



2023 SOFTBALL ALBERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

President Peter Gogich called the meeting to order on Saturday, October 14th, at 10:33 am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. That the 2023 Softball Alberta - Annual General Meeting agenda be adopted with the “powers to add.”
2. That the minutes from the 2022 AGM held in Camrose, AB in 2022 be adopted.”
3. To accept the 2024 Reports

Motion 1/23 (AGM)	Moved by: Glen Hyshka	Seconded by: Daryl Helmer
<p>That the 2022 Softball Alberta Audited Financial Statement be accepted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">CARRIED</p>		

The current YTD 2023 Softball Alberta Financial Statement was also presented for information only.

[Meeting adjourned to 9:30 am on Sunday, October 15th at 10:47 am.]

MINOR

Motion 2/23	Moved By: Tom Clooney	Seconded by: Bonnie Gostola			
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 2 – TOM CLOONEY					
Reference:	Page No: 42	Article: III	Section: N	Number: 12	Letter: b.
REVISE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ADD <input type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>		
Motion:	Remove: iii) [U15 Categories-four (4) innings per game				
Rationale:	Softball Canada and other Provincial Associations have removed this restriction. This will also help pitchers develop the endurance and strength to pitch more innings at the older age categories.				
DEFEATED					

Motion 3/23		Moved By:		Seconded by:	
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 2 – TOM CLOONEY					
Reference:	Page No: 43	Article: III	Section: N.	Number: 13	Letter: c.
REVISE <input type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	Remove c) U11, U13, and U15 Categories The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) is NOT permitted; But is permitted for U17 and above categories.				
Rationale:	Softball Canada has removed this rule for all categories. Coaches do not understand nor know how to apply this rule when entering U17 and above, more time will allow more time to become better. Adds another player to the lineup increasing participation and rest rotate defensively. Redundant at U11, as all players in line up bat and there are unlimited substitutions.				
WITHDRAWN					

Motion 4/23		Moved By: Will Spreadbury		Seconded by: Julie Robicheau	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 6 – Will Spreadbury					
Reference:	Page No: 43	Article: III	Section: N.	Number: 13.	Letter: c.
REVISE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	Original U11, U13, and U15 categories The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) IS NOT permitted; BUT is permitted for U17 and above categories. Revision U11categories The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) IS NOT permitted; BUT is permitted for U13 and above categories.				
Rationale:	This will allow coaches to get additional players in the game, allowing more and equal playing time. The whole purpose of this rule is allow coaches more flexibility within the lineup, get additional players into the game, and the added benefit of an additional tool to manage the health of players in the lineup.				

Amendment	Moved By: Will Spreadbury	Seconded by: Julie Robicheau
Amendment:	Change U17 to U15 A	
Amendment - Carried		
Motion as amended:	c) U11, U13, and U15 categories The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) IS NOT permitted; BUT is permitted for U15A and above categories.	
Motion as amended – CARRIED		

Motion 5/23		Moved By:		Seconded by:	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 2 - Kevin Burrill					
Reference:	Page No: 13	Article: II	Section: A.	Number: 4.	Letter:
REVISE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	<p>Change U15 to U13</p> <p>All U15 and under players who wish to register on a team outside their own local association must apply each year for a "Player Transfer".</p>				
Rationale:	<p>15 year old players understand what they want to accomplish and must be allowed to pursue better coaching and associations when they decide. Softball Alberta should not be holding players back and make them stay on teams where they do not feel comfortable.</p>				
WITHDRAWN					

Motion 6/23		Moved By: Kyle Osterman		Seconded by: Cheryl Bali-Haubrich	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 3 - Kaizen					
Reference:	Page No: 36	Article: III	Section: J.	Number: 2.	Letter: a) i.
REVISE <input type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	<p>Add exception: U15 A</p>				
Rationale:	<p>Softball Canada allows U15 Category to wear metal cleats. Alberta teams need to be able to wear cleats in facilities that allow them compete on the same levels as other provinces.</p>				
CARRIED					

SLO-PITCH

FASTPITCH

ALL CATEGORIES

Motion 7/23		Moved By:		Seconded by:	
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 4 – Sharon Falk					
Reference:	Page No:	Article:	Section:	Number:	Letter:
REVISE <input type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	Provincial Hosting Guidelines" Recommendation: A fine of \$1000.00 shall be imposed to the host of a Softball Alberta Provincial championship where fencing is required and host has not complied. The fencing needs to be in place at the beginning of this Championship.				
Rationale:	In the guidelines #4 states: For all age categories that lead to Post-Provincial play and all adult fastpitch categories, fences are to be installed that follow the Softball Canada distance guidelines. We have this in our guidelines but there are not any consequences if the host does not comply.				
WITHDRAWN					
Withdrawn as a motion but is now a <u>recommendation</u> & for Softball Alberta to also look at making the fine of \$3000. For Softball Alberta to review at the November Planning Seminar.					

Motion 8/23		Moved By: Michelle Campbell		Seconded by: Brian Gouthreau	
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 1 – Michelle Campbell					
Reference:	Page No: 63	Article: VII	Section:	Number:	Letter: F.
REVISE <input type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	F. To enter any SANCTIONED Softball Alberta tournament, teams must prove their affiliation with Softball Alberta (or other PSO). No team privately insured will be permitted to enter any sanctioned play within Alberta. Re- letter all the following points afterwards: G - L				
Rationale:	Softball Alberta has worked diligently to close loop holes, to not allow teams to pop up and either create their own associations or hook onto associations solely with the purpose to run their own independent team. We are now seeing teams who are saying that's fine; they will just do tournament play and not Softball Alberta provincials or western/national sanctioned events.				
DEFEATED		WITHDRAWN		CARRIED	

Amendment	Moved By: Brian Gouthreau	Seconded by: Michelle Campbell
------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Amendment:	Add: [Minor FP only]
Amendment - Carried	
Motion as amended:	<p>Replace current F. with:</p> <p>F. [Minor FP only] To enter any SANCTIONED Softball Alberta tournament, teams must prove their affiliation with Softball Alberta (or other PSO). No team privately insured will be permitted to enter any sanctioned play within Alberta.</p> <p>Re- letter all the following points afterwards: G. – L.</p>
Motion as amended – CARRIED	

Motion 9/23		Moved By: Terry Richter		Seconded by: Adrian Gaudet	
SUBMITTED BY: ASUA - Terry Richter					
Reference:	Page No: 65	Article: VIII	Section: C.	Number:	Letter:
REVISE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	<p>To amend the current mileage rate from .35 cent to .50 cents per km.</p> <p>Current section is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Official umpires using their automobiles travelling to and from such events shall be paid a rate of \$0.35/km. Umpires coming from the same area will be paid based on two (2) umpires per vehicle. Mileage will be paid when the umpire is required to be 'away from home' (i.e. more than 20 km from the outer boundaries of the umpires home city, town or village).</p> <p>To be revised to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Official umpires using their automobiles travelling to and from such events shall be paid a rate of \$0.50/km. Umpires coming from the same area will be paid based on two (2) umpires per vehicle. Mileage will be paid when the umpire is required to be 'away from home' (i.e. more than 20 km from the outer boundaries of the umpires home city, town or village).</p>				
Rationale:	Fuel costs have increased over the years.This would align to what other sports are getting for travel				
CARRIED					

Motion 10/23	Moved By: Daryl Helmer	Seconded by: Terry Richter
---------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

SUBMITTED BY: ASUA - Terry Richter

Reference:	Page No: 64	Article: VIII	Section: B	Number: 2.	Letter:
-------------------	-------------	---------------	------------	------------	---------

REVISE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ADD <input type="checkbox"/>	DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>
--	------------------------------	---------------------------------

Motion:

To amend the current section pertaining to Umpire in Chief fees where it is currently written:

2. Umpire-in-Chief fees may also apply as follows:

Number of teams	Fee / Day (max. 3 days)	
2 teams	\$50 / day	1 UIC
10 teams or less	\$75 / day	1 UIC
11 to 20 teams	\$150 / day	2 UICs
20 teams or more	\$225 / day	3 UICs

NOTE - the number of categories & the number of diamonds being used at the host site may also factor into the final number of UIC's required for each event. This will be finalized by the Provincial UIC, Branch UIC & the Executive Director.

Replace it with: **REVISED AS FOLLOWS AS PRESENTED BY THE ASUA**

2. Umpire-in-Chief fees may also apply as follows:

Number of Teams	Number of UICs	Coach Meeting Fee (if meeting held day before games start)	UIC assigning fees (per umpire slot assigned)	Nonworking UIC Fee per Day
2 teams	1	\$25 per UIC attending	\$2.50	\$75/day
10 teams or less	1	\$25 per UIC attending	\$2.50	\$150/day
11 to 20 teams	2	\$25 per UIC attending	\$2.50	\$150/day per UIC
20 teams or more	3	\$25 per UIC attending	\$2.50	\$150/day per UIC

NOTES:

1. A non-working UIC is one who is not scheduled to work on-diamond during the event. A non-working UIC does not lose that status if forced to work one or more games due to emergency circumstances (weather, injury/ illness of other crew members).
2. A non-working UIC is expected to complete a minimum four evaluations on crew members during the event.
3. The number of categories and diamonds being used at the host site may require more than the number of UICs indicated in the chart. This will be finalized by the Provincial UIC, Branch UIC and the Executive Director.

Rationale: Need to value the time commitment involved prior to the event in recruiting and assigning umpires. Where the coach pre-tournament meeting is held the day prior to the start of games, the UIC(s) may have to leave work early or take part of a day off work to attend the meeting, especially if they are travelling to an event.

CARRIED

Motion 11/23 Moved By: Daryl Helmer Seconded by: Terry Richter

SUBMITTED BY: ASUA - Terry Richter

Reference: Page No: 64 Article: VIII Section: B. Number: 1. Letter:

REVISE ADD DELETE

Motion:

To amend page 64 article VIII Section B. 1. - whereas it is currently written.

1. Umpire Fee Schedule:

CATEGORY	BASE FEE	THREE UMPIRE SYSTEM
U19 & lower	\$40.00	\$105.00 per game
U20 & above	\$45.00	\$120.00 per game
SLO-PITCH	\$40.00	\$105.00 per game

If three umpire system rates at Provincials are negotiated between the Host Committee & the Zone Umpire Association Executive for that area, a firm rate must be established prior to the "Bid to Host".

Replace with: **REVISED AS FOLLOWS AS PRESENTED BY THE ASUA**

Category	One Umpire System (per game fee)			Three Umpire System (per game fee)		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
U19 & lower	\$50	\$55	\$60	\$135 (\$45)	\$150 (\$50)	\$165 (\$55)
U20 & above	\$55	\$60	\$65	\$150 (\$50)	\$165 (\$55)	\$180 (\$60)
Slo-Pitch	\$42	\$44	\$45	\$111 (\$37)	\$117 (\$39)	\$120 (\$40)

If three umpire system rates at Provincials are negotiated between the Host Committee & the Zone Umpire Association Executive for that area, a firm rate must be established prior to the "Bid to Host".

Rationale:

Recruitment of new umpires is increasingly challenging due to the cost the equipment and registration, along with game fees. This proposal would start the process of aligning softball umpire fees with those paid to baseball umpires. Baseball Alberta fees are significantly higher for games of similar length, calibre and run rules. Zone Branches have been challenged by associations that host baseball and softball as to why softball umpires are not paid at a rate comparable to baseball umpires.

CARRIED

Motion 12/23		Moved By: Daryl Helmer		Seconded by: Terry Richter	
SUBMITTED BY: ASUA - Terry Richter					
Reference:	Page No: 65	Article: VIII	Section: C.	Number: 2.	Letter:
REVISE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ADD <input type="checkbox"/>		DELETE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Motion:	<p>To revise - currently written as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Meals are based on the following: Breakfast - \$10.00 Lunch - \$12.00 Supper - \$18.00</p> <p>Replace with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Meals are based on the following: Breakfast - \$15.00 Lunch - \$20.00 Supper - \$25.00</p>				
Rationale:	Increased cost of food				
CARRIED					

Election of Directors

Chair: We will now elect the 2 Director's positions.

We have received two valid nominations for these positions.

- Sherrill Spencer
- Christa Lawrence

Sherrill & Christa have both accepted their nominations.
Sherril Spencer & Christa Lawrence by acclamation for the 2 Director positions.

Chair: We will now elect the President position.

We have received one valid nomination for this position.

- Todd Neuman

Todd has accepted his nomination.
Todd by acclamation for the President position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ZONE 2

Due to an overwhelming number of player transfers dealt with every year, Softball Alberta should ask for a \$200.00 Application fee for all player transfers filed at the Provincial level to assist with processing and aiding associations with the costs associated with paperwork and protests.

ZONE 4

That the official time of all games start at the time of the first pitch when the umpire says play ball.

There is too much time wasted between the plate conference and the actual first pitch. Often 5-10 minutes are wasted as coaches meet with their players before taking the field and then time for the pre-game warm ups. Minutes which could result in an extra inning being played. Coaches and players just want to play and play as many innings as possible

ZONE 3

1. Softball Alberta not allow rogues teams to develop, incorporate, amalgamate with other associations. By allowing these groups to be affiliated with Softball Alberta it continues to water down the existing membership teams.
2. Softball Alberta look at the "A" Association application and approval process. In 2023 there were 9 associations approved and now in there were 19 reviewed/approved this fall. Is this process achieving what it was designed to do.

ZONE 4

All coaches, players must read, understand, sign and comply with the Code of Conduct Policy: 4002. Once reviewed all participants (coaches and players) must sign that they agree to abide by the policy. This becomes a binding agreement and would be the starting point of an investigation if any infractions should occur.

Associations currently are responsible to police their coaches and players. Some associations do not have the capacity to deal with some issues appropriately or choose not to deal with issues or should not deal with it at their level. Some small associations may have a difficult time reprimanding a coach or player.

If the Governing body was to do this, the process could be swifter and clearer for all.