

# NORTH DELTA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Building Champions Since 1962



## 2024 NDBA AGM Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, June 26th 2024

**Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Mackie Clubhouse

**Present:** Andrew Cuttall, Amy Pawar, Angela Crowther, Brent Dingsdale, Carey Dingsdale, Cheryl Vaz, Chris Adams, Daniela Filby, Jen Bernabe, Kathy McDougall, Kevin Wardrop, Lisa Ormston, L.J. Eiben, Michelle Delf, Spencer Latimer, Steve Ormston.

**Not Present:** Amanda Gresham, Brad Woof, Debbie McMurray, Graeme McMurray, Lauren Buick, Mark Deeg, Matt Grant, Michelle Miller, Nancie Adams, Scott Bowie.

**Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 2023 NDBA AGM by Brent Dingsdale and second by Lisa Ormston. All in favour.**

### 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>Not present.</b>
Registrar	Carey Dingsdale	<i>Report attached.</i>
Director At Large (Inclusive Programs Representative)	Nancie Adams	<b>Not present.</b>  Lots of rainouts on Sundays. Tournament this weekend at Swangard Stadium.
Director At Large (18U AAA)	Matt Grant	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Not present.</b>
Umpire-In-Chief	Graeme McMurray	<b>Not present.</b>
Director at Large (Umpires)	Brad Woof	<b>Not present.</b>
Coaching Director	Mark Deeg	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Not present.</b>
Field Manager	Brent Dingsdale	<i>Report attached.</i>
Concession Manager	Daniela Filby	<i>Report attached.</i>
Publicity Director	Vacant	
Marketing Director	Angela Crowther	<i>Report attached.</i>
Equipment Manager	Spencer Latimer	<i>Report attached.</i>
Uniform Manager	Debbie McMurray/Cheryl Vaz	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Cheryl present. Debbie not present.</b>
Tournament Director	Amy Pawar	<i>Report attached.</i>
Scheduler	Steve Ormston	<i>Report attached.</i>
Social Director	Amanda Gresham	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Not present.</b>
Yearbook Director	Amanda Gresham	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Not present.</b>
Fundraising Director	Scott Bowie	<b>Not present.</b>
5U Representative	Andrew Cuttell	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Not present.</b>
6U Representative	Kevin Wardrop	<i>Report attached.</i>
7U Representative	Lauren Buick	<i>Report attached.</i> <b>Not present.</b>
9U Representative	Lisa Ormston	<i>Report attached.</i>

11U Representative	Amy Pawar	<i>Report attached.</i>
13U Representative	Angela Crowther	<i>Report attached.</i>
15U Representative		<i>Chris oversaw this division. A - Team is still battling for the provincials. AA is heading to a tournament this coming weekend.</i>
18U Representative	Kathy McDougall	<i>Report attached.</i>
JR Mens (not a voting position)	Blake Brown	<b>Not present.</b>

#### **4. New Business**


**5. Motion to adjourn at 750pm by Kathy McDougall and seconded by Steve Ormston.**

**Next Executive meeting is on Wednesday September 4th at 7pm - Mackie Clubhouse. Please arrive on time.**

## **REPORTS**

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

Hello everyone. Another great Spring season is in the books and final preparations for summerball are in full swing. We wish all our summerball teams the best of luck as they attempt to qualify for their respective Provincial championships. Before we know it Fall Ball will be kicking off in Mid September for 11U and up.

We've worked through many initiatives together as a board to improve things and offer more opportunities for young North Delta athletes to play baseball in their community. Registration numbers continue to recover from the pandemic set backs and are near 2019 numbers. We hope to eclipse those numbers in 2025 and push towards all time highs of the past. As president I wish to sincerely thank all of our board members for their time and dedication to provide players the opportunity to play from our 5U Blastball Division all the way up to 18U Midget and Junior Mens. We also are passionate about our Challenger Division continuing out at Delsom Turf so that no child is left out from enjoying this game.

We continued with bi-weekly umpire payroll this season which was well received. We launched an 18UAAA program at Mackie to complete our high performance stream from 13U up which has been a great success. For the first time in recent memory this Spring we had 3 North Delta based 18U teams playing baseball at Mackie Park. We are also fielding three 11U Summer teams which another great positive. We updated our team fundraising & sponsorship rules to reflect current times and specific team needs.

We still have lots of work to do. We need to update our written procedures on items such as call ups, drafts, etc. to ensure there is no confusion. We need to improve coordination between Div. Reps who share fields. We can always strive to be better. In that spirit we call to new faces with fresh ideas to join the board for 2025. We need to also streamline summerball uniforms.

As president on the BC Minor level and upcoming AGM in October we need to be cautious of newer developments such as 11U MSET tournaments being held on May Long weekend and what that means for traditional 11U tournaments. We need to review 13UAAA in Spring and if changes need to be made. Especially in how it has impacted our 13UAA program this year. We know of the struggles our neighboring BC Minor Club Newton is going through and will support them in their new initiative to fight on and survive.

We need to continue to press the City of Delta for an improved indoor batting cage. Lights at Mackie. Addressing the scoreboard there which is in bad shape. We need to chase after any grants or fundraising that can assist us in these efforts.

If someone steps up to be president this year I will automatically revert to the "Past President" role on the board for 1 year. This allows me to support the new president as they learn the role and attend board meetings. It has been an honor to serve on the NDBA Executive board for 10 seasons, 4 seasons as President.

### **Vice President**

**L.J. Eiben**

There were no significant items to bring up in 2024. Spring baseball kicked off on time, and we were able to offer a program for all age divisions, including an 18UAAA team and the Challenger program. We hosted opening and closing ceremonies, the Jeff Francis Mosquito and Victoria Day Tadpole tournaments, and a coach's appreciation night. Thank you to all the Board members, coaches and other volunteers for your help. Summer ball seasons are starting, and we have a great turnout, fielding teams from 8U to 18UAAA. We need to fill critical positions on the board this year, so I will be looking to recruit candidates for these roles. I am willing to return next season to the executive team. I am also willing to take on the president role in the future. Chris would be a great mentor, and I don't think this is the right time for that transition, but when he is looking to start that succession process, I am willing to take it on.

### **Secretary Report**

**Jen Bernabe**

This is my 6th year as Secretary for NDBA. I want to first thank all the executive members, coaches & parents for the endless hours volunteered this season.

It was great to see for the second year in a row that most of the executive roles were filled. My hope is that all current members will want to continue with their role into next year. If you know someone who 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, 2024. 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, 2024. The bank accounts have a combined balance of \$150,000 which is approximately \$10,000 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, summer ball expenses and outstanding gym fees).

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

### **Registrar Report**

**Carey Dingsdale**

This 2024 season we had approx 388 registrations from Challenger through to Jr. Men's. (This is excluding the refunds we issued.)

Challenger - 22

5U - 30

6U - 42

7U - 36

9U - 52

11U - 57

13U - 37

15U - 28

18U -39

PBL - 21

Jr. Men's - 22

### **Other Registrations:**

- Winter training we had approx 100 players partake in this in the 9U/11U/13U/15U divisions

- Pitching clinics being offered to 16 9U players
- MSET to 18 11U players
- 18U AAA division was formed this year and we have 16 players
- Jeff Francis Tournamnet - we added in 1 additional team
- 8U tournamnet - we have 7 teams registered

#### Summer Ball:

- 8U - 12 players
- 9U - 11 player
- 11U - 36 players (3 teams) total of 2 A teams and 1 AA team
- 13U A/AAA (2 teams) 13 players for A - ***AAA team has not registered for summer ball yet***
- 15U - 12 players
- 18U AA - 14 players

#### Fall Ball:

- currently opened for 18U AAA (no registrations just yet)
- Fall Ball for other divisions - Yet to be created

I have saved all these registration lists in SharePoint for future reference, by year. Also I have saved Fall ball/ Winter Training/ MSET/ Pitching clinics/ and Summer ball registrations

#### **Fees:**

We did have to increase fees this season - due to the new field usage fee. It was agreed upon to increase all divisions by \$10, and to add a \$20 field usage fee to divisions 9U and up. This was also agreed for summer ball and single season teams (15U AA and 18U AAA) saw an \$60 increase to account for spring and summer).

#### **Recommendations for fee increases in the future**

All fee increase (spring/summer/fall, and high performance) should be completed at Budget meeting. We tend to have long budget meetings and defer summer/fall fee until a later date and in my experiences executives are much busier in the spring/summer and not available to discuss. Furthermore, we tend to forget what we agreed upon in December and are scrambling to make a decision - which sometimes does not allow for consistence. If all the fees are determined the registrar can have all information and work on these at their leisure and have them ready to go within the allotted time frame.

#### **Sports Engine Processing Fee**

We as an executive also made the decision to no longer absorb the Sports Engine 4.3% processing fees as we have done in the past. Many of our surrounding associations have gone this route. Cost have risen and we felt it was more economical to have the families directly see this cost as a add on to registration vs. us increase fees even more. Now and going forward all registration fees are subject to the 4.3% fee on top of our advertised price - which is stated in the

registration application. Change is hard and some families resisted this; however, over all it has been accepted as "cost of doing business".

This completed my 10<sup>th</sup> year with NDBA! Wow there has been a lot in these 10 years. All 3 of our children have played for NDBA in their younger years. Our Sons played/plays at the PBL level and our daughter moved to softball after she completed 11U. We have had many highs and lows on the field and in the board room. Volunteering is a thankless job - and I appreciate all that have stepped up and continue to step up. We try our best to make the right decisions; sometimes we strike out and others we hit home runs. Like the kids who don our uniforms we do this for the love of the game and to ensure our little NDBA keeps offering ball for years to come.

As for returning - I am willing to hang up my NDBA hat if someone wants this position. If this position remains vacant I will stay on for 1 more year - but might not be as present at meetings.

Thank you all for the memories.

### **Director at Large (Inclusive Programs Representative) Report**

**Nancie Adams**

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

**Graeme McMurray**

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

**Brad Woof**

### **Director at Large (18U AAA Representative)**

**Matt Grant**

For the first time in over 20 years, the North Delta Baseball Association welcomed an 18U Midget BC AAA baseball team into the fold – the [North Delta Pirates](#).

A soft launch of the team occurred in September, 2023 with an 18U Fall Ball team. This was followed with a by-invitation, winter training program from November, 2023 through early March, 2024.

Founded on the principles of excellence, teamwork, and personal growth, the North Delta Pirates set sail into their inaugural 18U AAA single season with first games in early April, 2024. The team found their feet after a few early season games and (at the time of writing) holds a 17-win, 8-loss and 1-tie record and seems bound to represent North Delta in this year's Provincial tournament in late July. Eight of 18 teams in BCMHA's 18U AAA bracket earn a spot into Provincials and the North Delta Pirates currently sit a half game back of second in the standings.

The 2024 North Delta Pirates is composed of 16 players, 14 of which come from North Delta and/or grew up playing baseball in the NDBA, one player from Richmond, and one international student from Tokyo who resides with a North Delta homestay family. It was an important early

goal to assemble a team of players of a size (14-16) that would ensure that all players would be engaged and that all families considered it an outstanding experience.

The team is fairly balanced in age, comprised of seven senior players (Grade 12), two junior players (Grade 11), and seven rookie players (Grade 10). The team has four coaches, including Head Coach and Team Manager Paul Goumans, Head Coach Jeff Stebbings, Assistant Coach Michael Stoochnoff, and Assistant Coach Shaun Jones.

There has been a lot of effort that has gone into the establishment of the North Delta Pirates by coaches, players, parents and an administrative team. The NDBA Executive and President have shown very strong support of the team, helping with communication and in necessary administrative responsibilities, including the establishment of a transparent funding and budget model for the team that provides the foundation for prudent and fiscal management of the team into future years.

Communication tools and tactics, including news releases, a [North Delta Pirates website \(www.northdeltapirates.ca\)](#), North Delta Pirates' social ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter \(X\)](#)), and more have provided opportunities for story-telling, connection, media and fundraising. With sections devoted to [player](#) and [coach](#) profiles, ongoing [game recaps](#), a [fan club](#), [sponsorship](#), the team [schedule](#) and the 18U AAA [standings](#), the site received over 11 thousand page views in the first three-and-a-half months of existence with visitors from 17 countries. The North Delta Pirates can be contacted at [northdeltapirates@gmail.com](mailto:northdeltapirates@gmail.com).

A key strength of this team has been in its engagement: player engagement, family engagement, community engagement, coach engagement, NDBA engagement and more. From an early stage, the team has had an aim to create a dynamic and competitive environment for players who are not only passionate about the game but also dedicated to reaching new heights in their baseball journey. It has been intentional to seek out players, coaches, and families who share a commitment to excel at the next level while fostering a team-first philosophy, both on and off the field.

After the North Delta Pirates single-season concludes, the team will be in a better position to more holistically assess strengths and weaknesses, including whether there are conversations worth having about the possibilities of launching a college prep team within North Delta or in collaboration with a neighboring community.

With its legacy, strength in coaching, and tight-knit communities, Delta has a strong history of generating baseball players who have excelled at some of the highest levels. This continues to be true. Younger players are looking for opportunities to compete at higher levels and the NDBA may want to give some serious thought to how that could happen within a smaller-than-average community that consistently punches well above its weight with respect to coaching and player talent.

The BCMBA requires applications to be received to its college prep program in August of the year proceeding. If there is appetite within North Delta to consider a college prep team in the

2026 year, this would mean submitting an application in August 2025. We will have more data to guide decisions in this regard after the conclusion of the 2024 single season in July / August.

Matthew Grant has filled the role of 18U AAA Director at Large with the NDBA since September of 2023 and intends to continue in the position for the coming 2024/2025 year.

### **Coaching Director Report**

**Mark Deeg**

It was another successful season from a coaching perspective, we saw numerous new coaches complete their NCCP registrations and their coaches. This year we had 5 coaches attend the BCMBA NCCP Conference up from 2 in 2023.

Quality coaches and candidates are a strength of the North Delta Baseball association, and it was awesome to see coaches working together and focused on development at all of our age group and levels. We are running 8U, 9U, 11U A, 11U, A, 11U AA, 13U A, 13U AA/AAA, 15U A, 15U AA, 18U AA, 18U AAA summer/single season teams, and we had fantastic turnout for our evaluations for all age groups. This interest in summer ball is a testament to the great coaching we saw throughout the spring.

Looking at the younger age groups, we did see many parents/families step up and step into coaching roles this year and make for successful 7U, 6U, and 5U seasons. I am looking forward to seeing these parents/coaches graduate to coaching older divisions as their players age up over the next few years. I did receive one formal complaint with regard to a coach this year and the division coordinator and I were able to sort it out without any further issues. Furthermore, I did receive feedback from several families regarding the structure of our 9U and 11U age groups. Several coaches shared with me that we should be skewing our schedule more to practice time and less to game time. I agree with this sentiment that with 3 games per week at the 11U level it does not leave ample time for practice especially with how many multi-sport kids play baseball. My recommendation would be a 2 game per week cap at the 11U level for most of the spring and then adding more games as needed for the playoff part of the schedule. I would make a similar recommendation for the 9U level. Practice time is extremely valuable for these age groups as it gives every player more reps and touches of the ball than what they will see in most games.

11U did run coaches group chat this year via WhatsApp that helped immensely with inter-team coach communication, and I would recommend this be implemented at all divisions if possible. This allowed coaches from each team to seamlessly communicate with each other around schedule adjustments, rain-outs, and development and practice ideas.

For next year, I would like to continue to leverage our greatest asset which is the strength of our coaches to run additional age-group development sessions during the spring season, especially as it relates to extra pitching, catching, and hitting clinics. The new indoor facility and Cromie Park will be extraordinarily helpful once it is completed, in the meantime we should explore indoor facility options for winter training and additional development opportunities.

Best regards and looking forward to the 2025 Season.

**Field Manager Report**  
**Brent Dingsdale**

No real major projects at our parks this season. The City replaced the wood stands at Westview with aluminum stands.

Unfortunately, the City started charging User groups per hour for grass field usage this year. \$2.25 / hr for Tier 1 grass fields. \$1.50 / hr for Tier 2 grass fields. What the City considers Tier 1 and Tier 2 is confusing. Ex Sunbury is Tier1, Mackie is Tier2. The City has acknowledged the Tiering is problematic and needs to be addressed. To manage the additional costs, we applied a surcharge to members with their Spring registration.

The scoreboard remains a problem at Mackie. Looks awful. Hope to find time this summer to try and clean it up. We may need to consider purchasing a new scoreboard.

A lot of changes at Mackie this season. 2024 was the inaugural season for our 18U AAA North Delta Pirates. Mackie was the home to 18U AA North Delta Rays Gold, 18U AA North Delta Rays Black, 18U AAA North Delta Pirates, Jr Mens North Delta Rays, and the Delta (Premier-PBL) Blue Jays. The Delta (Jr- PBL) Blue Jays moved out of Mackie and made Dugald their home park. The Premier team played Tues games at Latrace in Richmond. We time sliced Thurs evenings to support both a Premier and a 18U AAA practice. Tues nights were reserved for 18U AAA practices. Wed nights were reserved for Premier practices. Mon, Fri, Sat evenings were reserved for our 18U AA teams. Sun evening for Jr Mens. A daunting task to manage all these teams on Mackie but it went well. Hardly any field conflicts. A big thank you to Paul Goumans and his parent volunteers for going above and beyond in taking care of the Mackie field and seacan. Mackie is in the best shape it has been in, in years.

Ran the Fraser Delta interlock with Steve Ormston. Steve Ormston replaced Cary Boyce as our scheduler. I mentored Steve throughout the year, training him to take over as the Field Manger. Steve was tremendous. A huge asset to our Association.

Thanks to the Executive and parent volunteers for making this a successful season.

**Concession Manager Report**  
**Daniela Filby**

Another baseball season is approaching year end!! Welcome summerball !!

This year we have had increased sales again! A majority of sales have been on the square machine. I will be planning for next season to make a very large purchase at the beginning of the season to try and sustain the need for both concessions for the entire ball season. I have someone who continues to make all the candy bags for me. A huge thank you to her.

We had our inspections at the beginning of the season, all went well. I would like to introduce an air fryer for French Fries next season. I would also like to look into a slurpee machine as well. I feel that the return on our money would be fantastic for our association.

I would like to see at the beginning of next season that ALL team parents attend the “Team Parent” meeting at the beginning of the season. I can’t stress enough how important this meeting is. The concession is a huge part of our revenue to NDBA for paying umpires and such. This year the meeting was strongly attended by 9U. Next season we NEED a turn out for 9U, 11U and 13U. The issues that arose this year and continue to arise on a weekly basis could all be avoided if the meeting was attended. Regardless if you are new or a returning parent. It is a refresher for everyone.

I would like to turn the back room at the Annieville concession as a storage room that is under lock and key of course to keep the stock. The BBQ can be stored in the main part of the concession. I feel that with a large purchase it will make my life that much easier to make less trips to Burnaby and stock will always be available, especially as this year and next year my son doesn’t even play at these fields.

Repairs/replacement: Awnings at both concessions will need to be replaced and light fixtures at Annieville will need to be replaced. Doors at Annieville needs to be repaired badly.

I will return for one last season to not leave NDBA absent from a concession manager. I will also run the “team parent” meeting and “scorekeeper clinic” next season.

Thanks for having me on the board, if there is anyone who wants to take over now please let know and I would be willing to train them for next season.

### **Marketing Director Report** **Angela Crowther**

Due to a number of other commitments – including my responsibilities as 13U Division Rep, coaching with my daughter’s softball team, and work commitments – I had very little time to devote to marketing efforts this year.

Most of my time was focused on posting content to our social media channels to promote fall ball, winter training and spring registration as well as special announcements and holidays. The channel gets a bit more active in the spring when we post tournament results and other highlights from the season. As I don’t have a lot of opportunities to get to the baseball field these days I always appreciate when others send me photos/highlights to post.

Ideally the person in this role would have more time to get out to activities for the various age groups to capture content.

Now that the spring season has wrapped, I will be posting the summer roster announcements and look forward to sharing updates from the summer season.

I feel that there's more that could be done from a marketing perspective to promote registration particularly for the spring season, but I just don't have the time to drive those activities. If there is someone else who is keen to take on the marketing role, I would be happy to pass it on. If not, I can continue to support with posting to social media, but don't have time to do anything beyond that.

### **Equipment Manager Report** **Spencer Latimer**

Thank you to the NDBA Executive for allowing me the opportunity to give back to the association that helped my son fall in love with the game of baseball. I never played baseball. Therefore, I never dreamed our son would play baseball. Hockey and Lacrosse were my sports; so, he played and I coached.

Nevertheless, he was drawn to the game. Watching the North Delta Blue Jays practice at Mackie Park throughout the summer excited him. He would throw fly balls to himself in the back yard for hours on end. Finally, we accepted our fate, as baseball parents. We enrolled him with NDBA in spring 2015, despite warnings of "Boring Baseball" from the crew of Lacrosse parents.

Moving from a relatively violent game played in an emotionally charged, confined indoor rink on hot summer days to a cerebral game played in a peaceful, wide open outdoor field with a warm spring breeze was invigorating, yet relaxing. There is no better excuse for doing absolutely nothing on a warm Saturday or Sunday afternoon than watching a baseball game. Truth be told, I fell in love with the game as well.

Steve Ormiston did a fantastic job in this position previously and made my entrance and 1st year experience relatively stress free. I thank him for his mentorship, direction and assistance.

Winter training and spring equipment distribution went smoothly, in my opinion. A couple equipment returns and refit requests from coaches were made. These were rectified with a few scheduled appointments at the Mackie park clubhouse.

Regarding equipment return, see next year's AGM report. Hopefully, the tone of the 2025 report is similar.

Blastball: player equipment is in good order

U6 U7 U8: player equipment is in good order

U9: most player equipment is in good order. Catcher's helmets may need to be addressed.

U11: player equipment is in good order

U13: player equipment is in good order

U15: player equipment is in good order

U18: player equipment is in good order

Sundry equipment Abundant and in good order: tees, bow-nets, L1 and L5 practice baseballs, equipment bags, bat bags, bats, cones, whiffle balls.

Sundry equipment needing attention: ice packs, upper division practice baseballs, first aid packs, throw down bases (Pitcher strip and home plate) score books, line-up cards, baseball buckets.

Upper division baseballs for next season have been ordered, with NDBA logo (logo free of charge). I will review past purchase history for lower division baseballs and order for February 2025 arrival.

### **Uniform Manager Report**

**Debbie McMurray/Cheryl Vaz**

I took over Uniforms this year and my goal was too thin down the stock. We had boxes and boxes of clothing that was not needed and or very old.

After organizing all the jerseys, pants and hats, we made plans to distribute uniforms to the spring league teams. Jerseys were not an issue. Most kids/parents were happy with the fit and look. We had one child that we needed to order a custom order shirt due to fit and size.

There was a lot of pant exchanges through the divisions. I did bring up my point several times that pants should not be handed out to players anymore. It's a lot of work and a lot of exchanges had to be done. Note we are the only association that supplies players with pants. The cost for pants are high and there are so many brands that not one will satisfy the shapes of the players.

We have organized the room so it is easy to find all the uniforms including hats, belts and t-shirts.

We also discarded all the garbage, cardboard, jerseys that were not usable and other materials. There was some moth damage, soiled items and over all old jerseys.

I AM stepping down with a heavy heart. It's time for me to take a break but am still available to assist when needed.

Thank you to all of those that helped me and my family throughout the years. My boys are still involved in the association coaching and playing so you can't get rid of the Vaz family.

### **Tournament Director Report**

**Amy Pawar**

The usual three tournaments will have been hosted by NDBA by the end of this summer. Despite the rainy weather over the May long weekend, The Tadpole Coordinator was able to set up a successful 4 team tournament, and the Jeff Francis with 6 teams was able to complete their games, and still give all teams the Monday of the long weekend off to re-coop before starting their Playoffs! Amy Serres helped organize the skills competition, which allowed all players to participate, which really promoted inclusivity and brought on some real excitement amongst the players. It was wonderful to see, and am very thankful for Amy and her expertise in running such events! This summer we have 8 teams registered in the 8U Summer tournament.

My suggestions going forward:

- Perhaps look at Jeff Francis as a Summer ball 11UAA and A tournament and using the Gunderson and Annieville fields to run the tournament. This year we were able to see how few tournaments are being hosted for this age group, and there is a lot of competition to sign up for them. May long weekend we are competing with some other bigger tournaments hosted by other associations. Holding it in the summer would bring us more teams – and allows for another tournament over the summer.
- The initial work to run the tournaments can definitely be done by the Tournament Director, however, overall – the age group coordinators could potentially take over once that work has been completed (setting up the pools, registration etc.) Typically, the age group reps will have to be at the field with their teams, and would be easier to organize the volunteers.

Overall, a great season! I am happy to help the new person in this role if necessary to help them get going.

### **Scheduler Report** **Steve Ormston**

2024 was my first year in the scheduler position and there were lots of learning curves. Sports engine had its issues that at times were difficult and frustrating to navigate. For the most part I had able to get things sorted and working for teams. When it came to booking field times for team we only had one major issue but both coaches of both teams were understanding and the coach that had made the mistake quickly realized it was his error. I assisted Brent with the Fraser delta interlock and the 35 teams across 4 divisions and it went relatively smooth in my opinion. With 60 teams to set up and give access to on sports engine for spring, and only 8 for summer, I have figured out a way to stream line things and have the teams set up for access quicker than the first go around. I plan to stay in this position for the 2025 season if everyone lets me and will be able to take what I learned from this year, and make things better for next.

### **Social Director Report** **Amanda Gresham**

We were able to host a coaches and executives appreciation night and it went really well.

### **Yearbook Director Report** **Amanda Gresham**

Yearbooks were unable to get to print in time.

### **Fundraising Director Report** **Scott Bowie**

### **5U Representative Report** **Andrew Cuttell**

This was my first year of volunteering for the NDBA and although there were some ups and

downs, it was enjoyable. We had 30 kids and split into 3 teams; 6 parents volunteered to help coach. When we played the games, we all found that splitting the teams in half really helped with the flow of games, so on any given night we had a total of 3 games going at the same time. I hope that all the kids had a great fun time learning the fundamentals of baseball. From skills and drills to games on the field playing against some of their peers that they have gone to school with. We had one rainout day, and we were lucky enough to extend our season another week thanks to Steve (scheduling). We only had a few parent volunteers step up to help us and it was greatly appreciated. I wish more stepped up and help.

I did run into some issues with Parents and Player code of conducts being issued as a reminder. Some minor issues arose but was dealt according and no further issues were present.

With the opening and closing ceremonies, I'd like to see more players show, but with timing of the year, it was deemed that other siblings within the household also had other commitments, so it seemed that "Baseball was a second priority". The closing ceremonies on Father's Day could have been scheduled a little better.

The one thing I found amazing was the joint effort of combining the U5 and U6 for the "skills day" at the closing ceremonies. Kids really had fun hitting a "different ball" and although they didn't know a lot of the older kids, the consensus was that it was very well done and all had fun, even in the pouring rain.

Areas of improvement:

- Have a coaching clinic for all volunteers Coaches and Parent Volunteers before the season starts. A lot of parents were overwhelmed and didn't want to participate. But we had a few step up and was greatly needed.
- 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.
- The coaches have been asked near the end of the season, if summer ball would be available for this age group and going up, U5, U6 etc. Something to look into? Or extend the current season from 10 weeks to 14/15 weeks?

If possible, I'd like to move up to the U6 division for the 2025 season.

## **6U Representative Report**

**Kevin Wardrop**

This season we had 42 kids for the 6u division. Over half of them were returning players from 5u. The kids were divided among 5 teams (Orioles, Mariners, Athletics Royals and Pirates). Every Saturday, two teams would play each other with a rotating bye/practice week for the 5<sup>th</sup> team. For our Tuesday practice sessions, all 5 teams were on the field at one time and coaches set up stations that focused on a specific skill. Each team spent 7-10 minutes at a station before rotating to the next one. Coaches seemed to like this model as it took the pressure off individuals.

If a team's coach couldn't make it to a practice, the remaining coaches divided that team up and took on an extra player or two. As well teams had access to other types of equipment, not provided by the league at this age (bow nets, throwing targets).

To end our season the 5u and 6u joined together and had a mini "skills" competition. We used the station model again and had the kids run through mini games that were more fun based. These activities included: fastest base runner, longest hit, throwing to knock over bottles and by far the kids favorite, water balloon throwing at the coach.

The season was a success. The largest challenge was probably the weather. I can sum up the season with one word: Patience. This is nothing new to a coach or parent of this age group.

## **7U Representative Report**

### **Lauren Buick**

What a difference it made graduating from the mini backstops to Annieville Upper field for games. The players felt like big shots and took the game more seriously. The level of improvement by all the players from the beginning of the season to the end was great to see.

We started off with 38 players, 4 teams and about 12 coaches/assistant coaches. There were maybe 2 players that stopped showing up midway through the season. 9-10 players per team is ideal.

There were so many requests for players to be put with school friends and teams to be put together based on playing other sports together. I would not recommend making one team from one school or one team from another sport as attendance was an issue when a birthday or another sport was scheduled.

We had some hiccups with uniforms at the beginning of the season and it was a bit of a last-minute scramble, but it all got sorted out. Players at this age range in size, especially hat size. There were a few that needed adult hats but luckily there was enough hat inventory. All jerseys ordered were size small - some players could have done with an extra small or medium as requested on the registration form. Pants were an issue as well - they were all different brands, styles, and fits. I would recommend sticking with the cheaper T-ball pants with elastic waist and calf.

We started the season off with just the tee and then progressed to coaches pitching and eventually used the pitching sling in games (if unsuccessful 3x, coaches pitched 3x, then tee as last resort). Most were able to hit off the sling or coach's pitch. To keep the game moving quickly, multiple balls were queued and after each pitch, the balls were placed behind the back catcher until the next batter. It helped speed the game along not throwing the ball back to the coach after each pitch.

There is now a pitching sling in the equipment box at Annieville Elementary (mini fields). This was a great addition to practices (not only for the players but for the coaches too). There are some tricks to operating it.

Practices were Thursdays - 2 teams practiced @ 5pm, 2 teams @ 6pm alternating Upper Annieville and the mini field each week. Games were Saturdays at 2 or 3:30. That was just enough time for games. We typically got about 4 innings in.

There were some questions about rules from the coaches before the season started so we made some amendments and clarifications:

-Can baserunners advance more than one base? If the ball is hit to the outfield (hard grounder or in the air) it's a double and the runners can advance two bases (coaches say "take two"). No additional bases can be taken.

-Back catchers if a Tee is used? They load the tee, batters must wait until the catcher is out of the way (back catchers only if there were at least 8 players even with pitching)

-After May 15, outs or after 3 pitches back to the tee? No outs while batting or base running, keep the base runners on the bases, no strike outs (at any point of the season), we didn't end up scorekeeping

-Coaches pitch underhand or can pitch from knee over hand

-For the teams with 10 players, no need to sit out or share a player with the other team (6 infield, 4 outfield - left, left center, right and right center)

We had a few rainouts but by the end of the season, all games were made up. Some extra field time had to be scheduled or a practice ended up being a game. We also extended the season 1 week past the closing ceremonies. There are always questions about why the season must end on Father's Day. Closing ceremonies and the All-Star game did not have a great turnout due to questionable weather, sports conflicts, and other Father's Day plans.

There was some feedback of maybe trying to incorporate a fun training session pairing the older players with the young ones or having stations run by the older kids for the young kids (like a sports day) during the closing ceremonies. Or, having the finals played before the closing ceremonies so when the t-ball all-star games wrap up, then the young ones make their way down to watch the older players finish their game prior to the closing ceremonies.

The coaches had a training session with the Coaching Director. It was important to have the coaches on the same page about implementing and developing proper techniques at a young age. It was also important for coaches to understand that it is okay to correct and remind players constantly. The squishy "T-shirt" balls helped build player's confidence. They were a great addition to each team's equipment because it helped in making them not as afraid of the ball and helped them understand the process of getting behind the ball to make the catch or at least blocking and knocking it down.

It was another great season. Lots of hitting and plays being made. Everyone had fun. I think most will return next year.

## **9U Representative Report**

**Lisa Ormston**

9U Tadpole baseball had 52 registered players this year, and we created 4 teams of 13. I would have loved to be able to boost our registration this year for this age division, but I do believe that we will see our registration increase for 9U in the coming years. 7U and 6U both have healthy numbers, and lots of enthusiastic kids who want to play ball.

9U evals happened during a cold and rainy Sunday (again). Next year I do think we should aim for indoor evaluation times for this age group - 2 weeknights would be able to cover enough time slots to get everyone through, while providing options for families with conflicts. It's hard on the kids in the cold, and we don't get a real sense of their abilities when their fingers are frozen and their shoes are soaked through.

At our draft night, I emphasized to coaches about 9U spring focus being solely on player development, rather than wins. Each coach was required to sign a printed copy of the coaches' code of conduct, and we discussed that the three things to focus on are:

- 1) Players having fun;
- 2) Players developing and increasing their skills; and
- 3) Players wanting to come back to play ball again next year.

These 3 key takeaways truly apply to all age divisions, especially during spring season. Overall, our coaches this year were amazing, and there were far fewer conflicts and I thank each and every coach for remembering that these kids should first and foremost be having fun. Thank you also to all the team parents, I know that this can be an invisible job, with lots of work behind the scenes.

Our 9U Victoria Day tournament went well, even with only 4 teams. We did reach out to neighboring associations, looking for 2 more teams to join us, but did not get any takers. The Skills Competition was a lot of fun as always, and the concession was very successful over the weekend. The VDTT trophy did not get repaired before the tournament, but the NDBA executive did vote to replace it for this year. Going forward, the winning team will be responsible for getting the team's name engraved at Winner's Circle (at the NDBA expense).

As usual, 9U wrapped with the Championship game at 9am before closing ceremonies. Semi Finalists were 9U Giants and 9U Blue Jays. After a rain delay, and a second rain delay, the game was ended after 5 innings, and the Giants were named champions.

Two summerball teams have been cut - 9U coached by Steve Ormston with 13 players, and 8U coached by Sean Starchuk with 12 players.

## **11U Representative Report**

**Amy Pawar**

This season our Coaches took a more collaborative approach in forming teams. While a formal draft was completed with the Vice President being the Executive in attendance aside from myself

– the goal of all 5 Head Coaches was to make balanced teams to ensure optimal development for all players. Overall, with a 7 team interlock with Surrey Canadian, it was a very successful season. We will always have the odd difficult coach, regardless of the Interlock or season, and we will strive to ensure that there's always respectful interactions among all coaches, parents and players. The White Sox finished first in the Interlock, and the Rockies beat the White Sox in the final in a nail biter game!

Feedback from the coaches on the Interlock was that they would like to see less games so that coaches had more time to spend with players in practices, working on their skills. So instead of 3 games a week – looking at 2 games and 2 practices a week. Another suggestion was that we take part in a larger interlock so that we can have 2 pools. Other feedback was that we re-evaluate how we evaluate players for the Spring, we evaluate two ages at the same level, yet separate them when we do a draft was one piece, and another was that we run our evaluations late in the winter, before the weather has warmed up – and some players may not evaluate to the level they are actually at. Having a sub committee formed to review the evaluation process perhaps with input from the Coaching Director, and with feedback from coaches from a variation of age groups – might help us come up with something more effective. Also acknowledging the piece on late registrations who are placed on teams, and not evaluated. Perhaps having an executive come and help evaluate these players at a practice before full placement would help mitigate mid season issues that could arise, such as one incident we had this season.

Because of the development of the players, we found ourselves in a very unique position where we could field 3 summer ball teams. After conferring with the President and BC Minor Reps, we were able to commit a AA and two A teams this year. We also have 3 sets of very committed coaches this season – which is very exciting to see. I look forward to seeing how the teams do through the summer.

I originally was not intending to run again for this position – but have since reconsidered, and would take this position again should I be voted in.

Lastly, I would like the Executive to consider an amendment to Bylaw 4.3 of our Constitution and Bylaws. Due to some recent actions of other Executives towards me, I found myself reviewing what is currently in our Bylaws and noticed that we do not have any clauses around holding Executives accountable to their actions towards other Executives. I would like to see something added around effective communication and Bullying and Harassment. While we may all be Volunteers, we are asking Coaches and Players to adhere to a Code of Conduct and we, as an Executive should strive to be setting an example to ensure “Practice what we preach”. With no repercussions to actions, there is no way to ensure a safe place for Executives to come and volunteer their time in a safe and respectful manner. My recommendation is a sub committee comprised of people who have experience in Governance to help draft some verbiage around these clauses.

Thank you very much, and I hope to be back to support the age group another year!

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

The 13U division saw some great success this year. We had one team in fall 2023 and offered winter training for both the AA and A level. Both sessions were well attended. For spring we had two A teams – the Yankees and the Angels – and one AA team. All spring teams played in a Fraser Delta Interlock.

The AA Rays finished first in regular season and went undefeated in the playoffs, winning their final against the Vancouver Mounties 5-0. The A Yankees made it to the Tier 1 Interlock finals, but unfortunately came up a bit short after a tough battle, losing to the Ladner Bombers 5-3, but still a strong outing.

As we move into the summer season, we will have one A team, coached by Ritchie Sandu and Scott Bowie. Evaluations were held on June 13 for this team, which is a bit later than typical, but initial interest from the division was low, so we weren't sure if an evaluation would be needed. We ended up going ahead as we had interest from a number of out of club players due to Newton not fielding a 13U A summer team.

As a result of their success in the spring season, the AA team has been forced to move up to AAA by BC Minor for the summer season, citing rule 9.04 B Note iv, which states:

“The 13U Directors for BCMBA may also request for an association to “play up” despite having numbers to the contrary. This request would be based on the following:

Spring Interlock performance

Tournament results

The 13U Director's own observations throughout the year

Feedback from other associations during inter-locking”

This decision was contested by the 13U AA coaches, with support from the NDBA President and an appeal was submitted but denied.

I am greatly appreciative of all coaches who volunteered their time to develop the young athletes playing baseball in North Delta. It was challenging finding enough coaches for the spring season as many who have coached in the past had children playing on the AA team, so appreciate those who stepped forward to help.

As my son is moving up to 15U for the fall and beyond I will not be returning as the 13U rep. If there is no one else interested in taking over the 15U rep position, I may be able to take that on. I have become increasingly busy this past year, joining the coaching staff with my daughter's softball team and with other work commitments, but with a number of volunteers leaving key positions on the executive, I don't want to leave the association hanging.

**15U Representative Report**

**18U Representative Report**

## **Kathy McDougall**

Fallball – no fall ball for Midget AA, but Midget AAA ran a successful fall ball program. Hoping Myro will be interested in running one this year. Midget AAA already advertising.

Spring – 2 very tight teams (11 and 12), black and gold, headed by Myro Damaso and Craig White respectively. Both teams had ups and downs. We got to have quite a few opportunities for Bantam kids from both teams to play up and anyone who wanted to play baseball got to play as often as they wanted. There were very few gr 12s as most were on the AAA team. Hoping to retain the gr 11s from this year for next year as we needed a little more leadership. Merged both teams into one for a spring tournament in Newton. Both teams loved the new jerseys, maybe we get a hat that match a little better for next year now that we have run down all the excess stock.

Summerball – summerball team is ready to go, one last minute drop out, sadly AFTER his jersey had been ordered. Received a request from Newton for 2 players who eventually decided not to play summer, requests came in from Cloverdale when their team folded, by the time we figured out how we could assess, their team was on again...and today got a request from a New West parent about their kid wanting to play. Leaving that up to the coaches. *Will need a tryout release and host a tryout, steps will need to be taken to avoid a fine from BC minor – Myro is aware. Chris will need to be in the loop step by step.* Hoping these kids all have a blast this summer and can't wait to cheer them on!!

## **2024/2025 EXECUTIVE**

PRESIDENT: Chris Adams

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):

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (18U AAA Representative): Matt Grant

COACHING DIRECTOR: Mark Deeg

FIELD MANAGER:

CONCESSION MANAGER: Daniela Filby

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

MARKETING DIRECTOR:

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Spencer Latimer

UNIFORM MANAGER: Lisa Ormston

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

SCHEDULER: Steve Ormston

SOCIAL DIRECTOR: Amanda Gresham

YEARBOOK DIRECTOR: Amanda Gresham

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR:

5U REPRESENTATIVE: Lauren Buick

6U REPRESENTATIVE: Andrew Cuttell

7U REPRESENTATIVE: Kevin Wardrop

9U REPRESENTATIVE: Matt Ircha

11U REPRESENTATIVE: Amy Pawar

13U REPRESENTATIVE: Michelle Delf

15U REPRESENTATIVE: Angela Crowther

18U REPRESENTATIVE: Kathy McDougall

26U JR MENS: Blake Brown

