

# Softball Canada Congress AND Annual General Meeting

## Congrès et Assemblée générale annuelle de Softball Canada



FREDERICTON, NB  
NOVEMBER 10-12 NOVEMBRE

# 2022



**Softball Canada Congress  
AND  
Annual General Meeting**

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

**November 10-12 Novembre, 2022**

**Fredericton Inn**

Address: 1315 Regent St, Fredericton, NB E3C 1A1

[T] 800.561.8777

**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 2022

## 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



Our PARTNERS .....	2
Congress SCHEDULE .....	3
Hotel FLOOR PLAN .....	4
Host WELCOME Letter .....	5
PRESIDENT’S Report .....	7
CEO Report.....	8
NATIONAL DIRECTOR of UMPIRES Report .....	10
COACHING SERVICES & SAFE SPORT Report .....	14
MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS Report.....	17
CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP Report.....	19
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION Report.....	20
LONG-TERM PLAYER DEVELOPMENT Report.....	21
WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM Report.....	23
PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL Reports .....	25
AUDITOR’S Report .....	74
Softball Canada CONTACTS .....	86
AWARD Recipients .....	89
HALL OF FAME Inductees.....	91
RULES of Assembly for WORKSHOPS .....	93
WORKSHOP Descriptions .....	94
RULES of General ASSEMBLY .....	97
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Agenda .....	98
Notice of MOTIONS.....	100
Special OPERATING Rules .....	103
Nominations for DIRECTORS.....	113
New BUSINESS .....	130

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



# Softball Canada SALUTES

the following corporate partners for 2022

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



# 2022

## Softball Canada Congress SCHEDULE / HORAIRE

### Thursday, November 10

8:30 am - noon	Board of Directors Meeting – <i>Crystal</i>
8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Officiating Development Committee Meeting – <i>Salon E</i>
9:00 am - noon	Staff Forum (SC/PT) – <i>Bicentennial</i>
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Board/Staff Forum (Board, Pres, ED, PT/SC staff) – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Women in Softball (Drop in) – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration, Welcome Reception – <i>Bicentennial</i>

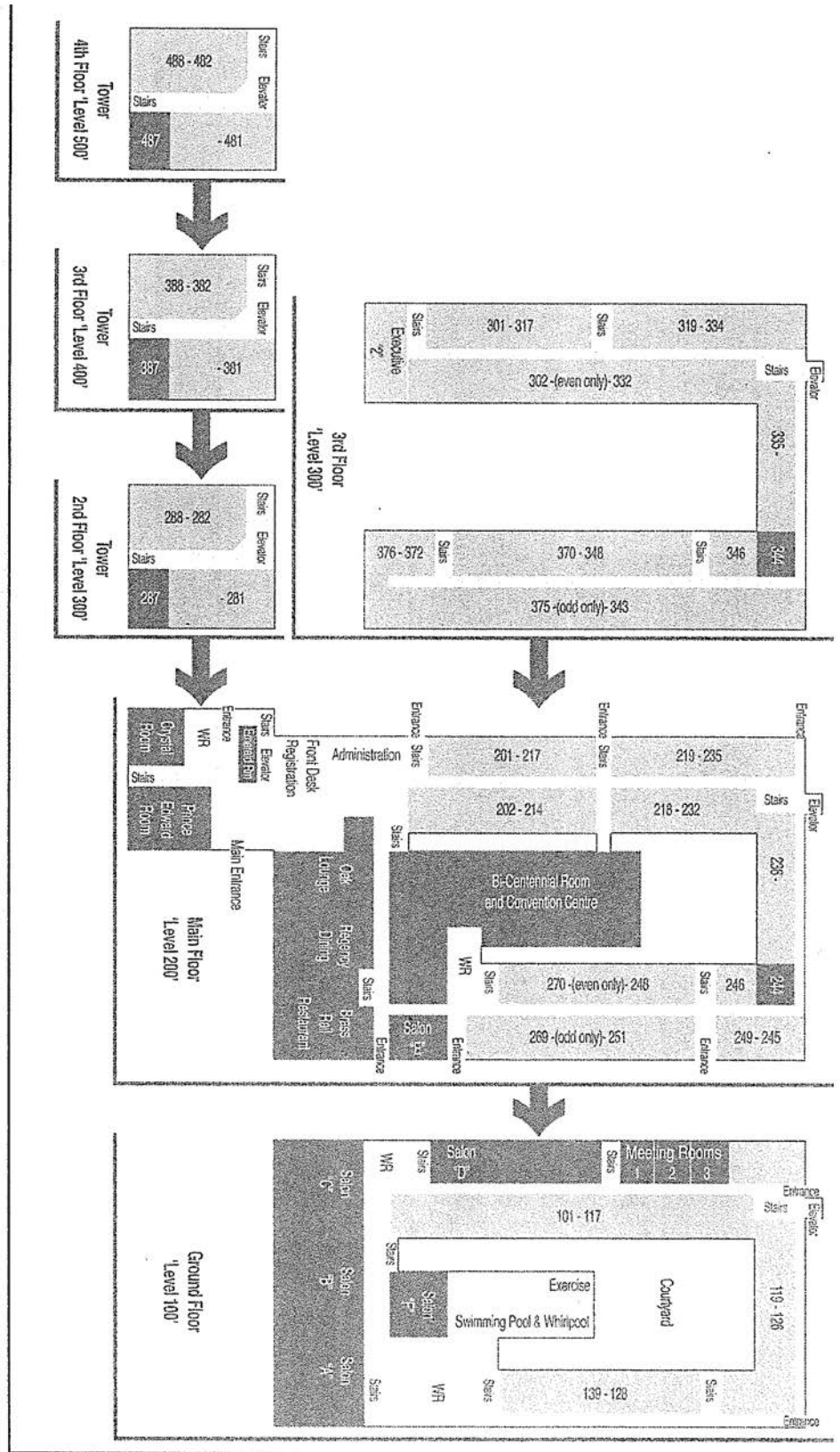
### Friday, November 11

9:00 am - 9:30 am	Kick-off session – report on 2022 and look ahead – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Canadian Championships/SORs – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
10:30 am - 10:45 am	<i>Break</i>
10:45 - noon	Canadian Championships – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
9:30 am - noon	National/Provincial UIC Meeting – <i>Salon A</i>
noon - 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Safe Sport Guest Speaker – Allison Forsyth (All) – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Safe Sport Implementation/Alignment – Steve Indig – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm	National/Provincial UIC Meeting – <i>Salon A</i>
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Bylaws/Governance – Steve Indig – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
7:00 pm (TBD)	NB Night Social

### Saturday, November 12

9:00 am - 11:00 am	DEI – Inclusion INcorporated (all) – <i>Royal Stewart</i>
11:00 am - 11:15 am	<i>Break</i>
11:15 am - noon	A) Minor Rules Review workshop – <i>Royal Stewart</i> B) Slo-Pitch – <i>Bicentennial</i>
11:15 am - noon	National/Provincial UIC Meeting – <i>Salon A</i>
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	AGM – <i>Bicentennial</i>
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cocktail Reception – <i>Bicentennial</i>
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Softball Canada Hall of Fame Banquet – <i>Royal Stewart</i>

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



# 2022

## **Softball Canada Congress** **Message from** **SOFTBALL NEW BRUNSWICK**

On behalf of Softball New Brunswick, we would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you to the province of New Brunswick and the city of Fredericton. This week, we gather on the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet), and Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) peoples. It is with great pleasure that we are host to the first in-person Softball Canada Congress and Annual General meeting since 2019. We encourage you to take advantage of all that Fredericton has to offer during your stay. As your host, we aimed to include elements of New Brunswick and the Maritimes all throughout the congress. Through conversation and workshops this week, we look forward to making further strides towards the advancement of the game of softball across the country.

Sincerely,

Softball New Brunswick



2022

**REPORTS / RAPPORTS**

# 2022

## Softball Canada Congress

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present my annual report on behalf of the Board of Directors of Softball Canada. Hurry up and wait or third times a charm, whatever the slogan you subscribed to the fact remains that we are indeed officially back!

John Stuart and the Men's National Team got us going in April, at the Pan American Championships in Argentina. After an undefeated round robin, the team captured a silver medal falling to the world's #1 ranked home team in the final. Congratulations on a fantastic effort, gentlemen! We look forward to seeing our Men's team do battle this November at the World Championships in New Zealand!

With a revamped staff, Coach Kaleigh Rafter and our Women's National program hit the ground running with a combination of speaking engagements, ID camps, exhibition tours, that were followed up by the Canada Cup and World Games. No doubt a very busy schedule for our rookie head coach and her young squad. While the results on the diamond were not quite what we had hoped for, it was the buzz off the field that created the real excitement. It was incredibly refreshing to hear so many positive comments about the Women's National Team attending camps, clinics and speaking engagements in an effort to help grow our game!

Canadian Championships and Canada Games kept us hopping during the summer months. After a 2-year hiatus, the wait to get back on the diamond in all categories finally arrived. Thank you to all our hosts, supervisors and umpires that made the return of our Championships a successful one! Congratulations and thank you to all the umpires, coaches and volunteers who represented us both domestically and internationally this year.

While we officially said goodbye to our long time CEO Hugh Michener this past spring, we welcomed in a new CEO - Mike Branchaud. A special thank you to Hugh for all his continued availability which enables us to help break in the new kid. While Mike has done an incredible job of stepping into his new position, he has also gone above and beyond - doing double duty completing many of his previous responsibilities. Thank you to Mike and the staff that helped assist during this time of transition. I would like to thank the entire staff: Gilles, Angela, Donna, Kristin, Melissa & Christine, for their continued hard work and support.

Thank you to all our volunteer committees: The Officiating Development Committee, Coaching Development Committee, Long Term Player Development, Canpitch, and so many others - with your commitment to our game, you enable Softball Canada to continue to be a world leader in our sport. To our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team, we are grateful for the work you have done and continue to do in making softball a welcome and inclusive space for participants across Canada.

To the Board of Directors: Jackie, Ryan, Robb, Andrea, Brooks, Scott, & Bob, thank you for your time and effort in helping make our sport a safe and inclusive environment for all to play and learn this great game both on and off the field.

Special thanks to Scott Willis and the Softball New Brunswick AGM committee. Your patience and determined effort to host this year's event is truly appreciated!

I strongly encourage everyone to read all the staff/committee reports as presented in this new "online" edition of Softball Canada's annual report.

As always, it was great to catch up with many of you in person, virtually, or by phone in a continued effort to make sure we are sharing knowledge in hopes that we will continue to do things just a little bit better each day!

My sincere thanks,

Scott Neiles  
Softball Canada President



# 2022

## Softball Canada Congress

### CEO REPORT

Welcome back! After 2 long years of running minimal programming and events, it sure was great to get back on the diamonds across the country. With a full slate of 12 Canadian Championships plus the Canada Summer Games for both the Men and Women, it truly was important for our sport to see the athletes, coaches, parents, spectators and umpires back on the diamonds. Thank you to the many host committee members and volunteers who made that happen.

Our Women's National Team was back after their Olympic bronze medal with a new younger look under Head Coach Kaleigh Rafter as several veteran players retired after the Tokyo Olympics. The team had a selection camp with exhibition games against the Netherlands in Ontario leading up to the Canada Cup in Surrey, BC. After the Canada Cup, they continued with exhibition games in Saskatchewan against the Czech Republic leading to the World Games in Alabama. With a 6th place finish this year at the Worlds, the team showed a high level of talent throughout the summer with a keen eagerness to learn. The Coaching staff is looking forward to the future with the core group of young players. Next stop is the Pan American Championship and Qualifier this November in Guatemala.

We have named a Coaching Staff for the Junior Women's National Team and the staff has scouted players this past year. Softball Canada will have open identification camps next year to help with the selection process.

This past April, our Men's National Team participated in the Pan American Championships in Argentina, and their silver medal winning performance guaranteed a spot in the upcoming World Cup this November in Auckland, New Zealand. While in Argentina, the team went 7-1 overall with the only loss being a 4-1 score against defending World Champions Argentina in front of over 10,000 hometown fans.

The U23 Men's team participated in a camp in Florida in April. The U23 Qualifier was awarded to Venezuela and with the Government of Canada issuing the highest warning against travel to Venezuela, it was decided not to attend the Qualifier. Softball Canada has followed up with a letter to the WBSC with hopes of receiving a wild card birth to participate in the World Cup. Originally, the World Cup was scheduled for Argentina in October, but it was postponed and we are waiting for confirmation on dates/locations and if we will receive the wild card birth.

Currently, there is no update on the U18 Men's event as there is hope for both a Qualifier and World Cup in 2023. The Coaching staff spent considerable time scouting various events and the Canadian Championships to help identify players. There were also open ID camps spread out across Canada to help gather information to help the selection process with over 100 athletes attending the camps.

2022 saw the highest numbers ever for NCCP certifications as we were privileged to have in-person coaching clinics once again. Thanks to the Coaching Development Committee for their work in building our coaches.

Softball Canada continues to make Safe Sport a priority in raising awareness for our athletes and teams. We will be part of the Abuse Free Sport Initiative and working with the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner for complaints moving forward.

Our ODC continues 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. Thank you to our ODC members Scott, Sandra, Brent, Don, Genevieve, Frankie and our National Director of Umpires, Jeff Whipple.

Softball Canada continues to use as many tools as we possibly can to promote our sport and share news via social media platforms. Our PSA maintains a huge presence



on both local and national tv channels. I know personally I have seen our tv ad pop up on various channels throughout the year.

Timbits Softball experienced yet another successful year distributing over 16,000 t-shirts and medals to associations across Canada. A new e-learning module for volunteers will be released spring of 2023!

LTPD launched a useful tool for Local Associations, allowing them to find practical ways of using LTPD principles in their own communities. The committee began work on the Male Gold Medal Profile and the creation of a Skills Assessment tool which are both currently in development.

Canpitch saw the achievement of the Pitching Instruction - Beginner context receiving full approval from the Coaching Association of Canada. The group also completed new program materials and looks forward to implementing this new information in their fall and winter clinics.

An area of focus for Softball Canada has been Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Our team of dedicated volunteers has been helping to steer positive change within the organization and softball community and we look forward to working alongside the DEI team as we continue to create an inclusive softball environment for all.

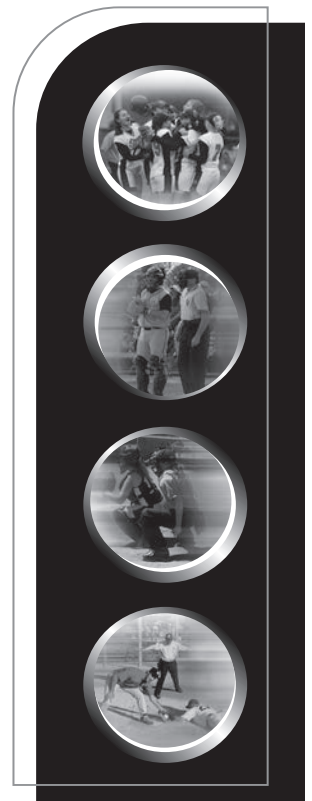
Over the last few years, many draft budgets and forecasts were completed only to be re done weeks and months later. This created lots of uncertainty and finances were incredibly hard to manage during the Covid period. We did have a surplus this year, however we are now using the surplus to catch up on cancelled and postponed events moving forward.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Board of Directors lead by President Scott Neiles, consisting of Jackie Dugger, Ryan DeBelser, Andrea Wolf, Brooks Penrod, Robb Andison, Scott Searle and Bob Stanton for their efforts and support in our programming and planning. Our Softball Canada staff have been working tirelessly this season and I thank them for their efforts in getting back on the diamonds. Gilles LeBlanc, Angela Ballantyne, Donna Ozarko, Kristin Noonan, Christine Robertson, and Melissa McKinnon have all contributed to growing our game. I encourage everyone to read each of their reports as I have only touched on a few highlights from their program areas. I want to end by thanking our former CEO Hugh Mitchener, who played a vital role in supporting me throughout my career at Softball Canada and was also, and continues to be, a mentor I can lean on in my current role.

Respectively submitted

Mike Branchaud

CEO





# 2022

## Softball Canada Congress NDU REPORT

It has been a journey, but 2022 felt a lot more “normal” after the challenges of the previous two years. As our communities continue to meet the challenge of life in a pandemic, sport and art have played a huge role in our collective societal recovery.

### Return to Competition

The return of Canadian Championships provided an opportunity to not just take on the challenge of competition but enjoy the company of the many friends we had been missing. Running a full slate of Canadian Championships for the first time in three years presented some challenges in terms of crew staffing for a few events, but several of our provincial and territorial partners stepped up with extra support. In total, 128 umpires worked the 11 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 are born out on the data provided from the post-event umpire surveys. While we continue to collect data from some events, over 97% of umpires who have reported agree that their Canadian Championship was a positive and enjoyable experience.

We were also excited to see both Men’s and Women’s softball as part of the Canada Summer Games in Niagara. We tweaked our appointment process this year to lift the overall level of the crew. However, due to challenges with both injury and illness, we were forced to work two umpire crews for part of the women’s event – an unacceptable outcome for such a high-profile event. We have committed to ensuring sufficient staffing numbers at the next Canada Summer Games.

10

### The Recovery Continues

Registration numbers continue to rebound from the crash of 2020. Many thanks to a select group of umpires from our provincial and territorial partners who, under the leadership of ODC member Frankie Billingsley, have worked diligently to design and deliver recruitment and retention initiatives at the regional and local levels. While we remain short of pre-pandemic numbers, we have almost doubled our registrations in the last two years, recovering almost 1300 umpires to the program.

### 2022 Umpire Registration Numbers

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alberta	401	83	263	330
Manitoba	244	146	141	168
Saskatchewan	383	128	194	342
Newfoundland	133	33	62	140
Ontario	1,273	380	354	713
British Columbia	766	366	405	505
Nova Scotia	88	18	71	80
Quebec	301	207	285	255
Yukon	0	0	0	16
PEI	28	25	35	39
NWT	22	15	22	27
New Brunswick	109	39	118	109
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3748</b>	<b>1440</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>2724</b>

### Blue Convention 2022, er...2023!

Unfortunately, the pandemic situation last winter forced our hand to postpone our flagship event of our national umpire program, Blue Convention. While disappointing for sure, it was the right, and smart, thing to do.

Fortunately, we have been able to reschedule Blue Convention to 2023, with the program plans largely intact. Look for a large group of umpires to come together in Winnipeg April 6-8! We hope the challenges of the past couple of years will entice and encourage more people to join us for learning, connecting, and celebrating!



We are also pleased to announce that Blue Convention 2025 has been awarded to the Alberta Softball Umpires Association and will be held in Calgary in April 2025!

### **Steady at the Helm**

Congratulations to Don Farr (Comox, BC), Frankie Billingsley (Aurora, ON), and Scott McLaren (Penticton, BC) who have been reappointed to two-year terms on the Officiating Development 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 UICs/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 have been granted Level IV certification.

### **Fast Pitch**

Mackenzie Campbell, Stratford, ON; Jenn Johnston, St Thomas, ON; Jordan Guberman, Winnipeg, MB; Shawn Brant, Victoria, BC; Ryan Quanz, Montréal, QC; Elodie Doucet, Laval, QC; Martin Robitaille, Quebec, QC; Paul Cormier, Keswick, ON; Jason Maas, Whitby, ON; Troy Schwartz, Winnipeg, MB; Corey Barrett, Westlock, AB; Tylor Gamble, Whitby, ON; Wade Wile, Halifax, NS

### **Slo-Pitch**

JR Simpson, Saskatoon, SK; Marcus Peck, Oromocto, NB; Frank Humphries, Chapeau, QC

### **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 the core of our UICs/DUICs at Canadian Championships.

To be considered for a Level V appointment an umpire must be a fully certified Level IV, 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 2022 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**

Pat Chiquette, St. Hyacinthe, QC; Jeff McKay, Brantford, ON; Shawn Miller, Duncan, BC

### **Fast Pitch**

Steve Gallagher, Cobourg, ON; Audrey Desmarteaux-Houle, Ottawa, ON; Kearney O'Keefe, St. John's NL

### **New International Faces**

After a two-year delay due to Covid, we are excited to celebrate that seven of our newest Level V certified umpires were successful in obtaining their WBSC certification at an international umpire certification seminar held in Oklahoma City in July.

Congratulation to Emma Jerome Smith (AB), Kris Hartley (AB), Ryan Webber (AB), Justin Van Horn (ON), Diego La Manna (QC), Ron Campbell (NB), and Mike French (PE).

Our thanks go out to USA Softball for hosting the event and the WBSC for their support of our umpires.

### **The World Awaits!**

With international events opening again, we can recognize several Softball Canada umpires attending international events in the last few months.

- Mike Morrissey (ON) & Scott McLaren (BC) – WBSC Americas Men's Qualifier, Parana, ARG
- Annie Michaud (QC) – World Games / WBSC Women's WC, Birmingham, AL

- Darren Gerrior (NS) – European Women’s FP Championships, Italy & European Men’s FP Championships, Prague, CZ (Softball Europe Exchange)
- Mark Heagle (ON) – European Men’s SP Championships, Italy (Softball Europe Exchange)
- Gary Barnes (AB) – European Co-Ed SP Championship, Slovakia (Softball Europe Exchange)
- David Jones (ON) & Jeff Butler (NS) – Border Battle, Oklahoma City

#### **Upcoming events for the fall/winter include:**

- Laura MacMillan (BC) & Marni Bodnarchuk (BC) – WBSC Americas Pan Am Women’s Championships, Guatemala, November
- Scott McLaren (BC) & Genevieve Gaudreau (QC) – WBSC Men’s World Cup, New Zealand, November
- Frank Fargey (MB) – Softball Australia Men’s & U23 Men’s Championships (Softball Australia Exchange), January 2023

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 encourage the development of umpires around the world by modelling excellence on the field.

#### **Celebration!**

Youth are the future for our program, our sport, and our world. We are blessed to have many amazing young people in our program, and we are honoured to support two young scholar-umpires each year as they pursue their post-secondary studies through the Ed Bitz Scholarship, named in honour of Canada’s first national Umpire-in-Chief.

Congratulations to the 2022 recipients, Kelsey Forrest (Winnipeg, MB) and Jordan Rock (Prince Albert, SK). A Level III umpire in her 6th year of umpiring, Kelsey is in her first year of the Science program at the University of Manitoba with a career goal in medicine. Jordan is completing his fourth year of an Environmental Biology program at the University of Regina, started umpiring 10 years ago and is currently a Level III official. Funds to support the Ed Bitz Scholarship come solely from a fundraising auction and donations from the instructional teams at Blue Convention.

12

We are also blessed with great leaders in our program, people who step up and give of their time and expertise to support their fellow umpires and the sport in general. Two of these leaders, who are always ready to pitch in and make the sport experience the best it can be for others, are recognized annually with the Home Run Sports National Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch Umpire of the Year awards.

Patrick Chiquette, who is recognized as the 2022 National Slo-Pitch Umpire of the Year, serves as a member of the umpire development committee for Softball Quebec and has taken a leading role in recruiting, training, and mentoring Slo-Pitch umpires in the province. Pat also serves as Umpire in Chief and President of the Richelieu-Yamaska Region for Softball Quebec and holds a leading role on a committee leading a successful revitalization of Slo-Pitch under the Softball Quebec banner. On the field, Pat had a banner year, culminating in his appointment as a Level V umpire after a highly successful performance at the Canadian Men’s Slo-Pitch Championships in Surrey, BC.

The 2022 National Fast Pitch Umpire of the Year is Ron “Soupy” Campbell. As the Umpire-in-Chief for Softball New Brunswick, Ron has led a renewal of the provincial program through a strong recruitment and training campaign. Visible and engaged at clinics across the province and in development camps held at various tournaments, Ron is highly involved in recruitment and education programming for youth umpires. He works closely with Softball New Brunswick leadership to support the development of the sport across the province. Ron had a busy summer on the diamond as well, successfully completing his international certification at a WBSC Seminar in Oklahoma City in June. Ron then went on to appear in two Canadian Championships, the Men’s Fast Pitch in St. John’s, NL after he filled in to support the crew at the U19 Women’s Fast Pitch in Fredericton, NB earlier in August.

#### **Odds ‘n Ends**

- Working with our official uniform supplier at Home Run Sports, we have been able to introduce both men’s and women’s fit pants as part of our official kit. This has been a goal for a long time and was made possible by adopting a new shade of grey pants. While we have elected to phase in the new pants over two years, we anticipate that the widespread adoption and manufacturer’s commitment to the product will mean a stable supply for the next several years.
- With the adoption of the WBSC format rule book this year, our team is now busy updating the many reference and education documents, including the NOCP clinic manuals and the Casebook. We hope to have these projects completed by the 2023 season.
- We continue to see interest in on-line and blended clinic environments. These include not just our national Level IV and I/E clinics, but many local and provincial level NOCP and general clinics. Kudos to ODC member Brent Chadwick and the many provincial and territorial education leaders who have worked hard to adapt to these new delivery opportunities.

## **Shout Outs!**

Softball Canada is a world class organization and that begins with 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 the 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, Andrea Wolf (SK) has proven to be invaluable in supporting our program over the past several years. She 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.

Finally, we want to also recognize two very important people. First, our very own Bob Stanton retired from the role as WBSC Director of Umpiring at the end of August. Bob held the role since 2008 and is considered the face of international softball for all participants. His fair, easy-going manner and depth of knowledge and experience places everyone at ease and he will be hugely missed on the international stage. We are honoured to call Bob one of our own.

Lastly, a HUGE personal thank you to recently retired Softball Canada CEO Hugh Mitchener. I can't understate the huge amount of behind-the-scenes support Hugh has offered to our program over my past nine years as NDU - and well before that! Our program continues to be world class because he always paved a road for development of projects, initiatives, and opportunities that we identified as important. On a personal note, I want to offer my thanks for his willingness to pick up the phone, have a chat, and offer wise counsel on so many occasions. Our umpire program, and our sport, owe him a debt that would be impossible to repay.

I look forward to welcoming you all here at the AGM in my hometown of Freddy Beach!

Yours in softball,

Jeff Whipple

National Director of Umpires



# Coaching Services & Safe Sport REPORT

## YEAR AT A GLANCE

After two years with limited coaching clinics, 2022 has been the highest numbers for Softball's NCCP! We thank the Provincial/Territorial Softball Associations for their continued support in coach education and certification, and our coaches for continuing to develop our softball players across Canada. We are also thankful to the PTs and Local Associations for continuing to promote and provide a safe and welcoming softball environment for everyone to enjoy.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- U13/U15/U17 Coaches Guides available free online
- Release of Hybrid Competition-Introduction and Community Coach NCCP clinics
- 360 NCCP events (clinics/evaluations) held, with 2700 Coaches in attendance
- 2000+ Coaches completed FOCS Part 1 and 1100+ completed Part 2
- Online Evaluations completed for Canada Games Coaches
- Over 3000 Safe Sport Stress Balls given out across Canada
- Jeff Fraser wins the 2022 Coach of the Year award!

## COACHING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)

Softball Canada would like to thank the following CDC members for another year of hard work and dedication in the development of our Coaching Programs.

Terry Baytor (Chair)  
Gord Collings  
Marc Dagenais

Scott Searle (Board Liaison)  
Mark Loehndorf  
Stacy Blois

Mike Renney  
Mark Quinn  
Shirley Nepean

Softball Canada appreciates all the time and expertise these members devote to this committee, continually giving back to coaching and the sport of softball.

## NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

**NCCP Clinics** - Clinic season 2022 was the busiest softball has ever had. With limited clinics the previous two years, plus Canada Games, many coaches required training and certification. To date in 2022, 366 events (clinics/evaluations) were held, with 2776 coaches in attendance. Foundations of Coaching Softball (FOCS) Part 1 was completed by 2001 coaches, and FOCS Part 2, 1162 coaches. With a free code provided during National Coaches Week, this number increased as well, helping more coaches reach the minimum coaching standard in Canada. Since the release of the hybrid pathways this year, 50% of the Comp-Intro clinics that were offered were hybrid, and 46% of the Community Softball Coach clinics offered were hybrid. PTs will continue to be able to offer both pathways based on what works best for them and their coaches. In 2023, Competition-Development will also be held in a hybrid format making it easier for coaches to achieve the training, with only needing to attend one weekend in person. Being the first time all Canada Games Coaches needed to be Comp-Dev Certified, 56 Comp-Dev Evaluations (Portfolio, Practice and Game) took place in 2022, using both the in-person and online format.

**Master Coach Developer (MCD) Meeting** - The 2021 MCD Meeting was held virtually November 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> over zoom. Saturday focused on a Coaching update, the new Hybrid Clinics, and current covid situations with NCCP delivery, while Sunday covered the proposed new Comp-Dev pathway and rotation, and the Coach Development Framework. Both days ended with Professional Development that was open to everyone across Canada. Allison Forsyth (Olympian) spoke about her story of sexual abuse and Safe Sport today, and Bryce Tully (Olympic Mental Performance Coach) about enhancing your team's results using social, emotional, and psychological strategies. The 2022 MCD meeting will be held in Halifax, November 26-27<sup>th</sup> and will have a technical focus at the Canada Games Centre, as well as professional development in mental health and diversity, equity, and inclusion. MCDs will also discuss feedback on the hybrid pathways and topics relating to their role within softball's NCCP.

## NATIONAL COACHES WEEK



September 17-25<sup>th</sup> marked the eighth annual National Coaches Week, a week made to celebrate the tremendous positive impact coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada. Softball players and parents sent in messages of thanks to their coaches to celebrate across social media, and the Foundations of Coaching Softball Part 1 and Part 2 eLearning modules were offered for free throughout the week. Softball Canada is grateful for the integral role coaches play in our sport and in the development of our players, from grassroots to high performance. #ThanksCoach #MerciCoach

## HOME RUN SPORTS COACH OF THE YEAR

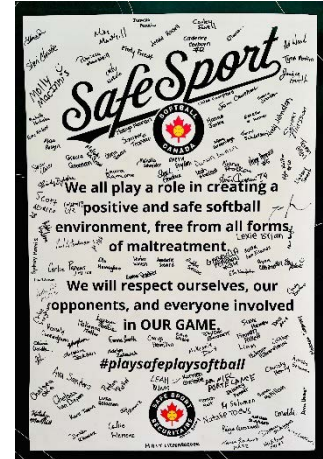
Softball Canada would like to congratulate Jeff Fraser from Upper Nine Mile River, NS., as the 2022 Home Run Sports Coach of the Year! Fraser has been coaching for over 20 years, most recently as the Head Coach with Team Nova Scotia for the 2022 Canada Summer Games. Fraser is known for maintaining a high level of respect and integrity on and off the field, creating a culture where his players are not just a team, but a 'family'.

Fraser is a meticulous practice planner ensuring that training sessions are relevant, activity-filled and engaging, wasting no time in developing his players. The recent success of Team Nova Scotia at the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Grimsby is proof of his premier development and coaching ability. Many of his athletes had the best performances of their softball careers, going a perfect 8-0 record through the round robin, followed by an 8-1 win over Team Ontario in the 1 vs 2 playoff game. Although the gold medal game didn't go as planned against that same Team Ontario, Team Nova Scotia walked away with a silver medal, the first one for the province at the Games in over 20 years.

Fraser guarantees that he gets the best out of his players and has taught them to not only be their best for every game, but also as a person. He is a positive role model for other coaches, encouraging them and their players to come watch his training sessions. He has also instilled the need to give back by having Team Nova Scotia join in with younger teams, knowing the impact they have on inspiring young players and the future of softball. This dedication and lifelong commitment to the game has made Fraser the honourable recipient of the 2022 Home Runs Sports Coach of the Year Award. Congratulations!

## SAFE SPORT

Softball Canada continues to make safe sport a priority, raising awareness both on and off the diamond. Softball Canada's Safe Sport tents were set up at multiple events and Canadian Championships this summer. Safe Sport stress balls, cold packs, post cards, and stickers were given out, along with True Sport swag, and NT player cards. Participants were also encouraged to sign the Safe Sport Pledge playing their role in creating a positive softball environment. Backstop signs continued to be available through the PTs and through the Softball Canada website. Prior to the season, PTs also received Safe Sport Stress Balls to give away, and will be given Safe Sport Hats next season. Softball Canada continues to mandate CAC's Safe Sport Training and our own Safe Sport Onboarding, and will be working with Abuse Free Sport and the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC), Canada's new independent mechanism for complaints in sport.



## FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Release new Competition-Development Coaching Manual
- Host Competition-Development Hybrid Clinics
- Create Softball's Coach Development Framework
- Create National Safe Sport sanction database

# Marketing/Communications REPORT

Excitement was in the air this summer as softball returned to full participation on diamonds across the country. The Women’s National Team went through a transition year following the retirement of half their Olympic bronze medal roster, but their Celebration Tour was a resounding success with various stops in Ontario (Guelph, Oshawa and Brampton) and Saskatchewan (Prince Albert, Melfort and Saskatoon) with the annual Canada Cup in Surrey, BC sandwiched between them to recognize the team’s accomplishments in 2021.

The Celebration Tour also introduced the Canadian softball community to **ANJO** the moose! Follow @anjoadventures on Instagram as he makes his way across softball diamonds and landmarks across Canada and the World!



## SOCIAL MEDIA

We were fortunate to have an intern this summer to help develop some social media content to promote our teams, events, programs, and partners. Our followers have stabilized across our three major social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

2022	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
<b>Followers</b>	13,158	16,635	13,039
<b>Posts</b>	211	466	201
<b>Reach</b>	1,308,260	1,828,311	454,044
<b>Engagement</b>	38,231	52,672	20,329

Our communications strategy will continue to focus on creating appealing content on social media, as this has taken over as the main source of information.



The biggest highlight of the summer – along with the return of the Canadian Championships – was the Canada Summer Games held in Niagara.

The competition on the field was fantastic with the top U19 female athletes and U22 male athletes putting on an excellent showcase for our sport in a multisport event. We introduced a format with two pools on the Women’s side and saw a pair of three-way ties at the top of each pool, highlighting the parity among our provincial high-performance programs. The Men’s competition was also very compelling, with a few teams showing improvement from 2017 and as many as six teams in the playoff hunt until the end.

Congratulations to our medallists Team BC (Gold), l’Équipe du Québec (Silver) and Team Ontario (Bronze) in Women’s softball, and Team Ontario (Gold), Team Nova Scotia (Silver) and Team Saskatchewan (Bronze) in Men’s softball for their outstanding performances!



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Softball Canada's Public Service Announcement (PSA) once again had a successful run in 2022, drawing another \$1.5M in confirmed air-time value on television networks across Canada. Since launching its first PSA in 2008, Softball Canada has received a total confirmed value of nearly \$15M through this initiative.

## PARTNERSHIPS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our current partners who support our programs. We really appreciate the openness and support they continue to provide to our sport.

A special thanks goes to Jason Shipley and Randy Beatty at Rawlings Canada. We work with them on a regular basis with Rawlings being the Official Equipment Supplier of our National Teams, the Official Ball of our Canadian Championships as well as many other projects that continue to strengthen our relationship. On top of everything they do at the national level, Rawlings has also been an excellent supporter for our Provincial and Territorial Associations and we can't thank them enough for how invested they are in our sport.



18

We also want to recognize and thank Dave Bartlett and Adam Vella from Mizuno Canada, the Official On-Field Apparel Sponsor for our Women's National Teams. Softball Canada's relationship with Mizuno is long-standing and their support has been nothing short of outstanding. They have gone above and beyond in marketing our athletes and our sport, and we appreciate all of the work they have put into promoting our partnership.

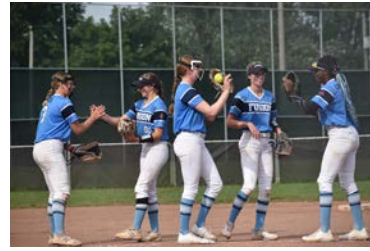
Home Run Sports has also been a very valuable partner and their level of commitment to Softball Canada has been tremendous. They have handled our Umpire Apparel program for a number of years and have been running our Softball Canada Online Store to sell branded merchandise, in addition to a number of other offerings that have helped us generate revenue.



# Tim Hortons®

Our Timbits Softball program grew significantly since we partnered with Tim Hortons in 2014, leading to an increase in their financial commitment with the goal to provide free t-shirts to all participants. We are extremely proud to have the opportunity to work with an iconic Canadian brand that puts so much of its sponsorship resources into minor sports, and seeing those resources go directly to our grassroots associations.

# Canadian Championship REPORT



## 2022 Canadian Championships in Review

Softball Canada was pleased to have 155 teams participate in 12 Canadian Championships across the country after the Covid-19 outbreak forced their cancellation in 2020 & 2021. We extend our gratitude to all the event hosts, volunteers, participants, coaches, and umpires from coast to coast who contributed to another successful championship season.

<b>U15 GIRL'S</b> AUGUST 3-7th Saskatoon, SK  <b>21 TEAMS</b> <b>278 PLAYERS</b> <b>85 GAMES</b>
9 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, QC, ON, NL, NB, PEI
<b>GOLD: BC SILVER: BC BRONZE: ON</b>

<b>U15 BOY'S</b> AUGUST 3-7th Wilmot, ON  <b>8 TEAMS</b> <b>108 PLAYERS</b> <b>35 GAMES</b>
4 Provinces: SK, QC, ON, NL
<b>GOLD: ON SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON</b>

**QUICK HITS:**

- # Teams: 155
- # Players: 2359
- # Fields: 28
- # Total Games: 658
- # Province's: BC [24], AB [19], SK [23], MB [12], QC [10], ON [46], NS [7], NL [7], NB [5], PEI [3]

<b>U17 GIRL'S</b> AUGUST 17-21ST Montreal, QC  <b>24 TEAMS</b> <b>325 PLAYERS</b> <b>84 GAMES</b>
8 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, QC, ON, NB, PEI
<b>GOLD: BC SILVER: BC BRONZE: BC</b>

<b>U17 BOY'S</b> AUGUST 10-14th Saskatoon, SK  <b>8 TEAMS</b> <b>111 PLAYERS</b> <b>35 GAMES</b>
4 Provinces: SK, MB, ON, NB
<b>GOLD: ON SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON</b>

AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 4TH St. John's, NL	
<b>MEN'S:</b> <b>12 TEAMS</b> <b>183 PLAYERS</b> <b>40 GAMES</b>	<b>MASTER MEN'S:</b> <b>6 TEAMS</b> <b>105 PLAYERS</b> <b>19 GAMES</b>
7 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, NS, NL	6 Provinces: AB, SK, MB, ON, NS, NL
<b>GOLD: NL SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON</b>	<b>GOLD: SK SILVER: NL BRONZE: NS</b>

<b>U19 WOMEN'S</b> JULY 26-31 Fredericton, NB  <b>17 TEAMS</b> <b>238 PLAYERS</b> <b>65 GAMES</b>
8 Provinces: BC, AB, MB, QC, ON, NL, NB, PEI
<b>GOLD: BC SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON</b>

<b>U20 MEN'S</b> AUGUST 2-7th Napanee, ON  <b>8 TEAMS</b> <b>121 PLAYERS</b> <b>35 GAMES</b>
4 Provinces: SK, QC, ON, NS
<b>GOLD: ON SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON</b>

AUGUST 7-13th Surrey, BC	
<b>WOMEN'S:</b> <b>16 TEAMS</b> <b>273 PLAYERS</b> <b>90 GAMES</b>	<b>MEN'S:</b> <b>20 TEAMS</b> <b>338 PLAYERS</b> <b>103 GAMES</b>
6 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, NS	6 Provinces: BC, AB, SK, QC, ON, NS
<b>GOLD: BC SILVER: ON BRONZE: ON</b>	<b>GOLD: AB SILVER: BC BRONZE: BC</b>

<b>WOMEN'S</b> AUGUST 10-14th Saskatoon, SK  <b>8 TEAMS</b> <b>124 PLAYERS</b> <b>35 GAMES</b>
4 Provinces: AB, SK, QC, ON
<b>GOLD: AB SILVER: SK BRONZE: SK</b>

<b>U23 MEN'S</b> AUGUST 2-7th Carp, ON  <b>7 TEAMS</b> <b>105 PLAYERS</b> <b>32 GAMES</b>
4 Provinces: SK, QC, ON, NL
<b>GOLD: ON SILVER: ON BRONZE: SK</b>



# 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.

Over the course of the last year, the Softball Canada DEI team has been able to move forward on several of the teams specified action plan items (see more here: <https://softball.ca/dei/action>). There have been valuable conversations and a consistent desire to continue to move forward in creating safe and inclusive spaces for those participating in softball. We look forward to continuing this work

### 2022 AT A GLANCE

- Monthly DEI Team calls
- Partnership with Inclusion Incorporated
- DEI policies are publicly available on the SC website
- Dissemination of the Belonging Metric – Inclusion Index to be circulated to a larger membership group fall 2022 to gain additional demographic information and feelings of belonging within the softball community
- Moving away from add on DEI policies with the creation of a Participation Policy that would be leading the way in terms of Canadian NSO's
- Pride Shirts available for purchase on the SC store with the SC Pride logo
- Pride Buttons developed and produced to give focus to areas in which SC is working to be more inclusive with the 2SLGBTQI+ community
- Women of Softball Summit 2022 – focus on supporting female leadership at the Podium Pathway level
- Softball Canada's budget includes specific funds directed towards DEI dedicated initiatives
- Social media posts-highlighting numerous DEI initiatives, events, and community members
- Orange shirts available for purchase through SC store to support and highlight not only Orange Shirt Day but also Indigenous Heritage Month. Profits from the sale of these shirts will go to support DEI initiatives
- Updated registration forms to be able to include Gender Identity & Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification
- Multiple DEI centered educational opportunities both through Inclusion Incorporated & Jays Care directed at P/T staff & board members as well as SC board & staff
- DEI workshop to be held at the 2022 AGM
- Updated multiple SC documents to include gender neutral language
- Partnering with Sport for Life and Aboriginal Sport Circle on two Indigenous centered initiatives with regards to building relationships

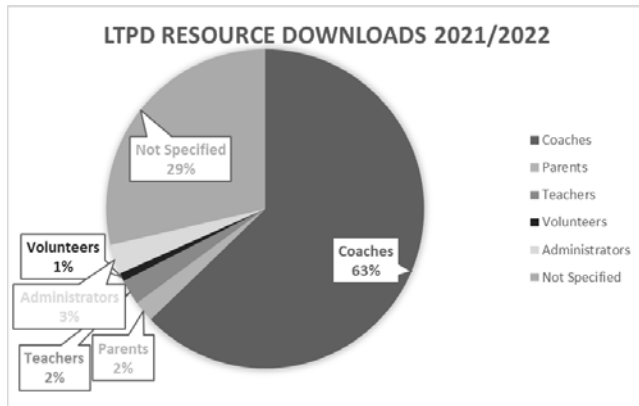
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## SPECIAL THANKS

- Matt Allen
- Andrew Castiglione
- Yvonne Constant
- Brent Foote
- Jennipher Gee
- Rebecca Goudy
- Alexis Huggart
- Terry Klein
- Patrick Leask
- Kalli MacIntosh-Houder
- Johanna Malisani
- Sarah Manfred
- Angela Ballantyne
- J.R. Simpson
- Shahrukh Towheed
- Dane Woodland
- Kareena Zanolli
- Scott Neiles
- Scott Searle
- Gilles LeBlanc

# Long Term Player Development Program REPORT

ANGELA BALLANTYNE, MANAGER - LTPD PROGRAMS



## LTPD

LTPD Programs continue to develop. The Male Gold Medal Profile & Skill Assessment Program are still in the midst of development and data collection. The committee will continue to consult on these as well as additional projects. Thanks to the LTPD committee for their continued support and feedback on the development of softball within Canada.

## CANPITCH

Canpitch had another successful year of program updates. The new program material will be launched for fall PIB clinics. A special thanks goes to the Canpitch committee, Softball BC, Softball ON & Softball QC for their help with this very large program update.

After many years of hard work the Instruction Beginner - Pitching context developed by the Canpitch committee was given full approval by the CAC. Congratulations on this well earned milestone.

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- 185+ Local Associations order Timbits T-shirts
- Timbits Manual available online
- Male Gold Medal Profile data collection begins
- Quality Softball Program Indicator Tool launches
- Updated Canpitch videos complete and ready for 2022/2023 season clinics
- Instruction Beginner – Pitching context fully approved by the CAC



**13,000 +**

Timbits t-shirts & medals distributed

**40**

New users to the Quality Softball Program Indicator Tool

**230+**

LTPD resource downloads



## TIMBITS SOFTBALL

- 13,000+ shirts distributed to over 185 associations
- Timbits e-learning in final stages of development and will be launched 2023 season
- Participant medals provided by Tim Hortons
- Online manual launched in April 2022 - available through the Softball Canada website

## CONCUSSION EDUCATION



This year, Softball Canada in partnership with Larissa Franklin & Todd Cadenhead, produced and launched a set of 3 videos focused on concussion awareness and education.

Softball Canada also supported concussion prevention and the Slo-pitch community by distributing helmets to all teams participating in the Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships in Surrey, BC.

## B5

As the WBSC's new program B5 continues to grow internationally, Softball Canada coordinated the delivery of B5 kits to all Provincial/Territorial bodies. With several P/T's inquiring about additional supplies to support this new program.

Kits included, throw-down bases, official B5 balls, and Softball Canada developed resource material for organizers. The response to the program has been positive, and Softball Canada looks forward to continue to grow and support this new program alongside P/T Associations.

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

As the first class of the Female Mentorship Program comes to an end, we are thrilled to have connected with 40+ female leaders within the game. Over the course of the last 18 months, participants have been able to:

- Build a personal network with high level women in softball throughout Canada.
- Participate in professional development opportunities.
- Garner advice from some of Softball Canada's most valued female executives, coaches, and umpires.
- Develop relevant knowledge and skills; and
- Take part in active and structured support throughout the program

This program has built relationships, opened doors, and provided valuable development opportunities for all those involved. A heartfelt thank you to all that participated!

## THANK YOU!

A special thanks to the following committee members who continue to support LTPD, Canpitch, & Timbits Softball. We are grateful for their commitment and important role in the growing the game of softball in Canada.

**Dave Paetkau (BC)**  
**Jennifer Lukas (NWT)**  
**Emily Stea (ON)**  
**Ryan Boland (NL)**  
**Adam Walker (ON)**  
**Stacy Blois (NB)**  
**Ryan Friedrich (AB)**  
**Scott Searle (BOD)**  
**Jackie Dugger (BOD)**  
**Susan Gowans (SK)**  
**Tracey Oye (BC)**  
**Kelly Lynch (NB)**  
**Sean Cadigan (NL)**  
**Elissa Sivel (ON)**  
**Andrea Wolf (BOD)**  
**Jackie Desilets (BC)**  
**Mark Quinn (PEI)**  
**Elissa Sivel (ON)**  
**Lori Zehr (BC)**  
**Brooks Penrod (BOD)**



# Women's National Team REPORT

During March, Head Coach Kaleigh Rafter went on a week-long speaking/coaching tour to try and bring awareness to the program and to also re-establish connections with the softball community in Canada. Over 180 athletes and 20 coaches took part in these sessions from 5 different P/Ts.

This year, ID camps were held to bring softball once again to a wide variety of athletes. ID camps were open to anyone who wanted to attend and out of the three camps (SK, BC, & ON) a total of 107 athletes attended with 9 players being invited to the final selection camp.

The team was able to host a “Celebration Tour” featuring exhibition games against Netherlands in Guelph, Oshawa and Brampton, Ontario as well as a series versus the Czech Republic in Melfort, Prince Albert and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The series was well received with the team being able to connect with the local communities and interact with thousands of Team Canada fans.

The team then went on to compete at the Canada Cup and finished 6<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships in Birmingham, Alabama. This fall, the team will compete in the Pan American Games/WBSC World Championship qualifier in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Rafter made a point of getting out to several Canadian Championships (U15, U17 & U19) as well as the Canada Summer Games. This was to scout players as well as bring visibility to Softball Canada and the national team. In addition to these scouting opportunities, two player clinics (NB, SK) were held and over 100 athletes took part as a way to continue to develop younger athletes.

The team looks forward to continuing to build on its success in 2023.

Special thanks and recognition need to be given to Alison Bradley, Manager of the Women’s National Team for the past year. She has been a constant support to the team and as she transitions out of her formal role with Softball Canada at the end of 2022, we want to thank her for her dedication and tireless work on making the team a success.

2022 PT

**REPORTS / RAPPORTS**

# 2022 SOFTBALL ALBERTA REPORT



## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

### North & South Development Camps

The goal of these camps is to offer skilled instruction to areas that do not have close access to camps in the city. No camps were held in 2022.

Winter Camp - a camp with Kaleigh Rafter was held in March 2022 in Calgary.

## GAMES PROGRAMS

Alberta Summer Games - Next games are 2023.

Canada Summer Games – Women’s team finished 5<sup>th</sup> and Men’s team finished 7<sup>th</sup>

**PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY** – We were able to hold 25 provincial championships this year. 2 were cancelled – no hosts.

## NCCP

We were finally able to resume clinics in 2022. We had 3 in person and 6 hybrid Community Softball clinics. We also had 5 hybrid Comp Intro clinics and 1 in person Weekend 2 to finish training for some coaches who were in the middle of their Comp Intro training when lockdowns happened. Even though we were able to have clinics again this year, it still feels like there is a back log of coaches from the past couple years of lockdowns who need training.

## UMPIRE PROGRAM

Alberta registered 330 in 2022 up from 263 in 2021.



## 2022 Softball Canada AGM Softball Saskatchewan Report

### 2022 Membership Update

We are excited that our membership numbers in 2022 slightly exceeded our pre-pandemic numbers in 2019. Following is a breakdown of our membership numbers by District over the past six (6) years:

#### OVERALL MEMBERS BY DISTRICT

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
District 1 - South East	2,701	2,587	2,456	690	1,945	2,521
District 2 - Regina	1,711	1,630	2,162	1,449	2,078	2,045
District 3 - South West	1,141	1,500	1,562	486	1,363	1,485
District 4 - Parkland Valley	537	711	683	173	562	913
District 5 - Prairie Central	1,514	2,010	2399	636	2,119	2,892
District 6 - Saskatoon	2,311	2,142	2156	681	1,560	2,022
District 7 - Rivers West	1,779	1,961	2062	395	1,646	2,156
District 8 - Lakeland	2,685	2,505	2613	398	1,557	2,243
District 9 - Northern	40	382	145	1	7	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14,419</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>16,238</b>	<b>4,909</b>	<b>12,837</b>	<b>16,288</b>
				COVID	COVID	

It is interesting to note that about only 30% of our entire membership participate in our Provincial Championships. This means for the most part 70% of our membership plays softball for 2-3 months of the year. We are curious if this is similar in other areas. Our move to the RAMP membership system was a positive move and we will now need to be more diligent in requiring all members to use the RAMP system.

### Athlete & Coach Development Programs

We were able to start back up our NCCP clinics and our athlete skill development (Canpitch, hitting and back catching) clinics in the winter of 2022. We had a huge demand for coach clinics in 2022 and held the most clinics ever. Finally having the online format available for the coach clinics really helped to enhance our engagement and recruitment of certified coaches.

### Canada Games Program

Both our teams did very well at the games with the Women's team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and the Men's team bringing home a Bronze Medal. With the next Canada Games only three short years away we will be starting the coach recruitment process this fall.



## Provincial Championships

We had an awesome number of teams enter our 2022 Provincial championships, following is the breakdown of overall team registrations of 237 teams:

### 2022 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 (S)	14 teams	U11 Open Boys	6 teams
U11 Open Girls North (PA)	12 teams	U13 A Boys	5 teams
U11 Open Girls South	19 teams	U13 B Boys	6 teams
U13 A Girls	15 teams	U15 A Boys	3 teams
U13 B Girls	37 teams	U15 B Boys	3 teams
U15 A Girls	14 teams	U17 A Boys	2 teams
U15 BW Girls	5 teams	U20 A Men's	2 teams
U15 B Girls	26 teams	<b>Total Minor Male</b>	<b>27 teams</b>
U17 A Girls	11 teams		
U17 BW Girls	10 teams		
U17 B Girls	8 teams		
U19 A Women's	3 teams		
U19 BW Women's	2 teams		
U19 B Women's	2 teams		
<b>Total Minor Female</b>	<b>178 teams</b>		

#### Adult Female Categories

U23 A Women's	2 teams
Women's A	3 teams
Women's B	1 team
Women's C	6 teams
Women's SP	1 team
<b>Total Adult Women's</b>	<b>13 teams</b>

#### Adult Male Categories

U23 Men's	1 team
Men's A	1 team
Men's C	14 teams
Men's Master	1 team
Men's SP	2 teams
<b>Total Adult Men's</b>	<b>19 teams</b>

For the first time we provided results (game scores) for most of our Provincial Championships using google docs and our website. We received many positive comments for us doing this and we will be sure to ensure all championships are done next year and we promote this even more to our membership. By using our website to post the scores it really helps to drive people to it and become more familiar with it.

We have some work to do to better separate teams in our younger age categories as we had a 37 team and a 26 team Provincial, which created some challenges with draws and providing meaningful competition for all. We look forward to making some changes to help provide a more positive experience for all.

## Western Canadian & Canadian Championships

Our teams were thankful that Westerns and Canadians were held in 2022. We sent a total of 7 teams to Westerns consisting of 1 minor Boys team (U15) along with 5 minor girl's teams (2-U15, 2-U17 & 1-U19) and 1 women's team. Male softball at the Western Canadian level 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 23 teams attend as follows:

5 minor boy's teams	7 minor girl's teams
3 adult men's FP teams	5 adult women's FP teams
2 adult men's SP team	1 adult women's SP team

## OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT

We had a total of 342 registered umpires in 2022. Following is a breakdown of our registered umpires by District over the past five (5) years:

<u>District</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
District 1 - South East	72	75	19	22	63
District 2 - Regina	37	34	28	25	34
District 3 - South West	47	47	16	23	45
District 4 - Parkland	22	21	4	8	28
District 5 - Prairie Central	30	40	15	33	49
District 6 - Saskatoon	46	51	31	49	46
District 7 - Rivers West	34	34	4	15	22
District 8 - Lakeland	59	76	10	19	52
District 9 - Northern	8	4	1	1	3
Totals	355	382	128	194	342

## ABORIGINAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT

With the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) being held in Halifax next July we have started to select our coaches and begin the athlete development and identification process. Our 2022 Tony Cote Summer Games was hosted by the James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatoon and on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation just outside Saskatoon. We had over 60 minor boy's and girl's teams take part in the U13, U15 and U17 age groups.

## MARKETING/PROMOTION

We believe that our marketing project that launched this past January helped to contribute to our quick turnaround in our membership numbers. Following is the specific advertising that we did as part of our campaign:

TV	4 CTV stations involving 15 second spots from Jan. 24 - March 20
Digital Audio (Spotify)	30 second clips running from Jan. 10 – Mar. 20
Online	15 second pre-roll video and 15 second You Tube pre-roll video
Paid Social	Facebook, Instagram, Twitter from Jan. 10 – March 20
Outdoor (Billboards)	Billboards in the 8 largest cities in Sask. from Jan. 24 – March 20
Radio	8 cities on 10 stations – 30 second spots from Feb. 1st – March 20

We will be continuing this same campaign again in 2023 and then will look to make some content modifications and do again 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 3,300 t-shirts to the participants. Another initiative in this area saw us provide a Rawlings duffel/backpack to all players, coaches and umpires attending a Western, Canadian or Canada Summer Games. We had a few extra and were able to provide all players involved in our U13 District Showcase event with the bags as well. All in all, we provided 750 of the Rawlings bags. Not to be left out, we also purchased unique Softball Sask Line-up books and provided one to each registered umpire in the province.

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 Boys League replaced the previous North Central Boys League organized by Bryan Kosteroski. Overall participation of 22 teams was excellent, unfortunately a couple of weekends were cancelled due to rain. Following is a summary of League play.

### **U11 Boys (7 teams)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of play May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon was cancelled due to rain.

June 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in Delisle had 7 teams participate

June 18<sup>th</sup> weekend in Prince Albert had 5 teams participate

### **U13 Boys (10 teams)**

May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> weekend in Prince Albert had 10 teams participate

May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> weekend in Ochapowace (Moosomin) was cancelled due to rain

June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> weekend in Saskatoon had 9 teams participate

July 9<sup>th</sup> weekend in Wadena had 8 teams participate

### **U15 Boys (5 teams)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of play May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon was cancelled due to rain.

May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> weekend in Ochapowace (Moosomin) was cancelled due to rain

June 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in Delisle had 5 teams participate

June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> weekend in Prince Albert had 5 teams participate

The Provincial Girls League which we started in 2019 was very successful after a two-year hiatus due to COVID with a total of 25 teams in the League. Following is a summary of League play:

### **U13 Girls (10 teams)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend May 14<sup>th</sup> we had 5 teams in Delisle and 5 teams in Unity.

May 21<sup>st</sup> weekend we had 5 teams in Melfort, the 5 team tourney in Swift Current was cancelled due to rain.

June 18<sup>th</sup> weekend we had 5 teams in Melville and 4 teams in Biggar.

### **U15 Girls (10 teams)**

May 14<sup>th</sup> weekend we had 4 teams in Humboldt and 6 teams in Delisle

May 21<sup>st</sup> weekend we had 4 teams in Prince Albert and 4 teams in Watrous

June 18<sup>th</sup> weekend we had 3 teams in Meadow lake and Macklin was cancelled due to rain.

### **U17 Girls (5 teams)**

We had just the May 21<sup>st</sup> weekend in Battleford with 5 teams

Overall, we organized a total of 18 mini-tournaments throughout May, June and July with a total of 47 teams participating and 16 different host organizers. Unfortunately, 6 mini tournaments were cancelled due to rain. In 2023 we will be formalizing the Rawlings Grand Slam Softball League for boys and girls and setting up a website to include standings and results.

## **CHALLENGES**

**We still have lots of challenges, some are new and some will just not go away. We continue to struggle to grow male softball, even though we have tried a variety of initiatives. We will continue to do all we can to support and develop male softball. Our Province is very fortunate to have a very good representation of male players playing on our national teams. Hopefully we can get them engaged to help with the younger ages at the local levels.**

**We have some work to do to recruit new and younger officials as we have a significant number of aging officials who may not be in our sport much longer.**

**Volunteerism continues to be a challenge for all sport organizations, we are no different. We need to look at providing as many resources as possible for local organizations who many have trouble finding people to fill all the positions in their local club or association. We do not have all the answers but certainly know much work is needed in this area.**

**FINAL THOUGHTS**

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

**On a final note, we want to wish Hugh Mitchener all the best in his retirement. We have greatly appreciated all the help and guidance that he has provided to I'm sure all of us during his tenure as our CEO of Softball Canada. Thank you, Hugh.**

**Respectfully yours,  
Guy Jacobson-Executive Director**

**#ThisIsSoftball**



# SOFTBALL MANITOBA 2022 REPORT



## ❖ REGISTRATION

- ◆ 2018 – 2022 Registration Trends. Softball Manitoba registered 500 teams in 2022. Here is an overview of the last 5 years of registrations at Softball Manitoba:

DIVISION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Plus/minus from 2021
MINORS	387	405	227	186	<b>443</b>	<b>+257</b>
FAST PITCH	46	42	42	34	<b>32</b>	<b>-2</b>
SLO-PITCH	102	81	50	33	<b>35</b>	<b>+2</b>
TOTAL TEAMS	535	528	319	253	<b>500</b>	<b>+257</b>
UMPIRES	230	244	135	140	<b>168</b>	<b>+28</b>

2022 Classification	Female	Male	Coed	2022 Players	F	M	Non-Binary	Total
Minor Teams	327	22	94	Timbits	1012	386	0	1398
Fast Pitch Teams	12	3	0	Minor	3049	318	3	3407
Slo-Pitch Teams	0	1	34	Fast Pitch	286	106	2	394
Orthodox	4	0	13	Slo-Pitch	106	353	1	460
Umpires	61	107		Total	4490	1163	6	5659

## ❖ MARKETING – PROMOTING SOFTBALL MANITOBA

- ◆ **Annual Awards** - Annual Awards (Player, Coach, Team, Official and Volunteer Awards & Recognition).
- ◆ **Database** – Our Database – RAMP (includes all our players, coaches, and umpires) has improved access to our membership significantly. Improvements include online registration, production, and opportunities.
- ◆ **Facility** – The John Blumberg Softball Complex - 7 diamonds (6 lit)
- ◆ **Media** - Conferences/Releases to announce Hall of Fame Inductees, hosting Major events, etc.
- ◆ **Softball Canada TV Ads** – This has been 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 rewarded with signage in all 7 outfielders at JBSC and are included on Travel T-shirts and Development Camp T-shirts. Major Sponsors include Worth-Rawlings, Home Run Sports and Awards & More. These 3 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 Travel Funding for Provincial Winners and Travel Teams.
- ◆ **Softball Manitoba Website** – Features the most up to date information for our Membership, connection to our online Ramp registration and is a place for our Membership to share important Softball information/news.

## ❖ COMPETITION

- ◆ **In 2022 Manitoba hosted/participated:**
  - Softball MB hosted 18 Provincial Championships (15 Minor / 3 Adult).
  - 182 teams participated in our Provincial Championships. (as compared to 115 in 2021)
- ◆ **In 2023 Manitoba is scheduled to host:**
  - The U15 Female Canadian Fast Pitch Championship.
  - The U17 Male and Female Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.
  - The Senior Male & Female Western Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.



## ❖ COACH DEVELOPMENT

### ◆ NCCP 2022:

- Community Softball Clinics – Seven clinics were held. 89 coaches were Certified.
- Competition Introduction Softball Clinics – Four virtual clinics were held with a total of 38 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 32 coaches in attendance.
- Competition Introduction On-Field Evaluations – 17 coaches were Evaluated.
- Competition-Development Softball Clinic – Softball MB collaborated with Coaching MB and Softball Canada to certify our Canada Summer Games Softball coaches (Male Program).

### ◆ Female Apprentice Coach Program: **(\*New in 2022)**

Through the assistance of Coaching MB, Softball Canada and Rawlings - Softball Manitoba put together and offered this program in response to demand for female coaches at all age categories/classifications. The program connected prospective female coaches with an existing female coach in their community. Apprentices received some equipment and reimbursement for a portion of coach certification courses. It was open to past/present female softball players (though playing experience was not a prerequisite). Host coaches were compensated for their expertise and time with some equipment & other resources. We accepted 10 female Host coaches and 10 female Apprentice coaches. Softball MB met via Zoom with the Hosts and Apprentices respectively to provide information and to hear what the participants' questions, concerns, and hopes were for the program. Pairings were acquainted via email and were to exchange contact info/team schedules/etc. and work out amongst themselves when they would meet. It was strongly recommended that Apprentices join their Host team for a minimum of 2 events per month (games, practices, team bonding, etc.). Based on feedback collected from participants at the end of the 2022 season, the program is hoped to continue in future.

### ◆ Larissa Franklin Hitting Clinic for Coaches:

In February Softball Manitoba was lucky enough to have SC National Team Member Larissa Franklin in the building (along with her Tokyo 2020 Olympic Bronze Medal). Larissa shared her knowledge on slap hitting with 20 of our coaches.

### ◆ Kaleigh Rafter Defense Clinic for Coaches:

In March we hosted a Coach Clinic on Defense. SC National Team Member Kaleigh Rafter worked with 16 of our elite coaches on Team Defense, Positional players' defensive responsibilities as well as share her experience as a Player and Coach with Team Canada.

### ◆ Respect in Sport:

Respect In Sport is an on-line training course for Coaches 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. Coaching Manitoba is working with a new program that introduces Respect in Sport designed to educate Parents. RIS certification renewal requirements every 5 years. Coaching MB also assisting our Association in aligning a Coach Screening Process for 2022-23.

### ◆ Coach Screening:

In 2022 Softball Manitoba implemented criminal record checks (valid for 3 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 it will be 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

### ◆ SC Regional Skills Development Academy:

The past Fall-Winter Manitoba hosted our final SC Regional Skills Development Academy which ran for 10 weeks between November and March. 86 athletes went through the program (19 pitchers/19 catchers/48 position players) that included defensive, offensive, pitching, catching instruction and Sport Psychology.

### ◆ Softball Manitoba Regional Skills Development Academy: **(\*New for 2023)**

This winter Softball MB will run our initial Regional Skills Development Academy for 12 weeks between January – April, 2023. Similar to Softball Canada's program, our academy will include 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 150 participants that registered.

- ◆ **'AA' Softball Program:** (\*New in 2022)  
Softball MB has restructured its Minor Classifications adding the 'AA' development program to bridge the skill gap between the 'A' (community club ball) and 'AAA' (HP-Travel). The vision is a competitive program for the select 'A' players wanting an extended season and a support system for 'AAA' organizations to maintain athlete numbers within their programs. 157 players went through the 'AA' program in 2022.
- ◆ **Canpitch:**  
Clinics included a spring and summer clinic then followed by Team training between October to April. Currently at 4 'trained' CP instructors. 207 participants went through the program in 2022.
- ◆ **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 NAIG Softball tryouts 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 the 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 2022 Manitoba certified 168 Officials (an increase of 28 officials) but a far cry from pre-Covid numbers.
- ◆ Blue Convention 2023 – This will be hosted by Softball Canada and the Softball MB UDC in Winnipeg, Spring, 2023. Organizing begun pre-covid and the group is currently fundraising and continues to make this a successfully planned event.

## ❖ 2022 SOFTBALL CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

- ◆ **CHALLENGES:**  
John Blumberg Softball Complex is starting to show its age at 34 years. Major Improvements are required at what used to be a World Class venue (including 6 lit diamonds). Repair and Maintenance Costs far outweigh any funding available from the City and/or Province.  
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.
- ◆ **SUCCESS:**  
The Membership. Our successes revolve around the commitment shown 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 of our Board, Softball Canada, Sport Law and Sport MB has doubled our Team Registration in 2022 and brought it back to the 500 level - where it was prior to the Pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted,






# SOFTBALL ONTARIO 2022 PROVINCIAL REPORT

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34





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## **Softball Ontario CanPitch Committee**

The 2022 CanPitch clinic season was sadly affected by COVID once again. However, once COVID restrictions were lifted, we were able to offer clinics in partnership with five local associations and able to train 74 young pitchers across the province. The clinics were hosted in:

- St. George, ON
- Embro, ON
- Hickson, ON
- Newmarket, ON
- Richmond Hill, ON

35

The CanPitch program also worked closely with the OASA, offering pitching instruction at the their Springboard in Havelock, ON.

CanPitch instructors were also present at the OASA U11 Qualifiers, the U13 Qualifiers, the U15 Eliminations and the U13 Provincials as a part of a pilot project initiated by the OASA where CanPitch instructors are on hand during tournaments for voluntary drop-in sessions with pitchers who are looking to refine their skills or to ask questions about mechanics.

This year's priorities will be to train new CanPitch instructors, retrain existing instructors based on the new Softball Canada CanPitch curriculum and to promote the program more efficiently in smaller centers.







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## Softball Ontario Coaching Committee

The Softball Ontario Coach's Committee pulled off a miracle in 2022.

In Ontario the final Covid restrictions were lifted in February with the softball season traditionally starting in May. This gave our committee 2 months to plan NCCP clinics in 5 regions across Ontario to provide coach's opportunities to become certified.

In this 8 weeks we planned, organized and delivered 11 NCCP clinics. We trained almost 200 coaches in Community and Competitive context in the busiest time of the year for all of our people. This took a yeoman effort from everyone involved including the office staff, host communities, and coach developers who worked together to deliver positive coaching education experiences to all the attending coaches.

36

For the first time we have solicited Specific feedback from coaches who attended the clinics. We had 61 coaches complete the feedback form and the highlights are as follows:

- 95.6% of coach's would recommend the clinic to another coach in their association
- 97.8% felt respected as a coach and adult learner
- 100% of coach's said the clinic would help their coaching "a great deal" or "somewhat"

A key part of the NCCP is being a life long learner and we ask each coach to learn to improve their coaching and also maintain their certification through Professional Development. The Coaching Committee created a Coach Developer Feedback Form to share the feedback from the participants with the coach developers. The collated individual responses will be shared with each Coach Developer so they can see areas where they can improve.

We are planning a Coach Developer Training Weekend in the Fall to become more specific and intentional about improving their capacity with the goal of continuing to improve the experience for Coaches.







**Our coaching committee is comprised of:**

- Matt Allen
- Johanna Malissani
- Kevin Bradbeer
- Mark McCallum
- Scott Searle

**Goals for 2023**

- All Women's Comp Intro Clinic with female facilitators
- Have 3 Coach Developers at each clinic to provide more opportunities for mentorship and quality control
- Increase the number of active Coach Developers
- Increase the number of female Coach Developers
- Increase technical knowledge of Coach Developers
- Improve Coach Experience with NCCP Certification
- Have a full schedule of NCCP clinics posted on Softball Ontario website





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## Fast Pitch Umpire Committee

The Fast Pitch umpire program ran a total of 33 clinics which included 18 Junior/Intermediate, 9 level 1 clinics, 1 level 2 clinic, 1 level 3 clinic and 4 refresher clinics. During these clinics we had a total of 517 participants.

Registration was up in 2022 but still a huge decrease from 2019 prior to covid.

The committee was able to send 19 Ontario umpires to Canadian Championships along with 4 Ontario umpires to the Canada Summer Games.

The committee staffed a total of 35 provincial tournaments between the three member associations OASA, ORSA and PWSA. Along with staffing 3 PWSA Canadian Championship Qualifying tournaments, for a total of 38 provincial tournaments from the start of July until the end of August.





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## Slo-Pitch Umpire Committee

Our Slo Pitch participation continues to thrive in Ontario. We're fortunate to have the opportunity to umpire the best Slo Pitch in Canada through our Super Series tournaments hosted by Slo Pitch Ontario. Eliminations in July is still our flagship event which allows us to work a 3 umpire system. A Canadian Qualifier closed our season at Slo Pitch City in Dorchester which was home to almost all of our tournaments. We used just over 60 officials including umpires from Buffalo, Quebec, and Nova Scotia to staff all of these games with an average of 25 umpires working each weekend over the course of the summer.

Our local umpire communities are having the same problems as the Super Series program. A decline in registered umpires is an ongoing issue. Assigning umpires to a growing amount of games is a constant struggle. This is a high priority that must be resolved throughout the province. We implemented a monetary incentive program at our Super Series/Provincials which was deemed successful. To field umpires at these tournaments with less officials to choose from was not easy to say the least.

39

This year was the first time that Ontario combined registration between Fast Pitch and Slo Pitch umpires. One registration covered you to umpire both games. This made it helpful to support each other when needed.

I'm looking forward to the challenge of leading our group of officials to be the best version of themselves.

Steve Camus  
SP PUIC  
Softball Ontario





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## **Provincial Women's Softball Association (PWSA)**

PWSA welcomed our first full season since 2019 with 212 teams!

Only a decrease of 10 adult teams from 2019 numbers

We hosted 27 events including our Provincial Qualifiers, National Qualifiers and Provincial Championships, and our Annual High School Tournament.

U9/11- 29 teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A and B Division

U13 -36 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in A and B and C Division

U15 - 53 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in both the Tier I and Tier II divisions

U17 - 49 total teams participated in Provincials and Qualifiers in both the Tier I and Tier II divisions

U19 - 39 total teams participated in Provincials in both the Tier I and Tier II divisions

U23 – 5 total teams participated in Provincials

Women's- 1 team affiliated

We had 8 teams from U17 I participate in the Ontario Summer Games and our Canada Games team won the Bronze in the Niagara 22 games

We look forward to building our number again in 2023





## Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA)

The OASA held 18 Qualifier, Elimination or Provincial tournaments as well as a U9 event in 2022.

- U9 6 teams in Napanee
- U11 10 teams in Grafton, Ponsonby and Springbrook
- U13 12 teams in Grafton, Ponsonby and Princeton
- U15 13 teams in Grafton, Drumbo and Princeton
- U17 13 teams in Napanee, Stratford and Mississauga
- U20 14 teams in Wilmot and Cobourg
- U23 5 teams in Woodstock
- Intermediate Men 5 teams in Pickering
- Masters 4 teams in Kitchener
- Senior Men had 3 teams from Ontario represent us at the Canadian Championships.

Ontario hosted 3 Canadian Championships, all in the same week, U15 Boys in Wilmot, U20 Men in Napanee and U23 Men in Carp. Overall Ontario teams performed very well at all the Canadian Championships taking home 4 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze.

41

The Canada Summer Games softball tournament was held in Grimsby, ON and our male team came away with the gold in the championship game vs an undefeated Nova Scotia squad, after finishing 2nd in the round robin portion of the tournament.

In the 2 male Eastern Canadians, Ontario took home silver in the U15's and tied for 4th in the Intermediate Men's events.

### **High Performance Programs**

OASA launched 2 High Performance Programs in 2022. One was a High Performance Pitching Program that identified 12 high potential pitchers (6 U15, 6 U17) and provided them with enhanced instruction from a core group of experienced pitchers as well as guest instructors. The second was a High Performance Coaching Program that provided 7 high potential coaches with the opportunity to engage with world class coaches and instructors to enhance and develop their coaching skills.







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## Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO)

### Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO)

In our first full season back in a few years, Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO) was very excited to host:

- 6 Super Series Events and Ontario Championships for Mens A, B and C caliber of play
- 6 Super Series Events and Ontario Championships for Womens A, B and C caliber of play
- 1 Canadian Qualifying Event for Mens and Womens
- 4 Senior Circuit Events for teams of players 50 – 75+ years of age
- 5 Ontario Championships Weekends

Our first complete season of Individual Member Registration while having challenges proved to be very successful.

Our recreational teams and leagues slowly made it back to the diamonds. We feel we may be a couple years away from getting back to 100%.





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## **Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA)**

ORSA welcomed its first full season since 2019 and was able to facilitate programming for a number of teams. ORSA is looking to build on numbers from this year and continue to grow its program moving forward into 2023.

List of Teams and Programs Ran:

<b>Division</b>	<b># of Teams</b>	<b>Championship</b>
<b>U11 Girls</b>	<b>4 Teams</b>	<b>Tournament</b>
<b>U11 Boys</b>	<b>8 Teams</b>	<b>Tournament</b>
<b>U13 Girls</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>Best 2 of 3 Series</b>
<b>U13 Boys</b>	<b>7 Teams</b>	<b>Tournament</b>
<b>U15 Girls</b>	<b>5 Teams</b>	<b>Tournament</b>
<b>U15 Boys</b>	<b>4 Teams</b>	<b>Tournament</b>
<b>U17 Girls</b>	<b>1 Team Interested</b>	<b>Event Cancelled</b>
<b>U17 Boys</b>	<b>4 Teams</b>	<b>Event Cancelled</b>
<b>U19 Girls</b>	<b>3 Teams</b>	<b>Event Cancelled</b>
<b>U20 Boys</b>	<b>3 Teams Interested</b>	<b>Event Cancelled</b>





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### **Softball Canada Annual Meeting**

#### ***Softball Québec – 2022 Report***

Finally, a return to normality for the 2022 on field season!

After two years of uncertainties, our members were able to have a normal season. Major events, championships and tournaments return to everyone's calendars. We picked up right where we had left off.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN, BRANDING AND IMAGING**

Softball Québec was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our 2021-2026 strategic plan.

We took advantage of this year of sport revival to change a big part of our brand image, our logo! In March 2022, after 25 years under the same image, we rejuvenated our logo. We created a unifying, modern image that brings energy to the federation. As part of our strategic planning, this new logo aims to unite all softball participants under the same banner.

- The three lines represent our three disciplines: fastpitch, slow-pitch and orthodox.
- The fleur-de-lis identifies us to our province.
- The ball allows us to differentiate ourselves and demonstrate that softball is a lively and dynamic sport.

This new logo can be adapted to our regions, our comities and our disciplines.

With this, came another major change to our branding. Last May, we proudly presented the new identity of our female fastpitch excellence program with a new style and color that brings us together. Since 1994, the "Team Québec" female excellence program, known as the "Québec Rebelles" for numerous years, has allowed hundreds of athletes to shine at national and international level. In 2022, following the suggestions in our strategic plan, Softball Québec made the decision to revamp the programs image. From now on, selected athletes will be playing for the "Équipe Québec" teams.

The uniform's new color better identifies our teams to our province. The new logo adapted for the program allows the teams to be better identified with the federation. The name "Équipe Québec" identifies the team as it truly is; the best female athletes of the province. With this change, we hope to bring the athletes closer to the federation allowing them to better identify themselves with Softball Québec while remaining proud to represent Québec throughout the country.

#### **Advertising and sponsorships**

We continued our outreach work with advertising campaigns on various platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Google Ads and even Tik Tok! We promoted the recruitment of both umpires and new athlete.

In addition to the advertising campaign and our newsletter "Coup Sûr", in 2022, we focused on being extremely present on social media. We were able to promote our activities and those of our members while also advertising our federation and our sport of softball. Just by promoting various activities scheduled, we found an enormous amount of success on Facebook and Instagram. We posted daily about important events such as the Canada Games, Canadian Championships, Provincial Championships and various adult competition. These posts allowed us to promote our members, and at the same time, promote softball.

#### **Worth/Rawlings/Easton**

Our partnership with this major sponsor continued in 2022. The Worth ball has been Softball Québec's official ball since 2017. Easton, who had been a partner of the federation for several years, is now under the same banner, which strengthens our relationship with them. Our current deal ends at the end of 2022 and we are already discussing prolonging our partnership and ensuring that it continues to suit both parties. We thank Jason Shipley et Kim Sarrazin for their work with the federation of the past years.

#### **Rousseau Sports**

In 2015, Softball Québec and Rousseau Sports started our partnership, which at that time included a single store in St-Hubert. Since then, stores in Laval, Charlemagne, Pointe-Claire et Boisbriand now have softball equipment in inventory. We would like to thank Pierre Gendron, Hugo Fafard et Éric Hurtubise for their trust in our federation.

#### **Statsenligne**

Last May, our 100% Québec partner, Statsenligne, announced an improvement to our partnership. Our members can now use Statsenligne for their leagues data and statistic management.



Thanks to this agreement, Softball Québec offered all its affiliated leagues Statsenligne's "prestige" version free of charge, valued at \$149 + taxes. Our members also got a mobile app to score their games live online!

Therefore, in addition to what was already offered to Softball Québec members, leagues had access to the following for FREE:

- A platform to manage league statistics
- A personalised website to manage their league
- Removal of ads from their webpages
- Personalisation of ads to advertise their own partners/sponsors
- A platform to send emails to league members

### **AQLM Congress**

In October, the federation was present and the "Congrès de l'Association Québécoise du Loisir Municipal" (AQLM). The purpose of attending this type of event is to network with people in the field to make ourselves better known and to discuss with them our sports reality in their respective regions.

### **Softball Québec's move**

In September, after more than 37 years spent at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal (since 1985), Softball Québec moved its offices to the new "Maison du Loisir et du Sport".

This new "Home" will bring together all the sports and leisure federations under one roof and is located at 7665, boulevard Lacordaire in Montreal (on the edge of Highway 40).

### **Board of Directors, sound governance and integrity policy**

In 2022, the Board of directors welcomed the arrival of new individuals who bring new expertise and ideas. This was necessary due to the new governance code imposed by our Ministry. Each board member brought their energy and expertise when necessary. We also continued working on updating our general regulations in order to meet the new governance code standards by February 2023 as requested. This will bring its share of change to everyone, but it is important for Softball Québec to demonstrate sound management of its governance.

Following the 2021 launch of the "Je porte plainte" platform and the adoption of the Integrity Protection Policy of the Québec government, we dealt a few situations throughout 2022. We can say with certainty that this platform is an important tool, that the policy provides a frame of reference, and that the codes of conduct must be implemented by our minor associations to ensure that our sport is supervised in a safe manner.

Last May, we invited our members to the RLSQ presentation of the policy in order to better understand how the independent complaint platform works.

## **SOFTBALL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM**

### **Timbits Softball**

The Timbits softball program had another successful year. Similar to 2021, we had 30 associations with a total of 535 participants. Due to the hard work of our local associations, we see these numbers normalizing post pandemic similar to those we saw in 2019.

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

### **CANpitch**

Laurence Fortin-Haines was officially named the federation's Master CANpitch instructor. In fall 2022, we will be reviewing the program as it seems to no longer be the benchmark for associations who find the cost a bit expensive despite our efforts to keep them as low as possible. We aim to review costs, operations and increase the number of CANpitch instructors to better meet our associations' needs.

### **Team Québec's regional clinics**

Many activities were planned by our teams for local associations. Unfortunately, bad weather forced many of these to be cancelled. Due to the busy team schedules, teams were unable to reschedule the activities. Our U23 team was however, able to contribute to the new U9 activity during the Festival provincial B. The athletes gave development clinics to participating U9 teams throughout the festival. This initiative was appreciated by the young athletes, their coaches and their parents.



### **Coaching Clinics**

What a season for coaching clinics! The year started with ten new learning facilitators being trained. These learning facilitators, supervised by Marc-Olivier Dagenais, were trained to be able to give Initiation, Continued Participation and Introduction to Competition clinics. This allowed us to respond to requests by regions and even by associations more easily.

Here are the participation numbers for each clinic:

- Initiation: 1 clinic, 7 participants
- Continued Participation – In person: 4 clinics, 78 participants
- Continued Participation – Online: 7 clinics, 74 participants
- Introduction to Competition – In person: 2 clinics, 24 participants
- Introduction to Competition – Online: 12 clinics, 121 participants
- Introduction to Competition – Evaluation: 10 participants

Note that in addition to the clinics mentioned above, many coaches have started their coaching certification pathway with the mandatory online training "Foundations for Softball Coaching Part 1" available online at coach.ca.

Although the structure still seems complicated to understand for some coaches and associations, we have seen an overall increase in coaches participating in clinics. We have made coaching trainings mandatory with possible penalties for non-compliant team at provincial events. However, the efforts to educate people on the importance of having better trained coaches seems to have worked as well. The hybrid format used (online and in person) seems to have also helped to increase the number of participants as thus responds better to our current reality.

We are going to review the clinic scheduling to start the Introduction to Competition courses a little earlier in the season and spread the Continued Participation courses a little later into the season. We will also work more closely with associations that have put less emphasis on clinics so that they can catch up quickly.

We can definitely say mission accomplished after two years on hiatus due to the pandemic. We have most likely had a record year in terms of the number of coaches trained.

### **Coaches mentorship program - Ministry**

In connection with the ministry's female coach's mentorship program, the federation continued the development of Laurence Fortin-Haines, coach of the Quebec U23 team in 2022 for a second year. This program allowed her to be mentored by experienced coaches Daniel Joly and Marc-Olivier Dagenais. They have an impressive coaching background at the international, national and provincial levels. A 2<sup>nd</sup> coach should be selected to this program in 2023.

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

The "Comité provincial pour l'avancement des femmes aux softball" (CPAFS) was very busy in 2022 carrying out multiple projects:

- Creation of a sub-committee
  - A sub-committee with regional representatives was created. The sub-committee will help promote initiatives in their respective regions. This sub-committee will grow until all regions are represented.
- Gender based studies
  - Two surveys were done among all associations and committee members within Softball Québec. The first collected gender-based data about board members and coaches at all levels. The second surveyed gender equity ideas and practices among board members at all levels.
- Modification to registration forms
  - Softball Québec added new gender identity questions on registration forms for teams, association and leagues. These modifications will allow us to have more accurate data regarding the gender breakdown of our participants (athletes and coaches).
- Female volunteer appreciation campaign
  - In honor of international women's day, the CPAFS ran a campaign giving members the opportunity to thank any female volunteer for their involvement in softball.
- Female coaching mentorship program
  - The first season of the female coaching mentorship program was launched. 8 female coaches were mentored throughout the season giving them opportunities to learn and grow under some of the best coaches Softball Québec 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.





More work is in store for the CPAFS in 2023!

Softball Quebec has also continued to be involved in DEI on the national level as Sarah Manfred continues her involvement with Softball Canada's DEI team. The team was put together a detailed action plan that will come to life in the upcoming years. Most notably, the team has been working on a new inclusion policy which will be the first of its kind within Sports Canada.

### **Provincial Scorekeeping training Program**

The provincial scorekeeping program was revamped in 2022 following last year's pilot project. The level 1 and 2 courses were transformed into Moodle courses. These courses allowed scorekeepers to complete their training when they wanted and at their own pace. The interactive platform allowed for the use of our manuals, interactive videos and a test to ensure material comprehension. Those who completed their course last year were able to simply renew their certification instead of completing the course again. Associations also had the opportunity to host in person training sessions with one of our learning facilitators. Over 150 scorekeepers from 13 different regions were certified via this program in 2022.

A pilot level 3 course also took place in August. The in-person course was formulated to prepare scorekeepers to keep score at a Canadian Championships. An additional 10 scorekeepers completed this course. Due to it being a pilot project, this course will be improved and updated for next season!

Our online scorekeeping training program has been a great success in its first two years allowing us to reach more members from throughout the province than ever before.

### **"L'alignement Gagnant"**

"L'alignement gagnant" returned for a second consecutive year. This program is especially useful during the offseason when coaches, athletes and administrators have time for developmental activities.

### **Videoconferences**

From November 2021 to May 2022, 6 free videoconferences were offered with over 100 participants. Softball Quebec worked with Éric Lamirande (social media specialist), Tristan Castonguay (Concordia University student) and many of Quebec's top umpires and coaches in order to host these conferences.

We noticed a decrease in registration compared to last year but, this is most likely explained by coach and umpire clinics returning in 2022 and taking a lot of time for our members to complete.

### **Toolbox**

Three new documents were added to the toolbox of best practices for coaches and administrators. These documents looked at fundraisers, best practices during tournaments and an updated concussion policy.

This initiative will continue in 2023 and continue to grow the resources and learning opportunities available for members.

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

Softball Quebec continued to work with the LFFEQ in 2022. Among other things, the federation reviewed the league's playing rules to help them better align with the age categories changes. Also, the rules were outdated and did not reflect what was happening on the field. Unfortunately, LFFEQ was slow at relaying these changes to its members and several misunderstandings and conflicts arose at the start of the season. It was announced at the end of the season that the current board would no longer be returning next year. A meeting was held with the current members of the league's board last September to better understand the situation. The federation will continue working to understand the current issues and start off with a solid foundation with its new representative for next season.

In 2022, the LFFEQ had a slight increase in teams mainly due to the addition of teams from Ontario.

- U13: 6 teams from 5 regions
- U15: 6 teams from 4 regions
- U17: 5 teams from 5 regions
- U23: 5 teams from 2 regions

In the U13 category, the age categories changes and the restructuring of classes modifying the standards of the "A" class, meant young athletes were no longer obliged to also play in B (double contract). This avoided overtraining and scheduling conflicts between teams.





In the U15 category, a new team was formed. The Lynx de Laurentides returned after a few years of absence. A U13 team from this region is expected in 2023. In addition, Phoenix member regions will now have to hold regional identification camps to identify their athlete pool before receiving Phoenix recognition in each category.

We see a nice progression in the U13 and U15 level of play. Several teams have had success at inter-provincial events. The development of young athletes has improved due to the better support to these coaches. This was heavily considered during the U15 Team Quebec structure change for the 2023 season. We see that talented young athletes are successfully continuing their development at the regional level.

#### **Cree Nation Development – James Bay**

The relationship with the Cree Nation continued to grow in 2022. The James Bay minor softball league once again affiliated with Softball Quebec with over 50 teams and 3 tournaments. Laurence Fortin-Haines and Sarah Manfred traveled to Val d'or during the Cree Nation minor festival to give NCCP coaching clinics and player development clinics for both male and female athletes.

#### **Eco-responsibility**

Continuing our work in eco-responsibility, we once again participated in the "Rencontre Éco-Sportive" organised by the "Conseil Québécois des événements écoresponsables". Sarah Manfred has also continued with a working group who are making strides towards unifying resources for all sport federations in Quebec.

### **EXCELLENCE PROGRAM**

Finally, we returned to a normal season. Motivation was becoming more and more of an issue within our teams which was especially felt on the men's side with the withdrawal of several U23 and U19 players over the past year. On the women's side, the pandemic had less of an impact, but we felt it was time we got back to our previous reality.

#### **NEW - Synergistic projects**

The Quebec Ministry has introduced a new program to support the development of excellence, synergistic projects. After several meetings and discussions with the ministry, two projects have been selected for the coming year:

- Project 1: Determining factors of permanent retention of softball players in Quebec: reserve and high performance.
- Project 2: Determine the optimal ball rotational speed for pitchers based on the speed of the pitch and its effects.

In order to complete the projects, the federation decided to collaborate with Adréline Solution. They will be the primary leaders implementing the projects and will work closely with the federation. Other collaborators joined the projects such as the INS and Softball Canada. Work will begin this fall with the goal of submitting a preliminary report by the end of March.

#### **Sport-études**

The softball sport-study program at St-Gabriel high school continued its growth with 20 athletes for a second consecutive year. Although we would like to have 3 coaches on staff, coaches' availabilities are restricted during certain periods of the year. We have, therefore not been able to achieve this objective. On the other hand, we hired a baseball specialist to improve throwing technique and power. The two sports being similar, this brought expertise to a weak spot in our athletes and ensured the presence of an additional instructor.

#### **Female Team Quebec Fastpitch Program – "Équipes du Québec" AAA**

At the women's side, five teams (U15, U17, U17 Espoir, U19, U23) were in action with a total of 61 athletes and 16 coaches. The athletes continued their development but results at various Canadian Championships did not live up to expectations. Our teams were competitive for the vast majority of their games but were unable to close games out resulting in them being relegated to the bottom bracket at the U15 and U17 championships. The U19 team, on the other hand, had an excellent run but fell in the quarter-finals placing them 6th. The U23 team expected to participate in the U23 Canadian Championship had to participate in the Senior category and finished 6<sup>th</sup>. This team, new to the program, created following changes to the age categories, was the youngest at the championship. The team is a great addition as it allows our best athletes, who will be playing in the NCAA during the school year, to come and represent Quebec during the summer. Expectations for this team in 2023 will be high as the roster should be interesting.

Note the selection of Léa Chevrier on the all-star team as a pitcher at the U19 Canadian Championship.



#### New – Logo and partnership with Mizuno and Innovation Sports

In order to improve the sense of belonging to the federation, the female excellence program changed its logo and opted for the colors of the federation to recreate a new image. After discussions with different suppliers, the federation opted to go to Mizuno for everything related to the athletes' uniform (shirts, pants, belts, socks, undershirt). This partnership, which is for a period of 3 years, had a successful first year. Mizuno respected the deadlines and the vision of the program. They even managed to fix a helmet issue for the Canada Games team at the very last minute. Thanks to Mizuno for your support!

A committee was also formed to review the athletes and coaches clothing line. The idea put forward was to aim big and opt for better quality clothing that is recognizable in the world of sport. We opted for NIKE clothing and the look is amazing.

#### Kayleigh Rafter visit

A great initiative by Softball Canada allowed athletes to receive valuable coaching from the new National team head coach, Kayleigh Rafter, last March. Coach Rafter came to give a defensive clinic and took the time to talk to the athletes about her experience. We hope that Softball Canada will allow us to repeat the experience in 2023.

#### Team Quebec tournament

The Rebelles tournament was back in 2022. Unfortunately, the tournament struggled to fill up all categories mainly due to border restrictions that held back American teams' registration. The tournament still went very well and we only received positive comments on its organization. The U19-U23 category was added and brought a high level of play. The same categories will be announced for the year 2023.

#### University Softball – Female – In the USA and Canada

The list of Quebec born athletes who are now playing at the university level, or have committed to play next year continues to grow, whether in the NCAA, the NAIA, the NJCAA or the OIWA. Here is the list of Quebec athletes who play softball at the university level:

- Megan Duclos, Simon Fraser University (NCAA, British Columbia)
- Julia Hansen, Simon Fraser University (NCAA, British Columbia)
- Mackenzie Egan, McPherson College (NAIA, Kansas)
- Annabelle Guay, Weatherford College (NJCAA, Texas)
- Naomi Pelletier, Weatherford College (NJCAA, Texas)
- Emma Duncan, Western Texas College (NJCAA, Texas)
- Naomi Cohen, Herkimer College (NJCAA, New York)
- Léa Chevrier, Florida Southwestern (NJCAA, Florida)
- Estelle Audette, Kankakee Community College (NJCAA, Illinois)
- Emily Meloche, Spoon River College (NJCAA, Illinois)
- Bonnie Zachary, Cushing Academy (Prep school, Massachusetts)
- Éliane Cinq-Mars, Ottawa University (OIWA, Ontario)
- Sophie Désy, Ottawa University (OIWA, Ontario)

#### NEW – Female program restructuring

Following the changes that began last year, the female program made another major structural decision. For the 2023 season, the U15 Team Quebec team will experience a hybrid season. Thus, meaning that the athletes selected will be part-time on the program and they will continue to play at the regional or local level based on the availability in their region.

This team's coaching staff will work collaboratively with the regional teams in order to establish a schedule that will not conflict with the activities of the teams concerned. Winter practices will take place approximately once a week. Additional development activities, such as pitching practices, will also be available for the athletes.

The federation wishes to strengthen the regional structure in this category to broaden its elite athlete pool (AA) while maintaining an excellence pathway (AAA). Noting the great progress of regional teams in recent years, we believe that improved collaboration between regions and the federation's excellence program will have a positive effect on the development of athletes and coaches.

#### Male Team Quebec Fastpitch Program – "Équipes du Québec" AAA

This year, our athletes were able to train more regularly in the gym during the off-season for technical, strategic and physical conditioning activities supported by our competent coaches and our physical trainer Mathieu Roy. In addition to all the weekly individual training in their training group, the athletes met for team practices every Sunday from 10



a.m. to 3 p.m. Also, a series of four virtual meetings were held for athletes and coaches with a sports psychology practitioner. Each athlete received a practice program which was explained in a virtual meeting or in person to ensure comprehension. Each athlete had to complete a training calendar to ensure their adherence to their program.

However, the men's fastpitch excellence program had its share of difficulties in 2022 especial for the U20 and U23 teams. The loss of several elite athletes over the past year has considerably changed the configuration of our two teams recognized by the ministry. The U23 team had to complete its team with younger athletes. This led to the U20 team consisting of mainly 16–17-year-old. They went to the U20 Canadian Championship with a development mindset. This also explains the absence of a U17 team in the men's program this year.

As early as fall 2021, the process of forming a U15 Team Quebec started. This team prepared by playing in the U17 league and playing exhibition games against stronger teams. They went to the U15 Canadian Championships in Wilmot, Ontario and finished in 4th place.

The U23 team did very well with a 4th position at the U23 Canadian Championship. The U22 Canada Games team finished in 5th position. At the U20 team level, the results were much more difficult as expected with the majority of players still U17 in age. However, we see a promising young athlete pool who started their career at U15 level. This bodes well for the years to come.

Here are the athletes who have distinguished themselves at the Canadian championships with a spot on the all-star team:

- U15: Jérémy Breton, All-Star pitcher
- U23: Alex Baillargeon, pitcher, Zachary Dutil, catcher, Édouard Asselin, infielder

Several "Relève" identified athletes and all "Elite" identified athletes played a regular season for one of the Bellechasse senior league teams. This league also included the U23 Quebec team which included the Canada Games athlete pool.

50

It should be noted that all players from Quebec teams must play in their respective local league.

#### Some 2022 highlight for the male side

Mathieu Roy remains on the senior national team. He helped his team win silver at the 2022 Men's Pan American Championship where he was named an All-Star. He will represent Canada at the WBSC World Championship in Auckland, New Zealand in November. He also performed very well with the New York Gremlins, winning gold at the ASA Tournament, winning silver at the ISC and being named to the 1st Team All-World with a .400 batting average. He also won gold at the Senior Canadian Championship with Team Newfoundland.

Isaac Lefebvre made the U23 national team that will represent Canada at the WBSC U23 Men's Softball World Cup and has earned a place on the senior national team's prospect pool. He also played in the American system with the Hill United Chiefs.

Jean-Yves Doucet remains part of the national men's U18 fastpitch team as an assistant coach. 7 Quebec players participated in the U18 national team identification camp.

We are proud of the development and advancement of the athletes within our excellence program. Their pursuit of softball careers at the college level and on national teams demonstrates that playing softball can bring you far.

## **COMPETITIONS**

### **NEW – Coupes A**

Following our assessment and revamp of our minor structure in 2021, the main change was the revamp of the A division. Due to different realities, this division looks different for females compared to males.

#### Women's

This division returned to the local association levels. In 2022, associations could 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.

- Chateauguay cup: 8 teams (4 U11 and 4 U13)
- Montreal cup: 7 teams (4 U11 and 3 U13)

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



### Men's

This division was new on the male side and was 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: 4 teams
- Bellechasse cup: 4 teams

### Canada Games – Female

Just before the Games, the athletes of our women's team had the chance to participate in the route of the Games torch. They were honored to proudly represented our sport.

We can without a doubt say that the female's program achievement of the year is the silver medal at the Canada Games team. This team, first built in 2020 and completed in mid-summer 2022, had a remarkable and historic journey. Their silver medal is indeed the highest position of a women's team at the Canada Games. The team was extremely competitive throughout the event, including two wins against Ontario. The coaching staff was able to get the best out of their athletes at the right time. Numerous positive comments about the coaches from the sports communities have made their way back to us.

### Canada Games – Male

The Canada Games team (U22), which was finalized at the end of May, competed against senior teams at the tournaments in Ontario, Fredericton and Au Sable Forks in the United States followed by the U23 Canadian Championship all before heading to the Canada Games. Despite their young age, the team still finished 4th at the Canadian Championships and 5th at the Canada Games.

### Canadian Championships – Host Province

After a two years hiatus, the Canadian championships were back. As usual, the women's program hosted a championship. In August, 24 U17 category teams gathered at Michel-Martin Park in Île-Perrot. The weather was on our side and the championship ran smoothly from start to finish. For the opening ceremony, we were lucky to have Kaleigh Rafter come throw the ceremonial opening pitch and sign autographs afterwards. Softball Canada was present from start to finish the competition supervisors' work was impeccable. Thanks to Bev Adams and Gary MacDonald.

The teams were very enthusiastic about the Canadian Championships return. This was evident with souvenir sales exploding and almost everything being sold out after day one! Although the city of Île-Perrot continues to works on improving the site and fields year after year (new net, grass, player benches, etc.), improvements will have to be made for spectator safety on fields 3 and 4. Finally, a big thank you to our organizing committee Pascal and Aryane Désy who delivered a quality event. It was not easy to get back into the swing of things after two years of absence, but our organizers and the many volunteers successfully took on this challenge.

### Quebec Games

The Laval Quebec Games finally took place. Eight regions competed during the month of July. The Centre-Du-Québec region had to withdraw a few weeks prior due to a lack of athletes. The Quebec Games offered a high level of competition, in a fun and respectful environment. Here are the final competition results:

1. Sud-Ouest
2. Chaudière-Appalaches
3. Lac-St-Louis
4. Rive-Sud
5. Laval
6. Laurentides
7. Montréal
8. Lanaudière

The Chaudière-Appalaches region was also awarded the sportsmanship award.

A big thank you to the organizing committee, led by Danielle St-Georges, for the immense work done before, during and after the competition. It was well worth the wait!

### Eastern Canadian Championships – Fastpitch

In august, Quebec sent 6 female teams to the Eastern Canadian Championships. Unfortunately, no male teams participated in 2022.



### U13 girls

The Sud-Ouest Dragons and Lac St. Louis Lions traveled to Fredericton, NB for the U13 girls Eastern Canadian Championships. The dragons brought home the bronze medal!

### U17 girls

Three teams represented Quebec at the U17 girl's Eastern Canadian Championships: Phénix du Nord, Rockets de Quebec/Chaudière-Appalache and Lac St. Louis Lions. Unfortunately, after good round robin performances, no teams were able to reach the podium

### Intermediate women's

The U23 Lac St. Louis Lions represented Quebec at the Intermediate women's Eastern Canadian Championships. Unfortunately, they were unable to reach the podium against the tough intermediate competition.

### **Provincial Championships – Girls Fastpitch**

#### **Provincial Championships – Girls Fastpitch « AA »**

The AA provincial Championships took place for the first time in 3 seasons. Hosting was shared between the Rockets and Amazons, our two teams from the Quebec/Chaudière-Appalache region. A total of 14 regional teams participated in 3 categories.

- U13: 5 teams
- U15: 5 teams
- U17: 4 teams

#### **La 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. This female event included two categories.

- U11: 4 teams
- U13: 4 teams

#### **Festival provincial – Girl's fastpitch « B »**

The Festival Provincial B was at full capacity in 2022 for the first time since 2019. Chateauguay (Chat-o-Cats girls minor softball league) hosted the competition over two weekends. This competition brought together the best teams from each region in 5 categories.

In total, 35 teams participated

- U11: 8 teams
- U13: 10 teams
- U15: 5 teams
- U17: 8 teams
- U23: 4 teams

In parallel to this championship, we hosted a U9 development team where teams could individually register and participate in a day of exhibition games and a clinic hosted by our U23 provincial team. In the pilot year of this project, 7 teams participated. We believe that their positive experience will bring more teams next year.

### **UMPIRES**

Softball Quebec affiliated 256 umpires this season, a decrease after the significant increase we saw in 2021. In general, we must focus our efforts on retention while continuing the recruitment work started with the 2022 marketing campaign.

We recruited 89 new umpires in 2022 which is excellent. However, this means we lost 100 umpires from the 2021 season!





Year	Total	Minor	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Trained	Accredited
2018	334	56	95	53	41	20	7	0	62
2019	298	39	69	41	33	21	7	55	33
2020	207	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	207
2021	287	X	113	40	25	16	10	83	
2022	256	X	104	30	29	19	10	64	

**NEW – New initiatives**

**Mentorship program**

In 2022, the CDA attempted to start a provincial mentoring program to offer a more formal form of mentoring that what already exists at the local and regional level. However, the results were not conclusive and a new approach will be implemented for 2023.

**Equipment**

In order to help minor referees, we provided them each with a free shirt, broom, ball pocket and strike/ball counter. All new federation referees received a federation jersey.

**National certifications and honors**

Softball Québec would like to congratulate Audrey Desmarteaux-Houle who obtained level 5 in fastpitch in 2022; she also received the 2021 Fastpitch Umpire of the Year award.

Softball Québec would like to congratulate Pat Chiquette who obtained level 5 in slow pitch in 2022; he will also receive the 2022 slo-pitch umpire of the year award next November.

Congratulations to Élodie Doucet and Ryan Quantz who obtained level 4 in fastpitch during the 2022 season.

**Canadian Championships**

Quebec sent a total of 22 umpires to 9 Canadian championships during the 2022 season, in addition to 4 umpires to the Canada Games. Three Quebec Umpires (Mike Néron, Geneviève Gaudreau and Marcel Vallée) were umpire supervisors at Canadian Championships.

**Provincial events**

The CDA recognized a total of 29 events to qualify umpires for the 2023 Canadian Championships. Eight of those events were provincial championships in Women's B, A, AA or AAA fastpitch.

At these events, the CDA recognized 21 competitions as qualifying tournaments for referees due to the presence of at least one Master umpire. These tournaments are varied; 13 were in men's OPEN orthodox, B or C; 3 were Cree Nation tournaments in both orthodox and fastpitch (1 minor and 2 adults) and the rest were minor women's and men's/mixed fastpitch tournaments.

Unfortunately, no major slo-pitch tournaments took place in Quebec this season. However, plans are already underway to add slo-pitch events to the 2023 schedule.

During these events, 8 supervisors were evaluated as part of Softball Canada's Master-Evaluator program.

**Clinics and development**

During the 2022 season, the CDA and its regional committees organized a total of 16 in person clinics to certify umpires in 9 different regions. In addition, the CDA organized 4 online clinics; including one organized specifically for our hearing-impaired umpires.

In addition to umpire certification clinics, the CDA organized 5 online development workshops over the winter. Here are the topics presented:

- Umpiring the women's game
- Umpire player dynamic
- Umpiring female's vs males
- 3 umpire system





Several experienced umpires also presented in Softball Quebec's "L'Alignement Gagnant" on the Fastpitch pitching rule and rules myths and realities.

During these workshops, 15 instructors were evaluated as part of Softball Canada's Master-Evaluator program.

**2023 objectives**

- Increase the number of umpires by increasing recruitment but especially by better supporting our umpires in their first seasons
- Host a national level 4 clinic
- Host a refresher clinic for our Master-Evaluators
- Host workshops for our level 1-2-3 referees on various topics to help fill the gaps of the certification clinics
  - Umpire movements, fastpitch pitching, 2 and 3 umpire systems, expectations of umpires during championships, supervisor-umpire relationship, etc.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Excluding the 2020 season, our membership is similar to 2019 and 2021. The development in the minor organizations continues nicely. However, we will have to remain creative in the future to continue recruiting new members. The activities offered for youth continues to grow significantly and it is becoming difficult to keep them in the system for several years.

At the adult level, we will have to be more aggressive in recruiting new leagues.

Here are our 2022 affiliation numbers:

League		Association	Teams		Timbits	Umpires	Tournaments	
Minor	Adult		Minor	Adult			Minor	Adult
14	178	47	306	1481	535	256	12	43

**Orthodox softball – Provincial Circuits**

Orthodox is a discipline played by several member leagues and provincial competition circuits in Quebec. Two circuits returned in 2022, OSBM and Center du Québec.

A total of 20 teams were part of the OSBM circuit in 2022. There were 6 Class B tournaments and 6 Class C tournaments. The tournaments took place in the Laurentides, Lanaudière, Laval and Rive-Sud regions.

The Class C circuit from Center du Québec brought together 10 teams. Five tournaments were held in Center du Québec, Estrie and Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

In addition to the two circuits, two OPEN class tournaments were held in Victoriaville and Thetford Mines. These types of events allow high-level umpires to prepare for the Canadian championships.

**Slow-pitch**

2022 was a transition year for slow-pitch at Softball Québec.

We have named Patrick Chiquette as the lead of the future development committee for this discipline. Patrick Chiquette is an experienced level 5 slow pitch umpire. He has lots of experience and has participated in several Canadian championships in slow pitch, as well as in fast pitch throughout his career. He is also a member of the Softball Quebec Umpire Development Committee (CDA) where he is responsible for slow-pitch umpiring.

Patrick participated, with Diego (slow-pitch coordinator at the PSO office), in an important pan-Canadian meeting on the development of slow-pitch in the country and in the provinces and territories with Softball Canada. This meeting was organized at the request of Softball Quebec.

A national consensus emerged from this meeting and several possible solutions are being explored, in particular, the creation of national competitions in categories other than OPEN.

We will closely follow the discussions and progress of this project with Softball Canada in the coming weeks and months. It is important for our Canadian federation to offer a greater range of services for this clientele. There are



also discussions with provinces such as Ontario and New Brunswick to see the possibilities of inter-province competitions.

In Quebec, we have several member slow-pitch leagues. One of our objectives is to create events such as tournaments and championships in order to better serve this clientele and offer them interesting competitions.

The Canadian championship was back and it was held in Surrey, British Columbia.

On the men's side, 18 teams participated. Quebec had two teams to represent us:

- Team proaxion/Sports Rousseau: 4th place
- Coffrage Daniel Lampron/ Nous Vendons votre maison / sports 47 Spartans: 10th place

On the women's side, despite a good attempt to send a team, the players ran out of time and money to be able to participate. However, it is only a postponement as steps are already underway with the aim of participating in the 2023 championship

## **RECOGNITIONS**

### **Internation Softball Day – June 13th – Social media contest**

Softball Québec organized a contest as part of this day to help shine light on our sport!

### **Thank you, Volunteers - National Volunteer Week**

Softball Québec took advantage of National Volunteer Week to thank the volunteers who, through their dedication, allow thousands, young and old, to practice their favorite sport, softball!

### **Thank you, Coach – National Coaches Week**

One of the best times to highlight an important piece of our sport is, without a doubt, National Coaches Week during which we, with the help of our associations, thanked coaches from all regions of the Quebec in fastpitch, slow-pitch and orthodox. We had so many submissions that we had to stretch National Coaches Week over two weeks. In addition, with the help of the CDA, posted thank yous to umpire learning facilitators and supervisors who have stood out this season via their 'coaching' of umpires.

### **Sports Quebec Gala**

Softball Quebec had only one nominee at the 2022 Sports Quebec Gala. Geneviève Gaudreau was a finalist in the "official of the year at the international level" category. This selection was based on her participation at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games women's fastpitch competition where she refereed the final at 1st base. Unfortunately, Geneviève did not take home the award but we are very happy with her selection in a very elite group

### **Foundations and Bursaries**

We are pleased once again this year to have several Espoir, Élite and Relève athletes in both women and men fastpitch who were received for scholarship from various partners in connection with among others, the "Fondation de l'Athlète d'Excellence" du Québec (FAEQ), the Nordic Foundation and the Claude-Raymond Fund:

- **Sharl Leclerc** was awarded a \$2,000 bursary from the Cascades scholarship program. Sharl was a member of the men's fastpitch team representing Quebec at the 2022 Canada Games
- **Léa Chevrier** was awarded a \$4,000 bursary for academic and athletic excellence as part of the Planète Courier scholarships. Léa was a member of the Quebec U19 women's fastpitch team that won the silver medal at the 2022 Canada Games.
- **Alexia Chevrier** was awarded a \$2,000 bursary for her academic excellence through the National Bank scholarship program. Alexia played for U17 Team Quebec as well as being part of the 2022 Canada Games team winning the silver medal.
- **Frédérique Bourdon** won a bursary from the Claude-Raymond Fund (Rive-Sud region only). Frédérique was part of the Quebec U15 women's fastpitch team in 2022.

### **Nordic Foundation (Quebec/Chaudière-Appalaches region only)**

- Zachary Dutil was awarded a 2500\$ bursary
- Nathan Caron was awarded a 1500\$ bursary
- Sharl Leclerc was awarded a 1500\$ bursary

All three players were members of the men's fastpitch team representing Quebec at the Canada Games.



**Awards night and 2022 season 'Coup cœur'**

The awards nights taking a break in 2022 to make way for the "Coup de Coeur 2022".

After two years of the pandemic, we would like to thank all our members and believe that they all deserve a tip of our cap for being patient, accommodating and for continuing to make softball your favorite sport!

During a normal awards night, we congratulate various individuals for their success during the season, shining light on about 100 people who have distinguished themselves on the provincial, national and international stages. Whom which are accompanied by relatives and friends.

With "Coup de Coeur 2022", we will be able to reach a much larger audience. We will be able to make our local and regional members shine as well.

The awards evening will return in 2023. We will take the next few months to set up a committee to review the concept of the evening.

**Hall of Fame and Tribute to a Softball Great – Marcel Côté**

In January 2022, the federation lost a great builder in the person of Marcel Côté. Throughout the year several tributes were paid to him:

- December 2021: Induction into the Softball Québec Hall of Fame as a builder;
- January 2022: Tribute to the National Assembly by Vaudreuil's member of parliament, Mrs. Marie-Claude Nichols;
- June 2022: During the Gala Sports Québec, the Quebec sports community paid tribute to the Softball Québec great. Marcel Côté posthumously received the special "Hommage Jacques-Beauchamp" award for his exceptional contribution to the world of softball in Quebec;
- September 30, 2022: Official inauguration of Marcel-Côté field in the city of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Lets remeber a few moments of his carrier:

- Following a career as an athlete and fastpitch pitcher, Marcel began his coaching career with the minor fastpitch association of La Presqu'île in the late 1990s. He then continued as a coach at the regional level with the U12, then the U14 Lac-St-Louis Lions teams. Alongside his coaching career, Marcel has been heavily involved in the development of softball in his Lac-St-Louis region. In 2003, Marcel began his involvement at the provincial level as head of the federation's minor softball development. During his career, Marcel has trained an incredible number of young pitchers, beginner coaches and all of Softball Quebec's CANpitch instructors.
- In 2007, Marcel joined the women's fastpitch Teams Quebec program as head coach of the '93 Rebelles team; a position he would occupy in 2008 as well. Subsequently, Marcel continues to be involved with the Team Quebec program as a pitching technician and specialist.

Chantal Gagnon  
Directrice générale  
SOFTBALL QUÉBEC

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# 2022 Annual Report

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## Overview:

2022 was our first full season back from Covid cancellations and postponements. It has been a big year for us with the introduction of new programs, resuming of larger tournaments, retirement from our long-standing Executive Director and hiring of our new Executive Director.

## Registration:

Our regular leagues were all able to return to full play without maximum numbers of teams and players

Participation Numbers Breakdown:

Whitehorse Minor Softball: U5 – 64 | U7 – 104 | U9 – 72 | U11 – 80 | U11/13 Girls – 57 | U13 – 53

U15 – 58 | U18 – 18. (337 male, 169 female) 118 self-identified as Indigenous.

Coed Slo-pitch – 671 members (359 male, 312 female).

Men's Slo-pitch – 4 teams, 56 players.

## Player Development:

The 2023 Offseason was spent branding and developing our new competitive youth fastpitch stream. Sundogs Softball successfully launched this Spring with 4 teams for the 2022 season, U13 and U15 Female and U11 and U13 Male. These teams started practicing in April and continued play to the end of August. Going forward we intend to broaden our reach of age ranges and send teams out of territory to compete.

Female exposure trip: Our female Sundogs teams had the opportunity to travel to BC in June and attend the Canada Cup (as spectators). Team Canada Senior Women's National Team was gracious enough to meet with all of our girls following one of their games answering questions, signing autographs and taking pictures. Fleetwood Fastpitch Association hosted both of our teams for a double header, this was the first true Softball game any of our athletes have participated in. All 33 of our female athletes returned to the Yukon with a newfound sense of understanding, respect and passion for Softball!

## Coach Development:

We hosted 1 NCCP Community Sport Ongoing Participation clinic. The clinic was hosted in the community of Watson Lake, Yukon and 8 coaches attended.

## Umpire Development:

We were fortunate to have Brent Chadwick from Saskatchewan host a Level 1 Umpire clinic. The clinic was hosted in Whitehorse and we had 15 attendants that carried on to ump in our Whitehorse Minor Softball League!

We also sent a Yukon umpire, Jeremy Hetherington, to represent the territory at the Softball Canada Slopitch Nationals.

## Adult Programming:

Dustball –The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dustball International Slopitch Tournament saw a total of 48 teams (11 Men's, 4 Women's, and 33 Coed) from Yukon, NWT and Alaska.

SPN Men's & Women's 'E' Nationals – The first ever Men's and Women's SPN 'E' Championships were hosted in Whitehorse at the Pepsi Softball Centre July 29 – August 1. There were 6 Women's teams (AB, MB, ON and YT) and 9 Men's teams (AB, MB, ON, NL and YT).

There is an interest for the return of adult fastpitch (Men's and Women's) we anticipate exploring this further in the 2023 season.

## New Program Development:

Challenger Softball – This winter we partnered with the Jays Care Foundation (JCF) to run the Challenger Baseball (Softball in our case) program. We were approached by a local youth, Eva, who herself is a person with disability that never had the chance to participate in Softball growing up. After planning sessions with JCF and Eva we launched an 8-week indoor pilot program beginning in January which was very successful and led to another round of outdoor programming in July and August. The program is intended to empower children, youth and adults living with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. We had a total of 10 participants in the program and are looking to grow our reach this Fall/Winter.



## 2022 Annual

## Report

### Overview:

The 2022 season was certainly very busy for all of Softball New Brunswick. We were very fortunate to be able to resume the season with 0 covid restrictions in place. Softball NB was able to hold our annual Provincial Championships, host the 2022 U19 Women's Canadian Fastpitch Championships, host 2 Eastern Canadian Championships (U13 Girls and U13 Boys), run 4 Provincial 'AA' Leagues for U13, U15, U17, and U20 females, run both our Men's and Women's Canada Games programs, along with run our Community Caravan program at full capacity. Our membership number was 2369 (Coaches, Players, and Officials). Softball NB is looking forward to an exciting fall 2022, where we will also be hosting the Softball Canada Annual General Meeting in Fredericton. We are also looking forward to the 2023 season!

### Registration:

Softball New Brunswick total membership was 2369 in 2022. This total is an overall decline of 18% from 2021. The decline was found primarily in the number of registered adult players, more specifically slo pitch. Much like the rest of the country, Softball NB is working on strategies on how to enhance our relationship with slo pitch leagues across the province and offer a competitive and enticing package in 2023. Softball New Brunswick is, however, seeing growth in our minor female fastpitch numbers (13% increase), which is being reflected in the increase of number of teams attending provincials in both the recreational ('A') and the competitive divisions ('AA').

Softball NB also opted to expand our U19 age category to U20 at the club level for a 1 year term (2022) to bridge the gap from the age change implemented this past year. This expansion allowed for our female members to keep playing the game for an extended period. It will be reviewed over the fall if Softball NB will continue to offer a U20 category or return to U19 in 2023.

### 2022 Total Membership – 2369

*Minor Female Players – 1214*

*Minor Male Players – 325*

*Gender Fluid Players - 1*

*Non Binary Players - 1*

*Adult Players - 457*

*Off-field Club Administrators - 14*

*Female Coaches – 89*

*Male Coaches - 159*

*Total Umpires - 109*

*Total Teams - 119 (89 minor, 30 adult)*

### COVID-19 Operational Plan:

Softball New Brunswick was very pleased to have zero COVID-19 restrictions in place for the 2022 softball season. It is apparent after 2 years of restrictions (2020/2021), teams are now accustomed to more sanitary practices (i.e. less sharing of equipment, sanitizing regularly). Softball NB intends to maintain encouraging these practices going forward.

### Provincial Championships:

In 2022, Softball New Brunswick was very excited to once again host our Provincial Championship tournaments. Our tournaments were all well attended and were well organized by the host committees. We are seeing growth in the number of recreational teams attending provincials, and have offered both 'A' and 'AA' categories in several of





## 2022 Annual

## Report

our minor championships SNB unfortunately did have to cancel some of our championships due to low registration numbers and lack of hosts, including: U15, U17, U19 Male, U20 Women's, Intermediate Women's, 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. We hosted both a 'AA' and an 'A' championship in the U11, U13, and U15 Female categories.

**U9 Girls**  
3 Teams

**U13 'AA' Girls**  
3 Teams

**U15 'A' Girls**  
5 Teams

**U11 'AA' Girls**  
4 Teams

**U13 'AA' Girls**  
7 Teams

**U17 Girls**  
3 Teams

**U11 'A' Girls**  
4 Teams

**U13 Boys**  
5 Teams

**Intermediate Men's**  
4 Teams

**U11 Boys**  
3 Teams

**U15 'AA' Girls**  
7 Teams

### **Eastern Canadian Championships:**

Softball New Brunswick had a very busy summer, having hosted 2 Eastern Canadian Championships in 2022 (U13 Girls and U13 Boys). We had teams attending championships at U13, U15, U17, Intermediate Women's and in the U13, U15, and Intermediate Men's categories.

The U13 Girls Eastern Canadians were hosted in Fredericton with 12 teams participating and the U13 Boys were hosted in Oromocto with 5 teams attending. Both championships were very successful and the hosts did a fantastic job organizing each event. The number of participating teams at each event hosted in New Brunswick include:

**U13 Boys - Brookfield Elks (GOLD)**  
5 teams participated from NB, NS, NL

**U13 Girls - Oakville Angels (GOLD)**  
12 teams participated from NB, NS, NL, PEI, QC, ONT

New Brunswick also had a very strong showing particularly at the U17 Girls Eastern Canadians. The Southern Black Bears took home the Gold Medal and the Oromocto Silverbacks placed Silver. Monica Bourque (Black Bears) was named Top Pitcher, and Emily Rowe (Silverbacks) was named both MVP and Top Batter.

### **Coaching Clinics / Program:**

Softball New Brunswick was very pleased to offer the Comp-Intro coaching course in Kennebecasis Valley in the spring of 2022, after 2 years of cancellations due to COVID-19. 31 coaches received training.

In addition to 31 coaches receiving training, 6 coaches became Comp-Intro certified and 4 coaches received their Comp-Dev certification.

### **Hall of Fame Ceremony:**

Softball NB hosted our 27th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, April 30th. The ceremony was well attended by over 125 guests. Our newest inductees include: Ricky LeBlanc, Claudine Sonier Sweeney, Tim Daley, Craig Carr, and Robert Bell. Congratulations to all!



# 2022 Annual

# Report

### **Canpitch Program:**

SNB did not host any Canpitch programs in 2022 at the Provincial level. At the club levels, clinics were held by regional pitching instructors. Our Master Pitching Instructor (MPI) resigned in 2021, so our board is continuing to try to fill the vacancy in that role. SNB is also planning to reschedule our Pitcher Instructor Beginner clinic that was supposed to be held in March 2020, but was canceled due to COVID-19.

### **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 schools. The Middle School Provincial Championships were reintroduced in 2022 after a 2 year hiatus due to COVID-19. The tournament was held in Sussex, NB, and featured 6 female teams, which is smaller than previous years as some schools were not yet prepared to return to the sport after COVID. However, based on feedback from schools throughout the province, we anticipate large uptake of middle school in 2023.

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. We also plan to introduce the WBSC Softball 5 program in our schools.

### **Website:**

Softball NB continued on updating our website throughout 2022 and focusing on driving more traffic to our page.

### **Social Media:**

Softball New Brunswick continued in 2022 to expand its reach on social media, by regularly posting content and reaching new followers, as well by introducing a SNB Provincial Team Instagram and Facebook page.

### **Annual Awards Banquet:**

Softball New Brunswick is currently planning for the 2022 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 2022 was 109, which is quite consistent with 2021 membership. Our umpires association was very busy this past summer working in local, provincial, atlantic, national, and international competitions. Softball NB umpires represented in every Canadian Championship offered in 2022, as well as having representation at the Canada Summer Games Men's tournament.

We wish to recognize our Provincial Umpire in Chief, Ron Campbell, on his dedication and hard work this year. Ron attended the 2022 Junior Olympic Cup (Oklahoma, USA) U19 Women's Canadian Championships (Fredericton, NB), Canada Summer Games (Niagara, ON), and Senior Men's Canadian Championships (St. Johns, NL).

The umpires association will be working in the office season to develop a recruitment strategy to increase membership for 2023.



# 2022 Annual

# Report

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### **Timbits Softball Community Caravan:**

As one of our highest profile programs, the Softball NB Community Caravan continued to operate at full capacity in 2022. Our 7 summer students were very busy travelling the province, offering sessions to introduce the game of softball to youth ages 5-10. Softball NB saw significant new interest in the program from various communities, but would like to acknowledge Woodstock, NB. Softball NB anticipates a formal fastpitch program beginning in Woodstock in 2023 as a result of the Community Caravan. Softball NB provides sessions, resources, t-shirts, etc. to ensure communities are left with the tools to begin their own program after we leave.

### **Softball NB Membership:**

Softball NB membership is happy to have seen growth of 13% in our minor fastpitch numbers in 2022, compared to 2021. We look forward to continuing to grow our membership next season!

### **East Coast Showdown**

Softball New Brunswick hosted a 2022 East Coast Showdown tournament in June 2022. This tournament, held in Fredericton, was hosted for our U19 Women's Provincial Team and both our male and female Canada Summer Games programs, 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 2022. The tournament was a big success, despite the playoffs 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.

### **2022 U19 Women's Canadian Fast Pitch Championships**

Softball New Brunswick hosted the U19 Women's Canadian Fast Pitch Championships in Fredericton, in July 2022. The tournament featured 17 teams from across the country, including 2 from New Brunswick. As the first Canadian Championship hosted by Softball NB as a PSO, it was a major success. This tournament was very well attended by spectators from all over the province and country.

### **Provincial Team Program:**

After 2 years of postponement for the New Brunswick Provincial Team Program, we were very happy to have our inaugural season take place in 2022. 4 provincial teams (U15 Girls, U17 Girls, U19 Women's, U17 Boys) represented New Brunswick well at Canadian Championships across the country (Saskatchewan, Montreal, and Fredericton). This program is a significant step in Softball NB's high performance program, and development of our elite athletes.

### **Canada Games:**

Both New Brunswick's Men's and Women's programs competed throughout the season in preparation for the 2022 Canada Summer Games. The men's program competed in a newly formed Maritime Men's Fastpitch League, while the female program also competed throughout the maritimes / participated in the 2022 U19 Women's Canadian Championships as a tune up tournament. Both teams attended Niagara and competed very hard, representing our provinces well. Our female program placed 7th, while our men's program placed 9th. Hillary Pineau attended the Canada Summer Games with the women's program as one of two Apprentice Coaches from New Brunswick as part of the Coach NB Women in Coaching program.



# 2022 Annual

# Report

## Provincial Leagues

In 2022, Softball New Brunswick had a U13, U15, U17, and U20 Women's 'AA' Provincial League for the second year in a row. This year we expanded from 3 leagues to 4, incorporating the U13 level. Softball New Brunswick's purpose of redefining our competition structure and implementing a Provincial League model for our registered Softball New Brunswick membership, was to be able to provide a combination of more regular meaningful competition within the province and giving teams the opportunity to play outside of their regions regularly. This continued to follow the mandated Softball Canada Athlete Development Matrix model. Each league was run by a commissioner. League stats were maintained. Overall the four league seasons were a success, and we anticipate even more growth in 2023!

### 2022 Leagues:

U13 League - 4 Teams

U15 League - 7 Teams

U17 League - 3 Teams

U20 League - 5 Teams

## Scholarship:

Softball NB is proud to offer our annual Janiva Willis Memorial Scholarships again in 2022: 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 2021 to Emily Dixon (KVGSA) and Grace Davidson (Fredericton Twins). This scholarship will be distributed once again in the fall of 2022.

## 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.

**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 2022 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 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 2022 U19 Women's 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.



## 2022 Annual

## Report

**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 2022 with various grants, partnerships, etc.

*Hillary Pineau*

**Hillary Pineau**  
**Executive Director**  
**Softball New-Nouveau Brunswick**



## Provincial Report for 2022

### Overview

The 2022 Softball NL season has been very busy and successful. Registration appears to be an all-time high 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 2022 season, we anticipate that our total membership numbers to be around 3500 members. There continues to be strong potential in other regions of the province as we see 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 collaborate with our stakeholders to determine strategies to provide more efficient delivery of programs and services for 2023. 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 2023, we anticipate being able to offer 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 as we continue to find ways to prepare and develop our High Performance athletes to compete on the National and International level.

Plans for 2023 will begin shortly as we continue to find better and efficient 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 2023 Eastern Canadian and Canadian Championships.

### Minor Program

There were 25 Minor Associations affiliated with Softball NL this past summer with approximately 3200 males and females registered. Over the summer, we coordinated 24 provincial tournaments including fastpitch and slo-pitch from U11 to the U20. We also partnered with Tim Hortons to provide Timbit Jamborees for U7 and U9. We also partnered with the Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's to host the U15 Girls Eastern Canadian Fast Pitch tournament which was a tremendous success and special thanks to the U15 Girls Selects Team who did a tremendous job in hosting this tournament.

Along with the Provincial Tournaments, Softball NL had 5 minor teams participate in the 2022 Eastern Canadian Championships.



A highlight for Softball NL for 2022 was our winning three bronze medals at the Eastern Canadian Championships including CBC in U15 Girls, Goulds in U15 Boys and Placentia in U13 Boys. 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 2023.

In 2022, Softball NL continued with a High Performance Program. We had excellent participation for the U15 Boys and Girls groups but the U17 Boys and Girls Programs struggled to form teams this year. The goal was to bring together and develop HP Programs for these four groups in preparation for the 2022 Canadian Championships. As a follow up the 2022 HP season and before we start the 2023 programs, Softball NL will be hosting Identification camps for boys and girls for both U15 and U17 Divisions late September.

In the coming months, the Minor Committee will convene to review the past summer and make suggestions/recommendations for 2023 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 2023.

### **Women's Program**

There were two Women's fastpitch leagues in our province in 2022, one which took place in Corner Brook and a second one in St. John's. The Corner Brook league has maintained a good league with four teams while the St. John's league continues to find ways to build for the future. The 2022 Women's Provincials did not go ahead in 2022 but we anticipate a tournament in 2023.

### **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 2022, the Men's league played out of Lion's Park with a 5-team league. The teams played a 24-game schedule and three teams participated in John Gorman Memorial Senior Men's Provincials in August.

One of the highlights for 2022 was Softball NL successfully playing host the 2022 Men's and Master Men's Canadian Championships. There were 12 teams competing in the Men's Division and 6 teams in the Master Men's Division. Softball NL had 3 teams compete in the Men's tournament and one team in the Master Men's. Softball NL's Galway Hitmen were successful in defending and winning the Men's Tournament, now a record of 8 times out of the last 9 championships.

## **Molson St. John's Intermediate Men's Fastpitch League**

The Molson St. John's intermediate Men's Fastpitch League was established in 2005 and has been in operation for the last 18 seasons (2005-2022). This league operates out of Lion's Park in 2022 with 6 teams competing. The Intermediate Men's Provincials will likely not go ahead in 2022 but we look forward to it returning in 2023.

## **Canada Games**

The 2022 Canada Summer Games took place in the Niagara Region, Ontario on August 6 – 21, 2022. Both our Men's and Women's programs competed very well with Men's group finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place while the Women's Team did their best and lost a close placing game to Nova Scotia to finish 10<sup>th</sup>. As NL is hosting the 2025 Canada Summer Games, Softball NL will soon be selecting coaches for both programs and begin the athlete identification process.

## **Coaching**

In 2022, 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**

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 120 umpires trained and/or registered. The NLUA, under Chair Kearney O'Keefe, continues to work with Softball NL to identify gaps and areas in need, especially around Recruitment and Retention. One of the goals is to train umpires at the local level where provincial championships take place to ensure local development and legacy.

## **Looking Ahead**

Softball NL will be very busy in the offseason as we set policy and get ready for the 2023 season. Softball NL 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 2022 including reviewing the Constitution, By-Laws and to develop a new Strategic Plan to assist in Softball NL for the future. The Board of Directors for Softball NL will be meeting soon to plan for our next AGM, election of Officers and to plan to host our Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies.



## **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. We held our first in person AGM since COVID in early April.

## **Minor Program**

68

At the minor level, Softball PEI again had a great 2022 season here on the Island. Minor ball registration continued to grow, and again this year continues to be our most successful minor league to date. This year we were excited to have 899 players registered to play in minor softball leagues across the Island ranging from Timbits to U17 on 58 different teams in 9 different local Associations. Our season ran from early June to mid-September. This is our second year running an A and AA league in U13, U15 and U17 and it continues to be well received by players and parents. We had 5 communities run successful Timbits and U9 programs with 177 registered players (165 females, 12 males).

Softball PEI transitioned over to follow the 7 on 7 format for U9 for the 2022 season. We had 14 teams participate across the Island and the feedback continues to be great from both parents and coaches. We continued to introduce pitching at the U9 level. We ran a successful U10 Indoor League, despite decreased numbers due to COVID, over the winter and plan to grow the program this winter to include another community with the lowered age division of U9.

We were able to successfully host our U9 jamboree, and U11, U13A and AA, U15 A and AA and U17 A and AA Provincials. Our final provincial weekend wrapped up Sept 16-18<sup>th</sup> weekend.

## **Adult Program**

In 2022, Softball PEI continued to sanction our existing leagues; Men's Slo Pitch league, Women's Orthodox league, two Men's Orthodox, a Co-ed Slo Pitch league and the return of the Senior Women's fastpitch league. This saw our slo pitch, orthodox and women's fastpitch membership numbers reach over 700 for the season, our largest registration numbers to date. Our primary goal for the 2023 season will be to get our Adult leagues all registering online and continue to recruit new leagues under SPEI.

## **Eastern and Canadian Championships**

Softball PEI was excited to see the return of the Canadian Championships this season. We sent our U15 and U17 Provincial Whitecaps teams, along with a U19 to their respective events this summer. For our U15 and U17 athletes, this was their first experience at a national event.

Our U15, U17, and U23 Provincial teams participated in a newly formed Atlantic Fastpitch League with NS, NB and NFLD, seeing three weekend events hosted across the Maritimes over June, July and August.

The excitement was high as our Female Canada Games Teams finally got to compete at the games! The athletes and coaches worked hard over the past 4 years and finally got to hit the field wearing their PEI jerseys.

At the Eastern Canadians level, we saw two U13AA teams travel to NB, one U15AA travel to NFLD, four U17AA participate here at home, and one U23 team travel to ON for the Senior Women's event.

## **Officials Development**

This year was a true struggle for officials on the Island. While we saw our numbers increase from 35 officials to 40 officials, we had several weeks where games were canceled due a serious shortage of available officials most nights. Several senior umpires continued 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 63 years young. Our Umpire in Chief traveled south of the border this summer to attend the WBSC International Umpire Certification Seminar in Oklahoma City and was successful in meeting all requirements for certification.

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 2023 season.

### **Coach Development**

We were once again able to successfully offer in-person Competition-Intro Weekends 1 and 2 in May and June, with 11 coaches (3 females, 8 males) attending. Our regularly offered ongoing participation courses held in the spring, prior to the minor leagues starting up, were held in person in two locations with 20 coaches (9 females, 11 males) in attendance. Feedback over the summer will have us looking into offering coaching courses over the winter during the off season.

### **CANpitch**

Our CANpitch program saw a decline with winter with limited instructor availability and COVID shutdowns across the Island for several months. We were still able to clinics in two locations, in Montague, and Richmond. Our clinics were run by two certified pitching instructors. Every pitcher received quality instruction from a trained RPI and Softball PEI has been able to maintain a low athlete to instructor ratio to enhance skill development. This past winter saw 23 females take part in 6-week clinics. With all restrictions currently lifted and more access to indoor facilities, we plan to see more clinics offered right across the Island this winter and following spring.

Respectfully submitted,

David Campbell  
President, Softball PEI



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## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

### 2022 Annual Association Report

#### Affiliation and Registration

NWT Softball was able to maintain levels of registration, as per previous years, despite having one of our second largest membership groups (Hay River Men's and Minor Ball) losing an entire season due to seasonal flooding. Hay River lost one of two ball diamonds, but was still able to send a U17 team for Territorials, becoming the eventual champions. Yellowknife minor ball continues to be our strongest minor ball system, hosting multiple youth teams in all age categories. In total, NWT Softball had over 1,500 total affiliated members this season.

Our men's fastball is something the NWT is very proud of, our top mens league in Yellowknife has 6 teams that compete in three major tournaments throughout the summer. Slo-pitch represents a large number of athletes in our association, around 50%, Yellowknife slo-pitch hosts five different divisions for league play. Women's fastball in the NWT was an important part of our softball identity, so recreating these opportunities for adult females to play at a competitive level is in our short term goals. Lastly, near the end of the summer we began a 'Drop In' night for adults to get an opportunity to learn fastball, and give more pitchers a chance to develop.

There is clearly a strong tie with the north and softball, a favorable summer sport here. With the help of strong community leaders, we hope to continue our competitive level engagement by giving our youth all the opportunities possible to fall in love with the game.

#### Coaching

Two development camps were ran this summer in two regions of the NWT (North Slave and Sathu regions). Our VP of coaching and development Jennifer Lucas is working towards her final stage of coaching evaluation training, which will allow her to run coaching clinics for NWT residents without us needing to fly in various instructors.

#### Umpires

Mentoring young or new officials seems to be one of the most difficult parts of the game as we cannot play without them, making them vital to our sport. Continuing to get more umpires certified across the NWT will allow for less burn-out and to insure getting all our games scheduled. Luckily, multiple board members are actively involved with taking on the responsibility of handling umpires, as well as taking on a heavy workload by doing many of our adult league games. We have 27 current umpires registered that primarily umpire Yellowknife minor ball and Yellowknife men's league games. Most slo pitch games are self-officiated, with some umpires for finals or higher tiered games.

Youth umpires have been on the rise, with some passionate officials taking on more games and beginning to do adult games. Feeding our umpiring system will be a focus as we hope to keep a strong competitive ball for kids and adults.

#### Championships and Representing NWT

Our U13 age group is one we hope to focus on skills and training, giving them opportunities to gain experience. This will allow us to send more teams down to Western Canadian tournaments where we hope to be competitive with our southern counterparts.



Between slo-pitch and fastball, NWT hosted nine tournaments, four being territorials, one hosted in Inuvik and three in Yellowknife.

We had one slo-pitch team head south to Nationals in Leduc, Alberta. Also, an Inuvik team represented NWT and won the Labour Day slo-pitch tournament in Dawson City, Yukon. We have strong hopes for more fastball teams to enter tournaments outside of the NWT in future years.

#### 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 centre.

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.

Another NWT Softball goal in the coming years is to be more involved with our indigenous communities; looking at grassroots training with basic softball goals that will hopefully start the enjoyment of ball to future generations. The photo below was taken in Tulita, NWT after our Executive Director (back row to the left) assisted the community recreation director with a basic clinic for youth from the Sahtu and Beaufort Delta regions of the NWT.

We also hope to work with Softball Canada and other organizations to bring the game of B5 to 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.

Another priority is the implementation of “Safe Sport” into our policies and placing a specific action plan in the procedures we plan to use in the future. We look forward to having an open discussion in Fredericton this fall with other provinces and territories around this topic.



AUDITOR'S

**REPORT**

RAPPORT DU

**VÉRIFICATEUR**

**CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MAY 31, 2022

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## 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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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 25, 2022

# CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MAY 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 525,797	\$ 334,800
Investments (note 4)	1,100,637	1,208,511
Accounts receivable	50,739	223,761
Prepaid expenses	<u>30,706</u>	<u>51,158</u>
	1,707,879	1,818,230
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (note 5)</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,624</u>
	<u>\$ 1,707,879</u>	<u>\$ 1,819,854</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 281,251	\$ 284,107
Deferred revenue (note 6)	<u>296,753</u>	<u>526,270</u>
	<u>578,004</u>	<u>810,377</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in property and equipment	-	1,624
Claude Deschamps Memorial Fund	24,775	26,775
Ethel Boyce Achievement Award Fund	15,504	17,504
Reserve Fund	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	<u>789,596</u>	<u>663,574</u>
	1,129,875	1,009,477
	<u>\$ 1,707,879</u>	<u>\$ 1,819,854</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, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>INVESTED IN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 1,624	\$ 63,415
Amortization	<u>(1,624)</u>	<u>(61,791)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,624</u>
<b>CLAUDE DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL FUND</b>		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 26,775	\$ 28,775
Awards	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 24,775</u>	<u>\$ 26,775</u>
<b>ETHEL BOYCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FUND</b>		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 17,504	\$ 19,504
Awards	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 15,504</u>	<u>\$ 17,504</u>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>		
Balance - beginning and end of year	<u>\$ 300,000</u>	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>		
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 663,574	\$ 459,324
Net revenue for the year	124,398	142,459
Amortization	<u>1,624</u>	<u>61,791</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 789,596</u>	<u>\$ 663,574</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 1,129,875</u>	<u>\$ 1,009,477</u>

# CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Sport Canada contributions	\$ 2,058,579	\$ 1,760,433
Sponsorship	239,213	66,250
Coaching Association of Canada	28,053	40,803
Membership fees	132,327	56,872
Programs - officials	37,141	25,098
- other	83,954	24,201
Canadian championships	34,289	-
Sales	100,915	18,995
Investment (loss)	(11,103)	44,522
Donations	16,500	-
Miscellaneous	8,424	9,737
	<u>2,728,292</u>	<u>2,046,911</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	190,091	181,996
Cost of sales	38,502	4,955
Board and staff travel	4,532	1,065
Human resources	604,627	558,592
Meetings	37,483	2,879
Officiating development	18,144	3,414
Marketing	30,542	76,501
National team	1,133,691	829,160
Canadian championships	148,895	-
Coaching program	25,748	30,169
Program development	370,409	215,721
International representation	1,230	-
	<u>2,603,894</u>	<u>1,904,452</u>
<b>NET REVENUE FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 124,398</u>	<u>\$ 142,459</u>

## CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net revenue for the year	\$ 124,398	\$ 142,459
Net revenue (expenses) of funds	(4,000)	(4,000)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization	1,624	61,791
Realized and unrealized loss (gains) on investments	(1,023)	(34,692)
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	173,022	6,155
Prepaid expenses	20,452	(10,598)
Accounts payable	(2,856)	8,404
Deferred revenue	(229,517)	176,648
	<u>82,100</u>	<u>346,167</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of investments	(587,140)	(703,118)
Sale of investments	696,037	246,023
	<u>108,897</u>	<u>(457,095)</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FOR THE YEAR</b>	190,997	(110,928)
Cash - beginning of year	<u>334,800</u>	<u>445,728</u>
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 525,797</u>	<u>\$ 334,800</u>

# CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MAY 31, 2022

## 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, 2022

## 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 Contributions

Contributions received from Sport Canada are subject to specific terms and conditions regarding the expenditure of the funds. The Association's records are subject to audit by Sport Canada 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 Sport Canada. Adjustments to prior years' contributions are recorded in the year in which Sport Canada requests the adjustment.

## 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>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Fixed income	\$ 302,490	\$ 400,432
Bond and income funds	<u>798,147</u>	<u>808,079</u>
	<u>\$ 1,100,637</u>	<u>\$ 1,208,511</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, 2022

## 5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2022</u>			<u>2021</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Office furniture and equipment	\$ 63,052	\$ 63,052	\$ -	\$ 1,624

## 6. DEFERRED REVENUE

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

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Canadian Olympic Committee	\$ 9,000	\$ 157,000
Sport Canada contributions	3,350	290,329
Other	<u>284,403</u>	<u>78,941</u>
	<u>\$ 296,753</u>	<u>\$ 526,270</u>

Deferred revenue changed as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 526,270	\$ 349,622
Less - amount recognized as revenue in the year	(474,728)	(242,622)
Plus - amount received related to following year	<u>245,211</u>	<u>419,270</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>\$ 296,753</u>	<u>\$ 526,270</u>

## 7. COMMITMENT

The Association has leased premises to February 28, 2023 at approximately \$68,000 per annum.



## CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

UNAUDITED SCHEDULE OF SPORT CANADA REVENUE AND EXPENSES BY BUDGET CATEGORY  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022

	<u>Total revenue claimed</u>	<u>Total expenses</u>
Contribution blocks - Core Mainstream		
Administration	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Staff salaries	350,000	350,000
Coaching salaries and professional development	85,000	85,000
National team programs	340,000	340,000
Operations and programming	134,000	134,000
Official languages	13,000	13,000
Enhanced excellence	442,000	442,000
Safe sport and gender equity	143,000	143,000
	<u>\$ 1,607,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,607,000</u>

SOFTBALL CANADA  
BOD and STAFF /  
CONSEIL ET PERSONNEL

**CONTACTS**

2022  
**SOFTBALL**  
**CANADA**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
/ CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Scott Neiles  
**Position:** President

Ryan DeBelser  
**Position:** Director

Jackie Dugger  
**Position:** Director

Andrea Wolf  
**Position:** Director

Robert Stanton  
**Position:** Director

Brooks Penrod  
**Position:** Director

Scott Searle  
**Position:** Director

Robb Andison  
**Position:** Director

# SOFTBALL CANADA

## STAFF Contacts DU PERSONNEL

**Chief Executive Officer – Mike Branchaud**

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**Manager – Officials / Publications – Donna Ozarko**

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**Manager – Operations – Gilles LeBlanc**

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**Manager – Sport Development – Angela Ballantyne**

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**Manager – Communications – Emma Lindblad**

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**Manager – Financial – Christine Robertson**

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Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3102

**Administrative Assistant – Melissa MacKinnon**

info@softball.ca  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3100



### Softball Canada

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**Providing Softball  
Opportunities to all Canadians**

**www.softball.ca**

2022

RECIPIENTS / RECIPIENDAIRES

**AWARDS / PRIX**

# 2022 SOFTBALL CANADA AWARDS / PRIX

## **PRIX MÉMORIAL CLAUDE DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL AWARD**

•  
Belle Ashley (PE)

•  
Evan Despres (NB)

## **PRIX DE RÉUSSITE ETHEL BOYCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

•  
Sierra Jones (AB)

•  
Tyler Branchaud (ON)

## **BÉNÉVOLE DE L'ANNÉE ROSE HODGSON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

•  
Brent Evans (NB)

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

•  
(SP/BL) Patrick Chiquette (QC)

(FP/BR) Ron "Soupy" Campbell (NB)

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

•  
Jeff Fraser (NS)

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

•  
(Women's FP / BR Féminin) Kelsey Harshman (BC)

•  
(Men's FP / BR Masculin) Sean Cleary (NL)

•  
(Women's SP / BL Féminin) Melanie Gulbransen (BC)

•  
(Men's SP / BL Masculin) Hunter Platten (AB)



2022

INDUCTÉES / INTRONISÉS

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

2022

**SOFTBALL  
CANADA**

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

**ADMINISTRATEUR WBSC ADMINISTRATOR**

•

Kevin Quinn (PE)

**ENTRAÎNEUR WBSC COACH**

•

Mark Smith (NS)

**BÂTISSEUR / BUILDER**

•

George Gillett (NB)

•

Terry Henderson (NS)

**ARBITRE / UMPIRE**

•

John MacEwen (NS)

**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 10

### NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL 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.

### BOARD/STAFF FORUM

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

This is a meeting of the Softball Canada Board, PT Presidents, Executive Directors and staff.

### WOMEN IN SOFTBALL [Drop in]

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Stop by to chat with other female softball leaders and administrators from across Canada. Come to socialize, meet new delegates, and catch up with old friends. We look forward to connecting with you!

94

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

### KICK-OFF SESSION – REPORT ON 2022 AND LOOK AHEAD

9:00 am – 9:30 am

This session will focus on:

- 2022 in review
- Upcoming activities

### CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SORS

9:30 am – 10:30 am

SOR Review

- Review of all motions presented

2022 Review / Participation Charts

- Participation Numbers by Event
- Financial report by event

2023 Championships

- Assigned dates / locations
- Potential conflicts
- Streaming plan moving forward
- Masters Fee
- U23 Development Team at Men's Championship
- Compression testing at certain events

Canadian Championship Survey Results

- General feedback on all Championships
- Feedback by Championship

Travel Partners

- Boulevard Travel
- Car rentals



## Canada Summer Games - 2025

- Age discussion
- Survey feedback
- Potential conflicts with our events
- Best dates to host U17 Girls, U19 Women, U20 Men, U23 Men
- Potential to host Canadians in 2024
- 2029 scoring system for sport selection

## Round Table Discussions

- How can we improve the Canadian Championships

## CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

10:45 am – noon

Canadian Championships (discussion continued)

## SAFE SPORT GUEST SPEAKER - ALLISON FORSYTH

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Allison Forsyth, Olympian, and COO of ITP Sport will share her story of abuse and talk about Safe Sport today and the role we all have in keeping our sport safe.

## SAFE SPORT IMPLEMENTATION/ALIGNMENT - STEVE INDIG

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Steve Indig, from Sport Law. Understanding the latest trends in Safe Sport, including the use of independent 3rd Parties, Abuse-Free Sport/OSIC and the UCCMS and how this impacts Provincial/Territorial Members.

## BYLAWS/GOVERNANCE - STEVE INDIG

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

Steve Indig, from Sport Law. The COC and Sport Canada have created a list of recommended governance changes. This presentation will provide an overview of the suggested changes and how such changes may impact Softball Canada.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

### DEI - INCLUSION INCORPORATED

9:00 am - 11:00 am

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 am - noon

### A) MINOR RULES REVIEW WORKSHOP

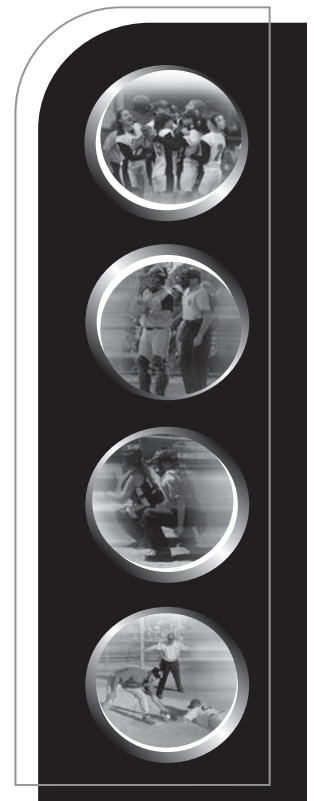
Join this workshop to look at the minor rules used across the country. Take part in a discussion surrounding misunderstood rules and how Softball Canada can better support P/T's and Local Associations with clarification. Be ready to discuss with other P/T's what's working for you and what you plan on reviewing in the future.

### B) SLO-PITCH

- Rules / SOR clarifications
- Umpires at Canadian Championships
- 2023 Open for bids – need a host
- Coed regional events
  - Any hosting opportunities
- Who are the main competitors in each province/territory
  - Any existing partnerships
- Q/A

## AGM

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm





2022  
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 2022**

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

### **AGENDA**

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



2022  
NOTICE / AVIS

**MOTIONS**

## MOTIONS – AS MOVED FROM THE FLOOR

### NOTICE OF MOTION #1

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the 2022 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 2021 Softball Canada VIRTUAL Congress 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, 2022 be accepted as presented.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

**NOTICE OF MOTION #5**

As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

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

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated



2022  
SPECIAL OPERATING  
/ RÉGLEMENTS FONCTIONNELS

**RULES / PARTICULIERS**

**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 1**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

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

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

**REVISION**

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

**RATIONALE**

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

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

NONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 2**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

SOR – page 215 – Part Two – Article 1 – Eligibility and Penalties – 2.6 b)

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

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

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

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

**RATIONALE**

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

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

NONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 3**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball New Brunswick

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

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

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

**REVISION**

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

**RATIONALE**

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

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

NONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_ Defeated

**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 4**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Saskatchewan

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

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

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

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

**REVISION**

c) Ranking in the Qualifying Round

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

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

**RATIONALE**

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

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

None

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**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 5**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Alberta

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

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

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

**ADDITION**

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

**RATIONALE**

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

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

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

NONE

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**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 6**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

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

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

**REVISION**

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

**RATIONALE**

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

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

NONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**     Carried     Amended     Withdrawn     Defeated



**SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 7**

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Alberta

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

- 1.1 Selection
- 1.2 Right of Refusal

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

**ADDITION**

1.3 Provincial / Territorial Representation

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

**RATIONALE**

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

*(The WCSA currently has a similar policy in place)*

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

## SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 8

### Special Operating Rules

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

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

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

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

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

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

Change the category from "Pioneer" to "Trailblazer"

### RATIONALE

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

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

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

A better way of thinking about racisms recognizes that they are systematic exclusions and not just the isolated acts of badly-intentioned people. Prejudices don't just fall from the sky; they are enacted towards members of specific excluded groups. People make racist exclusions and benefit from them. We inherit past exclusions and see them as normal when we belong to the group that benefits. Understanding racisms as exclusions helps us to recognize and address the effects of the racism, rather than the intentions of people who benefit from the status quo.<sup>2</sup> Some of these

systems have become so part of our vocabulary and existence that we don't see them anymore. They become accepted as normal and are so part of our life they become as invisible as wallpaper on a wall. These patterns that are continually present and so taken for granted that they are like wallpaper on a wall, that is until the wallpaper is torn.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

None

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

2022  
NOMINATIONS

**DIRECTORS / DIRECTEURS**



August 18, 2022

Softball Canada Nomination Committee  
c/o Mike Branchaud  
via electronic mail at [mbranchaud@softball.ca](mailto:mbranchaud@softball.ca)

**Subject: Board Nomination – Jackie Dugger**

Dear Mike,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Softball BC, I am pleased to provide our nomination and support for Jackie Dugger in her bid for reelection to the Softball Canada Board of Directors.

As you know, Jackie has been a member of Softball BC for many years, served on our Board of Directors for over twenty years and is the Chair of our Hall of Fame. Her contribution to the game at the local, regional, provincial, and national levels make her an excellent candidate for continuing to serve the Softball Canada Board.

Please let me know if anything else is required of us in this process.

Thank you,

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

Lisa Parkes  
Interim President

Copy: Softball BC Board of Directors

August 25 2022

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

Dear Mike

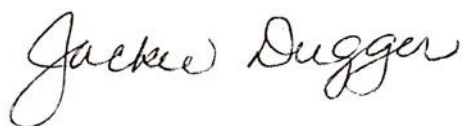
It is with great pleasure that I accept Softball British Columbia's continued support in my bid for re-election to the Softball Canada's Board of Directors

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

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

It has always been important to me to give back to our sport which I have gained so much from. For that reason I am willing to continue to dedicate my time to our Game by accepting my nomination for the Softball Canada's Board of Directors.

Respectfully Yours



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

**Resume For: Jackie Dugger**

**14375-17A Ave.**

**Surrey, B.C. V4A 9W2**

**(604) 506-6437**

**e-mail: jduggersoftball@gmail.com**

Experience & Responsibilities:

Softball Canada:

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

Western Canadians

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

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

- 2013 President Softball B.C.
- 2011 – 2013: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Softball B.C.
- Director in Charge of BC Summer Gam
- Member of SBBC Management Committee
- 2001 - 2010: Minor Director – Softball B.C.
- 1990 – 2000: District 6 Coordinator
- Director in charge of Team B.C. 2005 Canada Summer Games
- Director in charge of Team B.C. 2003 Western Canada Summer Games.
- PSO Adviser for BC Summer Games – 2012, 2010, 2008, 2006, 2004, 2002.
- Director of Provincials Championships & Board Reps. for all Minor Provincials,
- Director in charge of all minor activities in the province of B.C. Organized and chaired all meetings dealing with Minors – AGM & Leadership.



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

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

Prior to 1989 and Up to 2005

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

#### World Championships

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

#### Canada Cup:

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

#### Softball Canada - Director

2012 – Present

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



2205 Victoria Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0S4  
Phone: (306) 780-9235 • Fax: (306) 780-9483  
Email: [info@softball.sk.ca](mailto:info@softball.sk.ca) • Web Site: [www.softball.sk.ca](http://www.softball.sk.ca)

September 06, 2022

Softball Canada  
C/o Mike Branchaud – Chief Executive Officer  
223 Colonnade Road, Suite 212  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2E 7K3

Dear Mike,

Softball Saskatchewan is pleased to nominate Brooks Penrod of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for election as Director on the Board of Softball Canada.

Brooks has been involved with Softball Saskatchewan for many years as a player, coach and administrator. Brooks is a dedicated volunteer who continues to be part of the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association (SASA) Executive. He was also an Assistant Coach on our 2022 Men's Canada Games Team that captured the Bronze Medal. He has been an integral part of the Hosting Committee's for all Championships hosted by the SASA for the past number of years.

Brooks continues to coach at both the minor and adult levels of softball in our Province. During his past two years on the Softball Canada Board, Brooks has been active and diligent to attend all meetings and supervised the 2022 U20 Men's Canadian Championships. We believe he will continue to bring a youthful perspective to the Board of Directors and will be an asset to all Provincial/Territorial members of Softball Canada.

Thank you in advance for forwarding this nomination to the membership attending the 2022 Softball Canada Congress in Fredericton, NB.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry MacDonald'.

Garry MacDonald  
President

September 8, 2022

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

Dear Mike,

Please accept this letter of support from Softball Saskatchewan of my intent to run for the Softball Canada Board of Directors.

It has been an absolute joy these past two years working on behalf of the PT's and continuing to try to grow and better this great game of Softball. As just completing my first term on this board, it was great to sit back and learn from like minded people who are as passionate about this game as I am, and I am very humbled to know that I still have a lot of learning to do to help grow this game.

I am extremely honoured to be part Softball Canada and I am very proud that this opportunity has allowed me to pick the brains of many delegates, coaches, players etc. from around the country for help think of ideas and strategies to be an active voice in this sport.

As mentioned, when I first ran for this position two years ago that I would love to give back to Softball what it has given to me, and for that I accept my nomination for the Softball Canada's Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity

Respectfully,

*Brooks Penrod*

Brooks Penrod

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

### ***COACHING EXPERIENCE***

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

### ***VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE***

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

## ***WORK EXPERIENCE***

May 2015 - Present

Saskatchewan Contract Sales

Centaur Products Ltd, Vancouver, BC

2005- 2016

Account Manager

Supreme Office Products, Saskatoon, SK



September 1st, 2022

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

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

Dear Mike,

On behalf of Softball New Brunswick, please accept this nomination of Robert (Bob) Stanton for one of the positions on the Board of Directors with Softball Canada.

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

A few of Bob's highlights include the following: Level 5 SBC official: SBC's National Director of Umpires, member of the SBC Officials Development Committee, WBSC Director of Umpires-Softball, Deputy Director of Umpires for the ISF, and being named Umpire in Chief at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and Tokyo 2020 Games.

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Scott Willis  
Softball New Brunswick  
President

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

August 30, 2022

Softball Canada  
Mr. Michael Branchaud  
Chief Executive Officer  
212-223 Colonnade Road  
Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 7K3

By E-mail

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

Dear Mr. Branchaud,

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

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

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

In my opinion, in order for a sport organization to be successful, it requires, strong governance, relevant and effective policies, inclusive programs and dedicated and passionate leaders. I believe I can contribute to all of the above in a meaningful way to make Softball Canada a leading international and national sports organization.

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

Yours in Softball



Robert (Bob) Stanton



## RESUME

Name: Robert (Bob) Stanton

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

### EDUCATION:

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

### EMPLOYMENT:

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

### BOARD EXPERIENCE:

2000 – 2010 – Director - Fundy Trail Development Board – Provincial Representative  
2006 – Present – Secretary – Fredericton Fast Pitch Association  
2008 – 2012 – Director – Fredericton City Club  
2020 - - Director – Fredericton City Club  
2021 – 2022 - Director – Softball Canada Board of Directors

### HONOURS:

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

## SOFTBALL ACTIVITY

1968 – 1984 – Player – Intermediate and Recreational

1982 – Present – Registered Softball Canada Umpire

2000 – 2004 – Coach of UNB Lady Reds Softball Team

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

2000 – 2004 – Member of the ODC

2004-2008 – Director of Umpires – Softball Canada

2006 – 2008 – Assistant Director of Umpires – ISF

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

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



# SOFTBALL ALBERTA

**“The Original Game of Summer”**

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

Phone: 780-461-7735 | [www.softballalberta.ca](http://www.softballalberta.ca)

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September 26, 2022

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

Dear Mike:

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this nomination to the 2022 Softball Canada Annual General Meeting

Regards,

Peter Gogich  
President

125



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

September 29, 2022

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

Dear Mike,

It is with great honour that I accept the nomination from Softball Alberta for the Softball Canada Board of Directors.

It has been my pleasure to serve the softball community as a Softball Alberta board member for the last 7 years, and I thank all those I have worked with for helping prepare me for this next opportunity.

I feel my broad experience across the sport, as well as my advocacy work in the disability community allows me to bring a valuable perspective and skillset to the organization.

I am excited to work alongside the Softball Canada team to strengthen our programs, increase access and participation, and promote our sport across Canada.



Kareena Zanolli

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

Softball Player History

Fastball:

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

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

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

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

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

Slo-Pitch:

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

Gold Medallist – 2010, 2013

Silver Medallist – 2005, 2008, 2014

Awarded 2010 Championship Round MVP

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

Softball Administration & Volunteer Experience

2017-2022 Director of Slo-Pitch for Softball Alberta

2022 Softball Canada Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team

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

2018 Softball Canada's Slo-Pitch Safety Committee

2018 Softball Alberta's Hokkaido Exchange Selection Committee

2016-2017 Director Minor Softball for Softball Alberta

2014-2016 Softball Alberta Zone 1 Slo-Pitch delegate

2010-2011 Statistician for Lethbridge Ladies Slo-Pitch League

### Coaching Experience

2022 & 2019 Assistant Coach Team Canada Women's Slo-Pitch Border Battle Team  
2022 Player-Coach Relics Women's Slo-Pitch Team  
2021 Grade 7 Boys Volleyball team at Ecole Okotoks Junior High School  
2011 Coach of St.Mary's High School Girl's Slo-Pitch team

### Other Volunteer/Community Involvement

2020-2021 School Council Secretary Dr. Morris Gibson School, Okotoks  
2016-2020 School Council Co-Chair at Children of St.Martha's School, Lethbridge  
2015-2016 Director Chinook Autism Society  
2012-2015 President Chinook Autism Society  
2011-2012 Vice-President Chinook Autism Society

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

Jackie Dugger  
Brooks Penrod  
Robert Stanton  
Karena Zanolli

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

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

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated



**NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #3**

New Business  
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

That Softball Ontario host the 2023 Softball Canada Congress and AGM in Niagara Falls, ON to be held from Nov 8-12, 2023 (NOTE: additional day for Strategic Planning).

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

**NEW BUSINESS NOTICE OF MOTION #4**

New Business  
As moved from the floor

Moved by:

Seconded by:

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

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated