

# NORTH DELTA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Building Champions Since 1962



## NDBA Executive AGM 2023 Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, June 28th 2023

**Time:** 615pm

**Location:** Mackie Clubhouse

**Present:** Amanda Gresham, Amy Pawar, Cheryl Vaz, Chris Adams, Clayton Gosnell, Debbie McMurray, Graeme McMurray, Jen Bernabe, Kathy McDougall, Lauren Buick, Lisa Ormston, L.J. Eiben, Mark Deeg, Scott Bowie.

**Not Present:** Angela Crowther, Brad Woof, Brent Dingsdale, Carey Dingsdale, Cary Boyce, Daniela Filby, Kevin Wardrop, Michelle Miller, Sheryl Gray, Steve Ormston, Tracy Lindale.

**Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 2022 NDBA AGM by Kathy McDougall and Clayton Gosnell.**

### 1. Correspondence


### 2. Old Business


#### 1. Executive Reports

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	
President	Chris Adams	<i>Report attached</i>
Vice President	L.J. Eiben	<i>Report attached</i>
Past President		
Secretary	Jen Bernabe	<i>Report attached</i>
CPA (not a voting position)	Michelle Miller	<i>Report attached</i> <b><i>Not present.</i></b>

Registrar	Carey Dingsdale	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Director At Large (Inclusive Programs Representative)	Sheryl Gray	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Umpire-In-Chief	Brad Woof	<i>Not present.</i>
Director at Large (Umpires)	Graeme McMurray	<i>Report attached</i>
Coaching Director	Mark Deeg	<i>Report attached</i>
Field Manager	Brent Dingsdale	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Concession Manager	Daniela Filby	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Publicity Director	Vacant	
Marketing Director	Angela Crowther	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Equipment Manager	Steve Ormston	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Uniform Manager	Tracy Lindale	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
Tournament Director	Kathy McDougall	<i>Report attached</i>
Scheduler	Cary Boyce	<i>Thank you Cary for the many years you have volunteered with NDBA as an executive member and as a coach. You will be missed!</i>  <i>Not present.</i>
Social Director	Amanda Gresham	<i>Coaches night went awesome, everyone had a good time. We had a DJ come in. Looking into hosting an executive BBQ if there is interest. Delta Days Parade?</i>
Yearbook Director	Lisa Ormston	<i>Report attached</i>
Fundraising Director	Scott Bowie	<i>Report attached</i>
5U Representative	Kevin Wardrop	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>
6U Representative	Lauren Buick	<i>Report attached</i>
7U Representative	Clayton Gosnell	<i>Report attached</i>
9U Representative	Lisa Ormston	<i>Report attached</i>
11U Representative	Amy Pawar	<i>Report attached</i>
13U Representative	Angela Crowther	<i>Report attached Not present.</i>

15U Representative	Cheryl Vaz	<i>Report attached</i>
18U Representative	Kathy McDougall	<i>Report attached</i>

**4. New Business**


**5. Motion to adjourn at 805pm by Kathy McDougall and seconded by Clayton Gosnell.**

**Next Executive meeting is on Wednesday September 6th at 7pm - Mackie Clubhouse. Please arrive on time.**

**REPORTS**

**President Report**  
**Chris Adams**

2023 was a season of re-establishing traditional programming and laying groundwork for future projects to enhance training opportunities for all our age divisions.

Our Spring season offered baseball programming from 5U Blastball all the way to 26U Junior Mens and our inclusive Challenger Division. NDBA strives to provide opportunities for all youth and young men to play baseball in our community. Our Spring season is open to all levels and our summer season to a more competitive level in accordance with BC Minor format. We also offer Spring season competitive (rep) play starting at 13UAA and moving into our Single Season 15UAA team.

At last years AGM there was interest from our 18U division in offering Competitive (rep) baseball at that level. In the past we have been unable to offer this due to lack of field time at Mackie Park. Due to large changes in PBL game schedule format this season Mackie Park availability has opened up considerably. We have been approached again by members who will be entering 18U if we can offer 18UAAA. This would mean more North Delta athletes can play baseball in their home park instead of leaving to pursue AAA ball in South Fraser, Township or other areas. NDBA is listening and working on this with announcements pending soon.

Our executive is the strongest its been in years with a good blend of existing members and new members with new ideas. I thank each and every one of you for your time and dedication in your roles to provide a great on field experience for the young athletes in our community. Special thanks to our new VP LJ Eiben for getting Debit Card payment at our concessions launched and all those who supported and assisted with that. I look forward to seeing what we can do next year.

As many of you know, we are working with the City of Delta on building a proper 4 season batting cage facility (45ft. wide x 120ft. long) at Mackie Park between the 1st base fence and Mackie Turf. It would include lights, power, covered roof, turf floor and screens to divide into training bays. This facility would

greatly enhance our training capabilities in all weather without reliance on school gym rental availability. We will provide updates as we move through the process. Fundraising efforts continue to get this project from design to construction.

It has been my honor to serve the North Delta Community as President of North Delta Baseball.

### **Vice President**

**L.J. Eiben**

I was new to the role this year and learned a few things. We have a good group of board members and hope to retain the talent and recruit where we have some openings. Here is an update on some of the items completed throughout the year.

#### Photos

The scheduler had some hiccups, but it all worked out. I learned there is no set makeup date for re-takes, so players and coaches should be encouraged to make the team photo. All photos were handed out to players.

#### Opening ceremonies

Seeing all the families come out to the pancake breakfast and re-connecting with the Lions was excellent. The weather worked out and kicked off a great year. We added pre-cooked bacon and sausages, and it worked out well. I want to discuss online and in-person 50/50 for next year.

#### Square Machine

We have invested in a couple of square machines and a data package for Gunderson and Annieville concessions and now accept debit and credit. So far, feedback has been positive. Some additional steps are required occasionally to turn the data on but no other issues.

#### Coaching Sub-Committee

We had one written coach complaint. We formed a sub-committee which included a group of NDBA directors (VP, Coaching, 18U, 11U, 9U, Fundraising and 7U). We reviewed the written complaints and discussed the three alternatives—verbal and written warnings, A game suspension, and no longer being able to coach at NDBA. After discussion, the sub-committee voted unanimously to issue an oral and written notice. No other issues since that time.

#### Recruiting

We added a coaching and fundraising director to help build the board in some key roles. Thanks for stepping up.

#### Medals

The Tournament and year-end medals were all distributed.

#### Change.org

We were looking for large gaming grants to help develop our NDBA facilities at Mackie. We used the [change.org](https://www.change.org) platform to help spread the word. And we gathered 438 signatures to send off with our application. Some additional comments from the 438 would have been better, but it looked good.

#### Closing Ceremonies

We lucked out with the weather again. We had some good participation, but it could have been better. I will add the sportsmanship awards to the agenda next year and see if that improves attendance.

**Secretary Report**  
**Jen Bernabe**

This is my 5th year as Secretary for NDBA. I want to first thank all the executive members (especially those taking on more than 1 role), coaches & parents for the endless hours volunteered this season. It truly takes a village.

This is the first time since being on the board that I've seen all but one position filled! Thanks to those new members that have stepped up and taken on an executive role during the year, it's been a huge benefit for NDBA. I see great things happening in the near future for us. My hope is that all current members will want to continue with their role into next year. If you know someone that would like to give back and would be a great fit, please have them apply.

We still offer bookings for Mackie Clubhouse to host coaches training, coach/parent meetings, uniform pick up etc. You can contact me to book by email or phone anytime.

**CPA Report**  
**Michelle Miller**

The year end for NDBA is October 31, 2022. Being in the middle of the reporting period, no figures for the year end have been finalized.

The bank account has been reconciled to May 31, 2023. The bank accounts have a combined balance of \$140,000 which is approximately \$7,000 higher than in the previous year. This balance will be lower at the year end as most expenses occur during the season (umpire fees, field costs, city lease).

We applied for a gaming grant in May.

The final figures for the year will be reported at a future meeting.

**Registrar Report**  
**Carey Dingsdale**

Another successful NDBA season is behind us. This year we were able to offer Winter Training to the following divisions:

- 7U with 8 players who registered
- 9U with 20 players who registered
- 11U with 16 players who registered
- 13U with 32 players who registered

15U and 18U there were not enough interested players nor adequate space to offer winter training this year as the elementary school gyms are too small for these age groups.

15U AA training was trying to secure a space of their own to practice, but this did not go through NDBA registration; therefore, it is not clear to me if this was ever executed.

Early Bird rate was offered to players effective Dec 15th – Dec 31st (11:59 pm) at a \$30 discount. As per usual we had a lot of families take advantage of this with approx. 50% of our registration occurring

before Dec 31st , 2022. We do not offer early bird to Challenger or Blastball division – as their rates are very minimal already.

Spring Ball 2023 had a total of approx. 401 players. We saw growth in our Blastball division and 7U division. We are still very light in the 11U age group and feel this could be a hangover from Covid still. Below is the player breakdown per division.

- Blastball – 35 players
- 6U – 31 players
- 7U – 42 players
- 9U – 60 players
- 11U – 44 players
- 13U – 52 players
- 15U – 29 players
- 18U – 16 players
- Jr. Mens – 20 players
- Challenger – 19 players

2023 we welcomed back the Jeff Francis Tournament, and although the numbers were low, we managed to hold a successful event.

We also had a 2023 MSET program with 12 players playing in this mini development league. Summer Ball teams have been announced and this year the ND RAYS will be seen in the following divisions:

- 8U – 12 players
- 9U - 12 players
- 11U AA Tier 2 – 13 players
- 13U A – 13 players
- 13U AA – 13 players
- 15U A – 12 players
- 18U AA – 12 players – currently – hopeful for a few more.

For a total of 87 players

Fall ball 2023 – registration will be ready to go in the next few days and we can expect to see this hit the website very soon.

#### Highs of this season from my perspective:

Welcoming new executive members. It has been a long time since we have had some new faces in the board room. This year we have almost a full board and I am excited for the future. Welcoming 5 or 6 new executive board members is very encouraging to a seasoned veteran like myself. As someone who will eventually be phased out – I am happy to see this new and exciting group take over and continue the NDBA legacy.

Agreeing to streamline some roles on the Executive to help elevate multiple roles being taken on by 1 person. When one person(s) wear many hats, we tend to witness executive burn out resulting in balls being dropped (pun intended). I feel that allowing a few roles to be shared, and/or resources out this has allowed NDBA to focus on important decisions. We need to grow our association and let the experts handle the items they are trained to handle and consult back to us so we can make informed decisions.

Bringing Debit/Credit back to concessions – This was something I started in 2019 (mid season) and due to covid we really never saw a full season with this operating. I have not heard the initial outcome on how this worked – but I can assume this was very successful in our cashless society.

Social Nights and Day/evening at the Nat – although I did not attend any of these events in 2023 I have fond memories of these in the past. I believe they are excellent opportunities to bring our community together, and I am happy to know many NDBA families took advantage of these fun opportunities.

In person Monthly meetings – As hard as it is for me to attend all meetings in person due to our crazy schedule, I must admit I like these much more than over the computer. It's nice to connect with everyone, bring laughter and jokes, empathy and support, and guidance and training from seasoned executives, and share new ideas. I hope we never go back to full online meeting(s) – but for those who need this as an option I understand NDBA should offer both.

#### Lows of this Season:

Sports Engine upgrades!!! I'll leave it at that. We have hopefully overcome these upgrades and have smooth operations ahead of us. Change is needed but sometimes it's hard!

#### Closing remarks

As I finish up my 10th year on this executive my hats off to coaches, assistant coaches, managers, team parents, umpires, and all executive members who collectively make this association great. So many hours spend behind the scenes, it's a thankless job.

When I first started with NDBA our son was registered in blastball. Through the years we have had our 2 sons and our daughter playing in NDBA. My husband has coached countless teams, been an executive member for 12 plus years wearing the president title for 4 other them. I myself shared the roles as a team parent, an assistant coach, NDBA secretary, NDBA Concession Manager, NDBA Safety Officer, and NDBA Registrar. I have witnessed our 3 children play up the ranks from blastball to PBL and moved into softball. Countless days at the fields, weekend tournaments, highs and lows of the game we all love. Blood, sweat, and tears have all been a part of this journey. (even a wedding ring – if you know you know). I would not change any of it. Some of my best friends are in this room, people who I have met at the ballpark and watched their children grow alongside ours.

Baseball is just as much a mental game as it is a physical game. The mental part being the hardest. We have watched our oldest play from age 5 to 17 and when he decided he was done playing, we were heart broken. The lesson we are learning now is although he may be done playing ball, the discipline he learned on and off the field are still with him. His patience and willingness to learn, the relationships he has maintained with his fellow teammates, his determination to do hard things, his passion for being active and social, and a dedication to his craft!

My wisdom is to enjoy the moments. Don't focus on the wins and losses – focus on the development of your children. They will get to the next stages on their own accord. Some will excel quicker than others, some will phase out and gain new interests, and some will remain constant and will give back just as you all are now. Regardless of their outcome – all this will make you proud, sit back and enjoy it – before you know the days spent at the ballpark will be a distant memory.

**Director at Large (Inclusive Programs Representative) Report**  
**Sheryl Gray**

A Girls' Baseball Clinic was held in August at Mackie Park, with good response from girls age 6-12 to participate in the 3-hour session held in collaboration with BC Baseball / BC Girls Baseball.

The Adaptive Multi-Sport Program (AMP) was run from September to December and again from January to March, in collaboration with North Delta Football Club. This program was run as a partnership with the City of Delta (gymnasium space at the North Delta Recreation Centre) and sponsored by the A Team real estate group. This program was run weekly for kids ages 6-16, offering a variety of sports/activity opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. Participants were supported primarily by teenaged 1-1 volunteer buddies. It will run again for 2023/24, but as a single-session sign-up for September to March, since the majority of participants do both (and forget to sign up for winter without prompting).

Challenger Baseball was held in the Spring, with 18 athletes registered. 20+ volunteers were available on a weekly basis, many teenagers and also some adults trained as educational assistants, who were invaluable in getting some of our younger participants engaged in the weekly program. Jerseys were provided at a subsidized cost by Fourteen Athletics. This year, our group attended the Challenger Jamboree that was put on by BC Challenger and hosted by Cloverdale Challenger. This was a fun opportunity to play baseball games with and against other city's Challenger programs.

### **Director at Large (Umpires) Report** **Graeme McMurray**

The season of Umpiring for the NDBA went well. Almost all games were filled despite some occasional mix-ups with schedules. Only a few games happened to have only 1 Umpire. The Umpires felt supported with how often I was able to be at the park to help mentor them. There were no official issues with any NDBA Coaches. 3 NDBA Ejections, 1 major ejection, 2 minor. We had a great season with adopting Scheduler.ca again and using that to allocate games, which led to Umpires getting reminders about their allocations. Payroll was also done efficiently this year, done once a month at the end of the month, thanks to Chris and Michelle for getting them approved. Next year I will be officially taking on the Umpire-In-Chief role and Brad, after 20 seasons as Umpire-In-Chief, will be moving into the Umpire Director role.

What needs to be improved for next year is the pay that we as Allocators receive. The reason for this is that it is a job that takes a lot of time, effort and follow up. We have inquired with our Allocator for the other Delta associations and she is getting paid \$4/Umpire Allocated which is equivalent to \$8/Game whereas Brad & I are getting Paid \$3-\$5/Game. Moving forward we ask that the \$8/Game amount be matched, and if increased by the other Delta associations that we also increase our rate to match.

Another improvement that is needed is game times/dates. The PeeWee AA team plays at the same time and days that the Mosquito teams' play which cuts down on a large number of Umpires as many of our Umpires are on the PeeWee AA team; this makes it difficult to get them their games. Another division that has been difficult to field Umpires for is Midget AA; single games midday, for example at 12pm or 1pm, on weekends make it extremely difficult as most Umpires are working doubleheaders for other leagues. We will need to try and work this out so either these games are scheduled in the evening, at least 530pm or later, so Umpires could work doubleheaders during the day and then work a Midget AA game in the evening &/or back to games during the week as it used to be.

Right at the end of this season, we also ran into an issue with the City regarding the Mackie Park Umpire Room. We hope the issue can be resolved as soon as possible and access to that room restored for our Senior Umpires, so that they are not forced to change in the parking lot, on an ongoing basis.

### **Coaching Director Report**

## **Mark Deeg**

- The 2023 spring season was a success, and summer seasons are off and running and we have a great slate of coaches across the board
- Only one formal coach complaint across the organization, this was handled by a sub-committee and a written warning was issued
- We have had great take up in coach certifications and training and all summer head coaches are onsite for their divisions. Several assistant coaches are working through certifications as well.
- We were able to conduct one coach development night where the coaching director (me) attended each Super-Tee team's practices and worked on coaching points and drills for the age group
- I continue to be amazed by the commitment of our volunteer coaches and the quality of the coaching we have across the association (this is an area we must leverage to better develop players across all divisions of the association)

Ideas for the next year:

- Mentorship is an area I would like to focus for the next year so that we can leverage some of the extraordinary coaching talent we have in the association and pass along their knowledge to the next generation of coaches coming up through the lower divisions
- Coach training: I am working to make this more accessible for ND coaches including potentially having the NCCP host in the Mackie clubhouse
- Also looking into running a coach development day where we have some more tenured and experienced coaches help some of the newer/younger coaches with drills/coaching points/practice ideas

## **Field Manager Report**

### **Brent Dingsdale**

A more typical year for the Field Manager. No real major projects at our parks this season.

The City installed a seacan at Westview in the offseason. Having all that storage at Westview is a tremendous upgrade.

Had the 2022 11U AAA and 2019 15U AAA Provincial signs installed. Had to remove the 'Welcome to Annieville' and 'Pewee Western' signs from Bob Bunnett. Both signs had become loose and faded.

The scoreboard at Mackie still needs new plexiglass. Looked at different options but no obvious solutions. May look at tackling the plexiglass myself in the coming months.

Did a number of distance and alignment measurements at Mackie. Among other things the pitcher's rubber is too low relative to the home plate. The City has agreed to rework the home plate area and pitcher's mound in mid-August before Fall ball.

I didn't hear much in the way of field conflicts or availability issues this season. Mackie had a lot less pressure for a number of reasons. The BCPBL moved to a heavily weighted mid-week schedule which freed up weekends. The Blue Jays are practicing less than years prior. Many Blue Jays practices and games have been played out of Richmond (Latrice field) this season.

Ran the Fraser Delta Interlock with Cary Boyce again this year. Added a 11U division to 13U A, 13U AA, 15U A and 18U AA. With the addition of a volunteer fee of \$12 team we raised around \$850 for the NDBA. Invoices for the medal/trophies/volunteer fees were distributed to all Associations last week.

Carol Chard's position as the City's Manager of Sport Development is currently vacant. Carol has changed jobs. TBD what changes could be coming our way when the new regime moves in.

I was honored this season to be inducted into the North Delta Baseball Hall of Fame. A big thank you to everyone on the executive. With lots of new faces on the Executive it gives me comfort knowing the future of North Delta Baseball is in good hands.

### **Concession Manager Report**

**Daniela Filby**

This has been my 2nd year as the concession manager. This year was a great year with the new square machines. I know that we had a few hiccups with getting it set up, and in operation, however, when it was said and done, it was a great asset. I know that we had greater sales this year than we have compared to last year due to people being able to use debit and credit. People were happy to use cards.

Next year I would like to continue in my position. I have some ideas to bring in new items in the concession. Looking at a slush machine? Air fryer so that we can do french fries, chicken strips, taco bags, etc.

I would like to try and figure out a way of being able to separate Gunderson and Annieville concession on the debit machine. So that we would be able to have a more accurate account for sales for each machine.

Next year, at the beginning of the season, I would like to schedule a team parents meeting to go over the concession guidelines. I believe it will make it easier for everyone to be successful on their scheduled duty.

### **Marketing Director Report**

**Angela Crowther**

Other priorities in my personal life meant I didn't feel I had as much time to dedicate to the marketing role this year, but I did try to post when I could. My involvement with my daughter's activities means that I am rarely around the baseball field to capture photos and rely on parents and other executive members to send me content for their divisions.

Still, we did see some growth in our social following over the past year:

Facebook – 211 (up from 148 LY)  
Instagram – 633 (up from 461 LY)  
Twitter – 425 (up from 415 LY)

The only paid advertising we did this year was a Facebook ad to promote spring registration from Feb 3-15. The ad spent \$35.96 to reach 3,830 people for 10,000 impressions leading to 41 clicks. It's a bit difficult as the geographic area to set the ad for is quite small. I likely should have run it earlier in the year and would recommend posting when registration launches.

If there is someone else who is keen to take on the marketing role, I would be happy to pass this on as my bandwidth to dedicate time to this role is limited.

## **Equipment Manager Report**

**Steve Ormston**

My name is Steve Ormston and I have been the equipment manager for the last 2 seasons. I stepped into this position at the end of 2021 and worked with Tim, the previous equipment manager to get a bit more understanding on how the equipment allocation worked. I wanted to get involved with the NDBA executive to be able to help the organization at a higher level than just coaching. Over the last 2 seasons things have changed on the equipment side quite a bit; from the cost of equipment going up, baseball shortages, baseball manufacturing changes and coaches' requests for specialty gear to better help them during the season.

Near the end of 2022 I spoke with a large number of coaches to see what they needed other than the standard gear and the majority asked for team bow nets and some training aids. I was able to purchase an extra 10 bow nets and 6 quick ladders to hand out to the teams who wanted them. This past season started off good, with very little exchanges for gear that was too small or too big. One big difference from last season to this season so far is that I have handed out almost 30% more baseballs. Some cases were for tournament fees but most seem to be for regular games as there are more games being played this season.

As we near the end of the 2023 spring season a few equipment bags have been returned with a low amount of used baseballs coming back for re distribution for next season. We all know that this has been an ongoing challenge over the last number of years as used balls get destroyed during extended BP sessions and I have found for some younger divisions the coaches liked to give away the game ball to a player after each game. With old game balls not coming back into the equipment rotation, it affects the amount of used practice baseballs that can be distributed the following year. Next year we need to remind coaches that used game balls should be going into their practice bucket, not being handed out to players.

All in all, the 2023 season from my end looked to be successful on the field.

For the 2024 season I am looking to step away from Equipment manager and into another role on the executive. At this point I am not sure what my next role will look like but I look forward to whatever that position might be. I am also happy to work alongside the new equipment manager to show them everything that I know and have learned over the last 2 seasons.

## **Uniform Manager Report**

**Tracy Lindale**

My name is Tracy Lindale and this is my 2nd year as the uniform manager. I reluctantly accepted the position as I knew very little about baseball but have met some wonderful people like the executives, coaches and parents who have dedicated a lot of their time and energy to making North Delta Baseball successful.

Things that went well this year:

- Spring season handout/orders went very smoothly.
- Pro-stock was very easy to deal with.
- I organized the clubhouse stock.

Things that need improving:

- Challenging to order uniforms when you do not have exact numbers and there are last minute registrations.

- I think we need to agree on a set number of coaches for each division and how many uniforms each get as they have ranged from 2 – 5 coaches and this affects the ordering.
- Also, if coaches want extra items like hats/ shirts what is the process?
- Some of the tadpole jersey's need replacing as they are quite beat up.
- The Rays grey jerseys are very old and heavy, none of the coaches seem to like them.
- Inventory
- Lots of T-ball jersey's left over, enough for next year.
- Lots of hats left over for next season.
- Full set of yellow shirt jersey's we should try and get rid of – ordered in 2019

I will not be continuing as the uniform manager and hope that another parent will step up to contribute to the organization. I will finish the ordering for the fall season and then list a full inventory of what we have and a suggestion of what to order for the following season, to assist the next uniform manager.

### **Tournament Director Report** **Kathy McDougall**

NDBA hosted the Jeff Francis on the Victoria Day Long Weekend for the first time since 2019. Despite the amount of interest (initially over 10 teams reached out + 2 Little League) we only ended up with one of the original 10 teams completing the registration so I ended up having to reach out to the Little Leagues I have previously said no to, to reach a 6-team tournament. Lynn Valley accepted the invite and then swept the tournament. NOT ideal, however I think that the teams had fun and the skills competition was better balanced than the games. Shout out to Amy and LJ for stepping into the concession as needed the last couple of days as there was a little mix up about who was supposed to be there. Extra thanks to LJ and Chris for doing the pools and scheduling, plus the added work or having to rescheduling to accommodate the needed Tadpole call ups.

The same weekend, the Tadpole tournament was run out of Gunderson. Shout out to Lisa for running everything and creating the schedule as I was at Bob Bunnett for everything but the skills competition. Weather was fabulous a couple days and a little chilly and overcast for the Sunday and Monday.

Things are getting finalized for teams for the 8 U Summer Wrap-Up. There are 6 teams registered so far plus waiting for confirmation that 2 additional teams have e-transferred as we had a hiccup with SportsEngine.

I would love for NDBA to try and host an 18 U AA tournament next year as there seems to be a glaring lack of 18 U AA tournaments. By the time the idea was put forth another association scooped the opportunity and hosted before we were planning on hosting.

### **Yearbook Director Report** **Lisa Ormston**

Yearbooks were successful this year! Each team got me their roster by print deadline, and I had lots of action shots sent in. 350 books were printed and ready on June 9th. Nearly all books were delivered to Div Reps or coaches during the week between June 12-16. Some of the younger divisions unfortunately wrapped up on the Jun 10/11 weekend so it was a challenge getting yearbooks to these teams. The rest of the books were delivered at closing ceremonies. Doing both the 9U coordinator role and yearbook role was a lot for me this year, and I am hoping someone will take on Yearbooks in 2024. I have an easy template to use, so someone with basic digital skills but a keen eye for detail would be great at this role,

and I'm willing to help transition the role over the next year and help with getting the ball rolling with supplier contacts.

### **Fundraising Director Report**

**Scott Bowie**

This was a new experience for me but it was fulfilling and enjoyable to work towards raising some additional funds to help with future projects that the NDBA is hoping to pursue.

A few of the items that we implemented were;

- A 3-game series of Vancouver Canadians games that seemed to be received well. The NDBA received \$5 for the May games and \$3 for the June game. This is something that will be done at least once more this season if not multiple additional dates.
- There is a NDBA team store ready to go live that will allow all families the ability to order branded merchandise while the NDBA will receive a portion of each sale. The quality of the products seems high with name brands such as Champion, Storm Tech, Flexfit, Puma and others available in almost any colour or style with multiple logos to choose from. The website is [ndba.entripyshops.com](http://ndba.entripyshops.com) enter code NDBABDA0 (that is a zero at the end) to ensure the purchases are accredited to the association.
- A Neufeld Farms summer fundraiser was attempted but it was put together in a rush and did not go well. There will be future attempts and will have e-transfer and credit card payment options available.

Some future ideas that will be coming are 50/50 draws, potential outdoor movie nights, will be looking at setting up a donation code at the local return-it bottle depots, if the gaming license comes through possibly a few bingo nights.

If possible, I would like to try and have the ability to add to any grants the city of Delta awards our organization and turn the future Mackie Park batting cages into an indoor facility to rival South Surrey and Ridge Meadows.

If there are any events families would like to see added, I am always looking for input and feel free to reach out in person on the fields or via email [fundraising@ndbaseball.com](mailto:fundraising@ndbaseball.com)

Thank you for a great year

### **5U Representative Report**

**Kevin Wardrop**

We had a total of 34 kids participate in the program this season. These were divided amongst 4 teams. All our sessions were successful, and no days were lost to weather. Overall observations were that the kids had a lot of fun and I hope this translates into high enrolment next season in the 6U program. As with most sports at this age parent participation was needed, and for the most part parents stepped up to the challenge.

Moving forward I see two areas for improvement:

- Some parents were overwhelmed with the idea of coaching and lack of baseball knowledge held them back. Mid way through the season coaches were invited to meet the coaching director and

get some tips and ideas on how to improve the sessions. If this was to happen closer to the beginning of the season, the benefit would be greater.

- During the registration process parents are asked if they are willing to volunteer/coach. For people with multiple kids of different ages, if they select yes it translates on both registrations. These individuals sometimes only want to help/coach with one of the children. It would be helpful if it was more specific as to which age group they are willing to help out with.

## **6U Representative Report**

### **Lauren Buick**

There were 31 players split amongst 4 teams. We had 8 parents in total that stepped up to be either head or assistant coaches. It took some begging but we got enough for 4 teams. I would recommend 2-3 coaches per team especially for practices. This keeps practices moving and engaging (less standing around the better - if players can be split into different stations/smaller groups, they have more time to develop their skills).

One of our head coaches, Ryan Tompkins setup practice plans with fun games and drills. I would share these with the other coaches each week and everyone thought it was very helpful. It is great to have the coaching director position now filled and it was very beneficial to have Mark come out to one of the practices. We are hoping to see more of him next season.

Practices were held on Tuesday evenings for an hour (1 team @5, 1@5:30 and 2 teams at 6 as requested by the coaches). I had to create a schedule so each team would get equal time with the backstops.

Games were Saturday mornings from 8:45-10am based on coaches availability. At first, there were a lot of grumblings about it being too early but it ended up working out okay (it wasn't too hot yet, the grass was pretty dry and the turnouts were great). We only had one cancelled game due to rain.

We ended up concluding the season one week after the closing ceremonies as the players and coaches wanted to play to the end of June.

The only criticism I heard was that the Opening and Closing Ceremonies aren't the parents' favourite part of the season at this age level.

Overall, a great season with lots of returning players and some brand new to the game. Most are already excited for next season. I also had inquiries about Summer ball for this age group. The players are developing a love for the game.

## **7U Representative Report**

### **Clayton Gosnell**

The 2023 7U season went well on my end. We had 4 teams with roughly 40 players registered. We had a number of late registrations. With one withdrawal due to conflicts.

The Yankees, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Blue Jays played 10 games with 10 practices. Practices were on Thursdays and games were on Saturdays. Games were scheduled for 10:30 and 12:00 starts. In the future I would recommend a longer time slot for games. I only allotted an hour when really they should have been 1 1/2hr to 2hrs. We mostly only got 3 innings in when we should have had 4 innings.

In the first week of May, we introduced coach pitch for the first 2 innings and then pitching machine for the last inning. I was excited to see most players making contact with the ball coming from the pitching machine. During the last two weeks of the season we used the pitching machine for the whole game. The T would be pulled out for players that couldn't make contact after 3 pitches.

During the season we had a number of call ups to 9U. About 6 players were rotated through a call up list. Call ups were needed for both the Victoria Day tournament and the season end playoffs. Thanks to our 9U Div Rep, Lisa Ormston, for making call ups go smoothly with a line of clear communication.

Thanks to our 7U Coaches for making this a fun season for all players. We had 3-4 coaches per team. Was great to see the kids develop through the season. Finished off with an Allstar (All Invited) game just before the closing ceremonies.

Thanks to all the executives for your support.

### **9U Representative Report**

**Lisa Ormston**

9U tadpole baseball had 5 teams of 12 players each this year, for a total of 60 registered players. Thank you to head coaches Steve Ormston (Angels), Ritchie Sandhu (Athletics), Ravi Minhas (Blue Jays), Steve Doggett (Giants), and Mark Deeg (Mariners), plus all of the assistant coaches, pitching machine operators, and team parents. Tadpole division takes a LOT of volunteer help and it's all-hands-on-deck, and we truly had a great group of parents for the most part willing to step up wherever needed.

The Annual Victoria Day Tournament was a success with great weather, music, batters' line up announcements, very good umpires, and a busy concession. The skills competition was a hit, although some teams would prefer holding it at an alternate time, because having it in the middle of the day is very tiring for teams that play a morning and afternoon game. Mariners came in 1st place, and Blue Jays came in 2nd place. The Tadpole Tournament Trophy needs some attention, and I'll try to arrange with LJ and Winners Circle to have some repairs completed over the summer/fall season.

A few challenging moments came up with several coaches' coaching styles over the season, and although the Coaches Code of Conduct is electronically signed at the beginning of the year, and also sent out by email, I would like to go back to having coaches sign a paper copy of the form. The most challenging aspect I observed was the coaches adjusting to allowing their umpires to make the calls on the field, and not trying to influence umpires' decisions. There were several occasions when I observed less than desirable interactions with our young umpires. If we want these umpires to come back next year, we have to ensure that coaches understand that an umpires' decision is final... even if they disagree with the call.

The playoff season ended with a 4-game round robin format with each team playing each other once, to seed for semi-final standings. Final Championship game was played at Bob Bunnett Field at 9am on Sunday June 18th, before closing ceremonies between the Mariners and the Angels. Mariners took 1<sup>st</sup> place, and Angels took 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

It was disappointing to see how few teams from all divisions showed up to closing ceremonies - I would like to see more communication on date/time earlier in the season next year to increase attendance at the closing ceremonies.

Summer ball 9U and 8U teams have been formed, 9U will be coached by Mark Deeg and 8U will be coached by Steve Ormston. 8U NDBA Wrap Up Tournament will happen July 20-23 at Gunderson Park.

## **11U Representative Report**

**Amy Pawar**

Hi My name is Amy Pawar, and I filled the role of 11U Mosquito rep officially in December of this season. This is my first season as a part of the NDBA Executive – here is a summary of the 2023 season.

### **Evaluations:**

We were off to a snowy and extremely cold start! I had to cancel the first session which was booked, and rescheduled it for the following weekend. Chris, Brent, LJ and others were extremely helpful in running these dates! The coaches stepped in to help with the evals and running the sessions. I was away in Seattle for my son's hockey tournament, so I'm very thankful for the help to get those Evaluations complete!

### **Draft:**

This was my first experience with the draft, and I have to say thank you to Chris for all his help and guidance! I know for next season!

### **Coaches:**

I am very appreciative of the coaches this season, and look forward to having many of them back next season! I created a WhatsApp group at the start of the season which was a quicker format of communication. The group was extremely respectful, patient and most of all helpful! I am thankful to all the work the coaches put into their seasons, and look forward to seeing many of them return next spring!

### **Teams:**

4 teams: Blue Jays, Royals, Mariners and Cardinals

Each team had a slim 11 players

- Would like to see an evaluation process implemented for late registrants, or holding to a strict cut-off to try and avoid "surprises" for coaches who may not be prepared or equipped to handle the unevaluated players.
- Hoping to increase our numbers next season with the 2014's coming up to Mosquito

### **Scheduling/Play-offs/Interlock:**

A HUGE Thank you to Brent who helped make this happen with an 11 team interlock! I didn't receive any feedback from any of the associations, but I think all were thankful to have gotten to play a season!

Surrey x 2 teams, Newton x 1 team, North Delta x 4 teams, Tsawwassen x 4 teams

We had one major issue with the Coach from Newton, which was escalated through his home organization, and to BC Minor.

Feedback: to try and end the season at Closing like the other age groups next season

### **MSET:**

- Season was very short with just 4 games this season. Next season would suggest putting the team together right after the draft is complete, and starting practices based on availability with players and coaches so they have more time together as a team. We ended our season before Summer ball try-outs so the coaches could begin preparing for that season, but may be able to do things differently next season to allow for more time together as a team.

### **Jeff Francis:**

- 5 teams were registered for the tournament.
- Thank you to Kathy who was able to be present at the fields for the full duration of the tournament while I bounced between Gunderson to watch my kid play in his games!

Feedback on the tournament:

- No little league teams
- Getting the schedule sooner so that parents have enough time to plan their weekends with kids in multi sports and vacations booked would help with the call-up situation. Hard to call up from the 9U group who is also in their own tournament the same weekend
- Perhaps looking at it as a MSET tournament and then hosting a year end playoff tournament for all the interlock teams
- Skills Comp was enjoyed by all teams!
- Perhaps grow the tournament to have it so that teams are there all day and are able to set up around the fields to make it a bigger weekend, perhaps music and other activities around the parks.

Summer Ball:

- There were about 22 players who tried out – 1 who was on vacation during the week, and I was not able to fit the player in to get assessed before the coach picked the roster. A lesson learned for next season. Parents were understanding, but for equity purposes, every player should have had the ability to try out, and that was my miss.
  - 1 AA team was formed with a roster of 13, with Ritchie Sandhu Coaching this season.
- THANK YOU to everyone who helped me through this first season! I know Chris and LJ saw their fair share of emails from me – but having historical context, and clarification of the rules etc was extremely helpful!

### **13U Representative Report** **Angela Crowther**

Registration in the Pee wee division was strong this year with three A teams (Yankees, Cubs and Angels) and one AA team (registration = 53, I think?). All teams had successful spring seasons starting in April through June. The A team participated in the Fraser Delta interlock which included teams from Tsawwassen, Richmond, Ladner and North Delta. Big thank you to Brent Dingsdale and Cary Boyce for all of their work to prepare the interlock schedule this season.

We will have one A team for the summer season, which was selected following evaluations on May 15, and the AA team will continue on with their spring roster for the summer season.

As always, I would like to thank the coaches who volunteered this year. The association is fortunate to have some very talented and dedicated individuals who are committed to developing our players, which is evident in the talent of this group and their interest in continuing to play baseball.

If desired, I am happy to return as the 13U div rep for another year.

### **15U Representative Report** **Cheryl Vaz**

My name is Cheryl Vaz. I've been the Bantam rep for 2 years and have learned a lot during this period. This year was a great year for Bantam. We were able to have 2 great teams. Bantam A and Bantam AA.

We had enough kids sign up to fill the roster. Our A team did very well in the spring season led by Chris Adams. Most of the kids on the spring team are now making up the Summer Ball team. Our AA spring/summer ball team has had a great season so far and continues to battle for a spot in the provincials being held in Nanaimo BC. Overall this year was seamless for Bantam and I enjoyed being the representative for NDBA. I look forward to fulfilling a different role with the association for the next year.

### **18U Representative Report**

**Kathy McDougall**

Midget ran fall ball (Midget and Bantam players), attempted a winter training (folded as only a couple of kids registered), had a single spring team and just barely managed a summer ball team (10 ND players, 1 White Rock, 1 Vancouver). I hope we can bring our numbers back up for next year. Fall ball was amazing and the best weather I ever remember. Spring team played well, going 2 and 1 in the Tier 1 interlock play off, sadly it came down to defensive innings and we fell short by a couple of runs to move forward. Great group of player and coaches. I

understand talks are in the works to see if we can form our own 18 U AAA team to bring back the 6 players who joined South Fraser Giants this past season and to work with Jeff Stebbings and his 2008 players coming out of Bantam AA. IF the Blue Jays continue to move their games to other fields, I feel like we could try and offer this level without putting too much strain on the timing at Mackie. That being said, it was really nice for the 18 AA team to NOT be relegated to the time slots no one else wanted, ie Saturday afternoon over Saturday night.

### **2023/2024 EXECUTIVE**

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VICE PRESIDENT: L.J. EIBEN

SECRETARY: JEN BERNABE

CPA: MICHELLE MILLER

REGISTRAR: CAREY DINGSDALE

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (Inclusive Programs Representative):

UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF: GRAEME MCMURRAY

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (Umpires): BRAD WOOF

COACHING DIRECTOR: MARK DEEG

FIELD MANAGER: BRENT DINGSADALE

CONCESSION MANAGER: DANIELA FILBY

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

MARKETING DIRECTOR:

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5U REPRESENTATIVE:

6U REPRESENTATIVE: KEVIN WARDROP

7U REPRESENTATIVE: LAUREN BUICK

9U REPRESENTATIVE: LISA ORMSTON

11U REPRESENTATIVE: AMY PAWAR

13U REPRESENTATIVE: ANGELA CROWTHER

15U REPRESENTATIVE:

18U REPRESENTATIVE: KATHY MCDOUGALL

26U JR MENS: *SAM NUGENT?*

