



2021 SSMBA Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sat, 25 September 2021, 2:15pm

New Lowell

Review and Pass Minutes from 2020 - Jenn Huggins/Melanie Slade-Morrison, Carried

Agenda - Moved by Melanie Slade-Morrison/ 2nd by Jenn Huggin to accept the minutes as read. Carried.

Attendance: Ted Scovell, Alliston; Andrew Reid, Angus; Rebecca Sauder, Barrie; Carmen Campoli, Bradford; Jenn Huggins, Collingwood; Leo Losereit, Everett; Mandy Little, Mansfield; Charlene Vanderpost, Ivy; Doug Beckett, Midland; Trevor Harris, New Lowell; Katherine DeCaire, Orillia; Shane Bage, Stayner; Melanie Slade-Morrison, Wasaga Beach; Nick Varaschin, UIC; Shawn Mclean, Treasurer;

Absent: Innisfil, Creemore

1. Presidents Address

I want to thank the personnel on the SSMBA Executive for stepping forward by filling multiple positions, in addition to the members that facilitated minor baseball in the various communities. I welcome the four centers back for the 2022 season that had suspended operations during 2021. This was a season that seen the volunteers endure challenges while achieving successes by getting youth on the field to play baseball. The SSMBA seen a vast change in the upper echelon (change of the President) during the season which may have created systemic changes throughout the season. The various associations were able to field over 40 teams from 6U to 18U+ in 2021 after not having any teams or games in 2020 due to the pandemic. There were a number of new initiatives that were imposed, both by Baseball Ontario and Public Health such as Rowan's Law (Concussion Protocol), Arm Care Protocol, Central Registry, Safe Sport Course / Screening Forms / VSC's along with the COVID-19 Return to Play Protocol. These policy changes were necessary but the general comment from people across the SSMBA was that Baseball Ontario attempted to implement a lot during a pandemic year while short staff with the Return to Play Guidelines. All these initiatives following a 2020 season of no baseball placed a challenge on the center's volunteers, by not only working within their associations but with their municipality as well. Other challenges were the sudden start by all leagues in early July created shortage of resources, 12 July start which pushed a condensed season later into August, umpire shortage and a baseball shortage. The SSMBA created four subcommittees prior to the season which one of them dealt with rule changes to align with the Return to Play Guidelines, this document became a living document as it changed in conjunction with Provincial changes. The player movement subcommittee approved 9 players to play down between 8U and 9U. After a majority of the divisions played an 8 - 10 game schedule, all divisions had an abbreviated playoff tournament which saw some great games and competition, the final games were very exciting and certainly is a testament to the players and coaches for their effort and

dedication towards the season. The SSMBA created a new league website which provided a different layout and appearance as the old site was failing and its capabilities became increasingly limited. There are ongoing improvements and added features for the website over the next year or two.

Recommendations for the 2022 season, hinging on Return to Play Guidelines are:

1. Methods to mitigate players at the 9U and 8U breaching the pitching circle;
2. Do not reinstate the catcher at 8U but increase the number of innings to six;
3. Reinstate the catcher at 9U to allow progression from 8U to 11U;
4. Create strategies to assist associations with activating their umpires;
5. Letter of expectations from the SSMBA President to the Center Presidents / Reps;
6. Start times on diamonds with no lights – especially has we push into August;
7. Visit the rule of overaged players at 18U+;
8. Reinvest the money collected in fines back into the players / coaches; and
9. Tidy up the wording in certain areas of the SSMBA Rule Book.

I thank everyone involved in baseball for making the best of a difficult season due to circumstances and for demonstrating flexibility in the changes that were beyond our control.

2. Treasurer's report

Shawn reported that we started the year with \$12500 in the account. Wrote cheques for umpire fees and tournament fees. Year end balance is around \$9800.

3. Executive Members Reports

Registrar - nothing to report.

UIC - 10 ejections. 7 in 18U; 1 in 15U and 1 in 13U, down in umpires this year by 50%. Umpires are refusing to do two man games, perhaps need to look at 3 man. Nick thanked his two deputies, Brain Constable and Bill Vardy

CIC - Mandy thanked everyone for their patience and those that stepped up with Convenor positions. Centres were doing very well with submitting scores and pitch counts.

1st VP Charlene reported that we had relatively few ejections this year and two that will carryover for 2022.

2nd VP Linda Johnston did a great job of recycling trophies and using them for this year. Trevor thanked her for stepping up this year.

Scheduler - Started the season on July 14 finished Aug 29, with 199 games in total.

4. Constitutional Amendments

I. Articles of Association (Discussion/Vote)

- **Nick moves/Leo 2nd that we add to appoint webmaster position to the executive board following the Treasurer appointment timing. Carried**

II. By-Laws: (Introduction/Discussion)

- **Nick moves/Leo 2nd that we add, any new Umpires must be at least 12 yrs old or older. Carried**

III. Regulations/Rules (Introduction)

- **11U suggested rotating players to infield by the 4th inning.**
- **Age requirement before you can move anyone up**
- **2 minutes time clock between innings**
- **Language regarding Elite**

5. General Business

None

6. Election of Executive Officers

- **President** - Trevor Harris (by Andrew Reid/Melanie SM) Carried
- **1st VP** - Charlene Vanderpost (by Nick V/Doug B) Carried
- **2nd VP** - None
- **Secretary** - Mandy Little (Doug B/Nick V) Carried
- **Registrar** - Rebecca Sauder (Katherine D/Nick V) Carried
- **UIC** - Nick Varaschin (Leo L/Katherine D) Carried
- **CIC** - None
- **Scheduler** - Doug Beckett (Mandy L/Charlene V) Carried

7. Adjournment: 3:35pm

Next Meetings

Nov 4, 2021

Dec 2, 2021

January 6, 2022