lot of knowledge and expertise to Softball NL and he will continue to provide import technical and leadership roles for our athletes, coaches and teams.



Looking Ahead

Softball NL will be very busy in the offseason as we set policies and get ready for the 2024 season. We anticipate developing a new Strategic Plan for Softball NL and we will be finalizing our Safe Sport Suite of Policies which will be very important as we move to a more safe and inclusive sport. We will be convening several committees to work together to plan and prepare for 2024.

One of the highlights for 2024 will be the Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games which will be taking place in Bay Roberts on August 10 – 17, 2024. Anticipation is building for the 2024 NL Games as the Games in 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19.



Administrative

We had another successful year with our minor registration season with RAMP; continuing to have all 9 associations across the Island using our online registration. Over this coming 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.

Minor Program

At the minor level, Softball PEI again had a great 2023 season here on the Island. Minor ball registration dropped 1.5% from 2022. This 2023 season, we were still excited to have 884 players registered to play in minor softball leagues across the Island ranging from Timbits to U17 on 75 different teams in 9 different local Associations. Our season ran from early June to mid-September. This is our third season running an A and AA league in U13, U15 and it continues to be well received by players and parents, but unfortunately we not able to run an AA league at U17. The plan is to see AA return to U13, U15 and U17 in 2024. We had 6 communities run successful Timbits and U9 programs (17 teams) with 210 registered players (183 females, 27 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 15-17th weekend.

In the winter of 2023 (January to early April), Softball PEI hosted its first full indoor league in Summerside for athletes across the Island in U13 and U15/17 which saw 255 athletes participating. Based on feedback taken this fall, we will be offering this program again in 2024 from early January to end of March and will see the addition of a U11 division.

Adult Program

In 2023, Softball PEI continued to sanction our existing leagues; one Men's Slo Pitch league (8 teams), one Women's Orthodox league (5 teams), two Men's Orthodox (12 teams), one Co-ed Slo Pitch league (31 teams) and one Senior Women's fastpitch league (4 teams). This saw our slo pitch, orthodox and women's fastpitch 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 three U13AA teams, 3 U15AA teams, one U17 team, two U19 teams, two Senior Women's teams and one Intermediate Men's team to the Eastern Canadians in 2023. It was a very busy August and September here on the Island as PEI was host to the U13 event in Cardigan (12 teams), the U19 event in Charlottetown (8 teams), the U23/Senior Women's event in O'Leary (8 teams) and finally the Intermediate Men's event in Kensington (5 teams). PEI medaled in three events; Intermediate Men's - Fawcetts – Silver, U23/Senior Women's – Township Tigers – Gold, and U19 – West Royalty Impact – 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 one U15 and one U17 PEI Whitecaps Teams to Canadian Championships with both teams having better showings than in 2022 and both 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 send teams to U15, U17 and U19 Canadian Championships in 2024. The Whitecaps program also expanded to a U13 Program to start high performance training for younger athletes on PEI and in hopes of future possibilities of U13 Canadian Championships.



Officials Development

2023 season continued to be struggle for officials on the Island. While we saw our numbers increase to 57 officials, we had several weeks where games were canceled due 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 64 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 2024 season.

Coach Development

We were once again able to successfully offer in-person Competition-Intro Weekends 1 and 2 in May and June, with 14 coaches (5 females, 9 males) attending. Our regularly offered ongoing participation courses held in the spring, prior to the minor leagues starting up, were held in person in three locations with 26 coaches (12 females, 14 males) in attendance.

CANpitch

Our CANpitch program saw a great increase in clinics across the Island this past year. We were still able to offer 13 clinics in four locations; Montague, Stratford, Donagh and Richmond. Our clinics were run by four 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 69 females take part in 6-week clinics (triple our numbers from 2022).

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Hyde
Executive Director, Softball PEI





Softball Canada Annual Meeting

Softball Québec – 2023 Report

The 2023 season was busy with a variety of different events and activities. Among the major issues encountered is the shortage of referees and volunteers. In the upcoming years, we will have to find solutions and creative ideas together to compensate for this growing lack of human resources. On the field, we saw several athletes and referees stand out nationally and internationally. Very recently, we learned that women's fastpitch will return to the 2025 Olympic Games which will be held in Los Angeles. This will help to promote our sport.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, IMAGE AND MARKETING

Launched in 2021, we continued the implementation of the 2021-2026 strategic plan.

Over the past year, we continued to work on the women's excellence program structure. During the months of June and July, we held several ZOOM meetings with people of influence in the AA and AAA structure to discuss various issues aiming to improve the structure. This allowed us to have increase communication with our regional associations concerned by the women's structure. In addition to regional associations, we first spoke with influential people within the Quebec sports community in order to be "challenged" on our structure and find new avenues for the future.

Throughout this report, you will see new initiatives that have been developed to meet several objectives from our strategic plan, whether in adult slow pitch, our presence in different regions, the development of tools for our members, our campaign against bullying or simply initiatives that we have continued to develop.

At the end of the year, we purchased various items which will allow us to have better visibility of our logo during our events.

This season, we continued to rely on social media to promote softball in Quebec. Our promotional strategy is to be as active as possible on social media by sharing activities, successes and news concerning softball in Quebec, but also to pay to distribute online advertising. Here is a summary of the actions taken in 2023:

We have more than 1,500 Facebook and Instagram posts, allowing our posts to be seen more than a million times on Facebook and nearly 100,000 times on Instagram. This strategy allowed us to bring more than 120,000 visits to our two pages as well as more than 1,000 additional subscribers this year!

In terms of advertising strategy, the main objective (82% of the budget) of our 2023 campaign was to promote our local B (grassroot) associations to give them visibility in their region and, helping them to recruit new athletes! We also did campaigns for referees (8% of the budget), our league packages (8%) and the Canpitch program (2%).

Even with our small advertising budget, we managed to have our ads seen more than 972,000 times reaching more than 318,000 people who clicked on our ads more than 3,300 times!

We will continue to take advantage of social media to ensure that softball and the Softball Québec federation are present online!

Anti-bullying campaign

In spring 2023, Softball Québec launched the Ensemble déNONcons l'intimidation campaign (translates to: Together, let's denounce bullying). Softball Québec wanted to raise awareness among our members, regardless of their roles, of the bullying situations that are happening during softball activities.

Whether towards a player, a coach, a parent, a volunteer or an administrator, bullying and all forms of physical and verbal violence have no place in sport. All stakeholders in the field have the right to practice their favorite sport with respect and safety. The "Ensemble déNONcons l'intimidation" campaign is a step towards secure softball practice.

Softball Québec distributed more than 1100 buttons to all its members. We were delighted to see the buttons all over the field this summer!

Worth/Rawlings/Easton



With great pleasure, Softball Québec renewed our partnership with this major sponsor for a two-year period earlier this year. We recognize the Worth softball as the official ball of Softball Québec since 2017. Thank you to Jason Shipley and Kim Sarrazin; you are both a pleasure to work with!

Sports Rousseau

We continued our partnership with this sports chain. With a new store in Granby joining those in St-Hubert, Laval, Charlemagne, Pointe-Claire and Boisbriand, we hope that we will be able to continue our partnership for the next year. We would like to thank Pierre Gendron, Hugo Fafard and Éric Hurtubise for their trust.

Statsenligne

For a 2nd year in a row, the “prestige” version of statsenligne, worth \$164 + taxes, was offered to all of our member leagues free of charge. Our members also got a mobile app to score softball game with live stats online.

We are happy to see that this service is very popular among our members. In comparison, during the first year of this promotion in 2022, 22 leagues took advantage of our deal while for 2023, we came close to 55 leagues!

The federation is proud to be partnered with a 100% local (Quebec) company like Statsenligne

Here are some benefits that our members can gain from this agreement:

- A platform to manage their league statistics
- A customizable website to manage their league
- Removal of advertisements on all pages of the site
- Customizing ads to display partners/sponsors
- Platform for sending emails to league members

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Board of Directors, sound governance and integrity policy

On March 25, we held an extraordinary AGM during which we finalized mandatory updates to our general rules with the new governance code for sports federations in Quebec. Throughout the year, we also worked to update various policies and comply with new laws.

We continue to promote to our members the “Politique en matière de protection de l'intégrité” as well as the “Je porte plainte” platform so that they understand that it is an important tool so that all softball activities take place in healthy and safe environments.

SOFTBALL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM

NEW – Coaches' summit

The coaches' summit was without a doubt the biggest project of this past year. The objective was simple: bring together as many coaches together in the same place at the same time in order to grow their knowledge. Many great guests were present. Without the fan favorite was Cassie Reilly-Boccia, hitting specialist and former NCAA athlete at the University of Alabama. Antoine Valois-Fortier, coach the national judo team, came to share his coaching philosophy. Tristan Beaudoin, from the BQL centre, gave a defense clinic. Égale Action was also present to talk about female athlete development. Finally, Geneviève Gaudreau and Sarah-Ève Jacob gave rules workshops. A total of 50 coaches from all levels (B, AA, AAA) participated in the day. Although registration was slow regardless of the low price, the event was a big success. We will be reevaluating when the best time is for year to do such an event in order to grow participation. The event took place at the Chateauguay Sportsplex. This center was well equipped for this type of event although we realized that the turf was a little too noisy. We are planning on adjusting for the next edition!

Team Quebec regional clinics and activities

The U23 Team Québec once again assisted with the U9 activity at the Festival B. The athletes gave a clinic to the teams participating in the event. For the first time in multiple years, Team Québec was able to give clinics and take part in demonstrations in multiple regions. Activities took place with associations in Terrebonne, Lakeshore and Rigaud where athletes were able to benefit from some coaching from both the coaches and athletes.

NEW – National team clinics

At the end of August, Softball Québec welcomed two national team athletes to give offensive and defensive clinics. These clinics given by Larissa Franklin and Janet Leung were available to anyone. A total of 150 athletes participated in the two



clinics. For the younger athletes, this was their first time being around national team athletes. Overall, an excellent activity that will be repeated in 2024 with different themes.

CANpitch

The Canpitch program finally got back on track for the 2023 season. After revamping the program, Laurence Fortin-Haines, our new head instructor, trained a dozen new instructors last spring. In the new program offers associations to have CANpitch sessions between 4 and 8 weeks long. Instructor's salary has also been increased to 30\$/h and fixed fees have been put in place regardless of the number of participants. These fixed fees have decreased the overall cost for associations in order to increase interest in hosting CANpitch sessions locally.

So far in 2023, 6 Canpitch Clinics have been completed and 2 more are currently ongoing. These include 3 8-week programs, 2 5-week programs and 3 4-week programs. The changes brought to the program has definitely brought new light and increased interest in the program. We believe this will continue to grow in the upcoming years.

NEW – CANpitch tour

In order to help relaunch the CANpitch program Softball Québec did a CANpitch tour. This tour stopped in 6 different regions throughout the province. At each stop, CANpitch instructors offered a free 1h CANpitch clinic open to anyone U11 whether they had experience pitching or not and regardless of their membership status. Thank you to Sport Québec for financial supporting this project without which we could not have put in place.

The following clinics took place:

- Laurentides: 21 participants
- Centre du Québec: 17 participants
- Sud-ouest: 19 participants
- Lac St. Louis: 20 participants
- Montreal: 20 participants
- QC/CA: 20 participants

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Coaching Clinics

The number of coaching trainings continued to increase in 2023. We were able to respond to all the requests received to hold trainings locally and we saw a good increase in coaches trained at the Introduction to Competition level.

Here are the number of participants from each training:

Initiation: none offered

Ongoing participation – In person: 8 trainings, 102 participants

Ongoing participation – Online: 6 trainings, 61 participants

Introduction to competition – In person: 2 trainings, 20 participants

Introduction to competition – Online: 6 trainings, 69 participants

Introduction to competition – Evaluation: 23 participants

Despite the increase in the number of trained coaches, some still seem confused about the trainings that need to complete. A virtual workshop was held to help coaches to better understand their pathway. We can see that certain associations regularly promote our coaches' training while others seem to give them little importance. Many financial penalties had to be given out during provincial events due to coaches not completing their trainings especially at the local level (B).

For a second consecutive year, we are satisfied with the advancement we have made which coaches' training. We will continue pushing our structure forward in order to ensure that more coaches are respecting their requirements at provincial events.

Coach mentorship program – Ministry

For a third consecutive year, Aryane Désy was selected. Aryane had the opportunity to be mentored by Brad Pelletier mainly for technical and tactical aspects of the game. Geneviève Houle also mentored Aryane for the administration of high-performance teams.

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

The comité Provincial pour l'avancement des femmes aux softball (CPAFS) had another busy year carrying out multiples projets.

- International women's day contest



- In honor of international women's day, the CPAFS ran a contest where members could thank women involved in softball (coaches, athletes, umpires or administrators) for their contributions. 4 winners won one of the following gifts: free registration to Softball Québec's coaches' summit, a gift card or the book Chimie d'équipe. The goal of this contest was to increase the visibility of women in softball.
- Female coaching mentorship program
 - The female coaching mentorship program was back for a second year. 6 female coaches were mentored throughout the season giving them the opportunity to learn and grow under some of the best coaches Softball Quebec has to offer in both group and duo sessions. Each mentored coach completed their NCCP clinics for free via funding the CPAFS received from Égale Action.
- NEW - Podcast : Le Softball au féminin
 - The CPAFS launched their very own podcast called: Le softball au féminin. The podcast is an interview style with a new guest every episode. Guests are all females who have positively contributed to softball in Quebec and that we believe should be show cased. We currently have two episodes available and many more coming in the fall and 2024.
- NEW – Coaches toolbox
 - In order to provide resources to coaches, the CPAFS has put together a coach's toolbox grouping together resources and important information for coaches. The goal of the toolbox is to encourage new coaches, especially women, to get involved and start coaching by showing them that support tools are available for them. The CPAFS will be working on similar toolboxes for umpires and administrators with the objective of getting more women involved!

More work is in store for the CPAFS in 2024!

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Softball Quebec has continued to be involved in DEI on the National Level as Sarah Manfred continues her involvement with Softball Canada's DEI team. The team is working on an action plan established in 2022. Notably, Sarah has been named co-chair of this team in 2023.

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

A lot of movement happened with the LFFEQ again this year. The board of directors now only consists of new members compared to the 2022 season. This renewal helped build a better relationship between the LFFEQ and the federation. Among other things, in order to help the new board, the end of season playoffs was merged with the provincial championships.

NEW – Eastern Canadian Championship qualification

Due to the Provincial Championships changing dates, the federation determined a new qualification process for the Eastern Canadian Championships. Only teams wanting to go to Eastern Canadian Championships had to participate allowing other teams to plan other activities. Interested teams then determined the dates of qualification games. League games could also be used. In the U15 category, a finale qualification tournament took place due to the high number of teams interested. The tournament bracket was set following standings determined via specific qualifying league games.

The advantages of this format is that teams needing to fly to their championships can plan ahead with booking accommodations and fundraising. U13 teams were given the opportunity to travel to Ontario for a tournament where previous years this wasn't possible due to the Provincial Championships.

The disadvantage of this format was shown when the host committee from Newfoundland withdrew and we had additional teams wanting to qualify for the championship but the federation's deadline to qualify had already passed. We then had to juggle several unhappy people. Having the provincial championships at the end of the season with no connection to the Eastern Canadian qualification processes held to some teams giving no importance to the tournament.

We will be evaluating if the Provincial Championships return to mid-July as the qualification for Eastern Candians like in previous years.

In 2023, the LFFEQ continued to see an increase in number of teams in the younger age categories but it continued to be difficult for U17 and up.

- U13: 5 teams coming from 5 regions (increase of 1 region)
- U15: 9 teams coming from 7 regions (increase of 3 regions)
- U17: 4 teams coming from 3 regions (decrease of 1 region)
- U19/U23: 2 teams from 2 regions



In the U13 category, the Lynx des Laurentides made their return. We expect Montreal to join the category in 2024.

In the U15 category, changing the U15 Team Quebec team to a hybrid format allowed for us to save certain regions and to create teams in new regions. Laval and Montreal were able to each have their own team. We expect the category to maintain its numbers of regions in 2024.

In the U17, U19 and U23 categories, we see a significant lack of interest from athletes. The number of teams continues to decrease year after year. For this reason, the hybrid format for Team Quebec will be used for the U17 espoir team in 2024. This change may allow up to 5 regions to have teams and help solidify teams already in place. The goal is to also keep more girls in the system and hopefully increase the amount of U19 teams in the following years.

Provincial Scorekeeping training Program

Softball Québec continued to offer our provincial scorekeeping training program in an online format via Moodle courses. Associations again had the opportunity to host in person session with one of our learning facilitators if they prefer this to an online course. As in 2022, all new scorekeepers are asked to complete the level 1 course and evaluation. Returning scorekeepers have the option to simply renew their level from the previous year by completing an evaluation or can continue to move up within the three levels offered. Once again, over 150 scorekeepers were certified via these courses for the 2023 season including 4 in person clinics.

Our online scorekeeping training continues to be successful allowing us to reach more members from throughout the province than ever before.

Remote region development – Gaspésie

In June 2023, Softball Québec travelled to Gaspésie in order to give coaches and player clinics. Two full days of clinics were given in two different towns including the Indigenous reserve, Gesgapegiag. Throughout the two days, 33 coaches received there in person continued participation clinic. 125 young girls and boys also participated in player clinics. Overall, the trip was a great success and helped Softball Québec build better relationships with the communities in this remote region.

“L’alignement Gagnant”

L’alignement gagnant continued to host virtual workshop for coaches, athletes and administrators for a 3rd consecutive year.

In 2023, 4 workshops took place :

- February 8th: Sport’aide can a workshop for coaches about athlete mental health
- February 19th: Jason Hill came and shared his athletic journey with Softball Quebec athletes
- April 27th: Cassandra Morais explained the NCCP pathways to both coaches and administrators
- May 17th: Sport’aide gave a workshop for parents to better understand their role within a team environment

A total, just over 70 participants took part in the workshops. We are starting to see a decrease in interest for these workshops. It will be important to properly select topics of interest for upcoming workshops in order to increase participation.

Toolbox

No new resources were created. Updates to existing documents were done.

Timbits Softball

The Timbits softball had another successful year. We had 31 associations with a total of 633 participants and increase compared to 2022’s 537 participants. Due to the hard work put in by local associations we see these numbers continuing to increase within the Timbits program.

Our Softball Québec-Timbits guide was once again a hit among these coaches giving coaches an easy-to-use resource throughout the season helping with their programming.



EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Sport-études

The Sport-étude softball program à St-Gabriel high school continued to grow with 21 students; this biggest it has ever been. However, it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain an adequate coach to athlete ration. Improvements will be necessary in order to be better equipped to answer the athletes’ needs. Furthermore, a maximum of 24 athletes will now be



put into place in order to ensure the services offered remain interesting for athletes. Finally, we will be surveying coaches in other regions, in the upcoming weeks, to see if there is interest in starting a program elsewhere.

NEW – Synergy projects

Two projects put in place with the Quebec ministry started during this past year

- Project 1: Determining factors of retention of permanent softball athletes in Quebec: reserve and high performance
 - Interested athletes completed a survey and took part in an interview. The result analyse will be available by the end of the year.
- Project 2: Determining the optimal spin rate based on speed and effects and the pitching position.
 - This project was difficult to get start due to issues finding adequate tools for data collection. The INS took over this project and is currently testing modified balls with built in sensors that collect ball rotation.

Although we have been working with Adrenaline Solutions since the beginning, the INS has taken over the second project. Working in partnership with the INS is also a new requirement from the ministry.

Female Team Quebec Fastpitch Program – Team Quebec AAA

On the women's side, 5 teams (U15, U17 espoir, U17, U19 and U23) were in action with a total of 62 athletes and 14 coaches. Athletes continued their development and certain teams stood out at their Canadian Championships. Notably, the U23 team won bronze and the U23/women's Canadian Championships and the U17 team had a good 7th place finish at their championship. For the U15, U17 espoir and U19 teams, they were competitive but unable to pull out the important wins.

From an individual perspective, many athletes stood out at Canadian Champions this year:

- Lou Ann Fortin Bouchard: All-star outfield at the U15 Canadian Championships
- Blanche Gagnon: All-star outfield at the U17 Canadian Championships
- Alexia Chevrier: All-star catcher and best batter at the U17 Canadian Championships
- Maïa Malkassoff: All-star infielder at the U23/women's Canadian Championships
- Léa Chevrier: Best pitcher at U23/women's Canadian Championships

Visit from Larissa Franklin and Janet Leung

During the visit of two national team athletes, Team Quebec athletes had the privilege of being around them for two days of clinics. Certain time slots were strictly reserved for athletes in the excellence program.

NEW – Athletes' summit

In parallel to the coaches' summit, athletes from the excellence program benefited from the opportunity to part take in a hitting clinic with Cassie Rielly-Boccia and a defensive clinic with Tristan Beaudoin. Additionally. Athletes had the chance to choose between an online conference with SFU's new head coach or a rules myths and reality workshop with Sarah-Ève Jacob. In the middle of the day, athletes also mixed together for our annual dodgeball tournament where athletes also have the opportunity to get to know each other a little bit more. This was a great day to do again in the future!

Restructuring of the Team Quebec Academy program

In order to reach as many athletes as possible, the Team Quebec program, through its coaches, offered three days of clinics for athletes playing at the U15 or U13 regional level (AA). In previous years, a selection of 24 athletes was made. This new approach has allowed more athletes to come and experience with our most qualified coaches in the province. The clinics took place in St-Eustache, Valleyfield and St-Jean-Sur-Richelieu. In total, 91 athletes participated in one or more of these clinics.

Pitcher clinics were also offered every Friday evening in November and December. These clinics were given by Laurence Fortin-Haines and Aryane Désy. In total, 9 athletes participated in these training sessions. The program was not continued after the holidays since the majority of regional teams practiced weekends.

For the 2024 season, this program will be reviewed again in order to offer targeted support in the different regions. That is to say, to offer clinics within practices of regional teams according to their needs.

Team Quebec Tournament

The Rebelles tournament changed names to the Quebec Invitation in order to align with the program name change. In 2023, we almost completely filled all categories. A total of 37 teams played in this years tournament. Multiple incidents occurred from the start of the tournament. The city built a new pool beside field 1 bringing up safety concerns that prevented us from using



the diamond. Also, the field conditions were not at their best. Many dangerous holes were found in the outfield and spectator safety remains a concern on diamonds 3 and 4. Meetings with the city are planned in order to address these concerns.

NEW – Womens program restructuring

For a third consecutive year, the women's program made a major decision about its structure. For the 2024 season, the U17 espoir team will follow suite and become a hybrid team same as the U15 team. This meaning that selected athletes will only be on the program part time and they must also play at the regional or local level depending on what is offered in their region.

Following a chaotic start to this project with the U15 team, where many doubted the benefits, we came to the conclusion that the regional structures greatly benefited from this project. We saw new regional teams built and the survival of others. Some improvements must be made for the 2024 season including better communication by our provincial team coaches and more presences on the field during regional team activities. Furthermore, a decrease in volume during the beginning of the outdoor season will be applied due to regional teams being very busy at this time of the year. Performance wise, the team showed a lot of good things and were competitive throughout all of their games at nationals regardless of their lack of experience playing at this level.

Given the precariousness of the U17 AA (regional) category, the federation decided to use this same outline for the U17 espoir team's 2024 season. Regional teams are development teams towards the excellence program. We currently see a danger of these teams disappearing and it becoming increasing difficult to form our provincial teams in upcoming years.

Women's university softball in the USA and Canada

The list of athletes on university teams, whether that be NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA ou OIWA, continues to grow. Here is the currently list of Quebec athletes playing softball at the university level:

- Megan Duclos, Simon Fraser University (NCAA, British-Columbia)
- Julia Hansen, Simon Fraser University (NCAA, British-Columbia)
- Emma Duncan, Universitt of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas (NCAA, Division II)
- Naomi Cohen, Herkimer College (NJCAA, New York)
- Léa Chevrier, Florida Southwestern (NJCAA, Florida)
- Estelle Audette, Kankakee Community College (NJCAA, Virginia)
- Emily Meloche, Spoon River College (NJCAA, Illinois)
- Bonnie Zachary, Cushing Academy (Prep school, Massachussetts)
- Éliane Cinq-Mars, Ottawa University (OIWA, Ontario)
- Sophie Désy, Ottawa University (OIWA, Ontario)
- Jenny Bouthillier, St Johns River State College, Palatka, Floridq (NJCAA, Division I)
- Rosalie Dufresne, Tallahassee Community College, Florida (NJCAA, Division I)
- Marianne Labelle, Southeastern Community College, West Burlington, Iowa (NJCAA, Division I)
- Alyssa Legault, Bryant & Stratton College, Hampton, Virginia (NJCAA, Division II)
- Vivian Ma, Bryant & Stratton College, Hampton, Virginia (NJCAA, Division II)
- Noémie Letendre, Lake Land College, Mattoon, Illinois (NJCAA - Division I)
- Koralie Morin, Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, Illinois (NJCAA, Division II)

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Male Team Quebec Fastpitch Program

Following the decrease in U23 aged athletes in 2022, it was impossible to put together a team in this category for the 2023 season. The pandemic was very hard on the athlete's motivation and created a gap in this age groups potential athletes. For the 2023 season, the focus was on the U17 and U20 teams.

During Canadian Championships, both of our teams looked great. The U20 Quebec tea, finish 5th after an excellent 4th place finish during the round robin with a 5-2 record. The U17 started their championship slowly but finished strong. After a 3-2 round robin, the team won 2 out of 3 of their next games finishing in 4th.

During both championships, a few players earned their way onto the allstar team:

- Vincent Blais, inflieder, U17 Team Quebec
- Nathan Labrie, infielder, U17 Team Quebec,
- Xavier Daneau, infielder, U20 Team Quebec
- Alex Baillargeon, best pitcher, U20 Team Quebec



Following the season, a few athletes earned their place on the junior national team. Charl Leclerc was selected to participate in the U13 Pan Am games where he won a bronze medal. Following his performance Sarl was once again selected to the U18 national team where he will represent Canada and the World Championships next November in Mexico. He will be joined by Mika Houle and Jean-Yves Doucet(coach) for this championship.

Issac Lefebvre participated in the Super ronde of the WBSC's U23 world cup in Mexico last April with the U23 national team.

Mathieu Roy continued to shine bright this year. With his team, the New York Gremlins, Mathieu won every tournament he played in as well as the world series where he was named to the all-star team as an outfielder. Mathieu is once again part of the senior national team's athlete pool with the goal of representing Canada at international competitions.

The men's programme continues to progress in the lower categories. To this effect, the program has decided to no longer create U15 province teams opting to develop talent through regional teams who will participate in Eastern Canadian Championships. A team from Bellechasse and Centre-du-Quebec therefore represented Quebec at this year's even where Centre-du-Quebec won a bronze medal.

COMPETITIONS

2025 Canada Games

Activities preparing for the 2025 Canada Games in Newfoundland have begun. In the sprint, had coaches were names. Marc-André Villeneuve will be coaching at his first Canada Games for the men's program and Brad Pelletier was named for a second time on the female side.

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Identification camps started this fall. Each program will identify, 20 athletes to their athlete pool for the next year before making final selections in the fall of 2024. The 2023 year will finish with assistant coach nominations.

Coupes A

For a second consecutive year, Softball Québec held the 'Coupes A'. This competition circuit took place in two divisions: U11 girls and U13 boys. Again, due to different realities between the girls and boys' structure, the details of each division differed. Unfortunately, we saw decreased participation in the A cups compared to the pilot year in 2022.

Girls: This division included teams from the local association levels. In 2023, associations put together an all-star team to compete in the A cups. Two cups took place throughout the summer. Teams from different local leagues would come together for one day of competition.

- Laval cup: 3 teams
- Montreal cup: 3 teams

The female side added an additional final cup representing a provincial championship for the A division.

Boys: This division was once again organised at a regional level. Regions could make as many teams as possible based on interest as long as talent was evenly divided. Two cups took place for the U13 category.

- Centre du Québec cup : 3 teams
- Bellechasse cup : 3 teams

Provincial Championships – Girls Fastpitch

- Provincial Championships – Girls Fastpitch « AA »

The 2023 AA provincial Championships took place in Laval. Laval and the Laurentides joined forces to host this event together. A total of 12 regional teams participated in 2 categories.

- U13: 5 teams
- U15: 7 teams

- Coupe A finale – Girl's fastpitch « A »

The final A cup, representing the provincial championship for this division, was hosting by the Saint-Eustache/Boisbriand minor softball association. Three U11 girls teams participated.



- Festival provincial – Girl's fastpitch « B »

The Festival provincial B reach new heights in terms of participation in 2023. Chateauguay (Chat-o-Cats girls minor softball league) hosted the competition over two weekends.

This event brought together the best teams from each region in the U11 – U23 categories.

Following the cancellation of the intermediate category in 2022, we modified the registration requirements to help increase participation and kickstart the category.

In total, 46 teams participated

- U11 : 12 teams
- U13 : 10 teams
- U15 : 9 teams
- U17 : 6 teams
- U23 : 5 teams
- Intermediate : 4 teams

In parallel to this championship, we hosted a U9 development activity where teams could individually register and participate in a day of exhibition games and a clinic hosted by our U23 provincial team. A total of 9 teams participated in 2023.

Eastern Canadian Championships – Fastpitch

In August, Quebec sent 9 girls' teams and 2 boys' teams to the Eastern Canadian Championships.

U13 girls:

- The Étoiles Rive-Sud and Royales de Repentigny travelled to PEI for the U13 girls Championship. The Royales brought home a bronze medal!

U15 girls:

- Three teams represented Quebec at the U15 Eastern Canadian Championships hosted in Quebec. The host Sud Ouest Dragons won a silver medal at home. The Lac St. Louis Lions and Lynx des Laurentides also participated. Adriana Newman (Sud-Ouest) and Noémy Arcand (Lac St. Louis) each won individual awards for their performances.

U17 girls:

- The Lac St. Louis Lions and Sud Ouest Dragons travelled to Ontario for the U17 Championship. Unfortunately, neither team was able to reach the podium.

U19 girls:

- The Lac St. Louis Lions and the Rockets QC/CA travelled to PEI for the U19 girls Eastern Canadian Championships. The Rockets brought home a silver medal.

U15 boys:

- Two teams participated in the U15 boys Eastern Canadian Championships: Centre du Québec and Bellechasse. Centre du Québec won the bronze medal.

Eastern Canadian Championships – Host province and Mes Premiers Jeux program

After years of absence, the Eastern Canadian Championships were welcomed back in Québec. In partnership with the Sud Ouest dragons and their local association the Chat-o-Cats, Softball Québec hosted the U15 girl's championship. 12 teams participated in a competitive weekend of softball. The host committee also held a development activity for young athletes thanks to funding from Sport Québec's Mes Premiers Jeux program. Two sessions were offered in partnership with the Académie Double Jeu. Overall, the championship was a great success!

Canadian Championships – Host Province

As usual, the women's excellence program hosted a Canadian Championships. This year, the host committee decided to receive the U23 and women's category. A few weeks before the event, Softball Canada announced that the two categories would be combined due to the lack of participation in both categories. Shortly after, a team withdrew from the tournament. The tournament therefore only had seven participating teams including two from Quebec (Team Quebec U23 and Montreal



Fastpitch Club). The tournament was held in majority of diamond 2. The small number of teams allowed us to accommodate the schedule to not use diamond 1 while the pool was open due to safety concerns.

Due to low participation, this wasn't a very profitable event. However, the host committee wanted to host this event in order to grow the category in Quebec. In terms of fields, this was a difficult year. Confirmed improvements didn't take place. An action plan will be done with the city for improvements. Without this we will need to change locations for future years. Finally, a huge thank you to the host committee: Pascal and Aryane Desy who once again provided a quality event regardless of last-minute unexpected challenges.

Quebec Games

Softball was not present at the 2023 Quebec Games. Nonetheless, regions held regional finals in order to be in good standing with Sport Quebec and be recognized for future years.

UMPIRES

This season, we managed to affiliate 304 umpires, which is a significant increase compared to previous years and we are approaching the membership before the pandemic! This is entirely due to the work of our Umpire Development Committee, who have implemented several strategies to improve umpire recruitment and retention.

An important aspect of our action plan to improve recruitment is that we offer a kit to new referees. This kit is composed of a dryfit t-shirt with the federation logo, a brush, a ball pocket and a ball-strike counter which allows new referees to reduce the cost of their first season.

In terms of communications, we ran a simple advertising campaign on social media to promote softball officiating ahead of annual training period. This campaign was viewed 128,000 times by 44,600 people and resulted in nearly 1000 clicks to our links. Excellent results for a budget of \$200!

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Furthermore, we promoted all umpire training given in the province on our platforms. The use of media allows associations and teams to share and, thus, promote it to their members, especially but not limited to younger members.

Year	Total	Minor	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Trained	Credited
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	304	X	132	49	31	17	12	63	

Canadian and international championships and certifications

This season Quebec only sent 11 umpires to Canadian Championships due to the geographical distance of certain championships. Two of our umpires were selected to supervise Canadian championships: Audrey Desmarteaux-Houle was at the U17 women's while Geneviève Gaudreau was at the U23/senior women's.

Mathieu Leclerc participated in the American qualifier for the U18 Men's Fastpitch World Cup which was held in September.

Quebec now has two more international umpires! Ariane Longtin passed her WBSC certification during the Canada Cup while Audrey Desmarteaux-Houle obtained her WBSC license during the Premier Cup in Italy.

Two of our umpires participated in international exchange programs. Patrick Chiquette officiated at the USA Softball's Men's C/D/E slow-pitch tournament in Salem, Virginia and Diego La Manna officiated at the Women's Fastpitch Premier Cup in Saronno, Italy.

Only one Quebec umpire obtained new certification from Softball Canada this season. Congratulations to Patrick Chiquette who obtained level 4 in fastpitch, just after reaching level 5 in slow-pitch in 2022!



Training and development

Softball Québec's umpire development committee, with help from regional umpire in chefs, organised 20 trainings in 12 different regions throughout the 2023 season.

In addition to annual trainings and 3 online sessions, many new trainings were down in many regions in Quebec.

During the offseason, we gave a clinic in Eastmain in the Cree Nation. During the summer, a group of umpire supervisors went to Gaspésie to give two clinics for local associations in remote regions one of which was with the minor softball association of Gesgapegiag of the Micmac nation.

Holding many clinics in many regions and promoting them on social media allows us to generate new interest in umpiring softball!

A level 4 training was organized in Quebec where 13 umpires had the chance to take part in this national clinic given my Mike Néron, Diego La Manna and Gino Iannone. All of the participating umpire got their level 4 theory certification.

2024 objectives:

- Continue to increase the umpire pool exceeding the 2018 numbers for federated umpires
- Continue to improve our program to ensure we retain umpires after their first season (retention)
- Hold updated training for our Master-Evaluators
- Hold workshops for our level 1-2-3 referees on various specific topics to help fill in what certification training does not cover in enough depth

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continued to grow at all level compared to 2022!

Here are our 2023 season affiliation numbers:

League		Association	Teams		Timbits	Umpires	Tournaments	
Minor	Adult		Minor	Adult			Minor	Adult
14	179	49	332	1493	634	304	20	50

Orthodox softball - Circuits

Orthodox softball is very popular among Quebec's adult membership compared to the rest of Canada. On top of many regional tournaments, two provincial circuits returned in 2023: OSBM and Centre du Québec.

The OSBM circuit is a provincial circuit bringing together the best male B and C classed players in Quebec.

In the B class, we have 8 teams competing. The season took place over 5 weekends where teams played tournament style schedules. In 2023, the tournaments took place in the Lanaudière, Laurentides and Rive-Sud regions.

The C class included 10 teams. The season took place over 6 weekends where teams played tournament style schedules. In 2023, tournaments took place in the Lanaudière and Laurentides regions.

The Circuit du Centre du Québec is Class C and brought together 10 teams. Four tournaments were held in Centre du Québec, Estrie and Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

In addition to the two provincial circuits, two OPEN class provincial tournaments were held in Victoriaville and Thetford Mines.

These types of events also allowed high-level umpires in the province to prepare for the Canadian championships.

Cree Nation Development – James Bay

Due to the forest fires that devastated the James Bay region over the past year, it was difficult to present activities in this region. However, by the end of August, we managed to re-establish contact and organize the affiliation of the following activities:

- Waskaganish and Nemaska - Mathieu Roy et Marc-André Villeneuve visited in June



- 4 days – 5 age groups per day – defense, offense and pitching
 - About 70 participants from age 4 to adults
- 1 day – 3 groups – pitchers and catchers
 - About 20 participants from age 7 to adults
- Adult tournament in Gatineau (originally scheduled in Val d'or) in September with 54 teams
- Minor tournament in Val d'or in September with 58 teams
- Minor tournament in Eastmain in September with 15 teams
- Chisasbi tournament in September with 34 teams
- Visit to Ouje-Bougoumou in October

In the fall, a meeting is planned with one of the leaders of EISRA to discuss the possibilities of creating a team for the 2025 Quebec Games.

Also, a meeting is scheduled for October with a representative of the First Nations to discuss future development opportunities.

Slow-pitch

During the 2023 season, thanks to the work of Patrick Chiquette, we held a provincial men's slow pitch championship for the first time in several years. This was held in Sorel and had twelve participating teams.

One of the objectives of this championship was to give out passes allowing Qc 3 and Qc 4 teams to win the opportunity to participate in the Softball Canada 2024 Canadian championship.

With the Canadian championship being held in Ontario, it was easier to send more teams there.

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At the men's level, 20 teams participated in the Canadian Championships. Quebec had three teams to representing us:

- Team proaxion
- Coffrage Daniel Lampron/Spartans
- Émondage GL/GRW/Sim's

Unfortunately, no teams were able to earn their way onto the podium.

On the women's side, thanks to the steps taken in 2022, we were able to send a team to the Canadian Championships. Thirteen teams participated in this championship.

The team representing Quebec "LS Slugger Valentine" managed to surprise the competition by winning the bronze medal! A great achievement for a first participation!

Over the next year, we will pursue developments with Softball Canada to establish championships for mixed and recreational categories. We will also try to establish relationships with neighboring provinces in order to see the possibility of creating events.

RECOGNITIONS

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

Throughout this week, in addition to highlighting it on our social media, we encouraged coaches to participate in the various training courses offered, mostly free of charge, by the NCCP or Sports Québec.

Sports Québec Gala

This year we had two nominations for the Sports Québec Gala and, for the first time in history, one of our members won a "Maurice" (awards are named Maurices in honor of hockey player Maurice Richard) in a sports category! These gala honored accomplishments and performances of the 2022 year.

Emily Meloche won the award for best athlete at the Canadian level for team sports!



Emily as a member of U19 Team Quebec in 2022, won the silver medal at the Canada Games maintaining a .609 batting average during the competition with 9 RBIs in addition to being the defensive leader at the catcher position.

Brad Pelletier was nominated for the 2022 Coach of the Year award, but he did not win the “Maurice” award. Brad has been coaching on the Team Quebec program for several years and was the head coach of our team that won the silver medal at the Canada Games.

Égale Action's women of influence in sport Gala

- Softball Québec had 4 finalists during this gala:
- Roxanne Durocher in the youth category
- Laurence Fortin-Haines in the regional-provincial category
- Ghislaine Éthier in the career recognition category
- Softball Québec in the organisation of the year category

Despite the great representation, none of our finalists won their categories.

Foundations and Bursaries

We are happy that multiple Espoir, Élite and Relève athletes on both the women's and men's fastpitch program received bursaries from different ALÉO foundation partners and the Fondation Nordiques:

- Alexia Chevrier earned a 2000\$ bursary for academic achievements from the Banque Nationals' program. Alexia played on the U17 provincial team with whom she won multiple individual awards at the Canadian Championships.

Fondation Nordiques (Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches region only)

- Charl Leclerc earned a 3000\$ bursary
- Édouard Asselin earned a 3000\$ bursary
- Charles-Étienne Asselin earned a 3000\$ bursary

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New – Workshops and Recognition Cocktail

November 4th, Softball Quebec is organising a day where multiple softball development workshops will take place and a recognition cocktail will follow in the afternoon. The entire day is offered for free!

In the morning, three workshops are offered:

- Workshop #1 – Come chat athlete development with Brad Pelletier et Alexandra-Ann Boily!
- Workshop #2 – League and association administration – not always simple and easy to understand all that is at stake
- Workshop #3 - Umpires

In the afternoon, a recognition cocktail in a festive and relaxed atmosphere where Softball Québec will take the opportunity to thank members who allowed the federation to shine on the national and international stages in 2023.

Chantal Gagnon
Directrice générale
SOFTBALL QUÉBEC



AUDITOR'S

REPORT

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RAPPORT DU

VÉRIFICATEUR





CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MAY 31, 2023



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, 2023, 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, 2023, 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 18, 2023

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MAY 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 870,600	\$ 525,797
Investments (note 4)	1,105,551	1,100,637
Accounts receivable	152,621	48,558
Prepaid expenses	<u>75,114</u>	<u>30,706</u>
	2,203,886	1,705,698
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (note 5)	<u>2,737</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 2,206,623</u>	<u>\$ 1,705,698</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 225,438	\$ 279,070
Deferred revenue (note 6)	<u>553,869</u>	<u>296,753</u>
	<u>779,307</u>	<u>575,823</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in property and equipment	2,737	-
Claude Deschamps Memorial Fund	25,047	24,775
Ethel Boyce Achievement Award Fund	15,028	15,504
Reserve Fund	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	<u>1,084,506</u>	<u>789,596</u>
	<u>1,427,316</u>	<u>1,129,875</u>
	<u>\$ 2,206,623</u>	<u>\$ 1,705,698</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, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
INVESTED IN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 1,624
Addition	4,106	-
Amortization	<u>(1,369)</u>	<u>(1,624)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 2,737</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
CLAUDE DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL FUND		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 24,775	\$ 26,775
Donations	2,272	-
Awards	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 25,047</u>	<u>\$ 24,775</u>
ETHEL BOYCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FUND		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 15,504	\$ 17,504
Donations	1,522	-
Awards	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 15,026</u>	<u>\$ 15,504</u>
RESERVE FUND		
Balance - beginning and end of year	<u>\$ 300,000</u>	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
UNRESTRICTED		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 789,596	\$ 663,574
Net revenue for the year	297,647	124,398
Addition of property and equipment	(4,106)	-
Amortization	<u>1,369</u>	<u>1,624</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 1,084,506</u>	<u>\$ 789,596</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 1,427,316</u>	<u>\$ 1,129,875</u>

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
REVENUE		
Sport Canada and other contributions	\$ 1,361,138	\$ 2,058,579
Sponsorships	252,342	239,213
Coaching Association of Canada	26,303	28,053
Membership fees	205,000	132,327
Programs - officials	110,787	37,141
- other	118,385	83,954
Canadian championships	246,052	34,289
Sales	124,644	100,915
Investment (loss)	22,499	(11,103)
Donations	-	16,500
Miscellaneous	7,220	8,424
	<u>2,474,370</u>	<u>2,728,292</u>
EXPENSES		
Administration	198,859	190,091
Cost of sales	49,959	38,502
Board and staff travel	10,422	4,532
Human resources	585,197	604,627
Meetings	76,068	37,483
Officiating development	58,430	18,144
Marketing	52,693	30,542
National team	692,338	1,133,691
Canadian championships	180,905	148,895
Coaching program	30,857	25,748
Program development	240,995	370,409
International representation	-	1,230
	<u>2,176,723</u>	<u>2,603,894</u>
NET REVENUE FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 297,647</u>	<u>\$ 124,398</u>

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net revenue for the year	\$ 297,647	\$ 124,398
Net revenue (expenses) of funds	(206)	(4,000)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization	1,369	1,624
Realized and unrealized loss (gains) on investments	(11,156)	(1,023)
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(104,063)	173,022
Prepaid expenses	(44,408)	20,452
Accounts payable	(53,632)	(2,856)
Deferred revenue	<u>257,116</u>	<u>(229,517)</u>
	<u>342,667</u>	<u>82,100</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(350,000)	(587,140)
Sale of investments	356,242	696,037
Purchase of property and equipment	<u>(4,106)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,136</u>	<u>108,897</u>
INCREASE IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	344,803	190,997
Cash - beginning of year	<u>525,797</u>	<u>334,800</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ <u>870,600</u>	\$ <u>525,797</u>

CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MAY 31, 2023

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, 2023

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>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fixed income	\$ 457,018	\$ 302,490
Bond and income funds	<u>648,533</u>	<u>798,147</u>
	<u>\$ 1,105,551</u>	<u>\$ 1,100,637</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, 2023

5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2023</u>			<u>2022</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Office furniture and equipment	\$ 67,158	\$ 64,421	\$ 2,737	\$ -

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

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

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Canadian Olympic Committee	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Sport Canada contributions	255,500	3,350
Sponsorships	73,750	73,750
Programs	25,100	16,091
Canadian Championships	-	6,800
Donations	187,762	187,762
Other	2,757	-
	<u>\$ 553,869</u>	<u>\$ 296,753</u>

Deferred revenue changed as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 296,753	\$ 526,270
Less - amount recognized as revenue in the year	(37,490)	(474,728)
Plus - amount received related to following year	<u>294,606</u>	<u>245,211</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 553,869</u>	<u>\$ 296,753</u>

7. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Association is economically dependent on Sport Canada as during the year 55% (2022 - 75%) 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, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2023

	Total revenue claimed	Total expenses
	<u> </u>	<u> </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
Recovery fund	286,413	286,413
Safe sport and gender equity	40,500	40,500
	<u>\$ 1,348,913</u>	<u>\$ 1,348,913</u>



SOFTBALL CANADA
BOD and STAFF /
CONSEIL ET PERSONNEL

CONTACTS



2023
SOFTBALL
CANADA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
/ CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Scott Neiles
Position: President

Ryan DeBelser
Position: Director

Jackie Dugger
Position: Director

Robert Stanton
Position: Director

Brooks Penrod
Position: Director

Scott Searle
Position: Director

Robb Andison
Position: Director

Kareena Zanolli
Position: Director

SOFTBALL CANADA

STAFF Contacts DU PERSONNEL

Chief Executive Officer – Mike Branchaud

mbranchaud@softball.ca

Phone: 613-558-1117

Manager – Officials / Publications – Donna Ozarko

dozarko@softball.ca

Phone: 613-296-2954

Manager – Operations – Gilles LeBlanc

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Phone: 613-795-1996

Manager – Sport Development – Angela Ballantyne

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Phone: 613-558-4663

Manager – Financial – Christine Robertson

crobertson@softball.ca

Phone: 613-447-6711

Manager – Programs – Cassidy Burton

cburton@softball.ca

Phone: 613-523-5761



Softball Canada

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Phone: 613-523-3386 • Fax: 613-523-5761 • Email: info@softball.ca

**Providing Softball
Opportunities to all Canadians**

www.softball.ca



2023 RECIPIENTS / RECIPIENDAIRES

AWARDS / PRIX





2023 SOFTBALL CANADA AWARDS / PRIX

PRIX MÉMORIAL CLAUDE DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL AWARD

•
Tyler Franklin (ON)

•
Kelsey Forrest (MB)

PRIX DE RÉUSSITE ETHEL BOYCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

•
Adrian Green (NL)

•
Kelsey Kurek (AB)

BÉNÉVOLE DE L'ANNÉE ROSE HODGSON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

•
Debbie Malisani (ON)

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

•
(SP/BL) Mark Gough (AB)
(FP/BR) Kearney O'Keefe (NL)

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

•
Scott Aquanno (ON)

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

•
(Women's FP / BR Féminin) Janet Leung (ON)

•
(Men's FP / BR Masculin) Ty Sebastian (ON)

•
(Women's SP / BL Féminin) Sarah Berry (ON)

•
(Men's SP / BL Masculin) Ren Visser (BC)



2023 INDUCTÉES / INTRONISÉS

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



2023

SOFTBALL CANADA

HALL OF FAME / TEMPLE DE LA RENOMMÉE
INDUCTÉES / INTRONISÉS

ATHLETE

•

Brian Paton (ON)

ENTRAÎNEUR / COACH

•

Rosemary Theriault (ON)

BÂTISSEURS / BUILDER

•

Patricia Sparling (ON)

ARBITRE / UMPIRE

•

Mary De Bruyn (ON)

ÉQUIPE / TEAM


•

Orioles (ON)



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 9

STAFF FORUM

9:00 am - noon

The National PT Staff Forum is an opportunity for PT Softball Association staff and Softball Canada staff:

- to share information on best practices, success stories and challenges;
- to discuss areas of common interest;
- to present new initiatives;
- to gather feedback for future initiatives;
- to collaborate on solving issues in the sport and strategic directions for the sport.

RAWLINGS VIP Experience

1:15 pm - 5:15 pm

Our awesome partners at Rawlings Canada have moved into a new facility and have invited P/T President's and Staff to visit their new place. Registered delegates will take a bus ride to check out the new facility with catered food and beverages provided. Come see Rawlings' new showroom, meeting space and warehouse to see where all the magic happens!

AGM ROOKIE SESSION

7:00 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 10

KICK-OFF SESSION - REPORT ON 2023 AND LOOK AHEAD

9:00 am - 9:30 am

This session will focus on:

- 2023 in review
- Upcoming activities

RULES

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Rule Change Proposal Review

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

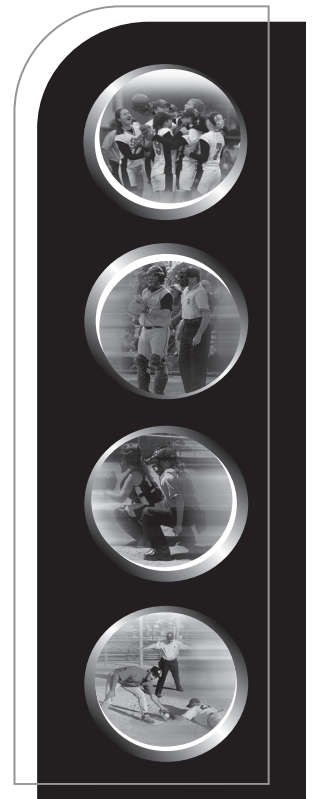
A) SLO-PITCH

Innovating the Game: Slo-Pitch Workshop

Description: Calling all Slo-Pitch enthusiasts and visionaries! Join us in our Slo-Pitch workshop where we'll come together to talk about the game of Slo-Pitch.

In this collaborative workshop, we will explore exciting opportunities for innovation within Slo-Pitch, discuss the SORs (Special Operating Rules) and Playing Rule motions, and peer into the future of this beloved sport.

Get ready to brainstorm, share your insights, and contribute to the evolution of Slo-Pitch in Canada.



B) JAYS CARE

Jays Care Foundation, the charitable arm of the Toronto Blue Jays, offers award-winning, dynamic and engaging programs that are designed to use the power of sport as a force for positive change in communities across Canada. This workshop is a unique opportunity to explore trauma-informed, inclusion focused programs that reach some of the hardest to reach children and youth across Canada through the following programs: Affiliate Schools Program, Community Partners Program, Girls at Bat, and Challenger Baseball. Learn about how P/T and Local Softball Associations can partner with Jays Care to inspire change, empower youth, and foster inclusion and belonging through play. Join Cam Linwood, the Senior Manager of Challenger Baseball and Meghan Saundercook, the Senior Manager of Affiliate Schools to learn more about how Jays Care Programming can support softball across Canada.

NBC PRESENTATION

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm

Ashley Goodrich and Av Doomchin from NBC Sports Next will be joining us as special guests to speak about their new partnership with Softball Canada, including an overview of the SportsEngine HQ registration system, SE Play platform for streaming, and Tourney Machine for tournament management. After their introductions, they will open things up for a Q&A session where delegates can ask questions related to their technology needs. Ashley and Av will also be available for individual meetings on Friday afternoon/evening for P/T's interested in discussing further.

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS/SORs

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

SOR Review

- Review of all motions presented

2023 Review / Participation Charts

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

2024 Championships

- NBC Sports Next Partnership
- Compression testing at certain events
- Assigned dates / locations and potential conflicts

Discussion on ways to improve Canadian Championships

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00 am - 10:15 am

A) MALE FP

A review of the current state of Male Fast Pitch from the grassroots to the international level. This workshop will look back at the initiatives and recommendations made by the previous Male Fast Pitch Committee 10 years ago to see how they impacted the growth of the male game. Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss their ideas on how we can continue to help increase the quantity and quality of Male Fast Pitch athletes.

B) PLAYER DEVELOPMENT / SOCIAL MEDIA

Unlocking the Potential: B5 Player Development Workshop

Description: Join us for an interactive workshop that delves into the exciting new opportunities of player development with the implementation and growth of B5 within Canada.

Let's talk about the tools, strategies, and insights of B5 and how the utilization of this up-and-coming sport brings new possibilities to the world of softball. From grassroots to elite levels, this workshop continues our journey to enhancing players' experiences on and off the field.

Unleash Your Influence: Mastering Social Media Workshop

Description: In today's digital age, social media holds immense potential to increase reach and influence. Uncover the techniques and tactics that will help your association harness the full potential of social media. From content creation strategies to staying at the forefront of the latest trends, this workshop will provide you with the insights and tools needed to boost your association's online presence and impact. This workshop is your key to standing out in the competitive world of social media. Join us to "Elevate Your Association" and transform your online game to reach new audiences and make a greater impact.

RULES DISCUSSION (PART 2)

10:30 am - noon

Rule Change Proposal Review (continued from Friday, November 10)

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

11:00 am - 11:15 am

AGM

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm





2023
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.

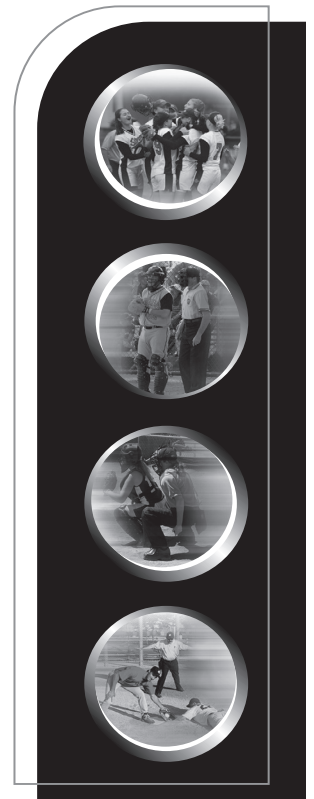


Annual General Meeting 2023

Saturday, November 11 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of the 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes
4. President's Report
5. May 31, 2023 Auditor's Report and
Financial Statements
6. Appointment of auditors for May 31, 2024 yearend
7. Constitution and Bylaws
8. Special Operating Rules
 - a. Canadian Championships
9. New Business
 - a. Rule Changes
 - b. Elections
 - c. Hall of Fame
 - d. 2024 Softball Canada Congress
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment





2023 NOTICE / AVIS

MOTIONS



MOTIONS – AS MOVED FROM THE FLOOR

NOTICE OF MOTION #1

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the 2023 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 2022 Softball Canada Congress in Fredericton, NB 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, 2023 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 Harvey Clipsham Deep LLP be appointed as auditors for the year ending May 31, 2024.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated





2023

BYLAWS / STATUTS



NOTICE OF MOTION #1

Constitution and Bylaws

Submitted by: Board of Directors **P/T Affiliation:** _____

Date: **September 30, 2023**

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

SOFTBALL CANADA BYLAWS (p. 193-206)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

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

REVISION OF FULL BYLAWS

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RATIONALE

As discussed, and reviewed with the Provincial/Territorial Associations and Sport Law over the last 18 months, the new bylaws aligns us with other sport organizations and Sport Canada's new governance regulations that all National Sport Organizations are recommended to follow. Approval will allow Softball Canada to continue to be eligible to receive federal funding.

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

There could be a significant loss of government funding if motion is defeated.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS INDEX

Note: Updated versions of the Constitution and Bylaws are available on the Softball Canada website

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□ CONSTITUTION

SOFTBALL CANADA — CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

1.1 The name of the organization shall be “THE CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION” (in French: L’ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE SOFTBALL AMATEUR”), and herein the Constitution and Bylaws referred to as the “Association”. The Association is also known by its registered trade name “SOFTBALL CANADA”.

ARTICLE 2 – JURISDICTION

2.1 The Association recognizes all amateur sports and claims jurisdiction over and recognizes its responsibilities as the governing body of softball, which includes fast pitch, orthodox and slo-pitch softball as played by members and participants of this Association in Canada or in such other places as may be designated by the Association.

2.2 The Association is recognized by the Canadian Olympic Committee, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC - formerly ISF), and Sport Canada, as the governing body of amateur softball, which includes fast pitch softball, orthodox softball and slo-pitch softball, in Canada.

ARTICLE 3 – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The purpose of the Association is to carry on in more than one province/territory of Canada, without pecuniary gain for its members, the following objectives:

- a) Foster, develop, promote and regulate the playing of amateur softball.
- b) Provide the game of softball with proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship.
- c) Encourage all eligible potential members and participants to affiliate with the Association.
- d) Establish and maintain by allied membership, alliances with associations devoted wholly or partially to the promotion of the game of softball.
- e) Establish a set of uniform rules for the playing of softball throughout Canada. The rules as set by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC - formerly ISF) shall be the established rules as amended by the Association.
- f) Initiate, promote and regulate Canadian Championships.
- g) Cooperate with the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC - formerly ISF) (or whatever international amateur softball organization so recognized at the Annual General Meeting) in the promotion of international play and international standards for softball.
- h) Represent Canada on softball councils or associations of other countries where deemed practical and necessary.
- i) Assist in the establishment of governing softball bodies in provinces/territories if requested.
- j) Do all such things as may be deemed necessary for the proper promotion and jurisdiction of softball throughout Canada.

3.2 The Association shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other attribution to the Association shall be used in promoting its objectives.



BYLAWS**PREAMBLE**

The following terms have these meanings in this bylaw:

- a) Act - the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, S.C. 2009, c.23, including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time;
- b) Articles - the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement or revival of the Association;
- c) Association - Softball Canada;
- d) Athlete - a person currently on a national team or competing at the international level or a person who is retired and was a member of a national team or competed at the international level, not more than nine years previously, in the sport of Softball.
- e) Auditor - a Public Accountant, as defined in the Act, appointed by the Members by Ordinary Resolution at a Members Meeting to audit the books, accounts, and records of the Association for a report to the Members at the next Annual Meeting;
- f) Board - the Board of Directors of the Association;
- g) Days - will mean days including weekends and holidays;
- h) Director - an individual elected or appointed to serve on the Board pursuant to this bylaw;
- i) Independent - that a director or prospective director has no fiduciary obligation to any body for softball at the national or provincial level, receives no direct or indirect material benefit from any such party, and is free of any conflict of interest of a financial, personal or representational nature (provided that participation, in softball does not alone cause a person not to be independent). A person who would not be considered Independent will be considered to be Independent once they resign from or terminate the circumstance that gives rise to the non-independence;
- j) Officer - an individual elected or appointed to serve as an Officer of the Association pursuant to this bylaw;
- k) Ordinary Resolution - a resolution passed by a majority of votes cast on that resolution;
- l) Proposal - a proposal submitted by a member of the Corporation that meets the requirements of Section 163 of the Act;
- m) Regulations - the regulations made under the Act, as amended, restated or in effect from time to time; and
- n) Special Resolution - a resolution passed by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that Resolution.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Association has two categories of membership:

- a) Provincial/Territorial Associations - These are the governing bodies of softball recognized by each province and territory in Canada. New

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS ■ 193



□ BYLAWS

Provincial/Territorial Associations may be admitted to membership upon written application to the Board and approval by Special Resolution of voting Members at an Annual Meeting.

- b) Director Members - These are the individuals elected or appointed to serve as Directors of the Association. Director Members must be Independent.

1.2 Members shall have the following voting rights at meetings of Members:

- a) Each Provincial/Territorial Association shall have three votes.
- b) Each Director Member shall have one vote.

1.3 A Member shall be deemed to be in good standing provided that the Member:

- a) Owes no outstanding membership dues or other debt to the Association.
- b) Has complied with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Special Operating Rules and the policies of the Association.
- c) If a Provincial/Territorial Association Member, has:
 - i) Accurately reported its membership and/or participant numbers to the Association for the current year by November 1st.
 - ii) Ensured that all participant players sign an approved Softball Canada Registration form and has provided the Association with a list of all participant players registered within the Provincial/Territorial Association by September 30th of the current year.
 - iii) Ensured that all umpires sign an approved Softball Canada Registration form and has provided the Association with a list of all umpires registered within the Provincial/Territorial Association by July 1st of the current year.
- d) If a Provincial/Territorial Association Member, has not entered into a relationship or a formal agreement with a softball organization other than the Association without the prior approval of the Association.
- e) Has not ceased to be a Member or been suspended or expelled from membership.
- f) Is not subject to a disciplinary action or investigation of the Association, or if subject to disciplinary action of the Association previously, has fulfilled all terms and conditions of such disciplinary action to the satisfaction of the Directors.

1.4 Members who cease to be in good standing shall not be entitled to the benefits and privileges of membership, including the right to vote at meetings of Members, and may be subject to penalties including, but not limited to, monetary fines, the suspension of privileges to compete at a Canadian Championship, the suspension of privileges to host a Canadian Championship or Annual Meetings and Congresses, and in severe cases, the suspension or expulsion of the Member from the Association. A Member may be restored to good standing upon meeting the definition of good standing set out above, to the satisfaction of the Directors of the Association.

1.5 A Member may resign from the Association by giving written notice to the Chief Executive Officer, provided that a Member may not resign when the Member is subject to a disciplinary action or investigation of the Association. Resignation from membership does not entitle the Member to any refund of membership





dues.

BYLAWS □

- 1.6 Membership in the Association is terminated when:
 - a) The Member, in the case of a member that is a corporation, the corporation is dissolved;
 - b) The Member fails to maintain any of the qualifications or conditions of membership described in Sub-sections 1.1 and 1.3;
 - c) The Member fails to pay membership dues or monies owed to the Association by the deadline dates prescribed;
 - d) The Member's term of membership expires; or
 - e) The Association is liquidated or dissolved under the Act.
- 1.7 A Member/Participant may be suspended or expelled from the Association in accordance with the Association's policies and procedures relating to discipline of Members.
- 1.8 Individuals, players and Teams who wish to travel and compete outside of Canada must be in possession of a valid travel permit issued by their respective Provincial/Territorial Association and must have completed the appropriate documentation from the Association.
- 1.9 All participants and Members are required to comply at all times with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Special Operating Rules and the policies of the Association, including the Association's Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy. Failure to do so may result in the imposition of sanctions against the Member or participant.
- 1.10 Transfer of Membership
 - a) Any interest arising out of membership in Softball Canada is not transferable.

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 2.1 The Association's Membership fees shall be determined at the Annual Meeting and shall be in an amount necessary to carry out the continued operation of the Association.
- 2.2 Provincial/Territorial Association Fees are as follows and must be paid by June 15th each year:

Ontario	\$60,000.00
British Columbia	\$30,000.00
Alberta, Saskatchewan	\$25,000.00
Manitoba	\$20,000.00
Québec	\$15,000.00
Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick	\$6,000.00
Prince Edward Island, Nunavut, Yukon, Northwest Territories	\$4,000.00
- 2.3 Duration
 - a) Membership is accorded on an annual basis, subject to renewal in accordance with these Bylaws.





□ BYLAWS

2.4 Deadline and Penalties

- a) Failure to pay Provincial/Territorial Association fees by the prescribed deadline shall result in the Provincial/Territorial Association Member being ineligible to participate in the current year's Canadian Championship and also being ineligible to submit bids, nominations or amendment motions to the Association's Annual Meeting.
- b) Members will be notified in writing of the membership fees at any time payable by them, and if they are not paid within three (3) months of the membership renewal date, the members in default will automatically cease to be members of the Association. The Board of Directors, upon their sole discretion, may extend the default date for the non-payment of fees.

ARTICLE 3 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1 The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the following:

- a) Nine (9) Directors-at-Large

3.2 Selection and Terms of Office

- a) Three (3) Directors will be elected on a rotational basis for a three (3) year term

3.3 Gender Representation - A maximum of sixty (60%) of the Directors can identify as one gender.

3.4 Athlete Representation - When there is not athlete representation on the Board, or at the Nominations Committee's discretion, the Nominations Committee will recruit at least one (1) candidate who is considered an Athlete as defined in these By-Laws to be nominated for election to the Board.

3.5 Board Independence - All Directors must be Independent.

3.6 Senior Staff Restriction - No individual currently serving as an employee or contractor of the Association may be a Director. No Director may become the Chief Executive Officer or interim Chief Executive Officer of the Association during their term as a Director or for twelve months thereafter.

ARTICLE 4 – DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.1 Election of Officers

The Officers of the Association, if any, will be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board of Directors held following the election of new Directors.

The role of the Directors is to act as stewards or trustees of the Association's mission, promoting the Association's values and anticipating the future. Specific responsibilities include:

4.2 Legal

- a) To govern and direct the Association according to its Constitution, Bylaws and Special Operating Rules, ensuring that these are consistent with the

BYLAWS



- purposes; and
- b) To review and approve recommendations of revisions of its Constitution, Bylaws and Special Operating Rules, when necessary, and forward these to the Annual Meeting for ratification.
- 4.3 Culture and Values
- a) To establish and review fundamental principles and beliefs that forms the foundation of the Association, to guide the Association's behaviour, services and programs.
 - b) To communicate, encourage and monitor the application of these fundamental beliefs throughout the softball community.
- 4.4 Planning
- a) To formulate the strategic plans and long-range corporate goals of the Association.
 - b) To ensure the maintenance of an effective planning process for strategic and operational planning.
 - c) To monitor the formulation and implementation of operational plans and ensure that such plans are consistent with the strategic direction of the Association.
 - d) To work in collaboration with Provincial/Territorial Association Members when National events are occurring within that province/territory.
- 4.5 Policy
- a) To develop major functional policies which relate to the goals and objectives of the Association.
 - b) To make policies and procedures relating to discipline and have the authority to discipline members in accordance with such policy and procedures.
 - c) To make policies and procedures relating to how disputes within the Association will be managed, and all such disputes will be dealt with in accordance with such policies and procedures.
 - d) To monitor the development and implementation of operational policies and procedures to ensure they are consistent and compatible with the major functional policies of the Association.
- 4.6 Human Resources
- a) To approve and monitor sound human resource management policies, procedures and practices.
 - b) To select and hire a Chief Executive Officer capable of assuming responsibility for implementation of the Board's Policies and strategic plans through the efficient management of the Association's operations. The Chief Executive Officer should be capable of identifying policy needs and developing and recommending policy to the Board.
 - c) To ratify and support volunteer and contract position appointments of people whom are capable of assuming operations responsibilities within the strategic direction and policies established by the Board, under the guidance and leadership of the Chief Executive Officer.
 - d) To counsel, support and assist the Association's staff and appointed volunteers in the fulfillment of their operational responsibilities.

**□ BYLAWS**

4.7 Financial

- a) To ensure that the budget reflects the priorities and strategic direction of the Association through the approval and monitoring of the annual budget and within financial statements.
- b) To plan for and acquire sufficient financial resources to implement the plans of the Association in a prudent, financially responsible way.
- c) To ensure that effective financial controls and management systems are in place to protect the assets of the Association.
- d) To ensure auditing of the financial operation.

4.8 Advocacy

- a) To develop community awareness of the purpose and mission of the Association.
- b) To represent the Association to the national and international sporting community, government, foundations, funding agencies and other Associations.
- c) To monitor government legislation and advise government officials on the impact of currently proposed policies.
- d) To report to the membership on strategic plans and policy development and ensure the reporting to the membership on program services and future operational planning.
- e) To participate as a responsible member of the Canadian and international sporting communities on issue identification and resolution.

4.9 Maintenance of the Board

- a) To ensure that qualified candidates are recruited as required for electoral consideration.
- b) To evaluate the Board's performance annually.

4.10 The responsibilities of the President are to:

- a) Preside at all meetings of the Directors and the Association's Members' Meeting(s);
- b) Serve as ex-officio member of all Association committees;
- c) Supervise the general administration and management of the Association;
- d) Supervise the work of the Chief Executive Officer;
- e) Supervise the performance of duties assigned to members of the Board and ensure that all Association governing documents, including the Constitution, Bylaws, Special Operating Rules and policies, are respected;
- f) Provide the liaison between the Association and all external agencies except where assigned to the CEO;
- g) Assign committee responsibilities to Directors; and
- h) Designate a Director to be their replacement in the event that they are unable to act due to illness or other absence.

ARTICLE 5 – NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

5.1 Nominations for the Board of Directors:



BYLAWS □

- a) Any individual may submit a written nomination for a candidate to be elected to the Board to the Nominations Committee by October 1st of the election year.
- b) The nomination shall be accompanied by a personal profile and a consent form signed by the nominee (an electronic signature is sufficient for this purpose) and a statement describing how they are Independent (or how they will become Independent within thirty (30) days following their election.
- c) Notice of the nomination and copies of the consent form and personal profile shall be circulated to the Members at least twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- d) A candidate may withdraw from the election any time prior to the start of voting.
- e) A Nominations Committee, appointed by the Board, will also seek out individuals to be nominated for election. The Nominations Committee will endeavour to ensure that candidates for election consist of a diverse selection of individuals; including athletes, visible minorities, geographic residence, and gender identity by way of recruitment, advertisement or other means determined by the Nominations Committee.
- f) Any individual, who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, who has the power under law to contract, who has not been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country, who does not have the status of bankrupt, may be nominated for election as a Director.

5.2 Election of Directors

- a) Association elections shall be carried out by written ballot at the Annual Meeting.
- b) To be elected, a candidate must receive fifty percent plus one of the votes cast. Until a candidate reached this majority, the candidate receiving the least number of votes on any ballot shall be removed from the next ballot to be cast for the office.

5.3 Gender Representation Election Procedures

- a) To ensure that no more than sixty percent (60%) of the Directors identify as the same gender, the Nominations Committee will ask each Director whose term is not expiring to self-declare their gender identity. If there are five (5) individuals who identify as one gender identity, nominees of that same gender identity will not be permitted to stand for election. If there are more nominees than available positions, the nominee(s) receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected provided it does not exceed the gender identity maximum. For clarity, if there are four (4) individuals of the same gender identity serving on the Board, only one (1) Director of that gender identity may be elected to the Board and the remaining nominees of that gender identity are not permitted to be elected once that individual has been elected. For further clarity, if there are four (4) Directors of the same gender identity currently on the Board, and two (2) or more of the nominees for a vacant Director-at-Large position are of that same gender identity, only one (1) of those individuals may be elected regardless of the number of votes for the nominees.

□ **BYLAWS**

5.4 Period of Office

- a) Directors will serve term limits of three (3) years, to a maximum of nine (9) years, and will hold office until they or their successors have been duly elected in accordance with these By-Laws, unless they resign, or are removed from or vacate their office, except:
 - i) An individual may serve a maximum of six (6) years as President; and
 - ii) Directors serving at the time of the ratification of these By-laws who have exceeded the maximum term limit of nine (9) consecutive years will retain their position for the remainder of the term.

5.5 Resignation or Termination of Office

- a) A Director may resign their office by forwarding a written resignation to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- b) A Director may be removed from office by an Ordinary Resolution of the Members at any meeting of the Members. A Director may be suspended from office for any conduct deemed detrimental to the Association by a unanimous vote of all remaining Directors. An appeal of this decision may be made to the Members at the next Annual Meeting.
- c) Where the position of a Director becomes vacant for whatever reason and there is still a quorum of Directors, the remaining Directors may appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the vacant term. No more than one-third (1/3) of the total number of directors elected at the previous Annual Meeting can be appointed.

5.6 Vacate Office

- a) The office of any Director will be vacated automatically if the Director:
 - i) Is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
 - ii) Becomes bankrupt, suspends payment, or compounds with their creditors, or makes unauthorized assignment, or is declared insolvent; or
 - iii) Dies.

5.7 Board Meetings

- a) Meetings of the Board of Directors will be held any time and place as determined by the Board of Directors.
- b) Notice served other than by mail, of Board Meetings will be given to all Directors at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Notice served by mail will be sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. No Notice of a meeting of the Board of Directors is required if all Directors waive notice, or if those absent consent to the meeting being held in their absence.
- c) At any meeting of the Board of Directors, quorum will consist of a majority of Directors holding office.
- d) Each Director is entitled to one vote. Voting will be by a show of hands, orally or by electronic ballot, unless a majority of Directors present request a secret ballot. Resolutions will be passed by Ordinary Resolution. Tied votes fail.



BYLAWS □

- e) Meetings of the Board will be closed to Members, excluding all Director Members, and the public except by invitation of the Board.
 - f) A meeting of the Board may meet by teleconference provided that either a majority of the Directors consents to meeting by teleconference or meeting of teleconference have been approved by resolution passed by the Directors at a meeting of the Directors.
 - g) The Directors may meet by other electronic means that permits each Director to communicate adequately with each other provided that:
 - i) The Directors have passed a resolution addressing the mechanics of holding such a meeting and dealing specifically how security issues should be handled, the procedure for establishing quorum and recording votes;
 - ii) Each Director has equal access to the specific means of communications to be used;
 - iii) Each Director has consented in advance to meeting by electronic means using the specific means of communication proposed for the meeting.
 - h) Any Director who is unable to attend a meeting may participate in the meeting by telephone or other telecommunications technology. Directors who participate in a meeting by telephone or other telecommunications technology are considered to have attended the meeting.
- 5.8 In accordance with Section 141 of the Act, a Director, Officer, or member of a committee who has an interest, or who may be perceived as having an interest, in a proposed contract or transaction with the Association will comply with the Act and the Association's Conflict of Interest Policy and will disclose fully and promptly the nature and extent of such interest to the Board or Committee, as the case may be, will refrain from voting or speaking in debate on such contract or transaction; will refrain from influencing the decision on such contract or transaction; and will otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act regarding conflict of interest.

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ARTICLE 6 – COMMITTEES

- 6.1 The Board may appoint such committees as it deems necessary for managing the affairs of the Corporation and may appoint members of committees or provide for the election of members of committees, may prescribe the duties and terms of reference of committees, and may delegate to any Committee any of its powers, duties, and functions.
- 6.2 Nominations Committee - The Board will establish a Nominations Committee composed of Directors, athletes, and other stakeholders to oversee the solicitation and receipt of nominations for the election of the Directors. The committee will also be responsible for vetting potential candidates, evaluating a candidate's skills and expertise, determining a candidate's independence as per these By-laws, and making recommendations to the membership about elections. The Committee will have an odd number of members with the objective that the committee is respected, credible, and representative. The Nominations Committee will have responsibilities and authority at the discretion of the Board.



□ **BYLAWS**

6.3 Standing Committees - The Board will establish a Governance and Ethics Committee and an Audit and Finance Committee. The Board will determine the composition and terms of reference for these committees.

ARTICLE 7 – ANNUAL MEETING - VOTING PROCEDURES

7.1 Voting privileges at meetings of Members shall be as follows:

- a) Each Provincial/Territorial Association Member shall have three votes, to be exercised by three delegates chosen by the Provincial/Territorial Association Member, with the exception that a delegate may not be an employee of a national or international softball organization. The Association shall provide funding for the travel of two delegates to the Annual Meeting.
- b) Each Director Member, including the President, shall have one vote.
- c) There shall be no absentee voting or voting by proxy.
- d) Quorum for a meeting of Members shall be those delegates and Director Members representing a majority of votes eligible to be cast at the Meeting.

7.2 Members will have the right to vote on the election of Directors, the appointment of the auditor, and any other matter required by the Act or these By-Laws or as directed by the Board.

ARTICLE 8 – PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

- 8.1 The President and Chief Executive Officer may appoint any paid employee with the approval of the Board, and any employee so appointed shall be paid a salary approved and determined by the President and Chief Executive Officer.
- 8.2 A committee, appointed by the President, shall conduct annual salary reviews of employees. The committee will have the final responsibility of setting salaries for those employees.
- 8.3 Paid employees shall execute job responsibilities that are described in formal job descriptions.

ARTICLE 9 – MEETINGS

- 9.1 The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held within fifteen (15) months of the last Annual Meeting but not later than six (6) months after the end of the Association's preceding financial year. The exact date of the meeting shall be determined two (2) calendar years in advance.
- 9.2 A Special Meeting of the Association may be called by the President, the Board of Directors or upon the written requisition of members who hold five percent (5%) of the votes of the Association. Twenty-one (21) days prior, written notice shall be given to the membership of any Special Meeting and such notice shall set forth the entire business to be conducted at the Special Meeting.
- 9.3 The Annual Meeting, when held in-person, shall be rotated annually through three regions. The regions will be comprised as follows:
 - i) ATLANTIC – New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island

- ii) CENTRAL - Ontario, Québec, Manitoba, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories
 - iii) WESTERN - Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon
- 9.4 A meeting of Members may be held by means of telephone, electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting, if the Association makes available such a communication facility.
- 9.5 Any member entitled to attend a meeting of members may participate in the meeting by means of telephone, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting, if the Association makes available such a communication facility. A person so participating in a meeting is deemed to be present at the meeting.
- 9.6 Notice will include the time and place of a meeting, the proposed agenda, reasonable information to permit Members to make informed decisions, and shall be given to each member entitled to vote at the meeting, and the Board, by the following means:
- a) By mail, courier or personal delivery to each member entitled to vote at the meeting, during a period of 21-60 days before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
 - b) By telephone, electronic or other communication facility to each member entitled to vote at the meeting, during a period of 21-35 days before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
 - c) By posting on the Association's website not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 9.7 Pursuant to section 171(1) of the Act (Fundamental Changes), a Special Resolution of the members is required to make any amendment to the bylaws of the Association to change the manner of giving notice to members entitled to vote at a meeting of members.

ARTICLE 10 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 10.1 Accounts
- a) All approved accounts shall be paid by cheque or electronic transfer.
 - b) All cheques written on the operating account at the National Office of the Association or electronic transfers will be signed/approved by two of the President, Chief Executive Officer or other individuals as approved by the Directors.
- 10.2 Audit and Inspection of the Books
- a) The books and records of the Association shall be kept by the Chief Executive Officer under the strict supervision of the President or their designate on the Board and shall be audited each year by an independent auditor. This independent auditor shall be designated by Members at each Annual Meeting and will hold office until the next Annual Meeting.
 - b) The books and records of the Association may be inspected by the Members



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of the Association, by appointment made through the office of the President, at the National Office of the Association. Such a Member must be in good standing with the Association. The expenses of travel, housing and loss of time inspecting the books shall be borne by the requesting Member.

10.3 Borrowing Powers

The Association may exercise any borrowing powers conferred upon it by any Act of Parliament governing this corporate body without share capital. This power must be approved by the Board.

10.4 Indemnities to Directors and Others

- a) Every Director of the Association or other person who has undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the Association or any company controlled by it and their heirs, executors and administrators, and estate and effects, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the association, from;
- b) All costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such Director or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceedings which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against them, or in respect of any act, deed, matter of thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by them, in or about the execution of the duties of their office or in respect of any such liability;
- c) All other costs, charges and expenses which they sustain or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by their own willful neglect or default.

ARTICLE 11 – SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

11.1 Contracts, documents, or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Association, shall be signed by the President and/or their designate and/or the Chief Executive Officer or such other Director that may be authorized from time to time by resolution of the Board. All contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the Association without any further authorization or formality.

11.2 The Board shall have power from time to time to appoint a Director or staff member on behalf of the Association either to sign contracts, documents in writing generally or to sign specific contracts, documents and instruments in writing.

ARTICLE 12 – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

12.1 Resolutions to amend the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by any voting Member. A Notice of Motion to amend the Bylaws by a Member must be received in writing (or email) by the National Office of the Association by October 1st.

12.2 Except for the items set out in s. 197 of the Act (Fundamental Changes), these bylaws may be amended, revised, repealed or added by Ordinary Resolution of the Directors at a meeting of the Board of Directors and will have full force and effect until such time as they are sanctioned by Ordinary Resolution of the voting Members present at the next meeting of members, or defeated. Upon affirmative vote of the voting Members, any amendments, revisions,





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additions or deletions will be effective upon the conclusion of the meeting which the voting Members voted.

12.3 Except for the items set out in s. 197 of the Act (Fundamental Changes), these bylaws may be amended, revised, repealed or added by member proposal, as described in Section 163 of the Act. Amendments by member proposal must be approved by Ordinary Resolution of the Members at any meeting of the Members. Amendments by member proposal that are approved by the Members take effect immediately.

12.4 Playing Rule Changes

- a) Submission to change the Playing Rules of the Association must be received in writing by the National Office of the Association by October 1st in odd numbered years only. The National Office of the Association will forward copies of all proposed Playing Rule changes to the membership by October 7th. A simple majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast from the Voting Members is required to enact or repeal Playing Rule change proposals at the Rules Forum and the Annual General Meeting. The voting strength at the Rules Forum will be one voting delegate from each Provincial/Territorial Association in good standing with the Association and two (2) Softball Canada Board Members.
- b) Notice of the proposed amendments to the Playing Rules of the Association shall be provided to the relevant voting members of the Association by October 7th prior to the Members' Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4.
- c) Notice of the proposed amendments to these bylaws and the constitution shall be provided to the relevant voting Members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4.

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ARTICLE 13 – CUSTODY AND USE OF SEAL

13.1 The seal of the Association shall remain in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer at the National Office.

13.2 The seal of the Association shall not be affixed to any contracts, documents or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Association except in presence of:

- a) The President, or their designate and the Chief Executive Officer; or
- b) The President and such other Director of the Association that may be authorized from time to time by resolution of the Board.

ARTICLE 14 – NOTICE

14.1 In these bylaws, written notice will mean notice which is hand-delivered or provided by mail, fax, electronic mail or courier to the address of record of the Association, Director or Member, as the case may be.

14.2 Date of notice will be:

- a) The date on which the notice is hand-delivered;
- b) The date on which the notice is sent electronically, faxed, e-mailed or





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- couriered;
- c) Five (5) days after the date of mailing if provided by regular mail.
- 14.3 The accidental omission to give notice of a Meeting of the Directors or the Members, the failure of any Director or Member to receive notice, or an error in any notice which does not affect its substance will not invalidate any action taken at the Meeting.
- 14.4 No notice of a meeting of the Members is required if all Members waive notice, or if those absent consent to the meeting being held in their absence.

ARTICLE 15 – FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES

- 15.1 Section 197 of the Act requires a Special Resolution of Members at a Member’s Meeting, to make the following fundamental changes to the bylaws or articles of the Association. Fundamental Changes are defined as follows:
 - a) Change the Association’s name;
 - b) Change the province in which the Association’s registered office is situated;
 - c) Add, change or remove any restriction on the activities that the Association may carry on;
 - d) Create a new class or group of members;
 - e) Change a condition required for being a member;
 - f) Change the designation of any class or group of members or add, change or remove any rights and conditions of any such class or group;
 - g) Divide any class or group of members into two or more classes or groups and fix the rights and conditions of each class or group;
 - h) Add, change or remove a provision respecting the transfer of a membership;
 - i) Subject to section 133, increase or decrease the number of – or the minimum or maximum number – of directors;
 - j) Change the statement of the purpose of the Association;
 - k) Change the statement concerning the distribution of property remaining on liquidation after the discharge of any liabilities of the Association;
 - l) Change the manner of giving notice to members entitled to vote at a meeting of members;
 - m) Change the method of voting by members not in attendance at a meeting of members; or
 - n) Add, change or remove any other provision that is permitted by this Act to be set out in the articles.
- 15.2 Section 199 of the Act provides that each membership class is entitled to vote separately, Special Resolution of each class, if the fundamental change noted above relates to membership rights, such as:
 - a) Affect an exchange, reclassification or cancellation of all or part of the memberships of the class or group;
 - b) Add, change or remove the rights or conditions attached to the memberships of the class or group, including:
 - i) To reduce or remove a liquidation preference, or



- ii) To add, remove or change prejudicially voting or transfer rights of the class or group;
- c) Increase the rights of any other class or group of members having rights equal or superior to those of the class or group;
- d) Increase the rights of a class or group of members having rights inferior to those of the class or group to make them equal or superior to those of the class or group;
- e) Create a new class or group of members having rights equal or superior to those of the class or group; or
- f) Affect an exchange or create a right of exchange of all or part of the memberships of another class or group into the memberships of the class or group.

ARTICLE 16 – DISSOLUTION

- 16.1 In the event of dissolution or winding-up of the Association, all its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to one or more recognized charitable organizations in Canada.

Temporary - Bylaw #2 Board Transition Plan

1.1 Board Transition – This Bylaw #2 is enacted, and the following sections of the Association’s Bylaws will be temporarily repealed to the extent necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Bylaw #2 until this Bylaw #2 is repealed:

- a) 3.1 – Composition of the Board
- b) 3.2 – Terms

1.2 Current Board Composition – The current Board composition of the Association, as of June 2023, consisted of the following individuals with the year their term expires:

- a) President (SN) – 2023
- b) Director (RD) – 2023
- c) Director (JD) – 2024
- d) Director (BP) – 2024
- e) Director (SS) – 2023
- f) Director (BS) – 2024
- g) Director (KZ) – 2024
- h) Director (RA) – 2023

1.3 Directors-at-Large – Each Director position becomes a Director-at-Large. Following each Annual Meeting, the Board may assign portfolios to Directors at its discretion and may elect Officer positions pursuant to these Bylaws.

1.4 Elections and Expirations at Annual Meetings – The following elections and expirations will occur at the next two (2) Annual Meetings of the Association and the Board composition is described:

- a) 2023 Meeting
 - i. The following terms expire:



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- i. SN
 - ii. RD
 - iii. RA
 - iv. SS
 - ii. The following positions will be elected:
 - i. Three (3) Directors-at-Large for a three-year term (“A” Directors)
 - ii. Two (2) Directors-at-Large for a two-year term (“B” Directors)
 - iii. The Board composition following the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Association is:
 - i. JD – exp. 2024
 - ii. BP – exp. 2024
 - iii. BS – exp. 2024
 - iv. KZ – exp. 2024
 - v. Three (3) Directors-at-Large (“A” Directors) – exp. 2026
 - vi. Two (2) Directors-at-Large (“B” Directors) – exp. 2025
- b) 2024 Meeting
- i. The following terms expire:
 - i. JD
 - ii. BP
 - iii. BS
 - iv. KZ
 - ii. The following positions will be elected:
 - i. One (1) Director-at-Large (“B” Director) for a one-year term
 - ii. Three (3) Directors-at-Large (“C” Directors) for a three-year term
 - iii. The Board composition following the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Association is:





□ BYLAWS

- i. Three (3) Directors-at-Large (“A” Directors) – exp. 2026
- ii. Three (3) Directors-at-Large (“B” Directors) – exp. 2025
- iii. Three (3) Directors-at-Large (“C” Directors) – exp. 2027

1.5 Repeal of this By-law #2 – After the elections at the 2025 Annual Meeting, the Board transition period will have completed and this Bylaw #2 should be repealed.





2023 SPECIAL OPERATING / RÈGLEMENTS FONCTIONNELS

RULES / PARTICULIERS



NOTICE OF MOTION #1

Submitted by: Softball Québec

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

Part One, Art. 1.1 Bid Procedures f) (p. 210)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

f) Provinces/Territories who have communities bidding on a Championship must have had at least one (1) team from the Province or Territory participate in the Championship they are bidding on the year before the Championship. If there are no other bids, except from a P/T who hadn't participated as stated above, then these bids can be considered after October 1st the year prior to the Championship

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

DELETION

RATIONALE

Removing the limitation will allow for more provinces to bid on Canadian Championships.

Softball Canada already has some difficulty finding host committees. This change will certainly help provinces who rarely host championships to show their interest in doing so and to bid on Canadian Championships.

For example, a province who is currently developing in a category may want to submit a bid without the stress of absolutely needing to send a team to Canadian Championships the year prior.

It is also important to note that in categories like U15 and U17, hosting a Canadian Championship can spark interest and generate increased interest and motivation for the following year. It is therefore possible that a province is unable to send a team one year simply because they are preparing for the next year.

When a bid is presented more than a year before the championship, it is often difficult to know if at least one team will be participating the year prior to the championship you bid on. A bid can also be done 2 years in advance with the belief that a team will be participating but when it comes time, for varying reasons, the team doesn't participate.

In our opinion, a province who wants to develop the sport shouldn't be penalized because they were unable to present a team in a specific category. Penalizing a province by not allowing them to host an event that could help development in their region will harm the overall development of softball.

To conclude, we reiterate that Softball Canada needs to help provinces host Canadian Championships by offering more flexibility. By removing this rule, we give host committees the opportunity to better prepare their event and more time to secure sponsorships for the event.

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

None for Softball Canada but a lot for a host committee who could be confirmed two years in advance allowing them to secure more sponsorships without the fear that Softball Canada will pull the plug one year before.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #2

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Two, Art. 1.1 Eligibility a) iii) (p. 213)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

iii) Are at least fifteen (15) years of age as of January 1 of the current year in order to be eligible to participate in a Senior Canadian Championship

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

REVISION

iii) Are at least fifteen (15) years of age as of January 1 of the current year in order to be eligible to participate in a **Men’s or Women’s** Canadian Championship

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. We no longer refer to the Men’s and Women’s Canadian Championships as “Senior” events.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #3

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 1.1 Introduction d) (p. 217)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

d) The start date for the Men’s Championship would be Sunday concluding on Saturday for a 7 day event. The start date for the Women’s Championship would be on the Monday concluding on the Saturday for a 6 day event.

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

REVISION:

d) The start date for the Men’s and Women’s Championship would be Sunday concluding on Saturday for a 7 day event.

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RATIONALE

Housekeeping. The Women’s Slo-Pitch Canadian Championship has been a 7 day event as requested by the teams since 2019.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #4

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Two, Art. 2.6 Provincial Non-Residents (Fast Pitch Only) a) i) (p. 215)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

- a) i) In U23 Men’s/Women’s, all but one (1) player on any provincial/territorial representative team to a Canadian Championship must be a bona fide resident of that province/territory by the official residency date for the year of competition.
- ii) In U20 Men’s, U19 Women’s, U23 Men’s/Women’s Championships, all but six (6) players, and only two of these will be allowed to be pitchers, on any territorial representative team to a Canadian Championship must be a bona fide resident of that territory by the official residency date for the year of competition, with the release of the Province/Territory that the player is registered with.
- b) In Men’s, Master Men’s and Women’s Canadian Championships, all but two (2) players, and only one of these will be allowed to be a pitcher, on any provincial/territorial representative team to a Canadian Championship must be a bona fide resident of that Province/Territory by the official residency date for the year of competition.

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

DELETE i) and REORDER ii) as a)

REVISION to b) In U23 Men’s, U23 Women’s, Men’s, Master Men’s and Women’s Canadian Championships, all but two (2) players, and only one of these will be allowed to be a pitcher, on any provincial/territorial representative team to a Canadian Championship must be a bona fide resident of that Province/Territory by the official residency date for the year of competition.

RATIONALE

There is low participation in the U23 Men’s and U23 Women’s age categories. Adding an additional provincial non-resident (“import”) may help more teams participate in these events.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #5

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 1.2 a) Team Representation iv) (p. 217)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

iv) When a Canadian Championship is hosted by a province/territory who has been given all-star status in the category presented, this hosting province/territory may participate in the Canadian Championship with two (2) all-star teams.

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

DELETE iv)

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. This SOR does not apply to Slo-Pitch as there are no provinces/territories with all-star status. Even if they did in the future, this SOR makes no sense as P/T's are allowed to send up to four teams.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #6

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 1.2 Participants a) Team Representation v) b) (p. 218)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

b) At least eight (8) players from the championship roster are still on the current roster and in attendance. If the previous champion does not have eight (8) returning players, the provincial/territorial body can declare a Defending Champion.

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

REVISION

b) At least seven (7) players from the championship roster are still on the current roster and in attendance. If the previous champion does not have seven (7) returning players, the provincial/territorial body can declare their Provincial Champion (or top seeded team) as a Defending Champion.

RATIONALE

This reduces the amount of returning players from 8 to 7 and clarifies which team the provincial/territorial body can declare as Defending Champion. With the previous wording, the provincial/territorial body could designate any team as Defending Champion and could take advantage of pre-determined scheduling.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #7

Submitted by: Gary MacDonald

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

Part 3 SOR SP. Article 1, 1.2. Participants, c) playing Rosters, iv) Player Additions, f), page 219

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

Any team from Manitoba or Saskatchewan attending the Canadian slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five (5) from each other's Province with the release of the player's home province. All releases must be handled as per the Softball Canada Guidelines.

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

REVISION:

Any team from Manitoba or Saskatchewan attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to **eight (8)** from each other's Province with the release of the player's home province. All releases must be handled as per the Softball Canada Guidelines

RATIONALE

It can cost \$30,000 - \$40,000 for a team to attend a Canadian Championship. The teams from the smaller provinces have a much smaller number of residents to choose from than the larger provinces and simply looking to be able to field the most competitive team possible at the Canadian Championships.

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

NONE

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #8

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (Slo-Pitch), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format b) Championship Round (p. 220)

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format b) ii) Championship Round (p. 231)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

b) Championship Round

In championships with 7, 8 or 9 teams, 6 teams will play in the championship round. The top 4 teams will have 2 “lives” and the next 2 teams will have a single “life”. In championships with 10 or more teams, 8 teams will play in the championship round. The top 4 teams will have 2 “lives” and the next 4 teams will have a single “life”.

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

REVISION

b) Championship Round

In championships with 7, 8 or 9 teams, 6 teams will play in the championship round. The top 2 teams will have 2 “lives” and the next 4 teams will have a single “life”. In championships with 10 or more teams, 8 teams will play in the championship round. The top 4 teams will have 2 “lives” and the next 4 teams will have a single “life”.

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. The wording in this SOR did not reflect what is applied in our Championship bracket on the following page. In a 6-team playoff bracket, only 2 teams have 2 lives and 4 teams have a single life. This applies to both Slo-Pitch and Fast Pitch.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #9

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (Slo-Pitch), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format c) ii) (p. 220)

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format c) ii) (p. 231)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

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

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

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

REVISION

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

Final standings in the qualifying round shall be established using the following criteria **and will revert back to i) after each criterion if the tie is broken.**

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

RATIONALE

The previous SOR was unclear on when teams reverted back to their head-to-head result. This clarifies that it is after each individual criterion if the tie is broken.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #10

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format c) iii) NOTE (p. 220)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

NOTE: When using criteria iii) full team records of the entire team records of the entire qualifying round, and only 4,5,6 etc. FULL innings in 4½, 5½, 6½ etc. inning games are to be used.

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

DELETION

RATIONALE

This change was previously made in Fast Pitch and has worked well. Tiebreaking criteria should be based on the game's final score, not the score after the last completed full inning. This removes confusion for teams who gain or lose plus/minus, runs scored and runs against in the top of the last inning.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #11

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format c) iii) a) and b) (p. 220)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

- a) If teams are still tied within iii), then the total runs scored in all games will be used. If still tied, then:
- b) The least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games will be used. If still tied, then:

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

REVISION

- iv) The least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games will be used. If still tied, then:
- v) If teams are still tied within iii), then the total runs scored in all games will be used. If still tied, then:

Renumber a-b-c) to iv-v-vi)

RATIONALE

Inversing a) and b) to consider runs against ahead of runs scored in the criteria. This lines up with WBSC tie-breaking criteria and places a greater emphasis on preventing defensive runs as opposed to running up the score.

Renumbering because a-b-c should not be on a sub-level under iii)

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #12

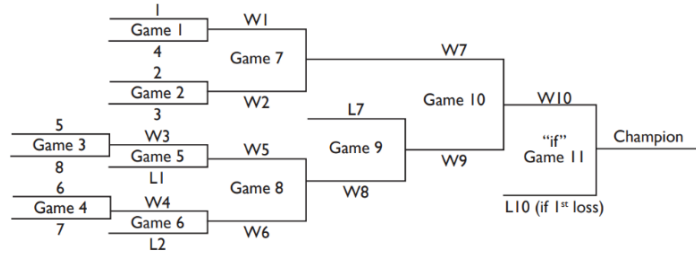
Submitted by: Canadian Championship

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

Part Three (Slo-Pitch), Art. 2.2 Model Draws a) Championship Round (p. 221)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

a) Championship Round.

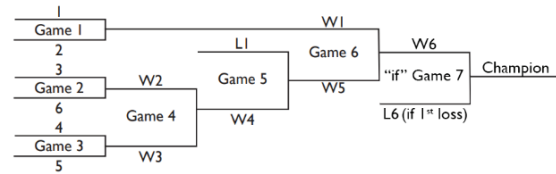


BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

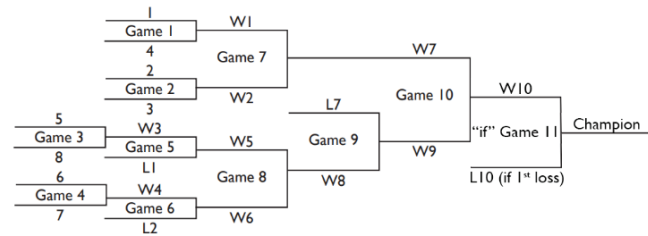
ADDITION

b) Championship Round

Six Team Playoff



Eight Team Playoff



RATIONALE

Housekeeping. Adding the 6-team playoff bracket that is referred to in SOR Part Three, Art. 2.1 b)

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

None

Final Recommendations: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #13

Submitted by: Soffball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three, Art. 2.5 Awards e) (p. 222)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

e) In order for players to qualify for the final standings at bat or on the mound, the following will apply:

At bat: A player must have gone to bat at least 2.5 times the number of games the team has played, rounded to the highest whole number (with any activity at bat counting for a “time at bat”).

On the mound: A pitcher must have pitched in more than 8 innings (8 1/3 innings is sufficient to qualify).

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

REVISION

e) In order for players to qualify for individual awards, the following will apply:

At bat: A player must have at least 2.5 plate appearances times the number of games the team has played, rounded to the highest whole number

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. This clarifies that the criteria is for individual awards (not “final standings”), the wording is simplified to refer to plate appearances, and the “On the mound” part is deleted as we no longer have a “Top Pitcher” award in Slo-Pitch – it was replaced with a “Top Defensive Player” award several years ago.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #14

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three, Art. 2.6 Official Softball c) (p. 222)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

c) The official and exclusive softball for the Women's Canadian Championship will be the Rawlings Super Green Dot YSX11RSC3 (COR 44).

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

REVISION

c) The official and exclusive softball for the Women's Canadian Championship will be the Rawlings **11" Hot Dot SBC11HDSY** or Rawlings Super Green Dot YSX11RSC3.

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. Change of the official Women's Slo-Pitch ball to the 11" Hot Dot will be within the next few years.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #15

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 2.7 c) Bats v) (p. 224)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

v) Any bat failing inspection will be confiscated by the Softball Canada representative, without prejudice, for the duration of the tournament and will be returned to the owner team after the owner team's final game.

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

DELETION

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RATIONALE

Housekeeping. Softball Canada no longer confiscates bats.

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

Removes the risk of Softball Canada incurring costs of replacing bats if they are lost after being confiscated.

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #16

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Three (SP), Art. 2.7 c) Bats vii) (p. 224)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

vii) Any player using a bat that was not inspected or has failed inspection and/or approval, shall have the bat confiscated and will be ejected for the remainder of the tournament.

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

REVISION

vii) Any player using a bat that was not inspected or has failed inspection and/or approval will be ejected for the remainder of the tournament.

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. Softball Canada no longer confiscates bats.

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

None

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #17

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 1.2 Participants a) Team Representation i) (p. 227)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

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

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

REVISION

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

RATIONALE

Housekeeping. Fast Pitch Championships are always 5 or 6 days and never 7 based on feedback from hosts/teams.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #18

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 1.2 a) Team Representation v) (b) (p. 227)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

(b) At least eight (8) players from the championship roster are still on the current roster and in attendance except for the U23 level of competition where it is acceptable for seven (7) players to have been on the championship roster and the U15, U17, U19 and U20 level of competition where provincial/territorial bodies can declare a Defending Champion if the previous champion does not have seven (7) returning players.

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

REVISION

(b) At least **seven (7)** players from the championship roster are still on the current roster and in attendance. **If the previous champion does not have seven (7) returning players, the provincial/territorial body can declare their Provincial Champion (or top seeded team) as Defending Champion.**

RATIONALE

This reduces the amount of returning players from 8 to 7 in Men's and Women's categories and clarifies which team the provincial/territorial body can declare as Defending Champion. With the previous wording, the provincial/territorial body could designate any team as Defending Champion and could take advantage of pre-determined scheduling.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #19

Submitted by: Gary MacDonald

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

SOR FP: Article 1, 1.2 Participants, c) Playing Rosters, i) Roster size, page 228

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

Playing Rosters

Team roster sizes will be as follows:

Players (including pick-ups) Minimum 11 Maximum 17

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

Revision: Add exception for Men's and Women's to be Maximum 18

RATIONALE

By increasing the number of players on a roster allows flexibility for players and teams. At this age many players struggle to commit to a team due to family, job and other competing commitments. This change would be beneficial to teams and ultimately the game by allowing more flexibility in the rosters.

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

NONE

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #20

Submitted by: Gary MacDonald

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

SOR FP: Article 1, 1.2 Participants, c), ii All-Star Rosters b), page 228

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

All-Star Rosters

b) The following provinces/territories have been allowed All-Star status in all categories:

7. Saskatchewan (except U19 and U20 categories)

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

Deletion of only: (Except U19 and U20 categories)

RATIONALE

Should we wish to utilize the All-Star status granted to us, these are the most likely age groups where we would utilize this rule.

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

NONE

Final Recommendations: ___Approved ___Rejected ___Withdrawn ___Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #21

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 2.1 Tournament Format c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round (p. 231)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

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

- i) Won/Lost records. If still tied, then:
- ii) Winners of games between tied teams NOTE: In order to use this criteria, all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the teams they are tied with to be ranked higher. The remaining teams then revert back to i) and continue on.
- iii) Difference PLUS or MINUS of total runs scored, with a limit of 7 PLUS or MINUS per game allowed.
 - a) If teams are still tied within iii) the least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games will be used. If still tied, then:
 - b) The total runs scored in all games, with a maximum of 10 runs scored per game, will be used. If still tied then:
 - c) Positions will be settled by a coin toss.

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

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

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

- i) Won/Lost records. If still tied, then:
- ii) Winners of games between tied teams NOTE: In order to use this criteria, all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the teams they are tied with to be ranked higher. The remaining teams then revert back to i) and continue on.
- iii) Least (fewest) runs scored against in the games among the tied teams. If still tied, then:**
- iv) Least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games will be used. If still tied, then:
- v) Positions will be settled by a coin toss.

RATIONALE

Alignment with the WBSC and Canada Games tiebreaking criteria which no longer uses plus/minus and focuses on runs against instead of runs scored to break ties. The limit of 7 PLUS or MINUS and 10 runs scored created significant confusion for participants and fans when they looked at standings and tiebreaking criteria.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #22

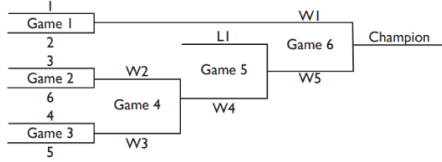
Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

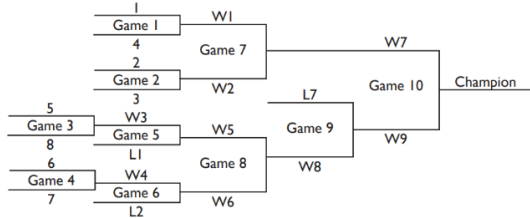
Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 2.2 Model Draws b) Championship Round (p. 232)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

Six Team Playoff



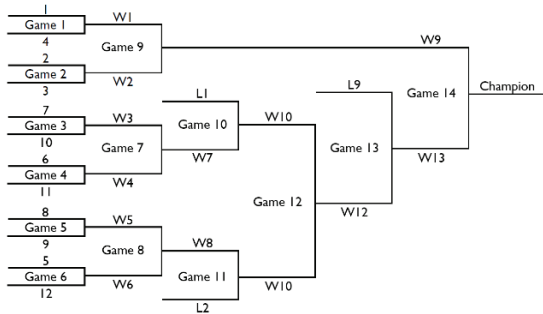
Eight Team Playoff



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

ADDITION

Twelve Team Playoff



RATIONALE

Softball Canada has started using a twelve-team playoff format in certain categories with a high number of registered teams. This playoff format allows more teams to qualify for the playoff round, and is especially a good alternative in events that require a modified round robin in the preliminary round.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #23

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 2.5 Awards e) (p. 233)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

e) In order for players to qualify for the final standings at bat or on the mound, the following will apply:

At bat: A player must have gone to bat at least 2.5 times the number of games the team has played, rounded to the highest whole number (with any activity at bat counting for a "time at bat").

On the mound: A pitcher must have pitched in more than 15 innings (15 1/3 innings is sufficient to qualify).

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

REVISION

e) In order for players to qualify for **individual awards**, the following will apply:

At bat: A player must have at least **2 plate appearances** times the number of games the team has played, rounded to the highest whole number

In the circle: A pitcher must have pitched in more than **2 innings per team game played**.

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RATIONALE

This clarifies that the criteria is for individual awards (not "final standings") and the wording is simplified to match current softball terminology. Players in some age categories had a difficult time reaching the previous minimums to qualify for awards because of a varying amount of preliminary round games depending on the number of teams entered. The new minimums are now tied to the amount of games played. There is also a slight reduction in plate appearances to allow more athletes to reach the minimum.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #24

Submitted by: Softball Canada Board of Directors

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

Part Four (Fast Pitch), Art. 2.7 Dress and Equipment a) Uniforms ii) (p. 234)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

ii) Coaches appearing on the field must wear uniforms identical (similar) to the players or any combination of dress shorts, slacks or track pants and shirts as near to the team colours as possible in all categories and Coaches' footwear must be completely closed in (no sandals, crocs or similar footwear permitted). Both coaches are required to be dressed in similar fashion.

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

ADDITION

EXCEPTION: In the U23 Men's and Men's categories no shorts are allowed.

RATIONALE

With an increase in exposure/interest in the Men's game, coaches should look more professional. The coach dress code in these categories has become an issue with some coaches wearing a combination of shorts and pants in the same game and it does not look professional. This was previously discussed and agreed to in a previous Canadian Championship Workshop but had not been presented as an SOR motion. This also aligns with WBSC regulations.

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

None.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

NOTICE OF MOTION #25

Submitted by: Board of Directors/ODC

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

Part Four – Canadian Fast Pitch Championship Play, Art. 2.7 Dress and Equipment

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

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

ADDITION

2.7 d) Bat Compression Test

Bat compression testing will be conducted at the U20 Men's, U23 Men's, Men's and Master Men's events on an annual basis. Failure to meet the bat compression test will result in the bat being an illegal bat and not permitted for use at the Canadian Championships. Bats approved for use will be marked, and any bat used that is not so marked will be considered an illegal bat.

Note - The protocol that will be followed to determine whether bats are suitable for play at the Canadian Championships will be available on the Softball Canada website. All bats will be compression tested to the current WBSC standards. If the bat passes compression testing, it will be approved for Canadian Championship play regardless of certification stamp(s).

RATIONALE

This motion follows recommendations made by USA Softball, the ISC and Men's Fast Pitch athletes. Men's Fast Pitch bats are not in high production and old stock is dwindling; most bats currently being used are 10-15 years old. Newer model bats are no longer made for the Men's Fast Pitch game and preference is given to past models that have much more durability. Due to current market demand, manufacturers are building high-performance Slo-Pitch bats that are less durable or light weight female Fast Pitch bats, neither of which are very suitable for Men's Fast Pitch. The compression test is to ensure the bat meets standards. If a bat can pass the standards, we are recommending it to be used regardless of the stamp on the bat.

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

None Known.

Final Recommendations: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed



2023 CHANGE PROPOSALS / PROPOSITIONS DE CHANGEMENT

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RULES / RÈGLES



PROPOSAL 1

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024									
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC									
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		X	ORTHODOX		ALL
Rule:	1	Section:	2	Letter:	2	Number:	F	Letter:	f
CHANGE IS:	New								
CHANGE:	<i>Page 39 SP after a warning by the Plate Umpire, any one of these Rules is willfully violated, except if the pitcher continues to repeatedly violate a pitching Rule the pitcher will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game and shall be declared an illegal pitcher;</i>								
RATIONALE:	Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed									

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PROPOSAL 2

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024									
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC									
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	1	Section:	2	Letter:	4	Number:	c	Letter:	
CHANGE IS:	Revision								
CHANGE:	<i>P 40 SP/ 123 FP c) If an incorrect runner is placed on second base, they shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch (legal or illegal) or play and is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offensive team places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.</i>								
RATIONALE:	Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022) This new rule will impose a penalty for a team that places the wrong temporary runner at second base in a tiebreaker situation.								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed									

PROPOSAL 3

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	1	Section:	2	Letter:	6	Number:	a	Letter:	iv	
CHANGE IS:	Addition									
CHANGE:	<i>P 40 SP/123 FP iv) at any time, an incorrect runner is on base in a tiebreaker Inning or as a temporary runner for the catcher <u>or pitcher of record.</u></i>									
RATIONALE:	Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)									
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 4

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	1	Section:	2	Letter:	6	Number:	E	Letter:	x	
CHANGE IS:	Revision									
CHANGE:	<i>P 41 SP (1.2.6dx) /124 FP x) the use of an incorrect runner on second base in a tiebreaker inning or as a temporary runner for the catcher <u>or pitcher of record.</u></i>									
RATIONALE:	Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)									
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 5

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	2	Section:	1	Letter:	5	Number:		Letter:

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 44 SP/ 126 FP
2.1.5 COACHES' BOX: The area in foul territory on the first base and third base side of the playing field in which the offensive coaches must position themselves (see Appendix 1-F for dimensions).

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definition of Coaches' Box

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 6

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	2	Section:	1	Letter:	10	Number:		Letter:

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 44 SP / 127 FP
2.1.10 MITT: A mitt consists of a solid piece for finger placement, no finger slots and a deeper pocket than a glove. A glove has separated finger slots on the outside and back (see Appendix 4 Glove Specifications).

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definitions for types of gloves.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 7

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	2	Section:	1	Letter:	13	Number:		Letter:

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 44 SP / 127 FP
2.1.13 ON-DECK CIRCLE: The area to which the on-deck batter is restricted while waiting their turn at bat (see Appendix 1- F for location and dimensions)

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definition of On Deck Circle

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 8

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	2	Section:	5	Letter:	1	Number:	a.	Letter:

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 47 SP / 130 FP
 ii) Caps, visors and headbands are optional for female players, and players are free to choose which of these they wish to wear. Each must be of the same color and style of the team uniform colors. Plastic or hard visors are not allowed.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Housekeeping - Rewording of current rule

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 9

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
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Rule:	2	Section:	5	Letter:	1	Number:	b	Letter:	ii
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CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 47 SP / 130 FP
 ii) A player may wear one or two warming sleeves (compression sleeves) provided that each is the same one solid color that is a team uniform color and that the color matches all other undershirts worn by any player on that team.

RATIONALE: Adopts new WBSC Rule (2022)
 Aligns with current interpretation used at Canadian Championships.to allow a player to choose to wear only one compression sleeve

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

PROPOSAL 10

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
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Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	8	Number:	h.	Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 53 SP (3.2.6h) / 136 FP
 h) An ineligible player may not return to the game as a player.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Clarifies current rule

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: ___ Approved ___ Rejected ___ Withdrawn ___ Postponed

PROPOSAL 11

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	3	Section:	1	Letter:	9	Number:		Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		New								
CHANGE:		<p>P 49 SP / 132 FP</p> <p>3.1.9 UNREPORTED SUBSTITUTION: An unreported substitution occurs when a player enters the game without being reported to the responsible umpire as:</p> <p>a) a substitute;</p> <p>b) a player eligible to enter, return to or stay in the game under the provisions of the replacement player rule;</p> <p>c) a declared ineligible player</p> <p>d) an illegal re-entry</p>								
RATIONALE:		<p>Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.</p> <p>Adds definition</p>								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

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PROPOSAL 12

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	3	Section:	1	Letter:	12	Number:		Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		Revision								
CHANGE:		<p>P 50 SP / 132 FP</p> <p>3.1.12 INELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT PLAYER</p> <p>An Ineligible Replacement Player is a player who may not enter the game to replace a Withdrawn Player. An Ineligible Replacement Player is one who:</p> <p>a) has been removed from the game by the umpire for a Rule violation;</p> <p>b) is in the current line-up;</p> <p>c. An ineligible replacement player entering the game is considered an illegal re-entry.</p> <p>d) SC: an injured/ill player removed from the game (U17 and below).</p>								
RATIONALE:		<p>Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.</p> <p>This clearly states that the use of an Ineligible Replacement Player is treated as an Illegal Re-Entry which it already is per 3.2.8 c).</p>								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 13

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
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Rule:	3	Section:	1	Letter:		19	Number:		Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 50 SP / 133 FP
3.1.19 ROSTER: The list of all players eligible to be entered on a team's line-up card.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definition of Roster

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

164

PROPOSAL 14

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
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Rule:	3	Section:	1	Letter:		22	Number:		Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 51 SP / 133 FP
3.1.22 TEMPORARY RUNNER added as 3.1.23: A player who may run for the catcher or pitcher of record who is on base with two outs.

RATIONALE: Adopts new WBSC Rule (2022)
 Allows the use of the temporary runner for both the catcher and pitcher.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 15

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	3	Number:	e	Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		Revision								
CHANGE:		P 52 SP / 134 FP All starting players, including the DP and the FLEX, may be substituted or re-enter the line-up once and must remain in the same batting position whenever they are in the line-up. <i>A violation of this rule is considered an illegal re-entry.</i>								
RATIONALE:		Aligns with WBSC Rulebook. Housekeeping: Confirms a violation is considered an illegal re-entry								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 16

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	4	Number:	A	Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		Revision								
CHANGE:		P 52 SP / 135 FP A DP may bat for any defensive player <i>who is designated as the FLEX.</i>								
RATIONALE:		Aligns with WBSC Rulebook. Housekeeping: Confirms that the DP may only bat for the FLEX								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 17

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:		FAST PITCH	X	SLO-PITCH	ORTHODOX	ALL	X		
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	4	Number:	b.	Letter:	iv

CHANGE IS: Addition

CHANGE: P 52 SP / 135 FP
 iv) A team's line-up may revert to 10 players by a player:
 a) entering a substitute into the FLEX position; or
 b) re-entering the original starting FLEX, but only once.

RATIONALE: Aligns with new addition to WBSC Rulebook.
 Clarifies that teams may enter a substitute directly into the FLEX position without having to enter the original FLEX

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Withdrawn _____ Postponed

166

PROPOSAL 18

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Softball Saskatchewan

TYPE:		FAST PITCH	X	SLO-PITCH	ORTHODOX	ALL			
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	4	Number:	B	Letter:	i

CHANGE IS: Addition

CHANGE: P 52 SP / 134 FP
 If the DP plays defense for a player other than the Flex Player, that player continues to bat, is identified as the OPO and the change must be reported to the plate umpire at Canadian Championships.

RATIONALE: If this change is not reported to the umpire, defensive stats cannot be recorded accurately. This designation of the OPO was requested by the scorekeepers so they could determine which players were playing defense.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Withdrawn _____ Postponed

PROPOSAL 19

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X	
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	5	Number:	c/d	Letter:	iii

CHANGE IS: Addition / Revision

CHANGE: *P 53 SP / 135 FP*
c) iii) A team's line-up may revert to 10 players by a player:
1. entering a substitute into the FLEX position; or
2. re-entering the original starting FLEX, but only once.

d) A FLEX who enters the game on offence for a player other than the DP is considered an Illegal re-entry

RATIONALE: Aligns with new addition to WBSC Rulebook.
 Clarifies that teams may enter a substitute directly into the FLEX position without having to enter the original FLEX and the limits on the FLEX as a substitute.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

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PROPOSAL 20

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X	
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	6	Number:	d.	Letter:	

CHANGE IS: New / Revision

CHANGE: *P 53 SP / 135 FP*
d) A team representative must notify the plate umpire of all line-up card changes. A proper appeal of the failure to do so that is upheld shall result in that player being declared an unreported substitution.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Housekeeping: Clarifies with better wording.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 21

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	8	Number:	a.	Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		Revision								
CHANGE:		<p><i>P 53 SP (3.2.6a) / 136 FP</i></p> <p><i>a) A substitute named on the line-up card may take the place of any player in the line-up. Multiple substitutions may be made for a player that is listed in the starting line-up, but no substitute may return to the game after being substituted (removed from the game), except as a replacement player. A substitute who re-enters the game as a player is an illegal re-entry.</i></p>								
RATIONALE:		<p>Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.</p> <p>Housekeeping: Clarifies existing rule and application.</p>								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 22

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	8	Number:	d	Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		New /Deletion / Revision								
CHANGE:		<p><i>P 53 SP 3.2.6d / 136 FP</i></p> <p><i>REVISE: d) Any substitute who has entered the game but has not been reported to the umpire becomes an unreported substitution.</i></p>								
RATIONALE:		<p>Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.</p> <p>Housekeeping: Clarifies protocols around substitutions</p>								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 23

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Letter:	8	Number:	h.	Letter:

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 53 SP (3.2.6) / 136 FP
ADD
h) An ineligible player may not return to the game as a player.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
Housekeeping: Clarifies that a player deemed ineligible cannot return to the game in any capacity

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 24

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	3	Section:	3	Letter:	a / b	Number:		Letter:

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 54 SP / 136 FP
a) An appeal must be made by a manager, coach or player before an umpire may consider and make a decision on:

- i) an unreported substitution;*
- ii) an illegal re-entry; or*
- iii) an ineligible player.*

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
Housekeeping: Clarifies the protocols on appeal situations

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 25

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:		FAST PITCH	SLO-PITCH	ORTHODOX	ALL	X	
Rule:	4	Section:	1	Letter:	9	Number:	Letter:

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 60 SP (4.1.6) / 143 FP
4.1.9 SLINGSHOT PITCH: *A pitch where the pitcher drops their pitching arm to the side and the rear before starting a quick slingshot action and accelerating with their forward motion. To be a legal pitch, the pitcher must release the ball on the first forward motion past the hip and not make a full revolution of the pitching arm. A slingshot pitch is legal in fastpitch but not in modified pitch.*

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definition of Slingshot Pitch

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

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PROPOSAL 26

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:		FAST PITCH	SLO-PITCH	ORTHODOX	ALL	X		
Rule:	4	Section:	2	Letter:	2	Number:	b.	Letter:

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 61 SP / 144 FP
b) From the dugout a manager, coach or player reports a substitution to the responsible umpire and after making that substitution crosses the foul line to talk to the pitcher or any fielder.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Housekeeping: Rewords to clarify that a coach / manager who reports a change prior to crossing the foul line does not count as a charged conference

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 27

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORTHODOX		ALL	
Rule:	4	Section:	3	Letter:	2	Number:	b	Letter:	

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: *P 62*
Under the supervision and control of an umpire, a resin bag may be used to dry the hands and must be kept on the ground behind the pitcher's plate within the pitching circle when not in use. During inclement weather or wet field conditions and with an umpire's permission, the resin bag may be placed in the pitcher's back pocket.

RATIONALE: Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 28

171

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORTHODOX		ALL	
Rule:	5	Section:	1	Letter:	34	Number:	vi	Letter:	

CHANGE IS: Addition

CHANGE: *P 70*
The delivery of the wrong size ball to the batter (Co-ed Only).

RATIONALE: Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)
 Practice currently in place in Softball Canada play.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 29

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	x
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Rule:	5	Section:	4	Letter:		2	Number:	c.	Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 75 SP / 160 FP
Fast Pitch
c) No person may erase the batter's box lines at any time in the pre-game meeting or during the game.
Slo-Pitch
c) No person may erase the batter's area lines at any time in the pre-game meeting or during the game.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Prohibits participants from deliberately erasing lines of the batter's box or batter's area

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

172

PROPOSAL 30

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH	x	ORTHODOX		ALL	
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Rule:	5	Section:	4	Letter:		3	Number:	a	Letter:	viii
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CHANGE IS: NEW

CHANGE: P 75
When at any time a defensive team member erases the lines of a batter's box, a ball will be called on the next scheduled offensive team batter or the offensive team batter currently at bat. A pitch does not have to be thrown. When at any time an offensive team member erases the lines of a batter's box, a strike will be called on the next scheduled offensive team batter or the offensive team batter currently at bat. A pitch does not have to be thrown.

RATIONALE: Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 31

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	SLO-PITCH	ORTHODOX	ALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Rule:	5	Section:	4	Letter:	3	Number:	b.	Letter:	lv(fp) / x (sp)
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CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 76 SP / 160 FP
FP -iv)
SP – x) *When at any time a defensive team member erases the lines of a batter’s box, a ball will be called on the next scheduled offensive team batter or the offensive team batter currently at bat. A pitch does not have to be thrown.*
When at any time an offensive team member erases the lines of a batter’s box, a strike will be called on the next scheduled offensive team batter or the offensive team batter currently at bat. A pitch does not have to be thrown.

RATIONALE: Adopts WBSC Rule
This rule will prevent participants from deliberately erasing the lines of the batter's box or batter’s area
Note that this rule inadvertently was included in our 2022-23 rule book.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 32

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024 (year)

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	SLO-PITCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORTHODOX	ALL
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Rule:	5	Section:	4	Letter:	3	Number:	b	Letter:	ix 2
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CHANGE IS: NEW

CHANGE: P 76
When the coach or non-playing team member erases the lines, a strike will be called on the next scheduled batter (or their substitute) in the line-up. A pitch does not have to be thrown;

RATIONALE: Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 33

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE: FAST PITCH SLO-PITCH ORTHODOX ALL

Rule: 5 Section: 5 Letter: a Number: iii Letter: 3

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 77
Anytime that they must legally advance to first base, unless they are injured and must receive treatment, while the ball is dead;

RATIONALE: Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

174

PROPOSAL 34

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE: FAST PITCH SLO-PITCH ORTHODOX ALL

Rule: 5 Section: 5 Letter: C Number: i Letter: 2

CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 77
a fly ball that a defensive player, in the judgment of the Umpire, is able to catch. The ball is declared dead. Runners are awarded the bases they would have obtained, in the umpire's judgement, had the interference not occurred.

RATIONALE: Adoption of new WBSC Rule (2022)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 35

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	5	Section:	10	Letter:	4	Number:	g.	Letter:

CHANGE IS: Addition / Revision

CHANGE: P 87 SP / 173 FP

g. when they are hit by a live, fair and untouched batted ball while in contact with their base, unless they intentionally interfere with the ball or a fielder making a play. The ball is dead or remains live, depending on the position of the fielder closest to the base at the time the ball contacts the runner:

i. the ball remains live if the fielder closest to the base is positioned ahead of the base;

ii. the ball becomes dead if the fielder is behind the base.

RATIONALE: Adopted from WBSC Rulebook.

Clarifies that the status of the batted ball will depend on the position of the closest fielder.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

175

PROPOSAL 36

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	X
Rule:	Appendix	Section:	2	Letter:	A	Number:	9	Letter:

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P96 SP / 182FP

9. A bat must that has any exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any exterior fastener that would be or present a hazard is an illegal bat. A bat must be free of burrs and cracks.

RATIONALE: Adopted from WBSC Rulebook.

Housekeeping: Reworded to clarify

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 37

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	Appendix	Section:	2	Letter:	A	Number:	10	Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		New / Revision								
CHANGE:		P 96 SP / 182 FP 10. A <u>non-wooden</u> bat must not have a wooden handle.								
RATIONALE:		Adopted from WBSC Rulebook. Clarifies that non-wooden bats may not have a wooden handle.								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

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PROPOSAL 38

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024										
Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC										
TYPE:		FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL		X
Rule:	Appendix	Section:	2	Letter:	A	Number:	12	Letter:		
CHANGE IS:		Revision								
CHANGE:		P 96 SP / 182 FP 12. A bat that is <u>non-wooden</u> and not made of one-piece construction with the barrel end closed, must have a rubber or vinyl plastic or other material insert that is approved by the WBSC Equipment Standards Commission, USA Softball, or USSSA (SP Only) and is firmly secured at the large end of the bat.								
RATIONALE:		Aligns with WBSC Rulebook. Housekeeping: Reworded to replace "metal" with "non-wooden"								
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed										

PROPOSAL 39

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Softball Saskatchewan

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	x	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL
Rule:	3	Section:	2	Number:	4	Letter:	d

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 135
 3.2.4.d. SC: The use of the Designated Player and FLEX Player is **ONLY** permitted at U15 and above age categories.

RATIONALE: The current rule does not permit the use of the DP/FLEX in the U15 age category and below. This change would extend the use of the DP/FLEX to U15 (and above) categories.

Please note that this rule was omitted during the adoption of the new rules format and is not included in the current printed rule book. However, it continues to be a Softball Canada rule and will be included in the 2024-25 rule book.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 40

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Softball Québec

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	x	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL
Rule	4	Section:	2	Letter:	1	Letter:	A and effect

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 143
 4.2.1 CHARGED DEFENSIVE CONFERENCE
 a) A defensive team has only three (3) charged defensive conferences in a seven-inning game.
i. Five (5) charged conferences for U15 category
 ...
 EFFECT Rule 4.2.1 a) For the fourth (**sixth for U15**) and each additional charged defensive conference in a seven-inning game or for any charged defensive conference in excess of one per inning in an extra-inning game, the pitcher in the game during the conference is declared an illegal pitcher who may not pitch again for the remainder of the game but may play another fielding position.

RATIONALE: With the change to the WBSC book and the change in age categories, this rule was removed from the rule book.

It is believed that 5 defensive conferences should be allowed for U15.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 41

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Softball Québec

TYPE:		FAST PITCH	x	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	
RULE:	4	Section:	3	Letter:		Number:	1	Letter:	e

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 145

The pitcher must, after taking the signal, bring their whole body to a full and complete stop with the ball in both hands in front of the body. The stepping (non-pivot) foot must be stationary at the start and during pause. The stepping (non-pivot) foot can only move forward with the start of the pitch. Any backward movement of the stepping non-pivot foot during or after the pause is an illegal action.

This position must be held for not less than ~~two (2) seconds~~ **one (1) second** and not more than five (5) seconds before releasing the ball. Holding the ball in both hands to the side of the body is considered in front of the body. (MP only – This position must be held for not less than ~~two (2) seconds~~ **one (1) second** and not more than ten (10) seconds before releasing the ball)

RATIONALE: In the Canadian minor championships, 2 seconds are required, whereas in the higher-level Canadian championships (senior, both men's and women's), a 1-second pause is required.

We believe that 2 seconds is too long and that a 1-second pause would greatly reduce the number of illegal pitches called when the pitcher takes absolutely no advantage of a reduced pause.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

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PROPOSAL 42

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:		FAST PITCH	X	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL	
Rule:	4	Section:	3	Letter:	3	Number:	b.	Letter:	

CHANGE IS: Revision

CHANGE: P 147

b) The pitcher may make only one revolution on a windmill pitch. The pitcher may drop their pitching arm to the side and rear before starting the windmill motion or the slingshot motion. The pitching arm may pass the hip twice on the windmill pitch, but only once on a slingshot pitch.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.

Clarifies legal delivery for fast pitch.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 43

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	X	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX		ALL
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Rule:	4	Section:	3	Letter:		5	Number:	b.	Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: Addition / Revision

CHANGE: P 147
b) Under the supervision and control of an umpire, a resin bag may be used to dry the hands and must be kept on the ground behind the pitcher's plate within the pitching circle when not in use. During inclement weather or wet field conditions and with an umpire's permission, the resin bag may be placed in the pitcher's back pocket.

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Confirms common practice for inclement weather

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 44

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	X	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX	X	ALL
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Rule:	5	Section:	1	Letter:		37	Number:		Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: New

CHANGE: P 156
5.1.37 PICK-OFF PLAY: *An attempt by the defensive team to put out a runner who is off their base as a result of a pitched ball.*

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definition of Pick-off Play

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 45

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX	ALL	X
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Rule:	5	Section:	1	Letter:	38	Number:		Letter:	
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CHANGE IS: NEW

CHANGE: P 156
5.1.38 PLAY: After a pitch and when the ball is live:
 a) a batter takes a pitch in the batter's box, swings at or hits the pitch and runs to first base;
 b) after the pitch leaves the pitcher's hand a runner attempts to steal a base or advance on a batted ball (SC: FP Only); or
 c) the defensive team attempts to put out a batter-runner or a runner.
 d) A pitch is not a play

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds definition

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

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PROPOSAL 46

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024 (year)

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ALL
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Rule:	5	Section:	4	Letter:	4	Number:	c.	Letter:	iii
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CHANGE IS: Addition / Revision

CHANGE: P 162
 iii) Interferes with a play at home plate. If in the umpire's judgement the batter's action constitutes intentional interference, the runner attempting to score is also out;

RATIONALE: Aligns with WBSC Rulebook.
 Adds that intentional interference by a batter-runner would result in both the batter and runner being ruled out.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed

PROPOSAL 47

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

Submitted by: Board of Directors / ODC

TYPE:	FAST PITCH	x	SLO-PITCH		ORTHODOX	x	ALL	
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Rule:	5	Section:	10	Letter:		3	Number:	b	Letter:		3.iii.iv.iv
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CHANGE IS: Addition / Revision

CHANGE: P 171
ADD

iii) they are legitimately off their base after a pitch, or as a result of a batter completing their turn at bat and, while the pitcher has the ball within the pitcher's circle, they do not immediately return to their base or attempt to advance to the next base

iv) once the runner returns to a base for any reason, they will be declared out if they leave said base. A runner will not be declared out if:

1. a play is made on them or another runner (a fake throw is considered a play)
2. the pitcher no longer has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle; or
3. The pitcher release the ball by a pitch to the batter

v) A base on balls or dropped third strike is treated the same as a batted ball. The batter-runner may continue past first base and is entitled to run towards second base as long as they do not stop at first base. If they stop after they round first base, they must immediately return to first base or immediately continue to second base.

vi) The batter or batter-runner is declared out for intentionally interfering with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent an obvious out on an advancing runner at the plate. The advancing runner is out and all other runners must return to the base held at the time of the pitch.

RATIONALE: Adopt from WBSC Rulebook.

These clarify several situations where a runner may be called out.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed



LATE ADDITION – Motion from the Floor

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: 2024

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR: Batter's Area

Submitted by: ODC – Don Farr

TYPE:	FAST PITCH		SLO-PITCH	X	ORTHODOX		ALL		
Rule:	5	Section:	1	Letter:	4	Number:	SC	Letter:	2021

CHANGE IS: New / Addition / Deletion / Revision (Please highlight applicable)

CHANGE: Current rule is to have both feet within the batter's area (behind the line) upon contact with a ball hit fair or foul. Change would be to read: "The batter must start and finish their at bat with both feet **on or** behind the front batter's box line.

The second sentence of the current rule would be taken out as the penalty would be covered in rule 5.4.1 a) iv

RATIONAL When the rule was originally proposed in 2021 the intent was that the foot could not be fully over when contact was made. Having the current rule changed to reflect the requirement of having the front foot to still have contact with the line would have it with the same intent as rule 5.4.4 a) iv which states the batter is out if the foot is outside of the lines.

The current rule was immediately contested by players at both provincial and Canadian championships, as it being enforced when any part of the foot broke the front line.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: Approved Rejected Withdrawn Postponed





2023 NOMINATIONS

PRESIDENT / PRÉSIDENT





SOFTBALL MANITOBA

321-145 Pacific Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2Z6
Phone: (204) 925-5673 Fax: (204) 925-5703 E-mail: softball@softball.mb.ca
Website: <http://www.softball.mb.ca>

NOMINATION FOR SOFTBALL CANADA PRESIDENT

(Re: Scott Neiles)

September 5, 2023

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Softball Manitoba it gives me great pleasure, as President, to submit this letter of support and nomination of Scott Neiles for re-election as President of Softball Canada.

Scott continues to be actively involved in Softball in Manitoba and is often found watching games ranging from local community club teams to Provincial Championships and is always available to speak with our membership regarding the sport.

In the past Scott has been a member of our Board of Directors, participating in our competition and development programs as well as sitting on our Minor Division Committee. Scott has been a coach and worked as a clinician working with various teams and athletes.

We are proud to offer Scott Neiles our support and look forward to continuing to work with him and the entire Board of Directors as we continue to develop and grow the sport.

Sincerely,

Larry Giesbrecht
President, Softball Manitoba

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SPONSORED BY



September 26, 2023

**Mike Branchaud, Chief Executive Officer
Softball Canada**

It is with great pleasure that I accept Softball Manitoba's nomination for President of Softball Canada for a third term.

I look forward once again working with the Softball Canada staff alongside the Board of Directors as well as the Provincial & Territory staff and Executive Directors. It is my sincere hope that as a team, we can capitalize on our recent success at all levels and work towards cultivating a strong softball culture while actively promoting the growth of the game. Together, may we aim to help maintain and enhance Softball Canada's reputation as a global leader in all aspects of playing, coaching, and officiating.

Yours respectfully,



Scott Neiles

SCOTT NEILES

SOFTBALL RESUME

Softball Experience

- 2009 – 2013 U10 Level Coach and Player Development – Learn to Play
2014 – 2015 Head Coach – U12A Smitty’s Terminators, Provincial Champions
2016 – 2017 Head Coach – U14A Smitty’s Terminators, Provincial Champions & CCs Silver Medalist
2018 – 2019 Head Coach – U16A Smitty’s Terminators, Provincial Champions
2018 Coach – College Jean Sauve High School, Provincial Champions
2016 Event Supervisor (Softball MB Rep) – Manitoba Games
Coach/Player Development Instructor – Norman Region
2016 – 2017 Committee Member – Softball Manitoba Games
High Performance Co-Director
2017 Venue Lead – Canada Summer Games
2017 Softball Manitoba Minor Division Director
2018 – 2019 Softball Canada Board of Director
2020 – current President Softball Canada

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Hosting Softball Canada Events

- 2014 Co-Host – Slo-Pitch Border Battle, Kitchener
2016 Host Committee Co-Chair – Softball Canada U14 Girls Canadian Championship
2018 Head Coach – U16A Smitty’s Terminators
Host – U16 Canadian Championships
2018 Supervisor – Men’s U16 Canadian Championships
2019 Assistant Supervisor – Men’s/Masters Fastpitch Canadian Championships

Other Sports Experience

Baseball

- 1979 Player – Winnipeg – Red Boine Junior/Senior Baseball
1981 Player – Canada Summer Games – Men’s Baseball Team
1989 Player/Coach – Australian Professional League – Victoria & Melbourne
(Toronto Blue Jays/Florida Marlins Affiliate)
1994 Coach – Winnipeg Goldeyes – Northern League (Pro)
1994 Scout – Cincinnati Reds, Atlanta Braves and Montreal Expos
2007 Player/Builder Inductee – Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame
2011 – 2013 President – Manitoba Junior Baseball League
2014 – 2019 Co-owner – Home Run Sports Softball/Baseball Training Centre
2019 Home Run Sports Softball College Development Program



2004 – present Board of Director – Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame

Employment

2020 – current Division Lead – One Team Sports

2017 – 2019 Retired

1994 – 2017 CEO/owner – Home Run Sports

2017 – 2018 Senior Vice President – Kahunaverse Sports Group

2018 – 2020 Board of Director – Kahunaverse Sports Group

Marital Status

Married 23 years to Carla

Children Megan, Junior on the Softball team at The University of Jamestown
Jayda, Freshman on the Softball team at The University of Jamestown





2023 NOMINATIONS

DIRECTORS / DIRECTEURS



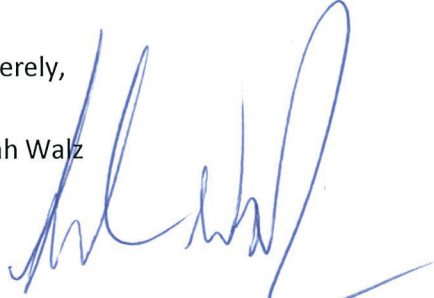
Mr. Mike Branchaud
CEO, Softball Canada
223 Colonnade Road, Suite 212
Ottawa, Ontario
K2E 7K3

Dear Mr. Branchaud,

The Softball Yukon Board of Directors would like to nominate Robb Andison for a position on the Board of Directors with Softball Canada.

Sincerely,

Sarah Walz



Executive Director, Softball Yukon

September 23, 2023

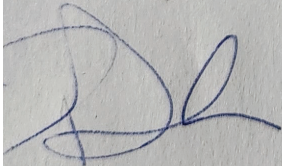
Mr. Mike Branchaud
CEO Softball Canada
223 Colonnade Road, Suite 212
Ottawa, Ontario
K2E 7K3

Dear Mr. Branchaud,

It is with great pleasure that I accept the nomination from Softball Yukon for election to the Board of Directors of Softball Canada.

I have truly appreciated the opportunities and challenges that have been afforded to me in the past, both on the local and the National levels. I look forward to the opportunity of continuing to foster and promote the sport of Softball for the membership of Softball Canada.

Sincerely,



Robb Andison

Robb Andison
18 Stewart Road
Whitehorse, Yukon

My working career with the Gov't of Yukon spanned 30+ years in two departments with my last position before retiring, being the Manager, Motor Vehicles for the Territory.

Lifelong Yukoner....(56 years)

Married for 34 years with two daughters and one (just under) 2 year old grandson.

Softball highlights:

1985 – 2001	Member Whitehorse Men's Slo-pitch
1994 – 2000	Director Softball Yukon
2000 – 2009/2018 – 2020	President Softball Yukon
2002 – 2006/2018 – 2023	Recreational Slo-pitch umpire
2005	Assistant supervisor Jr. Men's nationals
2006	Supervisor Senior Men's Slo-pitch Canadians
2006 – 2007	SC Membership Review Committee member
2007 – 2017/2021 – 2023	Director, Softball Canada (SC)
2008 – 2017/2023	SC Slo-pitch Committee chair
2008 – 2017	SC Finance & Audit Committee member
2008 – 2017	SC AGM Committee member
2009 – 2012	SC Canadian Championship Committee member
2011 – 2017	SC Revenue Generation Committee chair
2008 Jr. Men's World's	Host Committee/ Logistics chair
2009 – 2016/2023	Border Battle – Team Leader
2010	Supervisor Senior Men's Slo-pitch Canadians
2011	Supervisor Senior Women's Slo-pitch Canadians
2012 Sr. Women's World's	Host Committee
2012 Sr. Women's World's	Logistics chair
2012 – 2017	SC Canadian Championship Committee chair
2013	Supervisor Senior Women's Slo-pitch Canadians
2015	Supervisor Senior Women's Slo-pitch Canadians
2014 Jr. Men's World's	Host Committee
2014 Jr. Men's World's	Logistics chair
2017 Sr. Men's World's	Host Committee
2019	Assistant Supervisor Senior Men's Slo-pitch Canadians
2022	Supervisor Senior Men's Slo-pitch Canadians
2023	Supervisor Senior Men's Slo-pitch Canadians
2023	SC ODC Liaison

Other sporting Highlights:

1982 – 1983	Member Yukon Jr. Men’s Curling Championship team
1987 – 1990	President Yukon Dart Association
2002 – Present	Member Whitehorse Curling Club
2005 – 2007	Canada Winter Games Sub-Committee Chair In charge of Arrivals, Departures, Baggage, and Special Cartage for Athletes and VIP’s
2008 – 2010	Draw master Whitehorse Curling Club
2009	2012 Arctic Winter Games Bid Committee (logistics)
2013	Certified cold water Scuba Diver
2017	2020 Arctic Winter Games Bid Committee (logistics)

Involved with various sporting and service organizations as an Athlete, Coach and board member since 1986,
Yukon Dart Association
Whitehorse Curling Club
Kinsmen Club of the Yukon
Whitehorse Men’s Slo-pitch League
Whitehorse Co-ed Slo-pitch League
Softball Yukon
Softball Canada



5063 N Service Road, Suite 200
Burlington, ON L7L 5H6
T: 416-426-7150
info@softballontario.ca
www.softballontario.ca

September 28, 2023

Softball Canada
% Mr. Mike Branchaud, CEO
212-223 Colonnade Rd.
Ottawa, ON
K2E 7K3

Dear Mike,

Softball Ontario is pleased to nominate Mr. Neil Teague for the position of Director on the Board of Softball Canada.

Attached, please find Neil's resume along with his letter of acceptance of this nomination.

Neil's knowledge and experience that he has acquired in both his professional and softball career makes him a formidable candidate for a director position. He has excelled in multiple roles within the sport as an athlete, coach, and administrator, and has exhibited strong leadership and character traits that has left a positive impact on the sport of softball.

On behalf of Softball Ontario, I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in forwarding this nomination to the 2023 Softball Canada Annual General Meeting.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnathan Baker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Johnathan Baker
Executive Director
Softball Ontario

Neil Teague
900 Hollinrake Crescent
Milton, ON
L9T 5T8
teeger@sympatico.ca
C: 289 983 5850

September 27, 2023

Mr. Mike Branchaud, Chief Executive Officer
Softball Canada
212-223 Colonnade Rd., South
Ottawa, ON
K2E 7X3

Re: Softball Canada Board of Directors

Dear Mike

It is with honour, humility and pride that I accept the nomination from PWSA and Softball Ontario for election to the Softball Canada Board of Directors.

I believe having played the game at both a youth and adult level, coupled with my latter years as a respected Community Organizer, Volunteer Coach and Volunteer PWSA Provincial Coordinator, positions me well to contribute to the Board, thus the game, moving forward.

In addition to my grassroots understanding of the game, my track record of success in a high pressure professional environment offers a sound background of strategic investigation, analysis, discussion and decision making in both a cohesive, strong team dynamic as well as on an individual level.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Neil Teague

NEIL TEAGUE

900 Hollinrake Crescent.
Milton, Ontario Canada L9T 5T8
teeger@sympatico.ca (289) 983 5850

ENTREPRENEUR AND SENIOR LEVEL EXECUTIVE (Retired)

Accomplished, dynamic, confident, results-driven Senior Corporate Executive Entrepreneur with a 35+ year record of professional achievement including extensive experience successfully starting up new businesses and rebuilding existing businesses.

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

MMBA – SUNY University at Buffalo School of Management. Buffalo, New York
Diploma in Industrial Mechanics - George Brown College. Toronto, Ontario
Professional Sales Techniques - Sheridan College. Brampton, Ontario
Fluid Power Automation - Mohawk College. Hamilton, Ontario
Certificate of Qualification - Industrial Mechanic/Millwright

CORE COMPETENCIES

Multimillion-dollar negotiations * Strategic Market Positioning * Budget/Sales Forecasting * High-Impact Sales Presentations * Key Partnership Development * Business Creation and Growth Management * Technical Liaison * Dealer Development * Tactical Market Planning * Personnel Management * Domestic and International Business Leader * Innovative Business Plan Development

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TX5 Communications Inc. Milton, Ontario

2021 - present

Owner and President (Semi Retired)

Oversight of day to day operations. Banking, AR/AP, purchasing, HR and customer & supplier/contractor relations.

Key Achievements

- Self-funded, built, staffed and successfully launched a Tier 2 telecommunications equipment installation and service company from initial concept through to day-to-day successful satisfaction of customer expectations inside a compressed timeline of 30 days.
- Developed and successfully launched a zero-debt business plan to service an industry I had no prior experience in.
- 6 service technicians gainfully employed.

M3 Baseball Academy Inc. Milton, Ontario

2018 - 2022

Ownership Partner/Operator and Head Instructor

Overseeing and executing day to day operations. Banking, AR/AP, purchasing, sales, forecasting and facility management. Instructing and mentoring baseball and softball athletes and Coaches. Organizing, scheduling and leading sport specific skill clinics. Structuring and delivering training plans for baseball and softball Associations. Selecting, Mentoring, Training, Supervising and Scheduling Instructors.

Key Achievements

- Built and staffed a greenfield sports training facility.
- Took facility from 43% booking load in 2018 to 98% booking load in 2020/21/22.
- Successfully implemented Covid 19 safety protocols which exceeded Regional Health Department expectations and requirements, all while significantly increasing booking load and profitability.

Rice Tool and Manufacturing Inc. Burlington, Ontario

President (2018 – until Retirement in 2020)

Owner and President (2011 – 2018)

General Manager (2010)

Ultimate responsibility for all elements of running a successful Tier 2 Automotive and Defense Component Manufacturing facility.

Direct responsibility for all facets of Sales including prospecting, qualifying, lead generation, technical component analysis, commercial term analysis, pricing assessment, quote preparation, quote presentation, negotiation, follow up and closure.

Direct responsibility including sourcing, inspecting, runoff, negotiation and purchase of all major assets including machine tools, material handling equipment, compressors, assembly and quality verification equipment.

Oversee and mentor Department Managers for all facility Operations Teams including Maintenance, Engineering, Quality Assurance, Production, Human Resources, AR/AP, Accounting, Purchasing and Shipping.

Management Representative on Plantwide Health and Safety Committee.

Attended various Trade Shows, Industry Specific Seminars and Functions.

Certified Designated Official responsible for collection, review and execution of all sensitive Defense Contracts.

Key Achievements

- Successfully oversaw restructuring and rebuilding of a near bankrupt, failing Tier 2 Automotive and Defense Component Manufacturing facility, thus saving in excess of 50 critical employment opportunities.
- Negotiated terms, contracts and eventual purchase of the company in 2011.
- Restructured pricing model, increased operational efficiencies, personally attracted and hired new Management Team and secured new business to turn the company's financial position from a \$437,000 loss in calendar 2009 to \$109,000 profit in 2010, \$204,000 profit in 2011 and \$848,000 profit in 2012.
- Successfully oversaw the share sale of Rice Tool and Manufacturing Inc. to a much larger Tier 1 Automotive Component manufacturer in 2018.

COMbat Sports Group Inc. Ottawa, Ontario

2008 - 2009

National Brand Manager

Oversight of brand awareness for the softball and baseball products division of a Canadian sporting goods manufacturer. Promotional speaker and athlete ambassador. Athlete on their Men's Open Classification traveling softball team(s). Tasked with building/nurturing relationships with softball associations such as Softball Canada, ASA, USSSA, Softball Ontario, etc. Attended industry trade shows, product launches and promotions. Attended and took part in various promotional opportunities such as 'Homerun Derbies', 'Bat Wars' and Demo Days. Work alongside the product engineering team to help bring the best performing products to market.

Key Achievements

- Envisioned, built, staffed and launched a first-of-its-kind grassroots marketing campaign utilizing amateur athletes.
- To this day this grassroots approach is utilized by numerous peer companies in the sporting goods industry.

DMG CANADA INC., Mississauga, Ontario

Key Accounts Manager (2003-2008)

Regional Sales Manager (2002-2003)

Area Sales Manager (2000-2002)

Oversaw Canadian Key Accounts Division for a worldwide leader in the machine tool industry with annual revenues of \$1.1 Billion. Personal department contribution to the overall sales was in excess of \$24 million yearly. Represented DMG as the commercial and technical liaison with select Corporate Key Accounts in the automotive, aerospace, mold making and defense component manufacturing industries throughout North America, Asia and Europe.

Supervise, schedule and coordinate an engineering and sales team to support key installations in North America, Europe and Asia.

Preparing and delivering presentations to technical staff and senior management of both local and multi-national corporations.

Select, support and monitoring of DMG Canada's 3rd party distributor and agency agreements throughout Eastern Canada.

Generating reports on market analysis, sales forecasts and sales trends.

Key Achievements

- Led the complete turn around of under-performing Eastern Canada market; increased market share from 9% to 68% within a 2-year period.
- As an Area Sales Manager and Regional Sales Manager averaged more than \$4 million USD in annual sales and earned multiple company awards in recognition of performance.
- As Key Accounts Manager developed and implemented a sales plan and strategy that allowed DMG to penetrate a major Tier 1 Automotive manufacturer, generating sales from this one customer in excess of \$18 million USD over a 3 year period, where there had previously been none.



CAHMAC INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY, Toronto, Ontario

Territory Sales Representative (1996-1999)

Machine Tool Dealer

Marketing and sales of CNC machine tools and associated accessories in South-Western Ontario.

Responsible for territory sales, forecasts, market analysis, prospecting, presentations, final negotiations and closing of the sale.

Key Achievements

- Increased territory sales from <\$2 million to \$6.5 million inside of 2 years.
- Consistently ranked #1 in company sales.

ANS INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT LTD., Milton, Ontario

Owner/Operator (1993-1996)

Forklift, AGV and Overhead Crane Service Company

Responsible for all facets of day to day operations including, but not limited to, supervision, scheduling and training of Technical Field Service Technicians in a 24/7 support environment, used forklift and maintenance contract sales, job costing, spare parts ordering, inventory, marketing and sales.

Diagnosis and repair of electronic and mechanical components, preventative maintenance and training of customers.

Key Achievements

- Self-funded, built, staffed and successfully launched a technical service company from initial concept through to day-to-day successful satisfaction of customer expectations.
- Successfully negotiated and saw to eventual completion the sale of the business to a much bigger competitor.

MAGNA INTERNATIONAL, Markham and Milton, Ontario

Millwright/Maintenance Mechanic (1986-1993)

1986-1988: Magna International Developments

1988 - 1993: Karmax/Cosma International

Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright Apprentice and eventual Certified Tradesman: In this capacity I was responsible for production support on hydraulic presses, resistance welding equipment, assembly equipment, overhead cranes, various machine tools, Demag automatic guided vehicles, robots, automation equipment and blanking lines.

Preventative maintenance and steel fabrication as required.

Supervised, mentored and trained apprentices.



Awards and Honours

Canadian National Men's Softball Border Battle Team Alumni (2009)
Multiple Men's Slopitch Softball National Championship Titles
Multiple Men's Slopitch Softball Provincial Championship Titles
2 x Men's Elimination Championship Titles (1996 and 2003)
Named to the initial SPN National Men's Elite Athlete Classification list (1996)
SPO Ontario Softball Hall of Fame Inductee (2017)
Town of Milton Sports Hall of Fame Inductee (2019)
Town of Milton Walk of Fame Inductee (2021)
Identified as future honoree for renaming of a local street within the Town of Milton (TBD)

Community Initiatives

Volunteer Youth Softball and Baseball Coach for over 20 years
PWSA Volunteer 2022 and 2023
PWSA U9/U11 Provincial Coordinator (2023)
Spearheaded a Toy Drive for Halton Women's Place
Alongside my wife, created and oversaw the "Aidan Teague/Mac Kids Charity Softball" Initiative which raised in excess of \$135,000 for McMaster Children's Hospital
Created and oversaw the "Spring Training with The Pro's" Softball Initiative which for 8 years both raised much needed funds for children facing physical challenges as well as collected and disbursed sports equipment for under privileged youth in communities such as Kissimmee, Florida; Henderson, Nevada; Winston Salem, NC. (Received 'Honorary Citizen' and Thank you plaque from the City of Winston-Salem in 2008)
Proud inspirational and guidance mentor and friend to Taylor Duncan, CEO of ABO Baseball, who has recently received partner accreditation with the WBSC.



2023
NEW / NOUVELLES

BUSINESS / AFFAIRES



NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #1

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

To accept the following President elected to the Board of Directors at the 2023 Softball Canada Congress in Niagara Falls, ON.

Scott Neiles

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #2

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

To accept the following Directors elected to the Board of Directors at the 2023 Softball Canada Congress in Niagara Falls, ON.

Robb Andison
Neil Teague

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated



NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #3

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 2023 Softball Canada Congress in Niagara Falls, ON.

- ATHLETE – Brian Paton, ON
- BUILDER – Patricia Sparling, ON
- TEAM – Orioles, ON
- COACH – Rosemary Theriault, ON
- OFFICIAL – Mary de Bruyn, ON

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #4

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

To accept the Rule Changes as passed at the 2023 Rules Workshop

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #5

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That Softball Saskatchewan host the 2024 Softball Canada Congress and AGM in Saskatoon, SK to be held from November 6 – 9, 2024

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated



NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #6

New Business
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the 2023 Softball Canada Congress held in Niagara Falls, ON be adjourned.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: _____ Carried _____ Amended _____ Withdrawn _____ Defeated