



**Stratford Minor Baseball Association
August 2025
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday August 11th, 2025
Stratford Army Navy @ 18:30**

Attendees:

Chris Redfern	Kara Hishon
Don Grasby	Kathy Hansen
Emily Priestap	Jon Paola
Corey Bridges	Matt Francis
Ashley Mathieson	Jeff Morris

Call to Order

C. Redfern called the meeting to order.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts reported.

Additions to Agenda

None.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by C. Bridges, 2nd by J. Morris

Acceptance of Minutes from May 2025 meeting

Motion by D. Grasby, 2nd by A. Mathieson

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Finance Report

Bank account sitting at just over \$100,000, looking good looking towards the end of the 2025 ball season. Getting money in for the OBAs for the 18U tournament, and still some funds to go out for park maintenance. All OBAs for Stratford teams have been paid.

Uniform Update

Nothing to report.

Coaches Update

4 coaches have been ejected this season. No precedent, but if it's a big enough issue it can go to the Coaches' Committee who might then contact that coach.

Umpiring issues were discussed.

Coaching evaluations are coming in. President is the only one who sees them. Process of the evaluations was explained. Name is mandatory to ensure it's an actual parent writing the evaluation. Discussion was had that the Coaches' Committee doesn't need the name of the person writing, as long as the president has validated it. August 16th is the deadline for the coaching applications.

J. Paola discussed how hockey does its coach selection. SMHA has non-board members involved who give their recommendations. They ask questions and in conjunction with the coaching committee bring the selections to the board for voting on. Coaching Committee is only there to answer questions during the interviews.

Discussion that SMBA should try following the same format.

Discussion was had about telling head coaches that they cannot choose their assistant coaches until after tryouts. It was also discussed that if coaches are concerned about perception when selecting their assistant coaches, having a board member to help evaluate at tryouts might help.

It was discussed that the best process for coaching selections might include the following process; If there's a team with more than 1 applicant, will have at least 3 additional non-board members to conduct the interview and give their opinions for coaches selections. If there's a team with more than one applicant, will require a board vote. It was also discussed having an interview if there's only 1 coaching application for an age group. Argument was had that there should still be an interview and the coach not necessarily given the position and team might have to be finalized in order to give time to find a coach. Another argument was given that if there's only 1 application, coach should be given the position, as long as there were no major issues throughout the season, because failing to create the team in the fall will result in losing kids to other centres.

Tournament Update

18U OBAs being played in Woodstock and Stratford.

Next year would like to go back to 8 teams so we don't have to go outside of Stratford. To be discussed at a later date.

ICBA

Nothing to report.

J. Paola would like to make a recommendation to seed the year-end tournament. D. Grasby discussed that the issue is finding enough centers to host them. If not, should be an option to not go in the year-end tournament. It was discussed that the way 8U worked in 2024 went well where they played everyone but were then split for the year-end tournament.

Registrar

Nothing to report

House league

Final day was very successful.

Fundraising

Some banners were damaged and had to be replaced.

Umpires

Nothing to report. House league went well except for one incident that was addressed.

Facilities

Bathrooms are done at the stadium. D. Grasby has meeting with the City tomorrow to go over any issues with the renovations done.

Lights at Optimist not shining in the correct spots. Contractor doesn't want to meet at night, wants to meet in the morning.

SERC 2, discussing cutting it to play peewee as well, portable mounds as SERC 2, Optimist and Dufferin. Barry has been discussing with someone to donate them.

C. Redfern discussed that he would like to start spending money to fix up the diamonds. He has a list of things that need to be done so we can start on some things.

Sports Council

Nothing to report. D. Grasby wants to know if Cricket is paying a user fee.

New Business

Policies and Procedures document. Corey, Matt, Steve and Kara on the committee. New committees being selected at the AGM, but should get it going. Is an election year.

Discussion of a team possibly forfeiting OBAs.

Banquet September 7th, need to send a reminder to coaches about award names that are due on the 15th. Idea for doing something for graduating players that have been in the organization for a long time. To be discussed further at another time.

Eric McLeod Scholarship Award, applications need to be put out.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by J. Paola , 2nd K. by K. Hanson .

Next Meeting September 15th at 6:30.