

minutes

SAMSPA GM		
2025-04-05	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.	
47 Team Rep Attendees	<p>Wolf Pack, Kamikazes, Cobra Kai, Pound, The Chefs, Phantom, Latinos, Slammin Grannies, Railcore X, 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, Admirals, Big League Boys, Ballers, Big Dickey's, Ravens, Loose Cannons, Older Bulls, Redline, Rockers, Furies, The Blue Ballers, Shottas, Caribooze, Breaking Bats</p> <p>EDSUA – Ed Drewicki</p>	
13 Absent	<p>Mafia, Elite Selects, Mediocre Sluggers, Sherwood Dodgers, Tailgaters, Alchoballics, Sox, Thirsty Beavers, Young Guns, Riverside Mariners, Pudgy Ps Pirates, Ram Ranchers, 40+ New Team</p> <p>Missing Board Members – Bob Franks, Jessy Beley, Mike Coxworth, Brayden Hollett and Marc Savard</p>	
Approve Minutes from 2025/02/01 st AGM		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
Motion was made by Kyle Ripken and seconded by Ashley Dobson to approve the minutes of February 1 st , 2025 AGM. Motion carried.		
GM Agenda Approval and call for additions		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
Nothing was brought forward.		
Motion was made by Drew Tom Harrison and seconded by Kyle Averages to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.		
New Agenda Items/Agenda Items/Tabled Items		
Kelly Porter, President		
Meeting Purpose		
To provide the membership with general information including Executive position updates, League updates, 2025 Budget presentation, Fundraising Initiatives, information items and preparation for 2025 season.		
a) Updates		

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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 2025 Board Portfolios were shared by the President and Board Members in attendance were introduced.
- The new SAMSPA Instagram link was shared. <https://www.instagram.com/samspa>
- The President explained the new 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.
- The new 74+ division was explained in detail to the membership as a whole and will run in conjunction with the current 70+ program.
- The President informed the membership that in 2026 a \$500.00 team bond will be implemented. The goal of the bond was explained, re-enforcing the many simple ways for teams to participate in the fundraising initiatives and receive the bond back in full. The Board believes that fostering strong relationships within the league will not only enhance our League but also create a positive, supportive environment where everyone can thrive.
- 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.
- 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. Tony Kovacic offered to volunteer and assist the Board in getting this up and running and information out to the membership.

2024 Budget Presentation/ Motion to adopt

Brian Dickson, Treasurer

2025 Budget Presentation

The Past President shared a PowerPoint presentation of the 2025 budget, as approved by the SAMSPA Board, while the Treasurer walked through the PowerPoint presentation line by line.

The projected budget for 2025 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 2025 costs vs revenue streams.

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

A review of procedure and information on the beverage rebate and explanation on team codes and when teams would be notified was requested. The Treasurer shared that all teams qualify to receive an annual rebate from the beverage and concession by providing their team code when purchasing anything. This applies to teams, their families, friends or guests. Team codes will be posted at the concession/beverage room for the start of the season.

The Treasurer shared that 2025 Auditors were appointed at the AGM Feb 1st, 2025 and are Tom Harrison and John Engel.

Questions from the floor were taken.

A question was raised around the capital spreadsheet and if it was being reviewed at the meeting. The Treasurer shared that at the meeting he provides an overview, however anyone wishing to view the entire spreadsheet can reach out directly to the Treasurer and he would be happy to send a copy to them.

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There were no other questions presented.

The President called for a Motion to adopt the 2025 Budget as presented, Moved by Curtis Blair and seconded by Mitchell Stewart. Motion Carried.

Fundraising Initiatives

Lynda Holden, League Operations Coordinator

The results to-date of 2025 fundraising results were shared with the membership. The Oil Kings fundraiser raised a total of \$3,405.50 and the annual on-line auction raised \$4,101.00.

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 18th, 19th and 20th. with an objective to raise funds to offset operational costs and project costs.

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, encourage 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 coming on again this year as the Tournament title sponsor and will be providing craft beer taste testing and RiverHawks ticket give aways 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

Lynda Holden, League Operations Coordinator

President shared PowerPoint screens on advertising package and shared earnings.

The League Operations Coordinator 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 Play it Again Sports and D#4 All Choice Rentals.

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

The League Operations Coordinator went on to share the importance, opportunities, and benefits to the League.

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.*

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- *Confirm purchase and connect customer with our Operations Coordinator.*

Shared Earnings were explained for each level of 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 26/27)

- Each team provides two volunteers.
- Four time slots (9-12noon and 11-2 on SAT/SUN)
- Register your two players with the League Operations Coordinator.
- The President shared and thanked FortisAlberta would be supplying a BBQ on Saturday during the workbee and he recognized Blaze Redcliffe (Caribooze Team) who arranged for the BBQ and will be managing it.
- 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

- The building of a platform and shed
- Fence poles along bottom rails and netting repairs
- Infield shale top up and raking out
- Warning track shale pulled back from grass, overgrown to be pulled.
- Removal of rubber mats under pole barn, level ground below, apply road crush, spray down and reinstall rubber mats

The Vice 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
 - 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.

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- 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 is considered public and 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 10 players looking for teams on website.
- Protests
 - File protests with SAMSPA Operations Coordinator at admin@sampsaslowpitch.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 Operations Coordinator for cancellation otherwise subject to a \$250 fine.

Key Dates were shared.

- Schedule Release: April 14th, 2025
- League Start: April 28th, 2025
- Cages Open: TBD
- Team Practices: TBD

League Procedures

- Practice Times
 - TBD
 - Subject to playability.
 - Board will make announcement in coming weeks.
 - Inquire with SAMSPA Operations Coordinator at admin@sampsaslowpitch.com
- Safety Update
 - First Aid kits and Defibrillator will be accessible at the Concession and in furnace room.
 - Fire extinguishers to be checked.
 - Glen Dolynchuk 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 2025 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.

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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: call Lynda (587) 987-7454

The President went on to share new changes for 2025.

- Rescheduling Games
 - Teams can identify near-term diamond openings and request a re-schedule, rather than outright cancelling games.
 - Subject to availability.
 - Inquire with SAMSPA Operations Coordinator: admin@samspaslowpitch.com
- New Website
 - Sports Engine acquired League Athletics. <https://www.samspaslowpitch.com/home>
- Umpires - President shared that EDSUA is actively recruiting more umpires and welcomed Ed Drewicki from EDSUA. The EDSUA umpire clinic will be held April 26th and 27th.
- The President shared that the Board Umpire Liaison is Mike Coxworth
- Bat Testing policy was reviewed. All bats will require a 2025 bat sticker. 2025 Bat Testing weekend will be April 12th and 13th. Members were encouraged to ensure their teams get their bats tested during their timeslot. There are 6 extra bat testing dates on Tuesday's from 6:30pm – 7:30pm. The President highlighted and shared these dates via the PowerPoint presentation. Schedule and Dates are posted on the SAMSPA website.
- The President shared the following rule changes and wording clarification for the 2025 SAMSPA rules. Rule Books are posted on the SAMSPA website, teams are encouraged to review them.

Rule Changes and wording clarification in rules for 2025 are:

- Softball Canada Rule has no changes for 2025

All Divisions

- ** ALL players in all divisions, whether they are full time, part time or a one-time player must sign the insurance waiver, which is on the SAMSPA website, located under the Teams tab – Player - Player Waiver.
- Open – 13. Rule Exception – Flip Flop If the home team is behind by 7 or more runs at the start of the last inning and managers of both teams' consent, the home team will bat first in the final inning. If the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the start of the last inning, the flip flop is mandatory.
- 70/74 - 14. Rule Exception – Plus 70 Grandfathering players
 - 1. For 2024 and beyond, each team must have at least 10 players 70 years of age or older. New players added to the roster would have to be 68 years of age or older.
 - 2. New teams entering the Plus 70 Division would have to meet the age restrictions in place for the year of entry unless an exception is approved by majority of the teams already part of the Division and the SAMSPA Executive.
- 40/50/60/70/74 - 14a. Rule Exception – Plus 74 Grandfathering players
 - 1. For 2025, the Plus 74 Division will consist of Two teams (Old Vets and the Old Buzzards +74).
 - 2. All players under the age of 72 on these "Legacy" teams (Old Vets and the Old Buzzards74) on their proposed 2025 roster will be grandfathered. The Old Buzzards 74 have none and in 2026, the Old Vets will have 2.
 - 3. Grandfathered players cannot join another Plus 74 team until they reach the age of 72.

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- 4. New players added to the rosters of these "Legacy" teams must be 72 years of age or older.
- 5. Should a Plus 74 team fold all grandfathered players remain eligible for play in the Plus 74 Division.

The President shared the results of the 1 and 1 Count Survey

33 Teams responded to the survey asking if teams would like to start, they're at bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. 27 teams voted to remain status quo with just 6 teams wishing to move to a 1 and 1 count. No change to occur in 2025. The President continues to encourage speed of play, hustle in and out of diamond.

The President shared that for 2025 there will be a game ball distribution change. Teams must now 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. This change will be mandatory in the Open Division and Optional in all other divisions.

The Secretary shared that in the next couple of weeks, we will be sending out the SAMSPA 2025 Annual Survey. This survey is an important opportunity to share your feedback on various aspects of our operations.

The Secretary shared that the annual survey would cover topics such as:

- Concession Services
- Facility and Field Satisfaction
- Scheduling
- League Operations
- Value and Revenue Generation

Moving forward, this survey will be issued at the end of each season to gather crucial data that will help the board make informed decisions and prioritize improvements during the off-season.

The Secretary encouraged all league members to take the time to participate and share their insights, as their input is invaluable in helping the Board enhance the experience for everyone.

The Secretary thanked the membership for their time and continued support!

The President shared via the PowerPoint presentation the Divisional Alignment chart, welcomed and identified new teams and thanked all teams for choosing SAMSPA. For 2025 we have 59 confirmed teams and the possibility of 1 more in the 40+ to bring us to 60.

The President stated that League Fee statements and invoices are sent out by the Treasurer.

Questions & Statements from the Floor

Kelly Porter, President

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

A question came forward asking if playoff formats can be determined ahead of time. The Past President encouraged divisions to submit a proposal for playoffs early to the Past President for consideration. Keeping in mind that all playoffs are dependent on weather, availability and regular season end dates.

The Past President reminded the membership about the CFEP/City of St. Albert grant we had received for the concession/beverage room/dugout refurbishing project. The Past President acknowledged, recognized and thanked Earl Sloan for his dedication and countless hours of volunteerism to this project.

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The Past President then asked the membership in attendance for assistance after the meeting moving a fridge that was delivered to the diamonds this morning and sitting outside the concession.

Adjournment

Kelly Porter, President

No further questions came forward.

Motion was made by Wayne Hilsendeger to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jason Hennessey. **Motion carried.**

Adjourned at 11:26am