



2024 SOFTBALL ALBERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

President Todd Neuman called the meeting to order on Saturday, October 19th, at 10:34 am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF VOTING DELEGATES

Saturday, Oct 19 – President confirmed the voting strength to be at 50

Sunday, Oct 20 - President confirmed the 'FINAL' voting strength to be 46
(President named Kim Abma & Kareena Zanolli to be the scrutineers.)

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

Motion 1/24 (AGM)	Moved by: Christa Lawrence	Seconded by: Shelley Rudd
<p>That the 2023 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 2024 Softball Alberta Financial Statement was also presented for information only.

[Meeting adjourned to 9:30 am on Sunday, October 20th at 10:48 am.]

NOTICE OF MOTION - SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Motion 2/24	Moved By: Shelley Rudd	Seconded by: Sherrill Spencer
Submitted by:	Board of Directors	
Reference:	Alberta Amateur Softball Association Bylaws (Society #500014824 as registered under the Alberta Societies Act)	
Motion:	To replace the current Bylaws with the Bylaws presented to the membership.	
Rationale:	To update the Bylaws of the Association.	
		CARRIED

Motion 3/24	Moved By: Shelley Rudd	Seconded by: Will Spreadbury
Submitted by:	Board of Directors	
Reference:	Alberta Amateur Softball Association - Special Operating Rules (Society #500014824 as registered under the Alberta Societies Act)	
Motion:	To replace the current Special Operating Rules with the Special Operating Rules presented to the membership.	
Rationale:	To update the Special Operating Rules of the Association.	
		CARRIED

MINOR

Motion 4/24		Moved By: Julie Robicheau		Seconded by: Shelby Spencer	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 6					
Reference:	Page No: 26	Article: III	Section: E.	Number: 5.	Letter: e.
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	<p>Change U17 and above Female teams in categories NOT leading to Post Provincial play may have on their roster up to two (2) overage players for the purposes of Provincial play. These players can be affiliated players or pickups but may not play defensively as either a pitcher or catcher.</p> <p>Furthermore, these players must be players who are one year advanced from the current playing category of the team in question.</p> <p>REMOVE: but may not play defensively as either a pitcher or catcher.</p>				
Rationale:	At this age U17C/D and U19C/D, these players are more than likely at the same skill level. The rule was added as intent to keep players in longer but teams are having a harder time forming when they only have half and half age groups or only 1 pitcher who is U19 and the rest of the players are U17.				

				CARRIED	
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Motion 5/24		Moved By: Colleen Allison		Seconded by: Julie Robicheau	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 5 – Colleen Allison					
Reference:	Page No: 26	Article: III	Section: E	Number: 5	Letter: a) add i)
REVISE		ADD ✓		DELETE	
Motion:	<p>Add new point i)</p> <p>5. MINOR Category:</p> <p>a) Team Roster is a maximum of seventeen (17) players.</p> <p>i) Minor teams must maintain a roster minimum of 80% of players from their Home Association. Exception – U19 teams must maintain a roster minimum of 60% of players from their Home Assoc.</p>				
Rationale:	Teams are recruiting players from all over, taking players from other Associations. Associations that work hard to train and develop younger players are concerned that talent is no longer staying local, and supporting local programs				

Amendment	Moved By: Colleen Allison		Seconded by: Julie Robicheau		
Amendment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change 80% to 60% & Exception to now read: U17 & 19 teams 				
Amendment - Carried					
Motion as amended:	<p>5. MINOR Category:</p> <p>a) Team Roster is a maximum of seventeen (17) players.</p> <p>i) Minor teams must maintain a roster minimum of 60% of players from their Home Association. Exception – U17 & U19 teams</p>				
Motion as amended – DEFEATED					

DEFEATED					
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Motion 6/24		Moved By: Colleen Allison		Seconded by: Julie Robicheau	
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 5 & 6					
Reference:	Page No: 31	Article: III	Section: G	Number: 4	Letter: n/a
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	<p>Change to read - Players registered with affiliated teams are eligible to be picked up by Provincial Teams in their zone for Regional Qualifiers and Provincial play. Teams are allowed to pick up players from the same Category or below and the same Level or below.</p> <p>Example - U15B Affiliated player may only play on U15A, U17B or U17A - but not U15 or U17 C/D</p>				
Rationale:	<p><i>The more competitive categories and levels have started training earlier and have more playing/on-field opportunities. This gives them a more competitive advantage over the lower levels. They should not be taking away from the opportunities from the respective category.</i></p>				

DEFEATED		
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Motion 7/24		Moved By: Colleen Allison		Seconded by: Julie Robicheau	
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 5 & 6					
Reference:	Page No: 30	Article: III	Section: G	Number: 3	Letter: n/a
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	<p>Change sentence #1 to read - Player release and pickup forms must be submitted to and approved by the Softball Alberta office a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of the Regional Qualifier or Provincial Tournament</p>				
Rationale:	<p><i>Due to the difference in the Regional Qualifier start/end dates, number of games played, pickup players from teams eliminated can affect the outcome of the qualifier tournament.</i></p> <p><i>This allows for Softball Alberta to have the needed time to verify the pickup before approval.</i></p>				

Amendment	Moved By: Bonnie Gostola	Seconded by: Colleen Allison
Amendment:	Change 48 hrs to 2 business days.	
Amendment - Carried		
Motion as amended:	<p>Change sentence #1 to read - Player release and pickup forms must be submitted to and approved by the Softball Alberta office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the commencement of the Regional Qualifier or Provincial Tournament.</p>	
Motion as amended – CARRIED		

CARRIED		
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Motion 8/24		Moved By: Julie Robicheau		Seconded by: Colleen Allison	
SUBMITTED BY: ZONE 5 & 6					
Reference:	Page No: 41	Article: III	Section: N	Number: 13	Letter: a)
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	Change sub-title to be - U11, U13 C/D and U15 C/D Categories				
Rationale:	There are many communities and leagues that play by this substitution rule throughout the province. None of these categories lead to Post Provincial play. Changing the way the game is played at provincial tournaments can cause confusion for coaches and players who do not understand the current substitution rule.				

DEFEATED		
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Motion 9/24		Moved By: Sharon Falk		Seconded by: Rhi Bradley	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 4 – Sharon Falk					
Reference:	Page No: 39	Article: 2	Section: N	Number: 6	Letter: a)
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	Edit first bullet point to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Championship Games” refers to C1 - C4 games. 				
Rationale:	<i>Make the all the Championship round games the same time limit - The C3 and C4 games are already a 2 hour time limit In C1 and C2 games the teams are fighting for the right to play for Gold The 15 minute extra time could make a difference</i>				

		CARRIED
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Motion 10/24		Moved By: Aaron Clements		Seconded by: Rhi Bradley	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 8					
Reference:	Page No: 34	Article: III	Section: J	Number: 2	Letter: e) – f)
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	Change e) to - All defensive infielders are required to wear approved masks when on the field. Move the current e) and make it f)				
Rationale:	Preventative safety measure. Too many injuries that are occurring that could be preventive by wearing appropriate safety gear. It won't save all potential injuries but could make the difference				

Amendment	Moved By: Erin Burns	Seconded by: Frank Cox
Amendment:	Remove the word 'approved' and change d)	
Amendment - Carried		
Motion as amended:	Change d) to - All defensive infielders; i) A protective face mask / guard when playing. ii) Failure to wear a protective face mask / guard will result in the player being unable to continue playing and they must be replaced and/or substituted for.	
Motion as amended – CARRIED		

		CARRIED
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ALL CATEGORIES

Motion 11/24		Moved By: Aaron Clements		Seconded by: Blair Stout	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 4 – Aaron Clements					
Reference:	Page No: 39	Article:	Section: N	Number: 6	Letter:
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	<p>6. TIME LIMITS (in effect for ALL Categories NOT leading to Post-Provincial play): (Time starts at completion of Plate Conference)</p> <p>Revise to: (Time starts when the umpire indicates "play ball" at the beginning of the game or when the official first pitch is thrown.)</p>				
Rationale:	<p>Presently, we are the only sport that starts the clock before the game starts. There is often delays from the time the home plate conference is concluded & the first official pitch is thrown, (pre game huddles by teams, delays by home team in taking the field, grounds keepers still maintaining the diamond, etc.</p> <p>Even the 5 - 10 minute delay can result in the game being shortened by one inning.</p>				

DEFEATED		
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Motion 12/24		Moved By:		Seconded by:	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 4 – Aaron Clements					
Reference:	Page No: 39	Article: III	Section: N	Number: 6	Letter: a)
REVISE		ADD ✓		DELETE	
Motion:	If an injury time out exceeds 5 minutes, the time shall be stopped and commenced once play resumes.				
Rationale:	No present guidelines for umpires to stop the timing of the game when an injury occurs. Presently this decision is subjective, at the discretion of the home plate umpire.				

WITHDRAWN	
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Motion 13/24		Moved By: Laura Oster		Seconded by: Christa Lawrence	
SUBMITTED BY: Zone 4 – Stephen Pottage					
Reference:	Page No: 39	Article: III	Section: N	Number: 4	Letter:
REVISE		ADD		DELETE ✓	
Motion:	The coin toss is removed from all round robin provincial games that do not lead to post-provincial play. Softball Alberta would assign home/away and keep the distribution as fair as possible.				
Rationale:	Under the current playoff rules, the away team gets a significant advantage as often they get an extra at bat which can result in a increased runs for/against when determining pool rankings. Many coaches are aware of this, but many are also not, so to ensure everyone has a fair advantage it makes sense that SA simply assigns the home/away and tries to keep it as fair as possible. This obviously would not apply to provincials leading to post-provincial competitions without a run cap.				

DEFEATED	
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3 MOTIONS from the floor:

75% of the membership vote was achieved to bring each of the following 3 motions from the floor:

Motion 14/24		Moved By: Terry Richter		Seconded by: Shelley Rudd	
SUBMITTED BY: Terry Richter – ASUA					
Reference:	Page No: 34	Article: J	Section: 2	Number: b)	Letter: i)
REVISE		ADD		DELETE ✓	
Motion:	Remove – b) i) A chin strap fastened securely under the chin.				
Rationale:	New helmets do not come with straps. This is making it hard to find straps. Straps are not securely fastened and just dangle under their chin.				

				CARRIED	
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Motion 15/24		Moved By: Sherrill Spencer		Seconded by: Terry Richter	
SUBMITTED BY: FP Workshop / Sherrill Spencer					
Reference:	Page No: 39	Article: III	Section: N.	Number: 6	Letter: b)
REVISE ✓		ADD		DELETE	
Motion:	Adult FP: NO new inning shall start after 1 hour & 45 minute time limit for all games in round robin play. For semi final and final games there will be no new inning after 2 hour time limit - on play NOT leading to post provincial play.				
Rationale:	With the current playoff format - teams can play back to back with 3 games on playoff day. There was a 3 hour game in the middle of 3 games back to back in 35 degree weather. Safety for players and umpires.				

				CARRIED	
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Motion 16/24		Moved By: Sherrill Spencer		Seconded by: Shelley Rudd	
SUBMITTED BY: FP Workshop / Sherrill Spencer					
Reference:	Page No: 63	Article: VII	Section: Umpires & Fees	Number:	Letter: F.
REVISE		ADD		DELETE ✓	
Motion:	Remove- F) Umpires who wish to officiate outside their registered Zone Umpire Association require permission from both their zone UIC and the UIC of the zone in which they wish to umpire.				
Rationale:	Umpire shortage and umpires that are looking to enhance and improve – they should be able to reach out to the zone hosting. We need to remove barriers and utilize availabilities.				

				CARRIED	
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RECOMMENDATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

Zone 3	Discussion regarding – NO transfers allowed at the U11 age category.
Zone 5	<p>For coaches attending Provincials at C/D levels, change the requirements to be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundations of Softball - Respect In Sport - Making Ethical Decisions <p>Remove;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained in Community Softball for C/D Categories only <p><i>Many community/recreational level coaches are not decided upon prior to the current schedule of Clinics hosted by Softball Alberta. Many Coaches are volunteered at the last minute and do not have the opportunity to attend the clinics currently required</i></p>

Zone 5	<p>Remove U17 AW from the provincials list</p> <p>Policy change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have 2 or 3 teams from U15A, U17A, U19 go to Nationals Have U15B, U17B, U19B go to Westerns <p><i>There is dilution at U17</i></p> <p><i>Growing the sport at B, to align and start to compete at the same level as other provinces</i></p> <p><i>The game is growing, we have more and more teams and there is the desire to call themselves “A” for the opportunity, rather than focus on skill and alignment in the province. There are teams at A and AW provincials getting killed instead of going to the appropriate level</i></p>
Zone 6	<p>Alberta to send more teams to post provincial events Westerns and Nationals</p> <p>Alberta should be sending 4 teams annually to nationals at the U15/17/19 A levels.</p> <p><i>By sending more teams to higher end events such as this will help grow and develop more players at a younger age, allowing them to grow and help Alberta be more competitive at these events.</i></p> <p><i>Provincial Bodies such as BC and Ontario send anywhere from 4-5 teams (non hosting years) Their programs lead the nation in players that occupy spots on the National teams.</i></p>
Zone 6	<p>To create a uniform set-up for the events that lead to Post-Provincials.</p> <p>Example: U15/17/19A Teams Qualify for Nationals & U15/17/19AW Teams Qualify for Westerns</p> <p>Or</p> <p>U15/17/19 A Teams Qualify for Nationals</p> <p>U15/17/19 B Teams Qualify for Westerns</p> <p>Or</p> <p>An “Open” Event where the teams can qualify for either event</p> <p><i>By selecting and labelling the events with a uniform designation will allow teams to better select what events they want to register in. Currently in U15: A division leads to both Nationals and Westerns, U17: A leads to Nationals and AW leads to Westerns, and in U19: A leads to Nationals and B: Leads to Westerns. B</i></p> <p><i>By creating clarity, it will allow organizations plan their teams to the appropriate events.</i></p>

ELECTIONS

(4) Director Positions:

1. One written nomination was received for Dakotah Pratt
Dakotah Pratt was not in attendance but notified the President that she will let her name stand.
President Todd Neuman read a letter from Dakotah.
2. One written nomination was received for Will Spreadbury
Will Spreadbury indicated he will let his name stand / Will gave a short speech.
3. One written nomination was received for Shelley Rudd
Shelley Rudd indicated she will let her name stand / Shelley gave a short speech.
4. One written nomination was received for Laura Robinson
Laura Robinson indicated she will let her name stand / Laura gave a short speech.

Ballot One: All four nominees are now being voted for.
A 50% majority was achieved
Shelley Rudd elected to Director position.

Ballot Two: Dakotah, Will & Laura will now be voted on.
A 50% majority was achieved
Dakotah Pratt elected to Director position.

Ballot Three: Will & Laura will now be voted on.
A 50% majority was achieved
Will Spreadbury elected to Director position.