



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

**Monday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Stratford Army Navy @ 18:30**

**Attendees:**

Chris Redfern  
Don Grasby  
Emily Priestap  
Kyle Priestap  
Ashley Mathieson

Jaimie Serf  
Bevan Mathieson  
Kelton Frey  
Barry Grasby  
Jeff Morris

Steve Vaters  
Kathy Hansen  
Jon Paola

**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 A Mathieson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Vaters.

**Acceptance of Minutes from May 2025 meeting**

Motion by A. Mathieson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Mathieson

**Business Arising from Minutes**

None.

**Finance Report**

Still looking good for 2025 budget. \$85,000 still in bank.

**Uniform Update**

K. Priestap suggested staying with Dunny's. J. Morris would like to see different hats. It was suggested that we also consider snap. Kyle will see about getting samples of different hats. Kyle stated that we spend over

\$20,000 on jerseys each year. Use sponsors in a different way, and look to re-use jerseys each year. Issue is with storage. Suggestion for a survey:

Option 1 : 2 brand new jerseys a year.

Option 2: Go into Dunny's to order new jersey if it's required.

Agreed that Dunny's will be the jersey provider for the 2026 season.

Question about having someone sponsor a third set of jerseys. Design just needs to be approved by SMBA board.

### **Coaches Update**

Some coaches, not all, have been contacted with coaching reviews. Still ongoing. Chris thanked coaches again for coaching.

2 interviews were potentially going to happen with a panel or Larry, Dave Graff and Jeff Keller. In the end, no interview required; just awaiting further information on 12U Tier 2.

J. Paola asked about 13U coaching staff, wanting to know who is returning. He wants to know how it will be addressed if parents refuse to let their kids play if a certain coach is allowed on the bench. Chris stated that discussion took place among the coaches' committee. It was decided that the assistant coach will be allowed, however he has been told that if there are any negative evaluations, he will be removed from the coaching staff.

Question if the head coach reached out to see if any parents would be interested in helping out on the bench. Hasn't yet.

J. Paola made a motion to not allow Kyle McLeod to coach in the Stratford Minor Baseball Association for the 2026 season. E. Priestap 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Opposed: D. Grasby, K. Priestap

Discussion took place suggesting that he should be given a last warning first.

E-mail will be sent out to all coaches after tryouts with a list of items that need to be completed. Issues about extra award being handed out by a coach at the banquet. Coach has been spoken with. This is a practice that is not allowed at the year-end banquet; to stick with SMBA approved awards. All team must have a parent rep, or rosters won't be submitted.

### **Tournaments**

B. Mathieson has already received approximately 10 e-mails for tournaments for next year. Mid-late November is when tournaments will open up.

Question about when or what tournaments will be hosted. Also discussion about how much work it is for a small tournament committee.

K. Priestap would like to see the 15U and 18U tournaments switched because of prom/ graduations.

Discussion about doing 8 teams, can run everything out of Stratford, excluding the mega tournament. Tournament committee to come back in tournaments, number of teams, and proposed dates.

### **ICBA**

Air quality, 10 or higher have a right to cancel a game. If one coach wants to cancel (at least 3 hours before game) can cancel. Same goes for 40+ degrees c with humidity.

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> in Stratford. SMBA gets 11 tickets.

OBA changes? Need to have proposed changes in by tomorrow.

B. Grasby – Propose 10/11U can't steal home on a passed ball.  
Question is there are guidelines for centers who want to host OBAs? No.

Board would like to propose– OBA must take team records into consideration when teams are trying to classify.

Interlock teams for the 2026 teams will be allowed in from: London, Hamilton, Ancaster, Simcoe, Caledonia, Tilsonburg, Listowel T1.

SMBA came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the running for ICBA Association of the Year.

### **Registrar**

WOBA now has a policy in place preventing players to come directly to SMBA following the “residency” rule. All WOBA players will now require a release to come to Stratford.

Don Grasby would like to see policy put in place not allowing Docusigned roster sheets so coaches have to have their in-person parent meeting to have the sheet signed. It was decided that rosters won't be submitted until a coaches meeting takes place and a parent rep has been decided on.

### **House league**

Opening registration early again for next season.

### **Fundraising**

Some banners still need to be taken down. Don stated he would take the banners down at Dufferin.

### **Umpires**

### **Facilities**

It was discussed that Sports Council ended up putting \$15,000 towards lights at Optimist, that the city was short on covering. Positioning of the lights have been fixed at Optimist.

Question was asked if SMBA should be charging out of town fees. Don Grasby will ask.

Looking at cutting back the grass SERC 2 to be able to play 13U.

### **Sports Council**

Banquet is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

It was asked if for the City Recognition Awards, 2<sup>nd</sup> place is also recognized. \*Emily confirmed with city that, for provincials, only 1<sup>st</sup> place recognized.

### **New Business**

J. Paola presented metal SMBA signs that can be customized with players' names and numbers. Intended for players who have played 5+ years in the organization and finish with SMBA in their 18U season.

Kelton Frey was welcomed onto the SMBA board.

AGM will be held on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. Chris suggested everyone begin to think about what committees they would like to be on.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion by A. Mathieson, 2<sup>nd</sup> · by J. Paola.

Next Meeting: October 20<sup>th</sup> AGM followed by monthly board meeting.