

# minutes

SAMSPA GM		
2026-04-11	Scheduled: 10am – 12noon	St. Albert Legion 6 Tache Street
Meeting called by	President Kelly Porter	
Note taker	League Operations Coordinator Lynda Holden	
Timekeeper	Past President Joel McGovern	
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order by the President at 10:02am.	
50 Team Rep Attendees	<p>Wolf Pack, Kamikazes, Pound, The Chefs, Phantom, Latinos, Grizzlies, Rummies, Pedlars, Strikers, Slick 50, Diamond Bears, Raiders 50, Naturals 50+, Naturals 60+, Auto Selects, Bad Company, The Crush, Can Alta Sox 70, Dynasty Relics, Old Buzzards 70, Buzzards 74, Buzzards 60, Old Vets, Silverbacks 60, Silverbacks 70, St Albert 70s, Broke Bat Mountain, Classics. Sturgeon River Swallows, Big League Boys, Ballers, Big Dickey's, Ravens, Loose Cannons, Redline, Rockers, Breaking Bats, Mafia, Mediocre Sluggers, Sherwood Dodgers, Tailgaters, Alchoballics, Thirsty Beavers, Young Guns, Riverside Mariners, Pudgy Ps Pirates, Ram Ranchers, Draught Picks, Stingers</p> <p>EDSUA – Ed Drewicki</p>	
11 Absent	<p>Elite Selects, Admirals, Sox, Slammin Grannies, Dream Bunt Rotation, Caribooze, Hurt N' Units, The Blue Ballers, Swinging Dingers, Cobra Kai, Older Bulls,</p> <p>Missing Board Members –Joel McGovern, Kyle Graham, Bryan Shields, Dustin Sloan</p>	
Approve Minutes from 2026/01/24 <sup>th</sup> AGM		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
Motion was made by Brayden Hollett and seconded by Mike Coxworth to approve the minutes of January 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 AGM. <b>Motion carried.</b>		
GM Agenda Approval and call for additions		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
Nothing was brought forward.		
Motion was made by Shawn Mevel and seconded by Dan Barber to approve the agenda as presented. <b>Motion carried.</b>		
New Agenda Items/Agenda Items/Tabled Items		
Kelly Porter, President		
<b>Meeting Purpose</b>		
To provide the membership with general information including Executive position updates, League updates, 2026 Budget presentation, Fundraising Initiatives, information items and preparation for 2026 season.		
a) Board Introductions		
The President introduced and thanked all Board Members present for their service and commitment to SAMSPA. Board Portfolios were shared with the membership.		

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The President shared that the current Facility Director will be stepping down after this season. He went on to explain the importance of this position and need for an individual to step forward prior to the next AGM. The President invited anyone interested in learning more about the role to reach out directly to him.

The President introduced the staff and volunteers, thanking them for their commitment and support of SAMSPA.

## b) Updates

The President provided an overview of how the meeting process would take place, how voting would be recognized, how to ask questions and rules of order SAMSPA Bylaws. A quorum was confirmed for the meeting. Each team was allocated one voting member.

- The new SAMSPA Instagram and twitter links were shared. <https://www.instagram.com/samspa>, and twitter [https://x.com/SAMSPA\\_StAlbert](https://x.com/SAMSPA_StAlbert)
- The President explained the insurance requirement for all players to sign a League waiver. Location on the SAMSPA website for players to access and submit the waiver was shared and process explained to the membership. Returning players who previously submitted a waiver are not required to submit again.
- The current Team Bond initiative to date was shared with 26 of 61 teams fulfilling their bond requirements and 12 teams partially completed. Remaining opportunities were shared.
- The President shared information on Planned Giving and the opportunity to consider SAMSPA in your estate plans. This idea had been brought to the Board's attention at the AGM by Tony Kovacic of the Diamond Bears. The President went on to explain the difference between a Provincial Non-Profit Society (SAMSPA) and a Federal Registered Charity. Although SAMSPA could make memorials such as benches, dugouts, tables to honour a member who left a gift to SAMSPA through their estate, it was explained that SAMSPA could not issue a tax receipt to the estate.
- The SAMSPA Membership tournament incentive on facility rental was explained. A reduced rate of \$1,000.00 facility fee for a Sat/Sun rental and \$1,200.00 facility rental fee for Fri/Sat/Sun along with a .25 cent beverage rebate on alcoholic drinks, after the conclusion of the rental, was highlighted. This fee would include a cleaning service for bathrooms coming in 2x a day. Any additional requirements of the Tournament Operator, such as lights, maintenance etc. would be at an additional fee.

## 2026 Budget Presentation/ Motion to adopt

Brian Dickson, Treasurer

### 2026 Budget Presentation

The President shared a PowerPoint presentation of the 2026 budget, as approved by the SAMSPA Board, while the Treasurer walked through the PowerPoint presentation line by line.

The projected budget for 2026 was reviewed with a summary of League Operations, highlights on revenue, expenses, concession, and beverage room. The Treasurer provided a summary of the SAMSPA financial budget and discussed the financial picture with 2026 costs vs revenue streams.

The Treasurer highlighted the importance of facility rentals and fundraising to our bottom line.

The Treasurer provided the following information via the PowerPoint presentation and in response to a question that was raised at the AGM. The League uses Industry benchmarks as targets for concession operations. Concession operations performed strongly relative to these benchmarks.

The Treasurer shared that 2026 Auditors were appointed at the AGM Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and are Tom Harrison and Rob McBeth.

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Questions from the floor were taken.

There were no other questions presented.

**The President called for a Motion to adopt the 2026 Budget as presented, Moved by Phil Presakarchuk and seconded by Bob Walsh Motion Carried.**

## Fundraising Initiatives

Lynda Holden, League Operations Coordinator

The President share results to-date of 2026 fundraising results with the membership. The Oil Kings fundraiser raised a total of \$2,818.41.50 and the annual on-line auction raised \$5,041.00.

The President went on to share that the auction funds will be applied directly to the purchase of TV and av equipment.

President screen shared information on the upcoming SAMSPA Mixed Tournament.

The League Operations Coordinator shared that SAMSPA will be hosting the annual SAMSPA Mixed tournament presented by Alley Kat Brewing Company this summer on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. with an objective to raise funds to offset operational costs and project costs.

The League Operations Coordinator shared that this is a bond credit opportunity.

The goal is to have 24 Mixed teams.

Currently there are 18 Mixed teams preregistered, looking for 6 more teams.

League Operations Coordinator announced that SAMSPA is looking for volunteers to assist at the tournament in several roles, encouraged members to put in a team, or provide an item for team prizes. Members were encouraged to support this initiative and contact the League Operations Coordinator if they can assist.

The League Operations Coordinator thanked Alley Kat Brewing Company for stepping up again this year as the Tournament title sponsor and will be providing craft beer tasting at the tournament. Flyers about the tournament were at each table and members were invited to take one to share or for themselves to enter a team.

The League Operations Coordinator thanked the League members for their ongoing support and asked if there were any questions. No questions came forward.

## Advertising Package/Incentive Program

Kelly Porter, President

President shared PowerPoint screens on advertising package and shared earnings.

The President reviewed the current signage at SAMSPA and the opportunities available. It was shared that SAMSPA has 4 naming rights sponsors for diamonds as follows: D#1 St. Albert Source for Sports, D#2 The Canadian Brewhouse, D#3 Garry's Heating and D#4 All Choice Rentals.

Current bleachers and fence board sponsors were showcased via the PowerPoint presentation and members encouraged to support the sponsors that enable them to play at a top-notch facility like SAMSPA.

The President went on to share the importance, opportunities, and benefits of signage to the League.

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The following information was shared:

- Why is your league asking for Player's Participation?
  - *Revenue source for SAMSPA operations*
- What benefits do you get?
  - *Extra cash for you or your team*
- What can you do?
  - *Contact business/sponsor and explain options.*
  - *Confirm purchase and connect customer with our League Operations Coordinator.*

Shared Earnings were explained for each level of advertising board.

Members were encouraged to participate in this initiative and support our sponsors when out in the community.

## Information Items

Kelly Porter, President

### Spring Work Bee (April 25)

- Teams encouraged to use event as a Bond credit opportunity by providing 4 volunteers.
- Time slot (9-1pm on SAT)
- Register your players with the League Operations Coordinator.
- The President shared and thanked FortisAlberta who would be supplying a BBQ and volunteers to man the BBQ on Saturday during the work bee and he recognized Blaze Redcliffe (Caribooze Team) who arranged for the BBQ.
- The President recognized and thanked Sobey's St. Albert and Save on Foods – Village Landing for their donation of food/drinks to the Work Bee.
- The League Operations Coordinator will provide a reminder email to all team volunteers committed to the work bee, the week prior.

The work being done at the work bee was shared via the PowerPoint presentation as follows:

### Priority List

1. Remove the remaining bleacher boards and install the new boards, rework the gravel under the bleachers and install the refurbished bleachers. (RONA cost reduction on lumber).
2. Install bottom fence rails as needed around diamonds.
3. Replace the planks on the bottom of the backstop on diamond 4 & install planks along the right field fence on diamond 3.
4. Raise and repair the batting cage netting.
5. Add structural support to the front of the roof covering the batting cage equipment
6. Help with the sign board installation on the diamond fences.
7. Cleanup and removal of the old bleacher boards, along with the old sign boards that are behind the tractor garage and in office.
7. There are some useable old bleacher boards that could be cut to length and installed at the front of the shale enclosure which would allow us to store more shale.
8. Poli-Cap Fence installation on all 4 diamonds.

### The President reviewed the following policies in detail:

- Alcohol and Drug Policy
  - No bringing in outside liquor
  - No drinking in dugout or surrounding area while game is on

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- First offense \$100, second offense is team expulsion from league.
- Air Quality Policy
  - Use Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) at <http://airquality.alberta.ca/map/>
  - AQHI = 7-9 (Umpires Discretion)
  - AQHI = 10+ (Games cancelled)
- Roster Policy
  - Team rosters due no later than June 1
  - Submit via webpage.
  - Teams can only use players on roster for playoffs.
  - Maximum roster size of 25.
  - Players cannot be on two rosters in same Division.
  - Failure to submit roster by due date will result in forfeited games after June 1 until roster is submitted.
- Uniform Policy
  - Minimum of 7 players should have matching uniforms.
  - Jerseys are to include numbers.
  - Caps are optional but should match.
  - Teams have until June 30 to comply.
- Smoking Policy
  - SAMSPA is non-smoking except designated smoking areas.
  - Last year, cigarette butts were found often at/in dugouts.
- Cannabis Policy
  - Our guidance on Cannabis restrictions come from the City of St. Albert.
- Space leased from the City of St. Albert and is considered public, as such; consumption of cannabis is not permitted at SAMSPA.
  - Dog Policy
    - SAMSPA facility is a no animal facility except for approved service animals.

The President asked that members please review all policies and rules on the SAMSPA website and ensure your players are familiar with them.

## The President reviewed League Procedures

- Player Waitlist
  - We have 28 players looking for teams on website. Open Division 17, 40+-4, 50+-5, 70+-2
- Protests
  - File protests with SAMSPA League Operations Coordinator at [admin@samspaslowpitch.com](mailto:admin@samspaslowpitch.com)
- Game Sheets
  - Keep until end of the season.
- Posting Scores
  - Scores should be posted via website or app by winning team no later than next day.
- Cancellations / Defaults
  - Must provide 24 hours notice to the League Scheduler for cancellation otherwise subject to a \$250 fine.

## Key Dates were shared.

- Schedule Release: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- League Start: May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Cages Open: TBD
- Team Practices: TBD

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## League Procedures

- Practice Times
  - TBD
  - Subject to playability.
  - Board will make announcement in coming weeks.
  - Enquire with SAMSPA League Operations Coordinator at [admin@samspaslowpitch.com](mailto:admin@samspaslowpitch.com)
- Safety Update
  - First Aid kits and Defibrillator will be accessible at the Concession and in furnace room.
  - Fire extinguishers to be checked.
  - Kyle Graham is our Player Safety Director.

The President shared that to assist in getting communications out to all players, email addresses are mandatory as a member of SAMSPA.

The President reiterated that it is mandatory for 2026 to have anyone playing at SAMSPA sign a waiver.  
For Assistance: call Lynda (587) 987-7454

Team Coaches/Managers' contact information lists are complete and available on the SAMSPA website under Teams tab – Team Contact Lists but only Coaches/Managers with website privileges will have access to this page. The League Operations Coordinator emailed all Coaches and Managers the password required to access this page.

President shared that there are options to find out Field Condition (web, phone, text)

- Web: Field Conditions Page
- Phone: 780.243.2737 (Option 1)
- Text Notifications via link (same as last year)
- Posted at 2PM, Immediate Assistance: email Diane Starling at [samspascheduler@shaw.ca](mailto:samspascheduler@shaw.ca)

## The President went on to share new changes for 2026.

- Rescheduling Games
  - Teams can identify potential diamond openings and request a re-schedule, rather than outright cancelling games.
  - Subject to availability.
  - Enquire with SAMSPA League Scheduler: [samspascheduler@shaw.ca](mailto:samspascheduler@shaw.ca)
- Website
  - Sports Engine. <https://www.samspaslowpitch.com/home> upgrade continues and work is ongoing.
  - Still looking for a volunteer webmaster.
- Umpires - President shared that EDSUA is actively recruiting more umpires and welcomed Ed Drewicki from EDSUA. The EDSUA umpire clinic will be held April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The President shared that the Board Umpire Liaison is Mike Coxworth
- Bat Testing policy was reviewed. All bats will require a 2026 bat sticker. 2026 Bat Testing weekend will be April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Members were encouraged to ensure their teams get their bats tested during their timeslot. There are 15 extra bat testing dates on Tuesday's from 6:30pm – 7:30pm and Wednesday's 8pm – 9pm alternating weeks. The President highlighted and shared these dates via the PowerPoint presentation. Schedule and Dates are posted on the SAMSPA website.
- The Bat Testing Open Playoff dates are to be determined.

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- The President shared the following rule changes and wording clarification for the 2026 SAMSPA rules. Rule Books are posted on the SAMSPA website, teams are encouraged to review them. (<https://www.samsपालowpitch.com/page/show/7921272rules-samsपालrules>)

## **Rule Changes and wording clarification in rules for 2026 are:**

- Softball Canada Rule Change (Pitcher Distance Change to 50 Ft only). The President shared that SAMSPA will not be following this rule change and a pitch from 50 – 60 ft is acceptable.
- The President then held a discussion for all Divisions around a Pitcher Mask Rule. The following was shared.
- **Softball Pitcher Safety Mask Proposed Rule** To ensure the safety of all pitchers by requiring the use of protective face masks during games. Suggested rule was shared.

All pitchers must always wear a protective face mask while actively pitching.

Coaches are responsible for enforcing this policy and ensuring pitchers have proper equipment before taking the field.

### Mask Requirements

The protective mask must:

- Cover the eyes, nose, cheeks, and mouth area
- Include a solid or metal face cage that prevents direct impact from a batted or thrown ball
- Fit securely with adjustable straps so it does not shift during pitching
- Allow clear visibility and unrestricted breathing
- Be free of cracks, damage, or loose components

### Compliance

A pitcher who does not have a proper mask will not be permitted to pitch until one is worn. If a mask becomes damaged during play, the pitcher must replace it before continuing. (Source for Sports has offered a 15% discount on masks, 1 card per team, see Lynda after the meeting)

### Rationale

Pitchers stand closest to the batter and have the least reaction time. Wearing a mask significantly reduces the risk of facial injuries and ensures a safer playing environment for all athletes.

Discussion ensued around opposition not due to safety but against mandating pitchers' masks. It was felt this could restrict players willing to play in SAMSPA thereby making it challenging for teams to field a team.

Clarification was requested on requirement for pitcher mask once pitch has been thrown and fielding required. The President confirmed that pitcher could remove the mask to field a ball after pitch is thrown.

Member asked if a waiver could be created. The President confirmed this would be discussed at the next Board Meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Vote was called.

**Moved by Pete Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessy Beley. 50 of 61 teams in attendance, 21 in favour, 29 opposed. Motion not carried.**

The Secretary stated that the Board continues to strongly recommend that pitchers wear a mask.

- The President reviewed the current SAMSPA Game Ball policy and shared a change to Game Ball Distribution for 2026.

Open Division will continue to have teams mark their balls with their team's name. While at bat, teams will provide umpires their balls and hit their own marked balls. Teams will continue to be responsible for collecting their own homerun and foul balls.

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For 2026 teams were informed that teams with outstanding League Fees will not receive game balls or scorebooks at bat testing.

- The President reviewed the current Forfeit Fee policy and shared the following change.

“Regardless of the 24-hour notice provided, any team forfeiting a 5:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. game in a slot where an umpire has been scheduled for three consecutive games (e.g., 3:30-5:00-6:30 or 6:30–8:00–9:30) will be responsible for all associated costs and the \$250.00 forfeit fee. This requirement is based on the SAMSPA/EDSUA Agreement, which states that if an umpire is required to wait between games, a sitting fee must be paid. If both teams mutually agree to the forfeit, the fee will be split evenly. If a single team initiates the forfeit, that team will be responsible for the full fee”

- The President shared via the PowerPoint presentation the Divisional Alignment chart, welcomed and identified new teams and thanked all teams for choosing SAMSPA. For 2026 we have 61 confirmed teams the largest amount to-date.

## Questions & Statements from the Floor

Kelly Porter, President

The President asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Nothing was brought forward.

## Adjournment

Kelly Porter, President

No further questions came forward.

**Motion was made by Mitchell Stewart to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried.**

Adjourned at 11:20am