



**Stratford Minor Baseball Association
November 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Monday November 14th, 2022
Stratford Army Navy @ 18:30

Attendees:

Don Grasby
Corey Bridges
Emily Priestap
Kyle Priestap
Bevan Mathieson
Chris Redfern

John Brightwell
Ashley Mathieson
Jessica Klumper
Mike Reid
Jonathan Paola
Ben Ehgoetz

Dave Graff
Beth Hovius
Jeff Keller
Sue Smith
Larry Balkwill
Matt Francis

Call to Order

Don Grasby called the meeting to order.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts reported.

Approval of Agenda

Approved by A Mathieson , 2nd by J. Brightwell. Carried.

Acceptance of Minutes from October 2022 meeting

Approved by A. Mathieson, 2nd by K. Priestap.

Business Arising from Minutes

No business arising from minutes.

Finance Report

C. Bridges provided a reminder that budget will be done next meeting, for anyone considering being on the Finance Committee. Would be nice to have a policy to set aside no more than 20% for Capital. Some of the bigger items that likely cannot be covered are irrigation, should look to talk to City about assistance with covering the costs. For operational budget, need to look at prediction of registration fees to set registration rates. Sponsorship and Fundraising Committees also play a part in the budget.

ICBA

B. Mathieson announced that Dave Roberts is the new ICBA President, new Vice President is Randy Meggs.

5 SMBA members attended symposium a couple weeks ago and were asked to bring back some matters to the locals.

- Interlock Teams: how we feel about them? It was reiterated that Interlock teams come to Stratford more than we go to them.
- Trying to force any team that plays Tier 1 to qualify at AAA or AA level. Stratford voiced that they are against this.
- Discussion about conveners. At symposium it was discussed that there be a minimum of 5 conveners, possibly. Payment will be per team. D. Grasby asked if anyone from Stratford would be willing to have their names put forward as a convenor. K. Priestap and A. Mathieson volunteered to have their names put forward.
- Tournaments over playoff structure. 8-11U weekend tournament, 12-14U playoffs, 15U up weekend tournament as well. Only pushback was that each centre would have to hold 2 tournaments each and there would be issue with umpires.
- Season now May 15 – August 1, most league teams 24 games.

J. Keller made a motion that we go back to the tournament format for all divisions. 2nd by A. Mathieson. Carried.

- Discussion of no releases from 13U down. Only way you can get a release is if you get cut, which is also an OBA rule that a release is automatically granted if released from the team.

M. Reid made motion to not allow releases 13U down, 2nd by E. Priestap. Carried.

- Discussion happened about the Bearcats using Stratford's fields. Rumour had it that they could book them online, and they were advised that booking must go through SMBA.
- Bevan Mathieson is now a Director for ICBA, so a new ICBA Rep will be required.
- D. Grasby discussed the ICBA AGM. Not official, but OBAs might be increased from \$500 to \$600 because centres are losing money.
- OBA is also considering changing the rules so that you can't catch and pitch on the same day.
- Also looking to make it mandatory to enter the pitch counts at the end of each inning, on the Pitch App.

Registrar Update

Nothing to report.

House League

Nothing to report.

Coaches Update

18U WOBA, spoke with Annette and likely to happen. Just need to figure out the next steps. D. Graff stated that we just need a list of players, and discuss a WOBA fee at a later date. Typically a 12 game schedule so a lower fee. Currently 5-6 players interested. Team would play at SERC Hardball. We will give a date of February 1, 2023 to submit a roster. Would require 13-14 players to make a team, and require the coaching staff to get certified.

Action Items: C. Redfern to advertise the formation of an 18U WOBA team.

Fundraising

Nothing to report.

Facilities

Nothing to report

Sports Council

Nothing to report, currently no Rep.

Committee Selection

D. Grasby discussed how last year we ran into issues that there were an even number of members making it difficult to vote on decisions. This year, looking to change all committees to 3 or 5 members per committee.

Discussion took place on whether or not a Releases Committee is required since all Stratford Releases will be brought to the Board for a vote. Discussion took place regarding pass-through releases. It was presented that a constitutional change to be made for next year that no pass through to be accepted if it cuts a local kid. Discussion also took place on the importance of making Stratford a competitive centre. It was decided that there have been no issues up to this point, so currently no decision is required on this topic.

J. Keller made motion to get rid of release committee, 2nd M. Reid. Carried.

New Business

- It was asked if there should be a recruiting committee, and it was discussed that coaches can recruit for their team (within SMBA boundaries).
- D. Grasby made a recommendation that we go to blue uniforms. Players can wear red on the road if they wish, up to the team. K. Priestap also discussed that we could do the

sponsors on the shirt sleeve and name on the back. Any 2nd jersey is the responsibility of the team and cost of 2nd jersey not covered by SMBA.

- Discussion amongst having some discretion and control over 2nd jerseys. Any 2nd jersey will be required to come to the uniform committee for approval.

A. Mathieson made motion for blue home jersey, 2nd by J. Brightwell. Carried.

- B. Mathieson requested that SMBA apply to hose 10U B OBAs. He has spoken to the parent group who have agreed to help run the tournament. D. Grasby stressed that the Board will help out where they can, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the team to run the tournament. D. Grasby also expressed that he would like to host 18U OBAs. M. Reid expressed concerns about supplying umpires, and it was suggested that the younger umpires do the other tournaments for the younger age groups to save the more senior umpires for tournaments such as OBAs when the student umpires aren't available. It was also discussed that we need to network more with the other centres for supplying umpires. It was also suggested that a letter be drafted and sent to the 13U+ age group to attempt to recruit umpires.

E. Priestap made motion to apply for 10U B OBAs. 2nd by A. Mathieson. Carried.

Action Item: C. Redfern to send an email to parents to promote umpiring.

Motion to adjourn S. Smith, 2nd B. Mathieson.

Next Meeting TBD