

Board of Directors Meeting June 18th/25 @ 4:00 PM Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:

Scott Neiles, President

Directors:

Brooks Penrod Bob Stanton Jackie Dugger Robb Andison

Kareena Zanolli Neil Teague Vanessa Kosteroski

Larissa Franklin (Athlete Representative)

Staff:

Mike Branchaud, CEO Angela Ballantyne, Mgr. - Sport

Gilles LeBlanc, Mgr. – Operations

Brooke Beleza, Coordinator – Events &

Officials

Tyler Bilash, Coordinator -

Communications and Programs

Development

Cassidy Burton, Mrg. -

Communications/Programs Gabrielle Lamadeleine - Intern

1. Call to order, Land Acknowledgement and President's opening remarks

President Neiles opened the meeting at 4:00pm EST

2. Acceptance of the February 8th Meeting Minutes

MOTION #1 - Move to accept the minutes of February 8th, 2025 Board Meeting

Moved by Dugger, seconded by Stanton, CARRIED

3. Approval of the Agenda with power to add

MOTION #2 – Move that the agenda with the additions be approved, with the

4. Staffing Introductions

We have three new staff members in the office, Brooke Beleza, Tyler Bilash and Gabrielle Lamadeleine.

- Brooke will be working with umpires and event coordinating
- Tyler is our communications and program coordinator
- Gabby is this year's summer intern

5. Women's National Teams

5.1 U-15 Coaches - preapproved

In March, the inaugural U15 Women's National Team traveled to Acapulco, Mexico for the Pan American Championship, aiming to finish in the top four and qualify for the 2025 WBSC U15 World Cup in Italy. Despite limited preparation, the team showed resilience and secured fourth place, earning their spot at the World Cup.

- The team was supported by a dedicated staff:
- Melissa Basilio Head Coach
- Joey Lye & Michelle Webster Assistant Coaches
- Dr. Jonathan Lockwood Mental Performance Consultant
- Angela Ballantyne Team Lead

We're also pleased to welcome two new coaches to the Women's National Team Coaching Pool:

Kaitlyn Cameron (BC) is NCCP Competition-Development trained and an Apprentice Assistant Coach with Team BC. A former SFU player, she currently leads the Fraser Valley Fusion 2006 program.

Lesley MacPherson (BC), an SFU and former Senior Women's National Team alumna, is NCCP Level 2 certified and Head Coach of Ridge Meadows Pride 2010 (U15). While she won't join the team in Italy, she remains an active part of the coaching pool.

Preparations for the World Cup (June 23–July 6 in Italy) are in full swing, with four new athletes joining the roster. The team will be led by Head Coach Joey Lye, with assistants Michelle Webster and Kaitlyn Cameron, and supported by Dr. Jonathan

Lockwood and Scott Neiles.

5.2 U-18 Update

The U18 Women's National Team hosted three Identification Camps across Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. From these open camps, selected athletes have been invited to attend final selection camps in Langley, BC (July 1–2) and Guelph, ON (July 15–16). These ID Camps marked the first use of the Ramp registration system, which proved to be a positive and administratively smooth experience. From these final selection camps, 16 athletes will be chosen to represent Canada at the WBSC World Cup will take place at Devon Park in Oklahoma City. Currently Canada's pool consists of: China, Chinese Taipei, USA.

5.3 Women's National Team

An Open ID Camp was held on June 9, 2025, in Oshawa, ON, as part of the Senior Women's National Team selection process. Following evaluations, four athletes were invited to stay for the Final Selection Camp, where 16 players will be chosen for the Pan American Championship (Colombia) and 15 for the World Games (China). Additional athletes will participate in the Canada Cup and Red vs. White Series. Final team selections will be made by June 16.

Key Dates:

- June 9–16: Final Selection Camp Oshawa, ON
- June 16–23: Team Training Oshawa, ON
- June 21–22: Red vs. White Series Carp & Napanee, ON
- June 24–July 6: Pan American Championship Montería, Colombia
- July 7–14: Canada Cup Surrey, BC
- August 8–19: World Games Chengdu, China

The **Red vs. White Series** will be the team's first appearance in Eastern Ontario, aiming to inspire local fans and future athletes while building momentum toward the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles (LA28).

Athletes Invited to the 2025 Final Selection Camp:

 Erika Polidori 	2. Jorde Chartrand	3. Morgan Reimer
4. Olivia Simcoe	Cassie Matlock	6. Lauren Schurman
7. Annabel Teperson	8. Katie Korstrom	9. Natasha Limbani
10. Grace Messmer	11.Kianna Jones	12. Nicole Rivait
13.CC Wong	14.Kristen Boyd	15. Peyton Bryden
16. Natalie Wideman	17.Zoe Hicks	18.Emma Entzminger
19.Callum Pilgrim	20.Larissa Franklin	21. Deanna Grahek
22. Dawn Bodrug	23. Madelyn McKinnon	24. Caitlin Colley
25. Janet Leung	26.Morgan Rackel	27.Kendra Falby
28. Jana Want	29.Logan Forman	

Own the Podium Partnership:

Softball Canada is also pleased to welcome Mel Davidson, representing Own the Podium (OTP), to the Selection Camp. As a high-performance consultant, Mel will be observing camp to deepen her understanding of the team environment, culture, and needs.

COACHING

ICECP - Kaleigh Rafter

Softball Canada is celebrated Women's National Team Head Coach Kaleigh Rafter for completing the International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Program (ICECP). She's the first Canadian coach to finish the program since it started in 2008, standing out among thousands of coaches from around the world.

The ICECP, run by Olympic Solidarity and the University of Delaware, helps top-level coaches build their skills and become leaders in their sport. As part of the program, Rafter used the High-Performance Coach Development Program as a pilot of new Competition Development material to improve the future of how softball coaches are trained across the country. The revisions focus on modern training methods, sports science, and improved ways to teach hitting, pitching, and defense. The trickle-down effect of this pilot program will impact all levels of coach development in Canada.

CAC - Reinvestment Fees

The Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) is making changes to how the Making Ethical Decisions (MED) module is delivered to coaches. Currently, Softball does not have MED integrated into any of its coaching contexts—coaches must complete the course separately.

At present, Softball Canada receives approximately \$26,000 annually from CAC:

- \$13,000 in Support to Sport funding
- \$13,000 in *reinvestment fees*, which are paid back to CAC (funded by the provinces/territories)

Under the new model, Softball Canada will no longer pay the \$13,000 reinvestment fee to CAC, but it will also only receive \$13,000 in Support to Sport funding.

In addition, CAC has committed to distributing a portion of \$375,000 annually plus 9% of MED eLearning revenues to sports. The exact breakdown of this distribution is still to be determined

Below is a summary of commitments made by CAC, National Sport Organizations (NSOs), and Provincial/Territorial (P/T) Governments regarding the future of MED eLearning.

NSOs Commit To:

- No reinvestment fee to CAC and removal of integrated MED (if applicable)
- CAC provides \$375K + 9% of MED eLearning revenue annually for NSO support
- Consider adding context-specific ethics content to the delivery

P/T Governments (PTCR) Commit To:

- No reinvestment fee to CAC and full use of MED eLearning (no more in-person delivery)
- CAC commits to fair redistribution of MED eLearning revenue to governments
- Consider incorporating P/T-specific ethics training

CAC Commits To:

- Ending the reinvestment fee model (no payments required)
- Fairly retaining MED eLearning revenues
- Providing \$375K annually + 9% of MED eLearning revenues for NSOs
- Fair redistribution of MED eLearning revenue to P/T governments
- Covering the cost of development, delivery, updates, and maintenance of MED eLearning

This change to funding may impact the future of coaching projects, including the following: the Competition-Development (Comp-Dev) materials are scheduled to be translated and reviewed by the French Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (FR PTSO); an in-person Multi-Sport Coach Developer (MCD) training session is planned for Ottawa, ON; Learning Facilitator (LF) content-specific training will be delivered using the revised Softball Competition-Development materials; and a contractor will be hired to complete a thorough copy-edit of all NCCP Softball context materials.

MOTION #3 – Move to approve the Women's National Team report

Moved by Dugger, seconded by Teague, CARRIED

6. Safe Sport / Complaints

6.2 Canadian Safe Sport Program

As a federally funded National Sport Organization, Softball Canada has adopted the Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Rules. All designated participants — including Board members, staff, coaches, athletes, ODC members, and Championship Supervisors — were required to complete the Safe Sport 2025 e-learning course and sign the Participant Consent Form.

While the course, hosted by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), caused some initial confusion with Sideline Learning, we will continue using Sideline as our internal record system for Safe Sport requirements.

Softball Canada's Safe Sport policies will also be reviewed and updated over the summer to reflect recent changes from the CSSP and CCES, ensuring alignment with national standards and our commitment to a safe sport environment.

MOTION #4 – Motion to accept the Safe Sport Report

Moved by Andison, seconded by Franklin, CARRIED

7. Canadian Championships

7.1 Final Numbers and Format

We currently have a total of 151 teams participating in this year's Canadian Championships

7.2 2026 preapprovals

Event	Location	Dates
U15 Women's	Fredericton, NB	July 29 – August 2
U15 Men's	Open	TBD
U17 Women's	Calgary, AB	July 29 – August 2
U17 Men's	Open	TBD
U19 Women's	Open*	TBD
U20 Men's	Carp, ON	August 11-16

U23 Men's	Open	TBD
Women's	Blackfalds, AB	August 5-9
Men's and Master Men's	Saskatoon, SK	August 26-30
Men's and Women's SP	Open	TBD

^{*}U19 Women's has been pulled from Chateauguay due to Quebec not sending a team to the 2025 U19 Women's Canadian Championship. The event is open for bids and Chateauguay will be reconsidered if the event is still open on October 1st.

7.3 2026 Men's/Masters Approval

Gilles is requesting approval to award the 2026 Men's & Master Men's Canadian Championship to Saskatoon

MOTION #5 – Motion to approve Saskatoon as the location for the 2026 Men's & Master Men's Canadian Championship dates TBD

Moved by Teague, seconded by Stanton, CARRIED

MOTION #6 – Motion to approve Carp as the Host for the 2026 U20 Men's Canadian Championship

Moved by Penrod, seconded by Kosteroski, CARRIED

MOTION #7 – Move to approve the report on Canadian Championships

Moved by Dugger, seconded by Teague, CARRIED

8. Men's National Team

8.1 Coaching Update

Doug Allin will be going to China for the World Games as an assistant coach.

8.2 MNT

- 28 athletes and 8 coaches/staff attended a Men's National Team Selection Camp in Vero Beach Florida from April 30 to May 4th.
- Following the camp, the coaching staff named both the World Cup Finals and World Games rosters.

• Softball Canada is currently putting considerable time into facilitating the Chinese Visa application process for members of the World Game team.

2025 WBSC Men's Softball World Cup Finals Roster

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	HOMETOWN
Bryan	Abrey	Richmond, B.C.
Shane	Boland	Goulds, N.L.
Quinten	Bruce	Grand Valley, Ont.
Sean	Cleary	Harbour Main, N.L.
Bradley	Ezekiel	Holyrood, N.L.
Blake	Hunter	Nanaimo, B.C.
Max	Major	Delisle, Sask.
Devon	McCullough	Saskatoon, Sask.
Mitch	McKay	Tavistock, Ont.
Jordan	Pomeroy	Placentia, N.L.
Mathieu	Roy	St-Gervais, Que.
Justin	Schofield	Kings, N.S.
Kevin	Schellenberg	Squamish, B.C.
Ту	Sebastian	Brussels, Ont.
Colin	Walsh	Petty Harbour, N.L.
Nick	White	Truro, N.S.

2025 World Games Roster

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	HOMETOWN
Shane	Boland	Goulds, N.L.
Quinten	Bruce	Grand Valley, Ont.
Sean	Cleary	Harbour Main, N.L.
Bradley	Ezekiel	Holyrood, N.L.
Kyle	Ezekiel	Conception Bay South, N.L.
Blake	Hunter	Nanaimo, B.C.
Derek	Hyde	Tavistock, Ont.
Justin	Laskowski	Warman, Sask.
Max	Major	Delisle, Sask.
Mitch	McKay	Tavistock, Ont.
Jordan	Pomeroy	Placentia, N.L.
Tyler	Randerson	New Hamburg, Ont.
Justin	Schofield	Kings, N.S.
Ту	Sebastian	Brussels, Ont.
Nick	White	Truro, N.S.

8.3 U-23 Development Camp

Following the postponement of the U23 Men's Pan American Championship, 20 athletes attended a two-day development camp, with 16 of them competing in the STK Fastball Tournament in Kamloops, BC. The other four athletes were released to play for their local club teams.

The U23 Development Team went 0-4-1 but was competitive in every game and faced some very good pitching. The coaching staff was pleased with the way the team played and was grateful for the opportunity to see several athletes who are competing for a spot on the National Team.

8.4 U-18 Men's National Team

Identification Camps are currently being held across the country, with camps already completed in Quebec (St-Leonard-d'Aston) and Ontario (Woodstock and Napanee). Upcoming camps are scheduled for Nova Scotia (Brookfield), Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), British Columbia (Prince George) and Newfoundland (St. John's).

MOTION #8 - Motion to approve Men's National Team report

Moved by Andison, seconded by Stanton, CARRIED

9. Hall of Fame

The committee received 11 nominations from the Atlantic provinces this year. Of these, there are four individuals who the committee unanimously agrees should be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

A broader discussion is needed regarding team inductions, particularly around the potential nomination of historic and recent teams. Three teams were specifically suggested for future recognition:

- 1995 Men's National Team (30th anniversary upcoming)
- 2015 Men's National Team, which won gold at both the Pan Am Games and World Championship
- 2015 Women's National Team, which won gold at the Pan Am Games

The Board expressed interest in finding alternative forms of recognition for remarkable team and individual accomplishments, especially in cases where Hall of Fame induction may not be appropriate at this time. This could help ensure meaningful acknowledgment while maintaining the integrity of existing policies.

There is no formal criteria currently outlined for Life Membership, which may also require further board consideration and documentation.

The Board recommends initiating work on a master list of individuals and teams deemed worthy of recognition to guide future nominations and discussions.

MOTION #9 – To induct the following individuals into the 2025 HOF: Bev Adams (Builder), Lou Davis (Official), Jeff Ellsworth (Athlete) & Les Howey (Coach)

Moved by Stanton, seconded by Zanoli, CARRIED

MOTION #10 – To induct the 2015 MNT who won the Pan Am & the WorldCup & the 2015 WNT who won the Pan Am Games into the 2025 HOF

Moved by Teague, seconded by Andison, CARRIED

10. Officials

10.1 Blue Convention

This year's Blue Convention hosted, in Calgary AB had a god turnout of approximately 225 attendees. Two cities have expressed strong interest in hosting the 2028 Blue Convention. A post-event survey was sent to all attendees to gather feedback for future improvements. The survey will be closing soon, and results will be shared at the next meeting

10.2 Registration

All provinces except Quebec expect steady or increased registration this year. Quebec anticipates a potential decline due to recent changes by Sport QC affecting official registrations sector-wide. Final numbers will confirm the impact.

10.3 Canadian Championship & International Assignments

The international and Canadian Championship umpire assignment had been previously approved. A few changes were made such as Mathieu Leclerc replacing Ryan Webber at the Men's Major and Bonnie Gostola replacing Marni Carvalho at the U17 Women's Canadian Championship.

International Assignments and Canadian Championship UIC/DUIC Appointments

Slow Pitch (SP) – International Assignments

Border Battle

- Lance Davidson (AB)
- Jason Clark (AB)

US Regionals

JR. Simpson (SK)

European Co-Ed Championship

Mark Gough (AB)

USA Men's A/B

Gary Barnes (AB)

Fast Pitch (FP) - International Assignments

U15 Women's Pan American Championship

Ariane Longtin (Previously Approved)

U23 Men's Pan American Championship

• Steve Gallagher (Previously Approved)

European Women's Championship

Sarah-Ève Jacob

USA Men's Major

Mathieu Leclerc

Women's Pan American Championship

Emma Jerome Smith

Canadian Championship UIC/DUIC Assignments

Fast Pitch (FP)

- **U15 Girls** UIC: Bruce Luebke | DUIC: Emma Jerome-Smith
- **U15 Boys** UIC: Moose Gibson | DUIC: Mike Semchuk
- **U17 Girls** UIC: Bonnie Gostola |DUIC: Bob Clothier
- **U17 Boys** UIC: Frank Fargey | DUIC: Pat Hazelton
- U19 Women's UIC: Susan Strafford | DUIC: Kearney O'Keefe
- U20 Men's UIC: Kris Hartley | DUIC: Darren Gerrior
- **U23 Men's** UIC: Trevor Topping | DUIC: Mitch Zuk
- Women's UIC: Daryl Way | DUIC: Ian Brown
- Men's & Master Men's UIC: Terry Richter | DUIC: Brent Chadwick

Slow Pitch (SP)

- **UIC:** Don Farr (ON)
- DUICs:
 - o Bob Smith (ON)
 - o Carla Mackenzie (NS)
 - o Jeff Butler (NS)

Canada Summer Games (Previously Approved):

- Women's UIC: Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon | DUIC: Ron Campbell
- Men's UIC: Mike Morrissey | DUIC: Clinton Harvey

WBSC Appointments – Selected Umpires

- Men's World Cup
 - o Daryl Helmer
 - o Scott McLaren
- World Games
 - o Geneviève Gaudreau
- U18 Women's World Cup
 - o Laura MacMillan
- U15 Women's World Cup
 - o Justin Van Horn

Exchange Umpires

- From Europe
 - o Canada Cup (FP): Jana McCaskill
 - o Men's and Women's SP Canadian Championships: Derek Harnett
- From New Zealand
 - o Men's Canadian Championship: Robbie Sadgrove
 - o Men's Canadian Championship & Canada Cup: Dave Fortin

Additional Note

 Scott McLaren will attend the Men's National Team camp in Florida to umpire scrimmage games.

MOTION #12 – To accept the report on Officials

Moved by Andison, seconded by Teague, CARRIED

11. Slo-Pitch Program Update

11.1 Border Battle

The 2025 Border Battle is scheduled to take place in Oklahoma City from July 24–26. As in previous years, both teams will participate in a series of exhibition games, including matchups against the USA Futures team, and the final showcase game against Team USA.

Coaching Staff

Role	Name
Men's Team Head Coach	Stephane Chapdelaine (QC)
Men's Team Assistant Coach	Mike Neufeld (BC)
Women's Team Head Coach	Amanda Howard (AB)
Women's Team Assistant Coach	Pat Severin (ON)
Team Manager	Tony Carnelos (ON)
Athletic Trainer	Mark Kierven (NB)
Softball Canada Representative	Robb Andison (NT)

Men's Team Roster

Name	Province/Territory
Colin Andrews	Ont.
Guillaume Ayotte	Que.
Olivier Blier	Que.
Maxime Bouchard	Que.
Dave Goulet	Que.
Simon Grondin	Que.
Jeff Kemp	Ont.
Kyle Knechtel	Ont.
Steele Lewis	Ont.
Massimo Peranio	B.C.
Hunter Platten	Alta.
Connor Prentice	B.C.
Shawn Proulx	Que.
Argenis Verras Gueva	Ont.
Ren Visser	B.C.

Women's Team Roster

Name	Province/Territory	
Shelby Craig	Ont.	

Chelsea D'Avilar	Ont.	
•		
*Sabrina Gaudreau	Que.	
Jesse Goddard	B.C.	
Tina Gulbrandsen	B.C.	
Sydney Heschuk	B.C.	
Shannon Hilton	Ont.	
Julie Kay	Alta.	
Tiffany Mansfield	N.S.	
Kate Meredith	B.C.	
Sam Middleton	Alta.	
Jolene Ogrodnick	Alta.	
Jacqueline O'Quinn	Ont.	
Heather Ryder	Ont.	
Marine Scow	B.C.	
Aspen Searle	Ont.	

12. DEI Initiatives

12.1 Sport Equity Grant: Female Bursary Program

Softball Canada's Female Coach & Umpire Bursary Program, funded by Sport Canada, ran from March 1–31, 2025. It provided up to \$500 in financial support to individuals, clubs, and PTSOs to reduce barriers and promote the development of female coaches and umpires across Canada.

The program was relaunched with targeted outreach via social media and email blasts, and applications were submitted through a Google Form.

Results:

Applications received: 51

Applications approved: 46

Total funds distributed: \$20,000

This initiative reinforces Softball Canada's commitment to inclusivity, skill development, and increasing female role models in the sport.

12.2 Sport for Life Grant

Seven Chiefs Champions Camp:

With support from a \$15,000 Sport for Life Grant, Softball Canada introduced softball programming at the Seven Chiefs Champions Quarterly Camp (May 30–June 1, 2025), marking the sport's debut at the Seven Chiefs Sportsplex. The initiative aimed to build foundational skills among Indigenous youth and strengthen community connections through sport.

Key Highlights:

- 40 youth participants took part in the two-day camp. Sessions focused on Learn to Play programming and introductory skill development
- **\$8,000** supported camp delivery; **\$7,000** was invested in on-site equipment for future use.
- Weekly programming will continue post-camp, supported by local Calgary associations.

This initiative laid the groundwork for ongoing softball development and deeper community engagement

Next Steps

Softball equipment purchased through the grant will remain at the facility and be used for after-school programming, providing continued opportunities for participation and development.

This initiative has established a strong foundation for the growth of softball in the community as well as helped build connections and relationships with local softball associations/volunteers and the Seven Chiefs Champions

12.3 Indigenous Logo Merch Launch

In April, Softball Canada partnered with Home Run Sports to launch a new merchandise line featuring the Indigenous logo design. The collection includes apparel showcasing both the full-colour logo and versions that highlight its meaning and cultural significance. Select items have also been integrated into the Volunteer Recognition Program.

As part of National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, members of the Women's National Team will wear shirts featuring the Indigenous logo to celebrate and honour Indigenous culture and identity through sport.

Anti-Racism in Sport Training

Softball Canada is partnering with Anti-Racism in Sport to deliver two training sessions on equity and inclusion—one for staff and board members, and another for P/T association leaders. Pending trainer availability, sessions are planned for September and will focus on building awareness, challenging bias, and promoting safe, inclusive sport environments.

MOTION #13 – Motion to accept the DEI Initiatives

Moved by Teague, seconded by Stanton, CARRIED

13. Facebook Page Removal

Overview and Updates

Softball Canada's social media platforms continue to show consistent growth across key metrics, including follower count, impressions, and engagement. Content featuring National Teams remains the top driver of performance and audience interest.

In May, Softball Canada's Facebook page was removed by Meta due to flagged intellectual property violations related to a few WBSC Americas live streams. Despite ongoing efforts, we have not yet been able to regain access to the page and have been unable to post on Facebook since.

At this stage, we are preparing for the possibility of rebuilding our Facebook presence from scratch, though we remain hopeful that access to the original page can still be restored. We will also be looking into the possibility of paying to be a certified account on Facebook. We would do this for a year to get support and try to recover our page, then decide afterwords if we want to continue with it.

14. Prince Albert World Cup

- WBSC continues to host regular planning Zoom calls every three weeks to coordinate event logistics and updates.
- The tournament is expected to be highly competitive, showcasing top international talent.
- Softball Premier TV will be on-site to broadcast the event.
- A discount code for streaming access will be shared closer to the event.

15. Budget / Sport Canada

Softball Canada recently completed an extensive process to prepare and submit our Sport Canada funding application. As of late last week—officially confirmed June 17th — we were informed that our funding has been reduced by 21.72% annually for the next four years. This represents a decrease of over \$200,000 per year, significantly impacting our overall budget.

Out of 115 National Sport Organizations, 96 received funding this cycle. While many organizations are experiencing cuts (with an average decrease of around 10%), some high-profile sports such as hockey, soccer, and volleyball have received increased funding allocations.

Given this development, we will be revisiting our planned activities and priorities. We have scheduled a meeting with our Sport Canada consultant to discuss the details of our file and explore potential adjustments. Additionally, a Summer Caucus Zoom call is planned for Monday to engage in broader discussions with other affected sports.

We will continue to keep everyone updated as more information becomes available and the next steps are finalized.

16. Other Business

17. Next meeting will be October 9-11, 2025, in Ottawa, ON

MOTION #14 – Motion to adjourn

Moved by Penrod, seconded by Kosteroskii, CARRIED