



**Board of Directors Meeting
September 27th, 2024
Holiday Inn Express**

MINUTES

Present:

Scott Neiles, President

Directors:

Brooks Penrod

Bob Stanton

Jackie Dugger

Robb Andison

Kareena Zanolli

Neil Teague

Staff:

Mike Branchaud, CEO

Donna Ozarko, Mgr –Officials/Recognition

Gilles LeBlanc, Mgr. – Operations

Angela Ballantyne, Mgr. – Sport Development

Cassidy Burton, Mgr. – Marketing/Communications

Other:

Benoit Girardin - LBB Strategies (via video conferencing)

1) Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

President Neiles opened the meeting at 9:00 am EST and thanked all for taking the time to join. He acknowledged that the meeting originated on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

2) Acceptance of May 30th Board Minutes

Motion # 1 - Move to approve the May 30,2024 Board Minutes

Andison/Dugger CARRIED

3) Approval of Agenda with power to add

Motion # 2 - Move to approve the Agenda

Zanolli/Penrod CARRIED

4) Strategic Plan Presentation

Benoit Girardin from LBB Strategies joined the meeting via video conferencing. He

presented the Strategic Plan for Board/staff input. The final plan will be presented at the AGM.

5) Slo-Pitch/Communications

As written in the report with the additional information.

The Men's team performed well, while the Women's team faced some challenges due to injuries.

Tony Carnelos (ON), Heather Drake (PEI), Craig Carter (BC), and Michelle Lorenz (ON) have joined the SP Working Group.

Motion # 3 - Move to approve the Slo-Pitch/Communications Report

Andison/Zanolli CARRIED

6) Women's National Teams

ID camps were held in BC and ON, leading to the selection of six players for a tryout camp for the WNT roster. The WNT enjoyed a successful season, winning the Canada Cup and securing a bronze medal at the WBSC World Cup. Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be another busy year for the WNT, featuring the Pan Am Championship (which serves as a qualifier for the Pan Am Games and World Cup), Canada Cup, and participation in the World Games in China.

In summer 2024, the WBSC announced a U15 World Cup scheduled for summer 2025, likely to take place in Italy, although the exact date is yet to be confirmed. To qualify for this tournament, teams must first participate in the WBSC Pan American Championship, which includes teams from the Americas. The timing and location of this qualifier are still uncertain but may occur in spring 2025. In preparation, U15 identification camps have been initiated in BC, ON, QC, and NB, with additional locations and dates to be announced. The U15 tournament will be open to athletes born in 2010, 2011, and possibly 2012.

6.1 U18 WNT and WNT update

A selection camp held in Saskatoon, SK, resulted in the selection of 16 athletes for the Dallas qualifier, where they finished second and secured a spot in the 2025 U18 World Cup. However, we will be losing several players, including two top pitchers, due to age restrictions. Details about the selection process for the 2025 team will be released later, but it will likely include identification camps and scouting at key events. The goal is to conduct a Final Selection camp with 25-30 athletes, primarily targeting players born in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

6.2 OTP

Own the Podium will meet with Softball Canada in early November to discuss several key areas, including the international competitive landscape, event assessment, and the performance outlook for 2028. They will also review the athlete pool and depth chart, provide an overview of the program's vision and strategic direction, and examine the high-performance structure, including roles and responsibilities. Additionally, they will conduct an initial needs analysis and

identify success factors. Following this meeting, we will await updates in spring 2025 regarding the financial support OTP can provide to the program. It is important to note that overall funding for sports may be limited, potentially resulting in significantly less support than in previous years.

Motion # 4 - Move to approve the WNT Report

Penrod/Dugger CARRIED

7) Coaching – questions on report

As written in report.

7.1 Coach of the Year

We are revising the process for Coach of the Year nominations. Each PT association will now be asked to submit one coach from both their male and female programs for consideration. The CDC will collaborate with the Board to select the annual recipient, who will be announced at the AGM. We currently have a limited number of applications, and this may help address that issue. As a result, we might consider revising the selection process for Athlete of the Year.

Motion # 5 - Move to approve the Coaching Report

Teague/Zanolli CARRIED

8) Safe Sport update

There is a need for improved education regarding the use of Safe Sport for non-Safe Sport issues. Currently, individuals are leveraging Safe Sport to their advantage, leading to significant costs and creating challenges for provincial and territorial associations, with Ontario being the primary concern. We should include a detailed write-up in the CC Supervisor Manual and develop a checklist outlining what constitutes a Safe Sport issue along with the appropriate steps to take. We propose making it mandatory for everyone to complete the form. Additionally, we might consider placing the responsibility on individuals; if they fail to fill out the form and a complaint arises against them, they could be required to cover related costs. While the SDRCC cannot attend the AGM in person, we will organize a webinar for educational purposes.

Motion # 6 - Move to approve the Safe Sport Report

Stanton/Teague CARRIED

9) Canadian Championships

9.1 Sport Consent Form

The link to the Sport Consent Form was sent to Team Managers for them to share with their players and coaches. A total of 1,494 participants completed the form out of 3,214 total participants in the CC program.

9.2 Canada Games Impact

The Canada Games will significantly impact the U19 Women's and U20 Men's

Canadian Championships and host is aware of this. This topic will be addressed with the PTs. The bid period for 2026 opens on October 1st.

9.3 Special Eligibility

The CC committee is reviewing special eligibility criteria for players who may be unable to participate due to illness or other circumstances. This consideration primarily stems from the needs of teams in NL. The intent is not to enhance team performance, but rather to ensure that teams can still compete and participate fully. However, there are concerns that NL's approach may focus more on improving team strength rather than maintaining participation standards.

9.4 SORs/Motions

The Canadian Championship committee met prior to the Board to review/revise any submitted SOR Motions. These motions were presented at the Board Meeting.

9.5 2025 Approvals

Two bids were received for the U15G in Chateauguay, QC, and Winkler, MB. Request for approval for the combined U15B and U15G in Winkler, MB.

Motion # 7 - Move to approve the combined U15B/G in Winkler, MB

Stanton/Zanolli CARRIED

Motion # 8 - Move to approve the Canadian Championship Report

Teague/Penrod CARRIED

10) Men's National Teams – questions on report

As written in the report. In addition, the U23 Men's Pan Am Qualifier will not be in November but the first Quarter of 2025 and likely Columbia.

Motion # 9 - Move to approve the MNT Report

Teague/Andison CARRIED

11) Umpires

11.1 Level 5 Approvals

Based on their performance at the 2024 Women's and Men's Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships, we are pleased to recommend for Board approval the following for Level V Umpire appointments within Softball Canada's National Officials Certification Program (NOCP).

Slo-Pitch

- JR Simpson, SK
- Carla Mackenzie, NS

Fast Pitch

- Brian Reiss, ON
- Mark Taylor, AB

- o Gino Iannone, QC

Motion # 10 - Move to approve New Level 5 Umpires

Andison/Stanton CARRIED

11.2 Umpire fee increase

The ODC is proposing a \$2 fee increase, which would raise the total payment per umpire to \$20. This increase is intended to include the Certification Manuals. The Board suggests that this proposal be tabled at the ODC/UIC Meeting during the AGM, as it is not currently reflected in our Bylaws.

11.3 ODC Selection

In 2024, we received five applications for three ODC positions, each with a 2-year term. We request Board approval to re-appoint Don Farr (NWT), Jason Clark (AB), and Scott McLaren (BC) for another 2-year term.

Motion # 11 - Move to approve Don Farr, Jason Clark and Scott McLaren returning ODC members for a 2-year term

Dugger/Zanolli CARRIED

11.4 Umpire of the Year Nominee

Seeking approval for FP Umpire of the Year - Daryl Helmer (AB) and SP Umpire of the Year Carla Mackenzie (NS)

Motion # 12 - Move to approve FP Umpire of the Year, Daryl Helmer and SP Umpire of the Year, Carla Mackenzie

Teague/Stanton CARRIED

11.5 International Assignments

Seeking approval for Ron Campbell for the Australia Exchange in January 2025 and Steve Gallagher for the U23 Men's Qualifier, Columbia 2025.

Motion # 13 - Move to approve Ron Cambell and Steve Gallagher as stated above

Penrod/Zanolli CARRIED

11.6 Youth Protection Policy

The previous Athlete Protection Policy has been updated and expanded to become the "Youth Protection Policy." This new policy provides comprehensive guidelines designed to ensure the safety and well-being of all youth participants.

Motion # 14 - Move to approve Youth Protection Policy

Andison/Penrod CARRIED

Motion # 15 - Move to approve ODC Report

Zanolli/Stanton CARRIED

12) AGM

12.1 Draft Schedule

The AGM Schedule was discussed/reviewed. Slight modifications to be made.

12.2 Hall of Fame Ring/Recognition

Physical rings were showcased, and Neiles will discuss some minor modifications with Heavy Metal Designs, including making the logo larger, before they are revealed to past and future Hall of Famers.

A recognition proposal was also presented. There are updates suggesting the possible removal of Canadian Championship passes, which will be reviewed by the Canadian Championship Committee. This will be updated and presented to the Board at a future meeting.

12.3 Nominations Committee

The nominations committee for board positions was established after reaching out to all PTSO leaders in January, but only two individuals responded. The current committee members are Larry Giesbrecht (MB), Scott Willis (NB), Scott Neiles (MB/Pres), and we hope to add a fourth member, ideally a female, in the coming year.

Motion # 16 - Move to approve AGM Report

Stanton/Andison CARRIED

13) Staffing

The new Coordinator position will be posted in early October. Current staff will review their own portfolios.

14) DEI- questions on report/logo

As written in report.

In addition, we reached out to the organizers of the Canadian Native FP Championships to offer our support but haven't received a response. We plan to follow up again next year.

Additionally, a new Indigenous logo, featuring added color, was presented for approval. It may be used on National Team uniforms and in other areas TBD.

Motion # 17 - Move to approve Indigenous logo

Teague/Penrod CARRIED

Motion # 18 - Move to approve DEI Report

Penrod/Stanton CARRIED

15) Budget

Budget was reviewed and approved.

Motion # 19 - Move to approve Budget as presented

Dugger/Teague CARRIED

16) Other Business

There was discussions on Hall of Fame criteria to be tabled at next meeting in November.

- 17) Next meeting and Adjournment**
Nov 7 in Saskatoon, SK

Motion # 20 - Move to adjourn

Zanolli/Penrod CARRIED