



# British Columbia Minor Baseball Association

*BC's Largest Youth Baseball Organization Since 1963*

## **September 9th 2023 - BCMBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Post Season In-Person Event  
Sandman Signature Inn, Langley  
10:00 AM

**Roll Call:** G. Butler, R. Puri, J. Braaten, A. Hayes, V. Greenwood, M. Van-der-Loos, A. McKearney, N. Dhaliwal, D. Cabalfin, A. Wong-de Leon, M. Kelly, A. Forman, C. Lund

**Administrative Director:** James Raymond

**Absent:** T. Baker-Cornett, S. Coleman, H. Gurney, R. Hall, D. Michaud (deployed to fires), L. Hotell, V. Vankoughnett

**Meeting Called to Order:** 10:06am

### **Presidents Opening Remarks: Grant Butler**

- I attended almost all of the provincials over the 3 weekends and have to commend all the onsite tournament directors for their efforts, time and patience dealing with all that comes with the teams working towards completing their 2023 baseball experience.
- Congratulations to all the players, coaches, parents, umpires and volunteers who attended the regional zones, provincials, to those that went to and made it through the qualifiers for Baseball Canada's Nationals and Westerns.
- Some of our tournaments were subject to wildfire smoke but all were played with the exception of the 13/15/18 AA Westerns which was canceled in Kelowna.
- A special thank you goes out to our Rules Committee, Discipline Committee and Appeal Committees for not only their work during the entire year as there were a number of difficult issues that needed much attention and some that are still being settled.
- Thanks again to the BCMBA Board of Directors for their time and efforts in making 2023 a great year and continue to do so running up to our upcoming November 19 AGM.

**Adoption of Minutes :** July 15, 2023 - tabled to October meeting

### **Additions to the Agenda:**

- Vancouver Minor and Vancouver Community merge associations -> New Business

### **Correspondence:**

Secretary - Val Greenwood

1. Katelynn Ramage - Kidsport - looking for contact in Oceanside
2. Tara Murphy - Wizardland Creations - forwarded to Marketing

3. Five Tool Baseball - Arizona Fall Classic
4. Sean Glendinning - new interim president West Kelowna - [president@westkelownabaseball.ca](mailto:president@westkelownabaseball.ca)
5. Todd Seacat - looking for private lessons - forwarded to 13U and 11U
6. Sandman Signature - invoice for meeting

### **Outgoing:**

1. Anne to Katelynn Ramage - Oceanside address

### **Business Arising from Minutes: None**

### **Executive Reports:**

#### **President - Grant Butler**

- One of the things I tried to make happen was a rewrite of the rule book. I took the recommendation to have a plain language translation done, but alas, the person ghosted me which left no time to proceed on my own within our BoD's. I still believe it would be useful but I am going to leave this behind for the new BoD's in November.
- On the topic of the rulebook, the business of managing the BCMBA rule book throughout the year and through the provincials is becoming more and more challenging with the post Covid culture around not respecting authority and an unwillingness to adhere to policies and spirit of a specific rule. On more than one occasion BCMBA was on the ropes administering the rule book only to find that the discipline and/or rulings were being ignored leading me to believe that our rule book needs more teeth.
- Surprisingly this year we found during our provincials and there was more than one member Association not adhering to the rule book regarding fair play. BCMBA needs to have all member Associations commit to fair play (in the rule book) and confirm that their teams are doing fair play.
- Much time was spent dealing with move downs this year, not only for teams being evaluated but for some Associations believing that moving down would give their team a better finish for the year at the cost of those teams in the lower division. A review of divisional declarations by an Association needs to be reviewed with previous year standings, player numbers before being considered final for all single season divisions.
- Also, on the rulebook, and specifically NCCP and Rule 11.02. The time Anne Hayes, as the NCCP Director, spent, with the help of Baseball BC, was extraordinary in organizing the coaches that needed specific NCCP training and/or certification. More timely buy-in from all President's is needed to get their coaches trained and/or certified.
- I believe that the rule change form/procedure needs to include not only the original rule and the change, but the final language as well so the interpretation/spirit of the rule is plain to see and understand the consequences that may come from the rule change.
- BCMBA continues to struggle at the 18U Tier 1 and 2 and 15U AAA qualifiers which the PBL with the larger rosters (more pitchers) do well at. Some negotiations with Baseball BC may be needed here.
- I believe that, due to the wildfires again this year, BCMBA needs to consider setting up alternative fields/hosts so the scramble to make changes on the fly will have been worked out already.
- The Baseball BC Air Quality limiting numbers were quite different between reporting platforms, I used IQAir but found Accuweather to be more consistent. A single platform needs to be determined.

## **First VP - Raj Puri**

- a) A special thanks to Anne Hayes for organizing the schedule for 18U AA

Fall Ball - Individual organizations will be organizing their own options for fall ball

1st Vice President - **See written report**

## **Second VP - John Braaten**

- Staying in my 2nd VP lane. Coached at 15U AA and AAA this summer, observed many games at various levels (9U to 18U CP), have concerns re: single season programming/scheduling/rules/changes, etc. at all levels that hopefully will be proactively brought up at the upcoming board meetings from respective directors observations and feedback from teams supplemented by upcoming Fall Workshop discussions.
- Ended local eligibility travel...specifically in the Lower Mainland single season/summer having concluded and end of eligibility year

## **Treasurer - Anne Hayes**

- As presented - no vote this month - financials will be received and voted on by Association Presidents at the upcoming AGM

## **Secretary - Val Greenwood**

- Attend 18U College Prep tournament for a few games
  - AGM date changed to SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 at 10am - virtual
  - Workshop - September 18 - all regions - 7:00pm - virtual
- Any president who has any questions - email to division director(s)  
Directors email to coaches  
send questions to help generate the agenda

## **Administrative Director - James Raymond**

- Received \$5500.00 in sponsorship
- need more clarity on structure and procedures
- **See written report**

## **Committee Reports**

### **1) Rule Committee - Daniel Michaud, Abigail Wong -deLeon, Ryan Hall**

Grant Butler;

- Recommend that Affiliation Fees should be raised, they've remained steady for several years

- Recommend that Rule changes should come from the Presidents, not the Board of Directors
- Umpires must have more support so would recommend that Suspensions be changed from the current 1+1 to 1+3, for coaches. Players would stay at 1+1.
- 13U AA and 18U AA - changed the date to June 15 (NCCP)
- The AGM date should be added to the affiliation form - ample notice
- Proposed rule changes should be in by September 17th to review at October meeting

2) **Player Eligibility Committee** - Neal Dhaliwal, Steve Coleman, Marty Van-Der-Loos

**See written report**

3) **Discipline Committee** - Ryan Hall, Raj Puri, Lyndsey Hotell, Neal Dhaliwal

- **See written report**
- Break down the ejection by Association
- compare to previous years

4) **Girls Baseball Committee** - Marty van-der Loos, Val Greenwood

- a) No all girls summer teams fielded for 2023
- b) Only issue that was needed to clarify was Burnaby having their girls program for spring (Valkyries) but they are not playing summer ball, causing a discrepancy in summer registration numbers
- c) Girls 14U Westerns were held in Richmond BC with Burnaby fielding 2 teams. BC 1 would settle for Silver
- d) 16U Nationals were held in Summerside, PEI - with BC finishing in 5th spot
- e) 21U Girls Nationals were held in St. John Nfld with BC finishing 4th

5) **Umpire Liaison Committee** - Alan McKearney, Steve Coleman, Raj Puri

- working to align with Brad Woof for Fall Classic umpires, need to finalize schedule ASAP
- Umpires are putting pressure on BCMBA by making demands we can't fix
- Contract is the big issue - only need at High Performance and John Main
- Need face to face meeting between BCBUA and BCMBA
- List of which are the high performance teams

6) **High-Performance Committee** - Chris Lund, Mike Kelly, Hugh Gurney, Raj Puri

**John** - no report

**Chris** - 18U Selects - no report

16U Selects - 16U team went to Surprise, Arizona for the 17U Tournament. Unfortunately for the first couple days there was weather related issues and their games were pushed back to Saturday and Sunday. They went 0-3 in the tournament but were competitive in each game. Will follow up to all players with a questionnaire on how they felt it went and ideas for the future.

13U Selects - 13U team went to Henderson, Nevada for the 14U tournament. Again there were weather related issue with games being canceled and moved. Team went 1-3 overall and competed in all but one game. Will follow up to all the players with a questionnaire on how they felt it went and ideas for the future

- NCCP went well
- Butler: Recommend that Baseball BC should be more involved with the convention
- Butler Question: Why are the BCBUA not attending the convention - as presenters?

**7) Boundary and Affiliation Committee - Steve Coleman**

- Boundary submissions due at the AGM

**8) Coaching Development/ NCCP Committee - Mike Kelly, Grant Butler, Chris Lund, Marty Van-Der-Loos, Dino Cabalfin, Anne Hayes(NCCP)**

- **Mike - See written report**
- **Anne - NCCP - See written report**

**9) Marketing Committee - James Raymond, Dino Cabalfin, Raj Puri, Ryan Hall**

- **James : See written report**
- **Should we look for new vendor for apparel**
- **ProStock - they have been our supplier for many years**
- **Dino: looking for storage facility Centennial Storage will give up non-profit rate**
- **Shipping container at one of the parks - would city allow?**
- content insurance

**Motion: R. Puri / D. Cabalfin**

**Motion to allow Allen up to \$5000.00 for a shipping container (20 feet) for storage of all BCMBA supplies.**

**M/S/C**

**10) Grassroots Committee - John Braaten, Steve Coleman**

**John** - Remember BCMBA is grassroots programming that is supplemented with high performance programming 5U through 18U

Carry over from July reports:

*This is being lost with many as had many communications and concerns re: specializing and tiering at younger and younger ages (8U and 9U included). Retention is key and focusing on a select few as*

*opposed to the membership will not help grow baseball for those who are especially late developing/maturing players*

### **Summer:**

Had concerns from multiple associations of 8U and 9U “super teams” during the summer. Unfortunately focusing on the present and not what may be best for the future. Associations must take a forward vision in retention and maximizing player participation at younger levels. Many teams with a number of coaches on field exceeding BCMBA rule limits. Associations need to ensure coaches are forwarded BCMBA rule book to read and understand member rules.

Problem parents should be dealt with between LSO’s President to President

### **11) Risk Management / Insurance Committee** - John Braaten, Alan McKearney, J. Raymond (Insurance)

**John:** Nothing to note for member concerns. Though the recent Discipline Committee ejection report is concerning at lower age divisions...9U had three (3) for example

CRC for coaches at provincials? Should be done by local associations. Put on application form  
CRC for board members now to go to Raj

**Chris - no report**

### **12) Challenger Baseball Liaison** - Steve Coleman - **No Report**

### **13) Website Committee** - James Raymond, Alan McKearney, Anne Hayes, John Braaten(Tournaments)

**John:**No changes in tournament postings since last board meeting. No fall postings at this time and only the BCMBA Fall Classic taking registration at this time, Tournament page will be cleaned up and prepared to 2024

**James: See written report**

### **14) Human Resources Committee** -Anne Hayes, Raj Puri, Val Greenwood

- No Report

### **15) Awards Committee** - Val Greenwood, Dino Cabalfin, Marty van-der Loos, Mike Kelly

- Have received one nomination for Association of the Year
- Looking for more deadline is September 21st (Board of Directors only make the nomination)

- Will be looking at receiving nominations from all for Roll of Honour, players of the year, etc., nominations on these close January 01 - will be presented at the Coaches Convention in February - please be sure to also include a short bio

**16) Scholarship Committee** - Abigail Wong-de Leon, Al Forman, John Braaten, Lyndsey Hotell

- The online scholarship is now posted on the web site
- looking at increasing the budget
- **See written report**

**17) Baseball BC Committee** - Grant Butler, Raj Puri (John Braaten is on HP Committee)

**Grant:**

Raj Puri was voted onto the Baseball BC BoD's to replace John Braaten who will continue on the HP Committee. I will continue as the VP and Acting President until I vacate the BCMBA President position.

Alan MCKearney and Tina Baker-Cornett are independent board members of BCABA.

I participated and had much more communication in the planning and organization of the qualifiers to Nationals and Westerns. Changes will be forthcoming next year based on this year's results.

Nationals, 18U Tier 1(CP): PBL Mid Island Pirates - 7th in Round Robin Play

Nationals, 15U AAA: PBL Delta Bluejays - Gold Medal

Nationals, 13U AAA: BCMBA Ladner - Bronze Medal

Westerns, 18U Tier 2(AAA): PBL North Shore Padres - 4th in Round Robin Play

Westerns, 15U AAA: PBL Langley Blaze - Gold Medal

Westerns, 13U AAA: BCMBA 13U AA Tsawwassen A's - Bronze

Westerns, 13/15/18 AA: Canceled due to wildfire smoke in Kelowna.

I was the Western Canada Tournament Director at the 15U AAA in Chilliwack. While we almost canceled due to the wildfire smoke the tournament went as planned. The best game was Chilliwack beating the Blaze in round robin play.

**John:** Participated as a coach at the Baseball BC 15U AAA qualifier and had discussions with their HP staff (as I am also a member of). Concerns from Baseball BC re: BCMBA teams which I hope have been shared and observed from division directors/chair this season and recommendations brought to this/next meeting which is prior to Fall Workshops

Raj Puri was voted to the board this year, Allan is also on board

Re look at 15U level - can't compete well - supplement rosters with players from teams that have been eliminated

Kyle (Williams) wants BCMBA to do Westerns only and only PBL teams would go to Nationals

18) **Tournaments** - Abigail Wong - de Leon

- Provincial Tournaments - attended coaches' meetings - 18U AA, 15U A and 13U A East
- 13U AAA Provincial Report - Chilliwack - **See written report**
- **need to write up job description for Policy and Procedures**
- **re-vamp** tournament applications

*LUNCH BREAK - call back to order at 12:45*

**Divisional Reports:**

a) **26U** - Anne Hayes

- **See written report which will also be presented at the AGM**

b) **18U** - Chair - John Braaten

- Nothing to add outside of 18U College Prep, AAA and AA reports
- Assisted 18U CP Director with BCMBA 2024 College Prep online application form ready August 5th. Email communication sent out to all BCMBA associations with multiple reminders throughout the month prior to the submission deadline of August 3st. Eleven (11) applications received. Thanks to James for his assistance in updating the form and subsequent communications and shared drive management.
- **18U College Prep** Director - John Braaten, Chris Lund **See written report**
- **18U AAA** Director - Chris Lund **See written report**
- **18U AA** Director - Raj Puri **See written report**

c) **15U** - Chair - Anne Hayes

- **15U AAA** - **See written report which will also be presented at the AGM**
- **15U AA** - **See written report which will also be present at the AGM**
- **15U A** - **See written report which will also be presented at the AGM**
- **15U AAA** Director - Hugh Gurney
- **15U AA** Director - Abigail Wong-de Leon **See written report**
- **15U A** Director - Neal Dhaliwal



- 15U A summer had no issues throughout the summer season. With 10 teams participating in the Provincials held in Burnaby. As I was not in attendance for the tournament, I will defer to Abigail and Al for their report

d) **13U** - Interim Chair - Marty van-der-Loos **see written report**

- **13U AAA** Director - Anne Hayes (Interim)

13U AAA Provincial Tournament as reported by Abigail Wong-de Leon, Tournament Director

- Conducted the coaches' meeting. Ten (10) coaches were in attendance, including the Chilliwack tournament director, Chilliwack president and Chilliwack UIC
- The tournament was well organized and everything went very well. Thanked Chilliwack for hosting
- Two (2) coaches were ejected during the semi-final game, but no suspensions were given. Received ejection reports from Chilliwack UIC
- Provincial Winner - Ladner Red Sox, Runner up - Kelowna Sun Devils. Cloverdale Rangers and Nanaimo Pirates played for the BC qualified against the Tsawwassen A;s AA team on August 5, 2023

- **13U AA** Director - Al Forman

- The 2023 summer season went very well. The Province was divided into 4 zones
  - 6 teams in the Interior zone
  - 5 teams in the Island zone
  - 1 team from the north
  - 14 teams from in Lower Mainland
- The zones had playdowns which picked the teams to enter into the championships. In the Provincials held in Cloverdale. Tsawwassen won the 13U AA Provincials
- See provincials and qualifier 13U AA and 13U AAA

- **13U A** Director - Marty van-der Loos **See written report**

e) **11U** - Chair - Anne Hayes

- There were 68 teams playing in the 4 divisions in 2023 for a chance to be one (1) of the 40 teams in the Provincials
- There were 38 Lower Mainland teams, 15 Island teams, 13 Interior teams and 1 North.
- Provincials for 11U A were held in Cloverdale, 11U AA Surrey, 11U AAA Tier II were in Vernon and 11U AAA Tier I in COMBA

- 11U AA -Chris Lund

- Overall Provincials went relatively smoothly with no major tie breaking issues and no major conflicts
- I noted very poor sportsmanship from the Silver Medal team with behaviors and comments that indicated entitlement and they wasted their time by not winning gold (note this was their first loss of the season)
- Issues with alcohol consumption by parents, but I made a point to confiscate and dump out any visible alcohol throughout the weekend
- There was one issue with lighting causing a conflict with a team that had to come back early and ended up losing, but let it go
- The head coach from one Interior team was causing consistent conflict with umpires and other coaches, and after a stern discussion this was resolved, until he became unsportsmanlike again after losing his final game of the weekend

f) **9U** - Chair - Dino Cabalfin / John Braaten

**John:** Reports of various associations tiering with player “cuts” (noted in Grassroot report)..remember this is grassroots programming. Also of concern is the three (3) ejections at this level too.

**Dino:** The only thing to report from 9U this year is concerns with tiering in some associations

g) **Island 1** - 18U and 15U Tina - **No Report**

h) **Island 2** - 9U, 13U and 11U vacant - **No Report**

i) **Interior 1** - 18U and 15U Neal Dhaliwal **See written Report**

j) **Interior 2** - Dino Cabalfin

9U, 13U and 11U

- 9U, 11U and 13U in the Interior had a great year with minimal issues and a lot of excitement. Many compliments to the proactive Association President group this year on being available when issues came up
- Special thanks to Neal Dhaliwal and James Raymond who ran the Provincials Championships in Kelowna (11U AAA Tier i) and in Vernon (11U AAA Tier II)
- Fall programming is starting with what I’m hearing are some record numbers, that’s great news!

k) **North** - Veronica Vankoughnett **See written report**

#### **New Business:**

1. Nomination Committee - Dino Cabalfin, Alan MacKearney and Anne Hayes

Directors remaining or re-election declarations

- Mike Kelly

- Val Greenwood
- Hugh Gurney
- Marty van-der-Loos
- John Braaten
- Steve Coleman
- Neal Dhaliwal
- Tina Baker Cornett
- Two (2) vacancies - Grant and Marty Hall
- People interested in running - Brent Dingsdale (North Delta), Bill Outten, Liam Goodall and Dan Hodgkins

2. Fall Workshop dates/times REMINDER All Regions: would like as many directors as possible on call September 19th starting at 7:00 pm (Google Meet)

3. Vancouver Minor and Vancouver Community merge

They want to move forward to make one (1) association on the condition they each have a vote at the AGM. They would still have executives in each section (this is to retain fields). Much the way Greater Victoria is aligned. Need cities approval

Would like BCMBA approval

For voting - if they merge before the AGM they will have only one (1) vote, if they merge after they AGM they will still each have a vote

**Next Meeting(Virtual):** Tuesday, October 3, 2023. 7pm

**Meeting Adjourned: 1:20 pm** Motioned: Chris Lund