



Provincial/Territorial Staff Call - Minutes
February 12, 2026 - 11:30 AM EST

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

(Branchaud)

2. Softball Canada Staffing

(Branchaud)

- A posting has been made for a Communications & Marketing Manager position at the National Office. More information is available at the link below:
 - <https://softball.ca/opportunities/manager-communications-marketing>
- Interviews are currently underway for the summer internship position.
- Gabrielle will begin her role as Full-Time Program Coordinator at the beginning of May. She is currently working in the position on a part-time basis and will also be taking on responsibility for DEI.
- Brooke will now be taking on Canadian Championships and will serve as the primary point of contact moving forward.

3. B5/DEI

(Lamadeleine)

- a. Update on B5 Kit Applications
 - i. The deadline to apply for a B5 Kit is February 15, 2026.
 - ii. After the application period closes, the DEI committee will begin looking over all submissions.
- b. Update on DEI Worksheets
 - i. The DEI Committee will review the submitted DEI Worksheets during their next call on February 15, 2026.
 - ii. The review will help the committee put together an action plan for the next fiscal year, focusing on DEI initiatives.
 - iii. Reminder: please send me your DEI worksheet if you haven't already.

4. Rulebooks

(Beleza)

- a. Update on delivery/cost
 - i. This years Rulebook will be \$10 per rulebook + tax for P/T's
 - ii. The online version is available on our website for \$11.
 - 1. <https://softball.ca/resources/2026rulebook>
 - iii. We are currently working with the printer but don't have an exact shipment date. We are hoping to have them shipped by the beginning of March.

5. Canada Games

(LeBlanc)

a. Ages

- i. As discussed at the AGM, Softball Canada will be recommending the same Canada Games age categories - U19 (women) and U20 (men). The Canada Games Council has requested our recommendation and consultation documentation by April 17.
- ii. We will consult with the LTPD committee on the age category decision and will get final approval at our upcoming board meeting in March prior to submitting it to the Canada Games Council.

6. Canadian Championships

(Beleza/LeBlanc)

a. Slo-Pitch bats

- i. HRS will not supply bats in 2026. Teams must bring their own bats, which must have the new **USSSA 2021 certification stamp** as listed on the Softball Canada website. More information will be shared with teams once all COP forms have been received.

b. Accepting bids for open 2027 Championships

- i. Men's Championships that are currently open: U15, U17, U20 and U23
- ii. Women's Championships that are currently open: U19 and Women's FP

c. U15 Women's update

- i. A 6th day has been added; the Championship will now run from July 28 – Aug 2.
- ii. We will be capping the event at 20 teams, with the possibility of 21 teams due to the added day.
 1. This is because there are 2 diamonds on site, with a third available off-site.
- iii. The coaches' meeting will be held on Monday after 7:00 PM to accommodate teams traveling.
- iv. The banquet is now an optional event for hosts, so there will not be one at the U15 Women's Championship. However, there may be an event hosted Monday evening, with more details to come from the host.

d. Streaming

- i. We will be using GameChanger this year for streaming
- ii. Softball Canada will meet with the Canadian Championship committee to review streaming opportunities and will then communicate with the host on exact demands.
- iii. Currently the signed contracts indicate all fields need to be streamed.

- iv. At the AGM, the P/T Presidents had a meeting without Softball Canada, and they indicated they would like to see an additional fee per team attending (suggesting \$100-\$200) to help the Host offset streaming costs. We are asking all P/Ts to confirm with their President and Board that this is accurate. If so, we will do a deeper dive into options and costs with the Host to ensure proper coverage.

7. Women's National Team Program Update

(Ballantyne)

- a. U18 possible qualifier in August
 - i. There is an unconfirmed U18 Pan Am Qualifier so until it's confirmed there's a lot of uncertainty
 - ii. U18 camps may be scheduled pending more information
- b. WNT Events
 - i. There's a tentative June selection camp in Oshawa with subsequent team training
 - ii. International events this year are in Czechia, Japan, Canada Cup, and Oklahoma.

8. AGM

(Beleza)

- a. Survey results- Key Takeaways
 - i. Interactive sessions were consistently rated as the most valuable
 - ii. Networking and face-to-face discussions were highlighted as a major benefit of attending in person.
 - iii. Some suggested more two-way discussion and fewer one-directional presentations.
 - iv. Another suggestion was to have fewer topics, but more depth and actionable outcomes.
- b. Discussion on Umpires attendance
 - i. Based on survey results, there is general support for continuing an annual UIC meeting. However, some respondents suggested:
 - 1. Shorter meetings
 - 2. Alternating in-person and virtual formats
 - 3. Holding in-person meetings during rule-change years only
 - ii. Umpires were also able to complete the survey; therefore, responses in favour of continuing the meeting may include feedback from umpires.

- iii. Multiple P/T's indicated agreement with holding the UIC meeting in person during rule-change years, followed by a virtual meeting the following year.
 - iv. Softball Canada will reach out individually to all P/Ts to gather additional comments and feedback.
 - v. Once all P/Ts have been consulted, the matter will be brought forward to the Board of Directors and the ODC for further discussion.
- c. 2026 update – Fredericton NB, November 12-14
- i. Thanks to Softball NB, the 2026 AGM will be held in Fredericton from November 12–14, at the Fredericton Inn. More information will be shared at a later date.

9. Registration and Ramp

(Ballantyne)

The group agreed to separate the topics, focusing first on whether to pursue a national registration system, with fee discussions to follow.

- a. National Database
 - i. Provincial feedback was mixed:
 - 1. No province declined further discussion outright.
 - ii. Softball Canada currently relies on Excel-based membership reporting, limiting data accuracy, compliance tracking, and national planning.
- b. Registration fees
 - i. Potential fee concepts were outlined, including modest per-participant fees and separate coach and umpire fees tied to specific program deliverables
 - ii. There was raised concerns about the value of national fees for adult participants who primarily receive provincial-level services.
 - iii. Participants agreed that the current national fee structure requires review and potential adjustment, with further analysis to be informed by provincial/territorial feedback.

Angela will reach out to P/T's with additional information and conduct one-on-one follow-up discussions.