



**Provincial/Territorial Staff Call
February 15 - 12:30pm EDT**

Minutes

1. Annual General Meeting (Ozarko)

2023 Survey Results

- Out of the 80 delegates surveyed, approximately 20 responded.
- Among the responses, a theme emerged: the value of networking and information exchange among PTs, extending beyond the staff forum.
- Looking ahead to 2024, the plan is to enhance the AGM experience by introducing workshops led by the host, aiming to gauge their effectiveness for future events.
- Feedback also highlighted the importance of timely access to motions. To address this, we aim to implement a new timeline, with motions due by September 15 and allowing for amendments until October 1.

2024 AGM Planning

- A contract with the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre has been finalized.
- The accommodation rates are set at \$139 per night, exclusive of taxes.
- PTs are asked to share any workshop topic suggestions to dozarko@softball.ca

Rulebook update

- Both the English and French versions are nearing the final stages of completion.
- The aim is to send the rulebook to print early next week, ensuring delivery to offices by early March.
- Additionally, we anticipate having the online version accessible by April.

2. Canadian Championship

Host Updates

- All hosts are in place for the 2024, in regular communication with them.
- Host Guide has been updated and distributed to hosts.
- Hotel information is available on their websites.

2025 Championships

- Adult categories were all filled early.
- Most minor categories are still open (all but U17 Girl's).
- Some concerns from potential hosts about possible number of teams at U19 Women's and U20 Men's (CSG age categories).
- Softball Canada does intend to hold Canadians in those categories and is telling hosts some CSG teams may attend to prepare.
- 2025 Grand Slam (U23 Men's, Men's & Master Men's).
- Send CG athletes to CC: it would be tough and too early to tell (NL).
 - o Will need to ask coaches.

- QB – 10-14 days before it will be ok.
- Revising grand slam (U23 + Men's) Kitchener Labor Day weekend.
- 2025 Grand Slam (U23 Men's, Men's & Master Men's).
 - o Due to the busy schedule on the Men's side in July/August, U23 Men's Canadians will be at the same time as Men's & Master's to form another Grand Slam event.
 - o Kitchener will host the Grand Slam event in 2025.

3. **Canada Games**

2025 Tech Package & Planning

- Tech Package has been released and updates are being forwarded to P/T's by their P/TOs.
- No major changes to softball other than Coach Certification.
- Assistant Coach must be Comp-Dev Trained (instead of certified).
- Manager needs to be Comp-Dev Trained to coach on the field.

2029 Sport Selection

- Men's and Women's Softball were both selected for 2029.
- After a lot of lobbying, the Canada Games Council now require all sports to go through the Sport Selection scoring process.
- Major surprise was seeing soccer removed from the program, they may be added as a host selection or CGC final choice.
- The appeal date for sport selection was January 26.
- Canada Games will not announce the sport program until all three phases are complete (Summer 2026).
- P/T's can operate knowing Men's and Women's Softball are included on the program for 2029.

4. **Programs**

Tim Hortons Update

- This 2024 season, Tim Hortons will no longer be a sponsor.
- Softball Canada is looking for other solutions for potential partnership(s) elsewhere or renegotiating with Tim Hortons for the 2025 season.

2024 Timbits Season Action Plan

- P/T's will have to cover the cost of printing/shipping shirts for this season.
- P/T's are given the option to participate in a group order through HomeRunSports or ordering from an independent supplier.
 - o P/T's were asked to complete a google form to input their decision.
- P/T's are able to continue to use the Timbits Softball name if desired but may not print any new shirts using the name.
- P/T's can use the Softball Canada logo, Learn to Play logo on the printed shirts but must get it approved by Softball Canada first.
- P/Ts may also use their logo or whatever else they please except for the Tim Hortons/ Timbits logo.
- P/T's are able to use t-shirts/medals/manuals that currently have the Timbits logo from previous years.

5. Strategic Planning

Phase 1

- Softball Canada has hired LLB Strategies – Benoit Girardin to facilitate the planning.
- Feb-April involvement first with staff and BOD followed by P/T.
- The staff and BOD will meet LLB Strategies as the first step.

Phase 2

- May-June staff and BOD (draft 1).

Phase 3

- Sept-Oct final plan, ready for AGM.

6. Provincial/Territorial Topics (All)

Rogue Associations & Teams

- Several P/T's provided insights into the policies and procedures they implement to mitigate rogue teams and academy softball. Some approaches involve the implementation of team registration cutoffs, specific criteria requirements, and obtaining board approval.

Travel Permits

- P/T decided to keep the travel permits at the P/T level.
- Discussion about a National coverage program was discussed and further discussion will take place at the AGM.

7. WBSC World Rankings Formula Correction

- World rankings based on 4 years (i.e. 2020 year will be erased in 2025).

