

# NORTH DELTA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Building Champions Since 1962



## NDBA AGM Minutes

**June 26th 2019 6:11pm at the Mackie Clubhouse**

**Present:** Brent Dingsdale, Calen Slezash, Carey Dingsdale, Cheryl Vaz, Chris Adams, Clayton Gosnell, Colleen Williams, Darryl Brisbin, Debbie McMurray, Graeme McMurray, Jag Billing, Jayme Campbell-Pomeroy, Jen Bernabe, Karen Voykin, Kathy McDougall, Kristina Winter, Leah Benabo, Michelle Miller, Nicolle Gratton, Shawn Sabourin, Sheryl Gray, Tara Radstaak.

**Not Present:** Brad Woof, Cary Boyce, Jose Perez, Shawn Ashton.

**Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 2018 NDBA AGM** moved by Shawn Sabourin and second by Karen Voykin. Motion carried.

### 1. Correspondence


### 2. Old Business

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### 1. Executive reports

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	
President	Brent Dingsdale	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Vice President	Jose Perez	<i>Not present - Report attached &amp; read</i>
Secretary	Jen Bernabe	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Treasurer	Michelle Miller	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Past President		
Registrar	Kathy McDougall	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Umpire-In-Chief	Brad Woof	<i>Not present - Report attached &amp; read</i>
Coaching Director	Vacant	

Field Manager	Vacant	
Concession Manager	Carey Dingsdale	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Publicity Director	Jagdeep Billing	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Marketing Director	Jose Perez	<i>Not present - No report submitted</i>
Equipment Manager	Shawn Ashton	<i>Not present - No report submitted</i>
Uniform Manager	Karen Voykin	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Tournament Director	Chris Adams	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Scheduler	Cary Boyce	<i>Not present - Report attached &amp; read</i>
Social Director	Jayme Campbell-Pomeroy	<i>Coaches night was held and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended.</i>
Yearbook Director	Vacant	
Fundraising Director	Vacant	
5U Representative	Cary Boyce	<i>Not present - Report attached &amp; read</i>
6U Representative	Brent Dingsdale	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
7U Representative	Leah Benabo	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
9U Representative	Clayton Gosnell	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
11U Representative	Kristina Winter	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
13U Representative	Jayme Campbell-Pomeroy	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
15U Representative	Debbie McMurray	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
18U Representative	Calen Slezash	<i>Report attached – read report</i>
Director At Large (Challenger)	Sheryl Gray	<i>Report attached – read report</i>

1. **New Business**

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2. **New 2019/2020 Executives**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Term</b>
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President	VACANT	2019-2020
Vice President	VACANT	2019-2021
Secretary	Jen Bernabe	2018-2020
Treasurer	VACANT	2019-2021
Past President	Brent Dingsdale	2019-2020
Registrar	Kathy McDougall	2019-2020
Umpire in Chief		2019-2020
Field Manager		2019-2020
Concession Manager	Carey Dingsdale	2019-2020
<i>Gunderson Concession</i>	Daniella Filby	2019-2020
<i>Annieville Concession</i>	April Stebbings	2019-2020
Publicity Director	Jag Billing	2019-2020
Marketing Director		2019-2020
Equipment Manager		2019-2020
Uniform Manager	Karen Voykin	2019-2020
Tournament Director	Chris Adams	2019-2020
Scheduler	Cary Boyce	2019-2020
Social Director	Debbie McMurray	2019-2020
Yearbook Director		2019-2020
Fundraising Director		2019-2020
5U Representative		2019-2020
6U Representative		2019-2020
7U Representative	Darryl Brisbin	2019-2020
9U Representative	Clayton Gosnell	2019-2020
11U Representative	Angela Crowther	2019-2020
13U Representative	Cheryl Vaz	2019-2020
15U Representative	Tara Radstaak	2019-2020
18U Representative	Calen Slezash	2019-2020
Director at large	Nicolle Gratton	2019-2020

**Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm by Debbie McMurray and seconded by Shawn Sabourin.**

**Next AGM meeting Wednesday June 24th, 2020 @ 7pm @ the Mackie Clubhouse**

**Next 2017-2018 Executive meeting Wednesday September 4th, 2019 @ 8pm @ the Mackie Clubhouse. Please arrive on time, thank you.**

### **Presidents Report**

As the 2019 Spring season starts to wind down it is a perfect time to reflect and thank all the people that made baseball in North Delta possible and accessible for our youth. That list of people

includes the members of the NDBA executive, members of the BC Minor Baseball executive, coaches, team parents, umpires and our sponsors.

Overview of the season:

Last Fall we held a Special General Meeting to update our Constitution and By-Laws to be compliant with the BC Government's New Society Act.

We invested some 21K into our Westview Park this off-season. The full dirt cutout is a huge improvement and has made a world of difference at our Bantam Park.

Our May long-weekend tournaments (16th annual) Jeff Francis & (36th annual) Victoria Day Tadpole were possible through the efforts of our 9U coordinator Clayton Gosnell, 11U coordinator Kristina Winter and tournament director Chris Adams.

2019 is the 2nd season for our North Delta Bantam AA team. I wish Coach Dave Woodson and the team success through the summer as they battle to make the Provincials.

Cary Boyce and I ran the Fraser Delta interlock (Richmond, Ladner, Tsawwassen, North Delta, White Rock) again this season. We expanded the interlock to include Bantam A along with Peewee A and AA.

Cary continued to leverage our new SportsEngine based web-site to host the interlock schedules, scores and standings.

With BC Minor returning to the PSO (Baseball BC) this off season helped address concerns the City had over insurance coverage on our field permits at Mackie. We again returned to the model where the NDBA holds the field permits at Mackie and the NDBA works out the field usage between the PBL Blue Jays and our programming.

We revamped our 7U Tball division. Splitting the 2-year age division into a 6U and 7U division. Lots of positives coming from the changes. In the off season we need to review the changes made in 6U/7U and look for continue improvements.

We applied for and were granted the 2019 11U AAA Tier2 Provincials, Aug 1-4 (/5). A sub-committee was formed. With Chris Adam's guidance and the AAA parent group we're off to a great start with a lot of motivated people driven to make this an awesome event.

Carey updated our Concessions to offer electronic transactions, huge step forward.

Looking towards 2020:

We invested a lot of time and money into many of our parks over the last few years. There is a level of upkeep required throughout the season. The ownership of the in-season upkeep needs to be put on the divisions that use those fields. Have a couple work parties throughout the season to keep our parks looking and functioning their best.

As board we need to better communicate with our parents. We continue to lack a dedicated person on the board responsible for communication. That includes promoting our league through our social media outlets.

It is important that the Executives continue to seek out new and motivated people. I hope we attract a good number of new faces to the 2019-20 board.

In closing I wish to thank those members of the executive who won't be returning, for their tireless efforts and support of North Delta Baseball. As I mentioned to the board last Sept this is

my last year as President. I look forward to returning next season in a mentoring role as 'Past President', coordinating the Fraser Delta interlocks and coaching.

Brent Dingsdale  
President, North Delta Baseball Assoc.

### **Vice President Report**

Thank you to all volunteers for making this season a great one. In addition to providing a fun environment conducive to learning life skills and baseball the association strives to provide this in a safe environment. Our CRC protocol has been imperative in doing so and all coaches were cleared to coach. Opening and closing ceremonies were very successful and well attended with new format of all star and championship games. Once again thank you for all your time and effort.

Jose Perez  
VP, NDBA

### **Secretary Report**

I wanted to thank all of the executive members for their time they have put into NDBA over the last year. There have been some wonderful changes happening and a lot of great ideas discussed at the monthly meetings.

A big thank you to Karen for answering my text or phone calls when I had a question regarding my position, no matter what time of day or night it was. She is full of information and is always willing to help when needed. Also, thank you to Brent for all his knowledge and support.

Unfortunately, the weather was unpredictable in February and March, which made it difficult to schedule assessments outdoors. Many coaches wanted to book a gym as a back up incase of poor weather. Most bookings went smooth but we ran into a few issues such as late cancellations or late requests. My recommendation for next year, to ensure bookings are made with ease would be that all coaches submit their request for gym space by email or text with the following information and be willing to be flexible with time slot:

- List 3 gyms in preference order
- Start/end date
- How many hours/days per week required
- Time slot preference
- Which group is requesting the booking (example: Bantam AA clinic)
- Coach's name/email/cell number

*Please keep in mind that Facility Rentals requires 10 days notice to cancel bookings. High School gym spaces are limited and fill up fast. Coaches should get their requests in as soon as possible and try to avoid canceling gym spaces once booked.*

Note: Mackie Clubhouse is a great venue to book for small group bookings such as coaches meetings, parent meetings, team meetings etc. It's shared between NDSC and NDBA. Booking this space can be done in advance or short notice since it's first come, first serve. Best and quickest way to book this space with me would be by text.

I would also like to recommend that all executive members RVSP to monthly meetings to ensure we have enough members to start all meetings on time.

I also agree with Karen's suggestion from last AGM: Try to avoid scheduling any games or practices on the first Wednesday of every month during the April - June so every executive member will be able to attend the monthly meetings on time.

Voting: I recommend most or all voting be done by ballot at meetings.

Jen Bernabe  
NDBA Secretary

### **Treasurer's Report**

The year-end for NDBA is October 31, 2019. 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, 2019. The bank accounts have a combined balance of \$91,327, which is approximately \$20,000 lower than in the previous year. The primary reason for the lower bank balance is due to the Westview field upgrade of approximately \$21,000.

Registration for spring is slightly higher (\$2,065) when compared to the prior year. However, it is too early to report on expenses for Spring, as there are still a lot of invoices to be received and paid for. There is also the summer and fall ball seasons to take place before the year is complete.

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

Michelle Miller

### **Registrar's Report**

This is my second year as registrar, so some aspects of the job got easier. I figured out how to do refunds... then found out I had to make the registrant inactive. Getting there... Like last year there were a few kinks with Sports Engine however Jag seemed to sort through them as they came up. Big thanks to Jag for how fast he responds to questions or fixes issues.

#### Fall Ball:

Registration was down with 43 players vs 52 the year before. Could be we aren't plugging this early enough to beat parents registering for other sports/activities. The weather has also been really inconsistent the past few falls. Could be people are reluctant to sign up for something that will probably be cancelled.

#### Winter Training:

Winter training ran completely online, so while I don't have anything to compare it to, this year we had 36 kids registered for conventional winter training across Tadpole, Mosquito & PeeWee. Bantam AA winter training had sadly very low numbers only 5 actually registered, but there were a few unregistered faces show up here and there. PeeWee AA winter clinic did better with 16. I have been told that numbers (revenues) are down from what was predicted. We need to get these clinics planned earlier in order to allow people to have more time to commit. I had a lot of inquiries before we had anything to announce.

#### 2019 Spring Registration:

409 players registered. This number is down from last year's figure of 439.

Breakdown as such:

- ❑ PBL: 30 (-6)
- ❑ Challenger: 20 (+8)

- ❑ 25U: 11 (-4)
- ❑ 18U: 24 (+1)
- ❑ 15U: 40 (-1)
- ❑ 13U: 49 (=)
- ❑ 11U: 72 (-12)
- ❑ 9U: 75 (+8)
- ❑ 7U: 34 new configuration
- ❑ 6U: 33 new configuration between the 2 groups 67 (-20)
- ❑ 5U: 27 (-3)

We did introduce a program with the Blue Jays called the excel program which saw 26 kids come out for training with the Blue Jays... this is a keeper from all the feedback I got. We also continued with the Mosquito selects program 24 kids playing a higher level of baseball on Sundays.

We lost the family BBQ and the NDBA night at the Nat, but hopefully next season we can resurrect them for next year.

#### 2019 Summer Registration:

Summer registration came in at 84 participants... same as last year.

We (thanks to the heads up from Sheryl Gray) advertised in the Delta Leisure guide and I was VERY impressed with how they took the concept I cobbled together and made it look 100% better. We also decided to take a page out of 'other association's' handbooks and posted some 'yard signs' in a few strategic locations... one of which was still up the last time I drove by which might explain why I'm still getting inquiries about registering for spring baseball.

#### Recommendation:

1. Consult with KidSport for better tracking of funding received for each child that we gave codes out to.
2. For registration fees – For those families that cannot pay online, suggest they pay with pre paid credit cards. Do not accept cheques/cash.

Kathy McDougall  
NDBA Registrar

### **Umpire-In-Chief Report**

The North Delta Baseball Association Umpire Development Program ran for another successful year, in 2019, with several achievements. Overseen by Brad Woof, Umpire-In-Chief the program was supported by 48 Official Umpires, 7 of which are also Active Mentors, 1 Allocator, 2 Emergency Allocators, and the North Delta Baseball Association Executive.

The NDBA UDP ran a Level 1 & 2 Umpire Clinic before the season began & it was well attended, we had 7 new umpires join our program this season. The NDBA UDP also ran an additional mandatory Training Day using the Annieville Batting Cage with Live Pitching Machine & Annieville Clubhouse Meeting Room for Umpire Exam review; this additional training session received a lot of positive feedback from all Umpires. In addition, the British Columbia Baseball Umpires Association (BCBUA) offered 2 senior clinics this year: the SuperClinic for Level 3 & the National Clinic for Level 4/5, both of which were attended by our Umpires.

Allocation began Sunday 31 March, allocated by Brad Woof. Allocation efforts were again above average primarily due to the continued use of Scheduler.ca & the implementation of Request Games & shifting the onus of allocation from equal distribution of games to 'who wants to

umpire'. The Scheduler.ca allocation program continues to work very well and greatly aid in our administration abilities. Since allocation began to the currently last scheduled game of Thursday 1 August, 233 games will have been allocated in the NDBA UDP, approximately 466 total umpire allocations for our local crew all very seamlessly. There were 0 no shows, which resulted in 0 oneman umpiring games and only a few lates primarily because of the Scheduler.ca allocation program: its' accessibility and auto-reminders. 0 fines in regards to no shows or lates were issued. However, there were a few games where both teams did not show or notification of the cancelled or rescheduled game was late or not provided to the Allocator, and therefore the Umpires went to the field unnecessarily and had to be paid. The largest issue of the Spring Season though was the number of rescheduled games, games were inputted into Scheduler and Umpires Allocated and then cancelled or rescheduled, some multiple times, which was very frustrating and time consuming for all.

Some e-mails, texts and phone calls were received throughout the year in regards to the Umpires: some complaints, some compliments, however 0 ejections and 0 protests. All correspondence was dealt with internally; no suspensions in regards to ejections had to be issued as there were 0 ejections. There were 0 Coaches Code of Conduct violations that had to be dealt with by the NDBA Discipline Procedure. Some rules clarifications arose throughout the season and explanations were provided.

The NDBA UDP Account was used to purchase more Umpire Shirts & Umpire Equipment, stock will be carried forward for future seasons. Cheques from the equipment sales will be submitted by the September Executive Meeting to the NDBA Treasurer. Equipment purchases continue to be offset by sales or held over in inventory value.

The Mentoring/Shadowing program continues to be effective and all senior umpires in North Delta are onboard with the program. Several new Umpire Mentors were provided training & Mentored their first games this season resulting in many officially documented Mentorships haven taken place.

Overall, another positive year with a positive outcome, next year's outlook is also positive with continued focused growth in Umpire enrollment at the entry levels, the upgrading of several senior Umpires to Level 3 and 4/5 along with the continued development of all Umpires. If more information is required, or if you have any questions or comments, feel free to call/text me at; (778) 928-9663 or e-mail me at [umpire\\_in\\_chief@ndbaseball.com](mailto:umpire_in_chief@ndbaseball.com).

Brad Woof  
Umpire-In-Chief  
North Delta Baseball Association Umpire Development Program

### **Concession Manager Report**

As I enter into my 4<sup>th</sup> year of running the concessions I hope I have made changes to streamline the job into an easier role. As most of the executive roles, keeping the concessions stocked with food, cold beverages, and yummy candy bags is no easy task.

Some positive changes made this year:

- New BBQs for both concessions
- Stand up freezer at Gunderson
- Ordering through Sysco for most items
- Adding Debit and Credit machines

These were some goals I set for myself this season and so far, they are proving to be effective. There is always a learning curve; and the ordering and electronic purchases are not an exception.

- ❑ Sysco is very easy to order – simple text; however, receiving the order is challenging as you have to be there when the delivery arrives...ie be available on their time – something that I simply can not do with my schedule – we have made it work but will have to streamline it more for next year.
- ❑ Square readers – Error #1 not having it up and running at beginning of season. Error #2 not being available to train people properly when we did get it up and running. Error #3 – not having a total on the cash sheets so my financials are all out of whack.

I have 2 people that have expressed interest in helping out for 2020 year and I am excited to have them trained up. The logistics are still to be determined; but I recommend we have 2 extra positions on the board for concessions. Change my role into a “Concessions Director” role and have a Gunderson Concession Mgr, and Annieville Concession Mgr position. This way I can oversee the concessions and the mgr’s can manage their territory per-se. Having extra hands in the concession will hopefully alleviate the stress for 1 person, add new fresh ideas, and for the NDBA have extra bodies to help out during off season; as the concession mgr is really very active during spring break – through to beginning of Aug.

To the outgoing executive – I thank you for your time. No one knows the time, efforts, challenges, and successes you have faced until they have walked in your shoes or worked in your role. The emails are countless, the conversations at the park are exhausting, and the late-night meetings can be long! In saying all of this, I hope that there are many fond memories of being a part of the NDBA and all it has to offer, and I wish you well in the future.

Being on the executive for the last 6 years has been very rewarding yet tiring. We have a great group of people, with strong work ethics and community desire. I feel this year we have had many challenges with our executive due to family situations, illness, new members joining, and overall “burn out”. In my opinion it has placed a “black cloud” in the room during the beginning of the season. I am happy to report I feel as though the cloud is lifted and people are working together to strengthen the bonds and become united again. It is ok to have a differencing of opinions; in fact it should be encouraged. Greatness comes from the challenges we overcome. We have to remind ourselves to be respectful, and forgiving. We are all here trying to do the best we can for the kids who wear the ND jerseys so proudly. Despite the challenges we have had many successes in 2019. Championships were won, Playoffs were conquered, and children of all abilities were given the opportunity to play this great game. I look forward to working with new faces, fresh ideas, and continuing to grow this community baseball association.

Sincerely,  
Carey Dingsdale  
Concession Mgr 2019

### **Publicity Director Report**

NDBaseball.com website journey is smooth since we have jumped ship to SportsEngine. We create our own custom registrations and all the transactions are paid/refunded online with Credit cards, which might have reduced the workload of some executives in performing their selfless and awesome duties. There are some user educational issues here and there but nothing that we cannot handle.

Jag Billing

### **Uniform Report**

My name is Karen Voykin and I have been the NDBA Uniform Manager for the last 3 years. The Uniform manager role has many duties, attending executive meetings, creating a uniform budget, maintaining inventory, ordering stock, as well as, managing uniform pick up & returns for all seasons for all divisions. The 2019 season has had very few challenges with many rewards.

NDBA Uniform budget came under budget by \$5200.

I hope to continue that T Ball and Tadpole have non-returnable baseball pants. There are a few remaining white youth pants that have been up for sale at a reduced price. I would like to put a motion forward like to use them for the Blast Ball division next season if there enough left over or we can donate them.

It is time for a new fresh start for the 2020 season, and the free sign up shirts and summer jerseys are due for a new look. A new NDBA hoodie will be under consideration too. I would also like to suggest that all coaches receive a non-returnable dry fit matching team shirt instead of receiving the NDBA sign up shirt. The remaining old shirts will be reduced in price to sell.

I had also taken over selling the remaining 34 Rays hoodies from Carey Dingdale. I did manage to sell 21 and NDBA donated 4 to the coach's appreciation night, and 9 were raffled off at the Closing Ceremonies.

With the help of the Prostock design team, I was glad to help put together a great logo for the BCMBA 11U AAA Provincial tournament t shirt. GO RAYS GO!

I would like to take this time to extend a big thank you to all the volunteer executive members, coaches, team parents, and parents who really stepped up & dedicated their time to make this season happen.

I am proud and honored to play a small role in putting smiles on children faces. NDBA advocates for all children of any ability to have fun playing outside while learning the great game of baseball.

I can, if wanted, continue on as the NDBA Uniform Manager for the 2020 season.

Cheers,  
Karen Voykin  
NDBA Uniform Manager

### **Tournament Director Report**

This year I transitioned from a coordinator position from the past few years to Tournament Director. In 2019, NDBA will host 4 official tournaments. Tournaments are where some of the best memories of the baseball season are made for our youth. I feel it is important to step up the game experience and atmosphere in these tournaments for the kids. We accomplished this with help from our outstanding coaches and executive.

We ran our first 2 tournaments over the May Long Weekend. The Victoria Day Tadpole Tournament took place at Gunderson Park. We invested in a new PA system for the park, which worked well. Players grooved to the music during warm-ups and between innings. One team did a 9-man worm on the 3rd base foul line. The tournament was a great success thanks to our Tadpole coordinator Clayton Gosnell with extra help from Brent Crowther and Daniela Filby. The longest hit competition was modified to a home run derby from the grass between the mound and second base and was well received and saves time on marking and measuring.

Our Jeff Francis Mosquito tournament ran with 6 North Delta teams and 1 team from Newton. We had a challenge filling the 8th spot after a team pulled out. We had an MSET team express interest and a Little League AAA team which we could not offer entrance. With the emergence of the MSET program in Spring at Mosquito I feel it will be more difficult to attract outside teams to this tournament as top players on spring rosters are committed to MSET activities. Despite some poor weather on semi-final day, which forced the final to move to Gunderson on Tuesday evening, the tournament was a great success. For the first time, we included a skills competition, which was enjoyed by all. Huge thanks to our coaches and volunteers for helping run that event. Our Mosquito Coordinator Kristina Winter worked tirelessly all weekend to ensure all gaps were filled and the event went smoothly as possible.

This summer season we will feature 2 more tournaments. Our 8U Tadpole Summer tournament will take place July 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. This serves as the wrap up tournament to the 8U season and is a great event for our club. Clayton Gosnell and Brent Crowther are a great help in the planning and execution of what is sure to be a great weekend of ball.

To wrap up the summer season we are hosting the Mosquito AAA Tier 2 Provincial Championships August 1st to 4th. 10 of the best teams in the province will be playing in our park including our own North Delta entry. This is a massive undertaking. Our parent group from the AAA team has really stepped up on the planning committee and a lot of work has already been done. The work continues over the next 5 weeks to make sure everything is thought of and covered. The event will kick off with a welcome jamboree and skills competition Thursday night. Friday and Saturday will run games from 8am to 8pm at both Bob Bunnett and Gunderson 1. Sunday will feature semifinals and finals with Monday being a rain out contingency day. We are in great need of volunteers from our membership and beyond to help with concession shifts, field prep, scorekeeping, pitch counting, parking lot control, first aid (must be certified), etc. Hosting an event like this is not only great for the players involved but can really inspire our younger divisions (blastball, Tball, Tadpole) as they move towards Mosquito. We hope to see many of those younger players around the park during this weekend.

Regards, Chris Adams, Tournament Director

### **Scheduler Report**

This was the second year of the Fraser Delta Interlock. New this year was the addition of Bantam A to the Interlock.

There were 8 Pee wee AA teams, 13 Pee wee A teams, and 12 Bantam A teams.

The second year saw the reduction of games from 18 A Pee wee games and 16 Pee wee AA games last year to 14 games this year, which allowed for more practice time. Next year will be set at 14 games for all interlocks.

Playoffs finished on time with no weather problem. The ND Yankees, coached by Tony Deane, won the Pee wee A Tier 1 Championship.

Cary Boyce  
Scheduler

### **5U Representative Report**

This year we had 24 players divided into 4 teams. The season started well with Brent Crowther leading the first two practices. His practice involved all the parents and set the season in the right direction. The parents handled the practices on their own afterwards and did a commendable job.

Cary Boyce  
5U Rep

### **6U Div Representative Report**

A sub-committee was formed this off-season led by Brent Crowther to investigate options to improve our programming in our 7U Tball division. New rules were put into place based off the programming model used in Cloverdale. The major change was to break 7U Tball from a 2 year ago group into two single age groups: 6U Tball and 7U SuperT. Other significant changes included having all teams in the division practice on the same night (Tues) and move all games to Saturday. It was also understood that coaching in this division needs more support and as an Association we'd work towards supplying practice plans to the coaches.

33 players registered in 6U Tball this Spring. Recruiting coaches and getting the teams finalized went late into the Spring break. A big thank you to Pirates coach Rich Longley, Yankees coach Jason Flett, Blue Jays coach Tanya Wheatley and Astros coach Darryl Brisbin.

It was coach Tanya Wheatley's idea to form a WhatsApp 6U coaches group. That was a tremendous idea. The 4 coaches and I were part of this group. A great app for the Div Rep to be able to answer questions and communicate directly with all the coaches in the division. Lots of good comradery in this coaching group.

I relied heavily on the Rally Cap Coach App. I put together practice plans for the first 4-5 weeks of the season. I hope this provided coaches a foundation to get their seasons off to a good start. I'll put these practice plans on our Google Drive making them available to the 2020 6U Div Rep.

Tuesdays was the 6U practice night. The 4 teams would rotate to a different backstop each week: Annieville Grass North/South and Annieville all-weather North/South. Games were played on Saturdays on the Annieville Grass North diamond. 2 games a week running 1:00 pm – 2:15pm and 2:30pm – 3:45pm. I arrived at the start times based on the coach's Saturday availability.

The new 6U rules that were put into place included a 3 team game format. Given there were 4 teams in this division we just went with the 2 team game format. To a large extent we just rolled with our typical Tball rules: 3 innings, everyone bats, end the game with a base race.

In an attempt to get our Tball division better integrated into our Association I held a free freezie night. After practice if the player's showed up at the Annieville concession in their uniforms they'd receive a free freezie. I ran this promotion on a night there was a Peewee A game going on Bob Bunnnett.

On Closing Day we held a 6U "all-star" game. We split all players that showed up into 2 teams. The all-star game started at 10am and the players headed down to Bob Bunnnett for the Closing Day Ceremonies. The "all-star" game helped contribute to a good showing of 6U players at CDC.

Was never my intent to be the 6U Div Rep this season but I'm glad I did. It felt good giving back to one of our youngest divisions. I appreciate all the efforts of everyone on the board that helped contribute to a successful season of 6U Tball!

Brent Dingsdale

## **7U Representative Report**

Super T had 4 full teams of 8 kids, 4 coaches and assistant coaches. Overall the season was a success, however I would like to make a few suggestions for next year based on the season.

1. 8 players per team posed a problem with often not having as few as 4 kids to play on a game. A few times we had to split a team to share some of its players to have more balanced games. I would recommend the cap be at 9.

2. I question the whole benefit of Super T being separate from t-ball. The downfall of the separation was that kids were not able to become leaders as we were able to see in previous years and the younger kids did not receive the benefit of seeing skills get developed. That said, it was great as a coach to focus on skill development at their level with kids working more on catching more balls. I would be curious what the coaches said about t-ball as some of the t-ball parents have mentioned to me that they were disappointed in the fact their players were not with older kids as in previous years and that there is benefit with managing behaviors. After a couple seasons of it divided I think evaluating the benefits is important.

3. A suggestion is that we have a play up day, where super t players practice with tadpole teams and this would allow all the kids moving up to tadpole get a chance to experience playing up with the bigger kids. Many are afraid of the pitching machine and watching and playing with the older kids would be a huge benefit.

4. Playing up – this was one of my biggest challenges I faced with really being told multiple different “rules” or “policies” on how to call players up. The 3 call up and one tournament was perfect to allow players to have the chance to play. The Giants coach even allowed some of the super-T’s to join in as often as possible to give a chance to play up. This really was a highlight for many kids. I think there were factors that came into play which make call-ups unnecessarily more difficult than it should have been and I am sure that next year will be better for who takes on Super-T. I do think we need to ensure players who are ready get a chance to play regardless of the convenience and siblings playing. I had some great kids who loved having the opportunity and we should foster the love of the sport in all the kids who would be available to play up.

5. Most kids were not ready for the pitching arm and so I made the decision to not use the pitching machine in games. I did pull out the pitching machine at practice but found some kids did not want anything to do with it yet as they still were getting used to being pitched to. The rainy start to the season may have had an impact on this as some players were still just trying to hit a tossed ball and struggling. Those that were ready all played up at least one game at the tadpole level.

6. The all-star game was a huge hit! I paired teams from the last game together so they got a chance to get to know each other but in the end one team had only a few players attend so we shuffled kids around and it was a great morning! We had a better turn out for closing as well.

Overall, the kids had a fun and busy season of playing ball and there was a lot of growth seen from the start to the finish of the season thanks to some great volunteer coaches and truly that is what matters most!

Leah Benabo

## **9U Representative Report**

The 2019 Spring Tadpole season saw 6 teams with 12 players per team. (+-) Teams seemed to be

evenly matched. Weather was not an issue this year. There was no drama in this division. Just adult conversations, mainly regarding the rules.

Pirates won the Victoria Day Tournament versus the Athletics.

Mariners won the season playoffs versus the Pirates.

I do plan on coming back next Spring as the Tadpole Div Rep. I also plan to slightly modify the rules to be more specific and fair for all. This will make the rules match other associations.

I would like to thank the executives for their support this year. Couldn't have done it without you. I would also like to specifically thank Brent Dingsdale and Chris Adams for their guidance.

Sincerely,  
Clayton Gosnell  
9U Rep

### **11U Representative Report**

This year Mosquito started well. We had 70 kids registered and evaluated with 2 added before the season started for 6 teams of 12. We lost one child before the season started because this child who played other sports was quite upset he wasn't perfect at baseball even though he was brand new. His mom thought it was best to pull him instead of him experiencing any discomfort of not being the best (her words).

With 6 teams, we played 2 games on Tuesdays, 1 game on Thursday and everyone played Saturdays at either 12pm, 3pm, or 5:30. We had many coaches doing double duty this year. Head coach of the Royals was also the 6U Rep so required Tuesdays off for the first month to help the little guys set up. Head coach of the Mariners was assistant coach in Peewee so I'm sure he had one, maybe two days not at the park. Assistant coach of the Blue Jays was head coach in Tadpole. Head coach of the Rockies was also a head coach in Tadpole. I believe only the White Sox and the Cardinals coaches were only coaching or managing Mosquito. It made it tough for some but they handled it with minimal complaining.

On Saturdays, we alternated every week between G1 and G2 with Tadpole. Games were at 12pm, 3pm, & 5:30 pm and every other week, Mosquito had concession. This kept concession duties down which team parents, and parents alike really appreciated. The regular season had 13 games. Everyone played each other at least twice. With 6 teams, every team had a grass field to practice on which was nice.

The Jeff Francis Tournament ran on the May long weekend and I allowed a very nice team, the Newton Blue Jays, to join our 6. The weather was great until the Monday where two very wet semi finals forced the final game to be delayed until Tuesday at Gunderson. Chris Adams was an amazing coordinator that did double duty assisting his Royals. There were mistakes made which the tournament coordinator had to enforce rules but the families and kids all had fun. The hours were long but we utilized Upper Annieville on day 2 to keep the time at the park less whereas maximizing the concession. We also had a skills competition, which was fun for all. The final was ND White Sox vs ND Mariners with the Sox taking it in 6 innings. All the kids played with heart and I was proud of them.

Our regular season ended on June 4th with two weeks of playoffs that ended on closing day at Bob Bunnett between the White Sox and the Blue Jays. The White Sox took the victory and represented ND at Crombie Park in Ladner for the Delta Cup on Sat June 22 where they won.

This year has had way less issues than my previous 3 years although there was one disciplinary issue for a player. Four of the teams were managed by first time Mosquito head coaches so there was a bit of growing pains, especially when it came to umpires. Learning that you cannot talk to the umpire during a game has lead to a few umpires informing me they wouldn't ump for a certain team I'm sure has made our umpire in chief work extra hard.

Summer ball evals were awesome this year. The PBL North delta Blue Jays coaches came out and evaluated and it was amazing. There weren't any bias because the coaches judged on skill. We had 33 kids evaluated in two days and one child that was injured received a bye with evaluations but was allowed to be on the double A team due to skill level.

The AAA team was picked first and Jeff Stebbings will coach the team as he was chosen by the summerball coaching committee. The AA team is coaches by Shaun Jones. His son had made the AAA team but chose to play AA. We had 10 kids not make our two teams and six of them tried out for the Surrey Newton AA or A team.

This was my last year as Mosquito rep, 4 years is a lot and I wish the future Mosquito rep all the best.

Spring season 2019 is over. Good luck to the summer ball teams.

Kristina Winter

Mosquito Rep - North Delta Baseball

### **13U Representative Report**

The 2019 peewee season ran relatively smooth. This year we had three peewee A teams and one peewee AA team.

The players on each team had successful seasons and should be proud of all their efforts.

This year we were able to fill coaching positions somewhat easier and went into the draft with all 3 coaches accounted for before hand.

The season concluded with the peewee A North Delta Yankees taking home the win for the Fraser Delta Interlock.

Summer ball tryouts were held for peewee A and it looks to be a very strong team. The AA team was able to carry on their spring season roster for the summer, although there were some scheduling issues for players.

I wish both Peewee summer ball teams a successful season!

Going forward for peewee I would suggest having the Blue Jays evaluate for spring and summer evaluations and tryouts respectively. This would create a good amount of consistency for all divisions mosquito and above.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as the Peewee Rep. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know all the players and their families. They are truly a fantastic group.

Thank you

Jayne

### **15U Representative Report**

My name is Debbie McMurray and I was the Representative for this Division for the second year. I enjoyed meeting monthly with the executive to discuss important issues for the upcoming season and building relationships that I hope will continue to develop.

In the fall I had sent out emails to individuals whom I thought would be interested in coaching for the AA season and we had a response from Dave Woodson. He has coached within our Association for many years and had the qualifications we were looking for to take on the team for a season, so we offered the position, which he accepted. He offered winter clinics which unfortunately had low numbers, but the kids had a good time and the sessions were encouraging, so thank you to Dave for offering his time to do this. March 2nd and 3rd we held AA evaluations and we had a good number of kids trying out, thank you to Brent, Karen and Kris for helping out. Dave had selected 13 players and all accepted.

February we hosted a meeting for the Fraser Delta Interlock, which North Delta would be overseeing for Pee wee A, Pee wee AA and Bantam 15UA. There was going to be 12 teams in total coming from Tsawwassen, Ladner, Richmond, White Rock, South Surrey and North Delta. Thank you to Brent and Cary for taking care of the communication, which was so very helpful, and the releasing of schedules. A big job but so WELL DONE.

Coach Igor and Chris Adams held evaluations March 9th for Single A tryouts and unfortunately registration numbers were low and some kids were not even able to attend evaluations. At the time of the draft our registration numbers were low (19) so talks and considerations were to only have one team and rotate players and make sure that everyone had playing time, and skill development as we did not like the idea of cutting players and losing them to other associations. An email was sent out to parents advising them of this decision and we even offered to give a full refund if they felt this was not in their best interest, yet nobody chose that. However there were many email exchanges with concerns, questions and suggestions. So the coach's and I met again and agreed to 2 teams (we had 20 at this point) however we knew this would be a difficult challenge due to player conflicts with other sports/activities, potential illness/injury, yet we really wanted to make people happy and give all the kids an opportunity to play. The coach's picked their team and offered to manage their own call-ups and inform me of the players and the dates so the Pee Wee Rep and I could have a spreadsheet keeping track so no player would go over their allowance of call-ups and to also make sure that everyone had the opportunity to play if they had the desire to do so.

The City had come in and did some major improvements to Westview after the Association had voted on investing into this and the park looks great, and the clearing of the bushes behind 3rd base made such a difference!!!

Westview Park Fence set up day was a beautiful warm day and there was a great number of parents and players who attended, working extremely hard and very well together, we had the fence put up in less than 2 hours with one hitch as we apparently hit a water line (ouch) It was great to be involved and touch base with the players and families

Uniform Distribution, Picture Day and Opening Ceremonies were held and all of a sudden IT'S BALL SEASON YAY!!

## A

Our 2 Head Coach's for the Season were Igor Curachuk (assisted by Phil Vaz and Nick Albrino) for the D'Backs and Chris Adams (assisted by Garrett Brennan and Shawn Ashton) for the Giants. A big thank you to them all for their dedication to the game and wanting to have a good season for the boys. Both teams entered a tournament each and a few players from the opposing teams were asked to be pick-ups so it was nice for the boys to have more opportunity to play. Unfortunately our D'Back team had many games where they required call-ups and we were

very fortunate to have some really great Pee-Wee players come out and play. We truly appreciate parents and players for willing to do so.

Both teams unfortunately were in the bottom of the standings, however, from my observation the kids had a good season, and when they played against one another, that was probably their favorite games of the season. They finished up the regular season with a game against the Giant's and the D'Backs and the parent group organized a BBQ, which was enjoyed by all. Playoffs---in their Pool the Giants were the Silver Place winners in the final game against White Rock Mariners.

### AA

Dave Woodson was the head coach assisted by Matt Prunty, Jag Billings and Steve Clarke. They traveled up to the interior for regular season games, entered 1 tournament and will be going into another one at the end of June in Cloverdale.

The team has entered the Wild Card tournament to be held in Burnaby July 20/21 to hopefully qualify as one of the teams to play in Provincials.

Provincials will be held in Prince George, August 1-5. They have also entered to play in BC Baseball Provincial Championship to be held August 8-11, but are only accepted if they played in Provincials being held earlier in the month. At the time of writing the team is sitting 11th out of 19, so lets cheer them on and hope they do well.

### AAA

Delta Tigers program began their winter training evaluations in November and quite a few of the North Delta boys registered. 3 of our North Delta players were chosen to play for the season. The team has gone up to the Interior and the Island to compete and are doing very well. At the time of writing the team is sitting in first place out of 11 teams. The team will be playing in the Kyle Losse Tournament in Tsawwassen June 27-July 1. Provincials will be held July 25-28th in Tsawwassen.

### SUMMERBALL

Igor applied to be the summerball coach, Chris Adams and Nick Albrino will be assisting. I had asked parents and players if they were going to play summerball and 11 players were interested with one undecided. I had sent emails out to the Reps of Surrey, Tsawwassen and Ladner to see if they had any players looking to play and told them to let them know of the dates we would be holding tryouts. We had tryouts and only 9 players came out, the other 3 had other commitments that day and unfortunately no other players from the other association chose to come out. The team has entered one tournament to be held at the end of June in Surrey and Provincials will be held in Mission August 8-12. Lets hope they have a good summer and the boys play well and HAVE FUN.

Suggestions for next year:

- ❑ Making sure that we have approached all Coach's who may be interested to coach the AA team early in the fall, suggestion of September/October and encourage them to apply on line as soon as possible.
- ❑ Having the tryouts for AA Late February/Early March depending on weather, Single A as soon as AA have had their evaluations and a team has been made
- ❑ If possible book Delsom Field for tryouts and approach Executive and other Division Coach's to assist with the evaluations

- ❑ Also I think that it would be a good idea to impose a Volunteer Deposit Cheque as there are many duties to be done and it will make more families accountable to help out instead of the same families doing more than their fair share

Thank you once again for allowing me to be a representative for another year for a great group of boys and parents. It was nice to go out and watch games of A, AA and AAA and being able to interact with the parents.

Debbie McMurray  
15U Rep

### **18U Representative Report**

The season began late as a result of medical issues with the Midget Rep. I was asked to step in to help on Feb 22nd by attending the Midget AA Interlock Meeting held on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. I attended the next NDBA Executive Meeting in which I announced that I would help out as the new Midget Rep. I didn't have much time to devote, and several players registered very late.

In the end, 14 players registered for the division allowing us to form a single team. Unfortunately, only two parents volunteered as Assistant Coaches (myself, and Jimmy Walker), therefore I took it upon myself to be the Manager/Head Coach for the team, with Jimmy as my Assistant. Due to the time needed to organize, the first team meeting did not occur until April 1st. This late start caused many problems – very little practice time, overdue hat embroidery.

The season was very rough. Games started after we had only two practices, and therefore players were not properly prepared. Once regular practices were set, the attendance was usually limited to 50% of the team (or less). Most of our games ended in a “mercy win” for our opponents. One of our games was lost by forfeit due to not enough players or call-ups. Two wins for the season were realized – one by forfeit – which adversely affected the morale of the team and the parents.

The team had to travel to Gibsons, BC on June 2nd for our final game. This became a bit of a nightmare in organizing, and forced us to add to the team budget in order to cover ferry fees. The decision to split the costs amongst all 14 families was put to the team and voted upon, ending in a 12-2 approval to increase the team budget by \$13.90 per family. Two families refused to pay the extra amount, and in order to pay the ferry fees for 3 vehicles and 12 players we were forced to drain the remaining team budget for the trip. Any amounts for coaches appreciation gifts, and team wind-up party were used instead for the trip. The total budget for the season amounted to \$40.90 per family, with two families paying only \$27.00.

Several other associations do not have a separate AAA program for Midget, and therefore will have AAA-level players in their AA division. This has made competition very difficult in past years, since the quality of our Midget AA division is sometimes far below other associations.

All in all, it was a very dismal season.

#### **Suggested Future Improvements:**

1. No games requiring ferry travel should be involved.
2. Greater access to Mackie Park for practice times.
3. Recruitment of coaches/managers to occur earlier.
4. Try-outs for the team(s) and limiting accepted players.
5. Strict registration deadline of March 15th (before the commencement of Spring Break).
6. The existence of the South Fraser Giants, combined with PBL, is robbing this division of good players who are able to compete with other associations. I suggest we somehow limit this, forcing more AAA-quality players to stay with the AA division.

7. A Fall-ball program might be helpful in preparing players for the Spring, and increase our chances of a summerball program with the North Delta Rays.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of the Executive members for their tireless efforts, support, and comradery. Again, I am humbled by the commitment and selflessness of our community, and the positive energy that our current Executive brings to this Association.

Calen Slezash  
18U Rep

### **Director at Large (Challenger) Report**

Challenger Baseball had a wonderful spring season for 2019! No rainouts, so our ball players were able to enjoy their weekly program from Opening Day through to Closing Ceremonies (no program was held on long weekends). Regular programming was held on the Delsom Turf, which provided a flat playing surface that was free of diversions and close to washroom facilities, and also had ample accessible parking.

The season started well before April, with a photo shoot held in November to prepare for January marketing activities. Challenger was heavily promoted on social media, at the North Delta Recreation Centres, and through Reach Child & Youth Development Services. Two indoor “try it” sessions were held in February and March, with follow-up to participants to encourage speedy registration. 20 children and youth registered for the spring season.

Concurrently with the push to reach potential Challenger players, advertising through Facebook was done to find volunteer coaches and buddies. The program was successful in attracting three volunteer coaches / assistant coaches, and approximately 12 volunteer buddies. Our coaches attended a weekend training session held by the Jays Care Foundation in March. Volunteer buddies were orientated to their roles prior to the first session.

The Challenger Program was certified through the official Challenger league for 2019 (and brought up to good standing by retro-certifying for 2018), in affiliation with Little League Canada. This certification enabled the program to access the Jays Care coach and coordinator training and to receive t-shirts and ball caps for players and volunteers. In addition, funding will be provided in early July 2019 based on registered number of players. This funding is intended to provide for equipment for the Challenger program in future.

Our volunteer and parent group was very active and supportive of the program. A bottle drive was held to raise funds for an end-of-season party, which was very successful, and allowed for Challenger participants to enjoy a pizza party and goody bags. The program also ordered Challenger hoodies for the first time, which several players, families, and volunteers took advantage of. To conclude the season, the Challenger program will play their final game following the official closing ceremony at Annieville Park, and receive their medals and special photo certificates following the game.

#### **Recommendations for 2019/20**

- ❑ Repeat the Try It sessions at no charge, and encourage this year’s players to come out and get re-acquainted with the game.
- ❑ Push early registrations in January – February to avoid last-minute planning and allow for earlier ordering of the Jays t-shirts and caps.
- ❑ Hold a parent/caregiver meeting (in real life or virtually) to talk about volunteer roles for the upcoming season, such as Team Parent (send out weekly reminder emails), Fund Raising Team, Social Planner, Photographer/Social Media, etc. If parents are not interested (although some have already indicated interest), contact the MLA’s office to request student volunteers (MLA Kahlon has indicated his office has volunteers to spare).

- Consider initiating the new Senior Challenger League in North Delta, which is for players age 16+, and was just started by Challenger this year.