



Board of Directors ZOOM Call Wednesday, February 1 – 5:30 PM (Ontario)
MINUTES

Present:

Scott Neiles, President

Directors:

Brooks Penrod
Jackie Dugger
Kareena Zanolli

Bob Stanton
Scott Searle

Ryan DeBelser
Robb Andison (absent)

Staff:

Mike Branchaud, CEO
Angela Ballantyne, Mgr. – Sport Development

Gilles LeBlanc, Mgr. – Operations

Other:

Jeff Whipple, NDU

1) Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

President Neiles opened the meeting at 5:30pm 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 the September 30 and November 10 Board Minutes

Future Board Minutes will be available 7 working days from Meeting.

Motion # 1 - Move to approve the September 30/November 10 Board Minutes

Stanton/Penrod CARRIED

3) Approval of Agenda with power to add

Add to New Business

- Discuss NT Coaching Staff expectations/knowledge
- Approval of DEI Chair

Motion # 2 - Move to approve the Agenda.

DeBelser/Stanton CARRIED

4) Women's National Teams

Everything moving forward for Italy, Chile, and the ID camps. JWNT Head Coach Keith Mackintosh is still preparing to move ahead with the team preparations even though no formal date for competition or age category has been announced. **Additional information can be found in the Appendix – WNT Report.**

4.1 U18 WNT call for Assistant Coaches

A call for assistant coaches is to be released soon, with a timeline of having 2-3 assistants in place for the spring.

Motion # 3 - Move to approve the call for U18 Assistant Coaches

Penrod/Dugger CARRIED

5) Coaching

5.1 Coaching Development Committee

It was noted that we are restructuring the way we hire for different committees – being an interview process. **Additional information can be found in the Appendix – Coaching Report.**

Motion # 4 – Motion to go in camera

Penrod/Dugger CARRIED

Motion # 5 – Motion to go out of camera

Penrod/Dugger CARRIED

Motion # 6 - Motion to approve the Coaching Report

Zanolli/Stanton CARRIED

6) Safe Sport – Abuse Free Sport Update

Brian Ward will no longer be acting as the independent third party once Softball Canada signs on to Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner – OSIC (prior to April 1, 2023). OSIC will now act as the ITP for all Softball Canada participants.

There will be additional individuals listed under “Participant” including Canadian Championship players, coaches, and volunteers. These individuals will be listed only for the timeline they are attending a Championship. The process of acquiring their consent will be an obstacle that will need to be addressed. **Additional information can be found in the Appendix – Safe Sport Report.**

Motion # 7 - Motion to approve the Safe Sport Report

Stanton/Dugger CARRIED

7) Men’s National Teams

The team had an outstanding result winning Silver at the World Cup in December. It really helped that the team went early and competed in the pre-tournament. **Additional information can be found in the Appendix – MNT Report.**

7.1 MNT Coaching Staff approval/Survey Results

Athletes completed a survey about their experience and feedback on the coaching staff, all was very positive. A Zoom meeting was held with John Stuart to go over the athlete surveys. He expressed his desire to remain head coach for the next cycle with the same coaching staff. In addition, it was mentioned the coaching staff must brush up on their rule knowledge.

Motion # 8 - Approve John Stuart (Head Coach), Doug Allin (Assistant Coach), Jeff Ellsworth (Assistant Coach), John Hill (Assistant Coach), Les Howey (Assistant Coach) as the coaching staff of the Men’s National Team for the 2023-2025 World Cup cycle.

DeBelser/Penrod CARRIED

8) Border Battle update and Coach discussion

Date/location still TBD but possibly end of July in Minnesota.

Motion #9 - to go in camera

DeBelser/Penrod

Motion #10 - to go out of camera

Stanton/DeBelser

Motion # 11- Motion to approve a call for Coaches to be put in place by March 1

Zanolli /DeBelser CARRIED

From the Border Battle discussion came an additional question regarding participation in the WBSC SP Co-ed World Cup in potentially Oklahoma. Still TBD as more information is required. It was also brought to attention that we are also waiting on further information

for the U18M Qualifier, U18M Worlds, U18W Qualifier, U18W (23/24/25), Men's Qualifier and Co-Ed SP.

Motion # 12 - Motion to approve Border Battle update

Stanton /Penrod CARRIED

9) CSG 2025 age update

P/T's were in strong support of setting the age categories to U19 for Women and U20 for men. The LTPD Committee has recommended U20 for Men but was split between U17 and U19 for Women. A note was sent to P/T's that we would be recommending U19 for Women and U20 for Men for Board approval. The Canada Games will launch the Age Category process in late March and expect to finalize age categories in April.

Motion #13 – Motion to approve U19 Women and U20 Men age categories as Softball Canada's recommendation to the Canada Games Council Sport Committee for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

Dugger /Searle CARRIED

10) 2025 U18 World Cup bid – Montreal

When the WBSC was approached that we would be submitting a bid for the 2025 U18 World Cup, they inquired if we had included the 2024 Group Stage. Because it was not included, there was concern that the 2025 bid may be not accepted . Further clarification is also required on some of the financial obligations (to Softball Canada) in the bid document. Will set up a call with the potential host (Pascal) for further clarification on some of the items in the bid. Stanton, Penrod, Branchaud to be on call with Pascal.

11) 2023 Umpire Assignments

Umpire assignments – as attached in the appendix. The process before selecting is Level 5s go through a scoring process which is then verified by the PT UICs. If all is accurate, they are entered into the selection pool. From there is Board approval. Once the Board approves, Ozarko verifies with PT associations that they are in good standing and in the year of Blue Convention they must be registered and this is cross referenced.

Motion #14 – Motion to approve Canadian Championship UIC/DUIC assignments

Searle /Stanton CARRIED

Motion #15 – Motion to approve International Event assignments

Stanton /Penrod CARRIED

12) International Umpire Proposal

As attached in the appendix. Overall goal of this proposal is to ensure the umpires are in top condition and/or to improve the quality of umpires who represent Softball Canada in International events. BOD questioned on whether the ODC would select female umpires to men's events. This would happen if females applied for men's events and if they wanted to attend.

Motion #16 – Motion to approve the trial “Evaluation Camp for International Officials”

Penrod/Dugger CARRIED

13) Workgroups/Committees

Committee	Staff	Chair	Board Liaison	Representative
Canadian Championship	Gilles LeBlanc	Jackie Dugger	Brooks Penrod	Ron Hawthorn
Officials Development - ODC	Donna Ozarko	Jeff Whipple	Robb Andison	
Coach Development - CDC	Angela Ballantyne	Terry Baytor	Scott Searle	
Working Groups	Staff	Chairperson	Board Liason	

Finance and audit	Mike Branchaud	Scott Neiles	Bob Stanton
Human Resources	Mike Branchaud	Scott Neiles	Jackie Dugger
Safesport	Angela Ballantyne	Scott Neiles	Robb Andison
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Angela Ballantyne	Kareena Zanolli	Scott Searle
AGM/Awards & Hall Of Fame	Donna Ozarko / Emma Lindblad	Bob Stanton	Ryan Debelser
Long Term Player Development	Cassidy Burton	Ryan DeBelser	Scott Searle
Canpitch/Timbits/B5	Cassidy Burton	Scott Searle	Kareena Zanolli
Slo-Pitch	Cassidy Burton	Robb Andison	Kareena Zanolli
Governance and Policies	Mike Branchaud	Scott Neiles	Ryan Debelser
Women's National Team Program	Angela Ballantyne	Jackie Dugger	Kaleigh Rafter
Men's National Team Program	Mike Branchaud/Gilles LeBlanc	Brooks Penrod	John Stuart

14) Bylaws/Governance – P/T comments

The goal is to have as much PT involvement as possible and was discussed at the November 2022 AGM setting a date for them to respond back with any feedback. To date, there were 5 responses pre/post deadline date. Moving forward; will gather all the PT questions/feedback and involve Steve Indig in this process. Next step will be to have a Zoom call with Indig and the Board. The hope is to have everything answered to the PTs prior to the next AGM and have a vote at that time.

15) Other Business

****full reports (not necessarily discussed) included in Appendix.**

As in 3.0 - Add - Discuss Coaching Staff (both Men's and Women's)

NOTE: discussed in 7.1 *"In addition, it was mentioned the coaching staff must brush up on their rule knowledge."*

Approval of DEI Chair

Sarah Manfred (QC) approved as co-chair (two-year term). Kareena Zanolli to be second co-chair (one year term) as well as Board Liaison.

Motion # 17- Motion to approve Sarah Manfred as DEI co-chair

Dugger/DeBelser CARRIED

President Neiles commended LeBlanc and Branchaud for the way they presented at the WBSC Meeting in NZ our opportunity to host the 2025 Men's event in Prince Albert.

16) Next meeting

Option to have at Canada Cup around July 11 – 16 or weekend of either June 2 or 9.

17) Adjournment

Motion # 18 - Motion to adjourn

Searle/Penrod CARRIED