Board of Directors Meeting

October 7, 2026

Minutes

In Attendance

- Rachel Allan, President
- Kevin Langley, Vice-President
- Darcy MacKenzie, Treasurer
- Rick Benson, Director
- Jack Hawes, Director
- Lavaughn Larson, Director
- Darren Simpson, Director
- Staff
  - Diane St-Denis, Executive Director
  - Kelli Tibbles, Member Services & Communications Manager
  - Shaquille Gilbert, Umpires & Championships Manager

1. Call to Order

1.01 Land Acknowledgement and Opening Remark

R. Allan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., thanked all directors for making time to meet, and provided a brief territorial acknowledgement.

1.02 Approval of the agenda

Moved by J. Hawes, seconded by R. Benson, to approve the agenda as circulated. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.03 Approval of the minutes

Moved by D. MacKenzie, seconded by K. Langley, to approve the minutes of September 1, 2026. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.04 Email Votes

September 3, 2026

Motion to support the 2027 U20 Men's/Women's Canadian Fastpitch Championships bid by CASS. CARRIED (6-0-1). Simpson did not vote.

1.05 Business arising from the last meeting

Blended into the agenda except for a. below.

a. Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

D. Simpson presented to the Board a request from the Chair of the Minor Advisory Council to address a few changes to the Bylaws.

i) The Minor Advisory Council disagrees with the office's interpretation that a District Representative duly appointed by the district in accordance with the selection procedure and dates established annually by the Society (see bylaw 3.10) takes effect for the AGM.

The Board's consensus supported the office's interpretation that a duly appointed district representative holds the title and vote at the AGM.

ii) The Minor Advisory Council would like to change the appointment years in 3.10 to ensure a district does not experience a change in coordinators in the same year as the DUIC - proposed edits to the current bylaws are in red.

[excerpt of 3.10]
Where a District has the right to designate a District Representative Voting Members, the District Representative Voting Member must be appointed for the following terms:

1. One year:
   a. Men's Fastpitch Representative
   b. Women's Fastpitch Representative
   c. Minor Boys Representative
   d. Minor Girls Representative
   e. Slo-Pitch Men's Representative
   f. Slo-Pitch Women's Representative
2. Two years, in odd-numbered years:
   a. Men's and Women's Coordinator from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15
   b. Slo-Pitch Coordinator from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15
   c. Minor Coordinator from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15
   d. Umpire-in-Chief from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14
3. Two years in even-numbered years:
   ~~Slo-Pitch Men's Representative~~
   ~~Slo-Pitch Women's Representative~~
   a. Men's and Women's Coordinator from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14
   b. Slo-Pitch Coordinator from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14
   c. Minor Coordinator from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14
   d. Umpire-in-Chief from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15

This edit means that all coordinators from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 and the DUICs from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 will be up for reappointment before the 2027 AGM.

The coordinators from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 and the DUICs from Umpire-in-Chief from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 will remain in place until 2028.

Action: Staff are directed to have an amendment to the bylaw motion in the AGM package to reflect the above modification.

iii) The Minor Advisory Council members would like the bylaws to provide an exemption to the above appointment cycle to allow a coordinator to serve a full two-year term regardless of when their appointment started.

The Board did not support the recommendation, noting that the departure of a coordinator before the end of their term should be addressed the same way as a

director's departure: appoint a new coordinator to complete the term, and keep the appointment cycle unchanged.

Action: D. Simpson to report back to the Minor Advisory Council.

2. Board Business

2.01 Committee Updates

a. Finance & HR Committee

i. Projections to Year-End

D. St-Denis circulated updated projections to year-end based on questions received at the September 1st meeting.

R. Benson inquired about the accuracy of the Softball BC ID sales. D. St-Denis reported that the office did confirm the numbers listed in the report. The question of whether they are all new members or members who created a new profile and purchased a new number is still under investigation.

R. Benson raised questions about the varying revenue and expenses associated with each Zone for the BC Games. D. St-Denis noted that Softball BC managed some of the zone pre-game tryout budgets and that a few zones also raised additional funds through donations, which would explain the variance in revenue. The expense variance would reflect how the funds were used. She offered to prepare a single spreadsheet for the BC Summer Games Program, including all income and expenditures with explanations, if the Board desired. No one requested further information.

R. Benson raised concerns regarding the low numbers of teams registering for the women's events and the costs associated with provincials in this age category.

Action: Staff to ask the chair of the council (men's & women's, and slo-pitch) to discuss the reasons for the low registrations for provincial events.

ii. MDF Terms of Reference

The Finance Committee has not yet met to review the feedback the Chair of the Minor Development Committee sent to the office regarding the Terms of Reference.

Action: The Finance Committee will bring its opinion on the Chair of the Minor Development Committee's feedback to the next meeting.

b. Governance Committee

K. Langley asked the Board to direct the Governance Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the governance structure changes initiated through the bylaw amendments adopted at the 2024 Annual General Meeting and modified in the

Spring of 2026. The evaluation shall determine whether these changes are achieving their intended outcomes and addressing the foundational concerns that prompted the restructuring. The Governance Committee will report its findings and any recommended adjustments back to the Board.

Action: Office to contact the Chair of the Governance Committee to inform them of the above request.

c. Nomination Committee
Nomination slate has been posted to the website. The committee's work is done until next spring.

d. Minor Advisory Council
Moved by D. Simpson, seconded by R. Benson, to approve the tryout SORs.
MOTION WITHDRAWN

The Board agreed to wait to approve the tryout SORs until after the town hall. D. St-Denis noted that she is waiting on K. Weston's and S. Maion's availability to announce the date and time of the town hall.

Moved by K. Langley, seconded by J. Hawes to table motion 8.6.14.4.d. until the next meeting **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board would like to see the full council minutes, which include i) the original motion (with rationale) and ii) Council's motion with rationale. D. St-Denis acknowledged that staff will alter the presentation of minutes from all councils and committees moving forward to ensure original motions are in appendices. Council chairs will ensure they articulate the rationale for approving, rejecting, or modifying a motion.

Action: Office to ensure the Board receives a copy of the full minutes from all councils and committees, that all minutes include original motions in the appendices, and that council chairs articulate the rationale for approving, rejecting, or modifying a motion.

Staff to ensure their chairs are notified of this operational change.

D. St-Denis noted that the motion allowing Men's & Women's D Division to pick up players from a U20C team was approved by the Minor Advisory Council and will be discussed in item 2.01.f. iii) below.

The Board discussed the Advisory Council's request for an in-person meeting.

Moved by D. MacKenzie, seconded by L. Larson, to support the Minor Advisory Council's request for an in-person meeting in early 2027 with the condition that they adhere to these directives:
- **Hosted in the Lower Mainland**
- **Maximize investment by ensuring full days**
- **Time to be allocated to interactive brainstorming sessions to address areas of our mandate, and specialized training to assist Coordinators in their duties (i.e.: conflict resolution, leadership/facilitator training,**

SafeSport, DEI, Insights Discovery Model, etc.) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board discussed the Advisory Council's request to return to an in-person AGM. D. St-Denis noted that an AGM is, at best, a one-hour meeting that fulfills legal and operational compliance, while a Congress can catalyze alignment, education, and collective growth across the sport. She recommended staff, working in consultation with the Finance Committee, bring to the December Board meeting a report with recommendations on

- Congress with or without the AGM
- Timing
- Funding Model

Action: Staff to work in consultation with the Finance Committee to bring to the December Board meeting a report on the topic of a Softball Congress and the Annual General Meeting.

e. Minor Development Fund Committee

Intake window for the November 1st to January 31st activity window closed on October 1st. The committee met on October 6th to review the application.

Type	Applications	Approved	Total Funding
Coaches Clinics	3	3	$1,383.63
Player Clinics	3	0	$0.00
Community Building	1	0	$0.00
New Associations	1	0	$0.00
		Total	**$1,383.63**

Moved by L. Larson, seconded by D. MacKenzie, to approve the disbursement of $1,383.63 from the Minor Development Fund as presented in the MDF Committee report. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action: Staff to notify the MDF chair, who will notify the successful and unsuccessful applicants of the MDF Committee's decision/

f. Men's & Women's Advisory Council

i) Motion to change 10.4.2

Moved by R. Benson, seconded by L. Larson, to approve the edit to SOR 10.4.2 as follows
Any team placing 1st or 2nd in a Provincial Championship in the previous year, and having six (6) or more players returning to the team, will move up one (1) classification. The definition of six (6) or more returning players shall include all players registered on the team, and any pick-ups used by the team at the previous Provincial Championship. The team placing 1st will move up with the 2nd place team also moving up if the Provincial Championship Softball BC Supervisor recommends the movement after consultation with the team placing 2nd respective Men's & Women's Coordinator.

Exception: Intermediate A will move up one classification after placing 1st at their Provincial Championship with at least six (6) returning players, including pick-ups and roster players.

MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

While the Board supports requiring the 1st-place team to move up, they are concerned about leaving the decision on the 2nd-place team to the Provincial Championship Softball BC Supervisor. There was support to alter the recommended edit to read *"The team placing 1st will move up. The 2nd place team will also move up if their Men's & Women's Coordinator recommends the change in classification after consultation with the Provincial Championship Softball BC Supervisor."*

Action: Staff to ensure the Men's & Women's Advisory Council sends a revised motion for the next Board Meeting.

ii) Motion to change 10.7 Designated Runner

Moved by R. Benson, seconded by J. Hawes, to approve the edit to SOR10.7 as follows:
That the Men's and Women's Provincial Championships adopt the Softball Canada Masters Designated Runner rule on a trial basis for 2027.

10.7 Designated Runner

10.7.1 The team may designate one player as a runner. The player shall be called the Designated Runner (DR) and the following shall apply:

- **a) The DR must be listed in the starting lineup.**
- **b) The DR must be listed in the last spot of the starting lineup (10th with no DP or 11th with a DP)**
- **c) The DR may run for only one player per inning and may do so each time that player becomes a runner in the inning.**
- **d) The DR may run for a different player each inning.**
- ~~**e) The DR may not bat or play defence.**~~
- ~~**f) An eligible player not in the game may substituted for DR.**~~
- **e) An eligible player not in the game may substitute for the DR.**
- **f) The DR may bat or play defence. If the DR becomes an offensive or defensive player, the team forfeits its option to use a DR for the remainder of the game**
- **g) A team is not obligated to use the DR for the entire game.**

CARRIED (5-0-2) Allan and Langley Abstained

iii) Change to the pick-up chart

At its September 1st meeting, the Board approved a modification to the pickup chart to allow teams in the Men's & Women's D to pick up from U20C teams for the 2026 season only. It also approved adding a note to the chart indicating that the SOR about minors playing on Women's or Men's teams applies. The Board had instructed staff to consult the Minor Advisory

Council prior to the Men's & Women's Advisory Council bringing the motion back to the table to edit for the 2027 edition of the SORs

D. St-Denis confirmed that the Minor Advisory Council supported the permanent revision to the chart. The Men's & Women's Advisory Council will be instructed to bring the motion back to the table to edit for the 2027 edition of the SORs.

Action: Staff to ensure the Men's & Women's Advisory Council sends a revised motion for the next Board Meeting.

g. Slo-Pitch Advisory Committee

i) Qualifier Update

S. Gilbert provided an update to the Board on the rescheduling of the Slo-Pitch Nationals Qualifier to April 2027 for the 2027 Nationals (Appendix A). He confirmed that the committee is reviewing the format for the September 2027 Qualifier for the 2028 Nationals. Teams must declare their intention to attend Nationals no later than November 1st to provide sufficient time for teams to fundraise for their participation in Nationals.

R. Benson questions the provision of a hosting grant for a qualifying event. D. St-Denis noted that the Board can certainly approve the removal of a hosting grant for this event, as it is being reclassified as a National Qualifying Event vs. a Provincial Championship.

Consensus was that staff would develop a mechanism to engage the membership on hosting to determine the challenges/barriers to hosting provincials. This work will provide insight into whether the hosting grant formula needs changes.

Action: Staff to develop a mechanism to engage the membership on the topic of hosting to determine what are the challenges/barriers to hosting provincials.

h. Umpire Advisory Council

i) Umpire Game Fee Increase Recommendation

D. St-Denis presented a report recommending changes to the umpire game fees for regional and provincial championships.

Consensus was that the fees should be in increments of $2.5, $5, $7.50 or $0.00.

R. Benson questioned the accuracy of the systems noted on page 2 of the document and asked staff to review the information against the SORs.

Action: Staff to bring a revised report to the next Board meeting.

ii) Status of Assignr Software

S. Gilbert reported that a working group comprised of the PUIC and DUICs

from D7, D8, D11, D12 has been formed to provide feedback and create a final implementation plan. The Board received an outline of the group's project timelines.

i. Ad Hoc Committees

i) Awards Committee
Nominations for annual awards closed on October 1st. The Board will vote for a winner when it receives more than one nomination, or ratify the nomination when it receives only one.

ii) Hall of Fame Committees
The nomination portal is open until December 1st.

iii) Coaching Development Committee
D. St-Denis provided a brief verbal report on the Summit, including the dates (February 27th) and the budgeting approach being taken. The goal is to have the agenda and all promotional activities launched by the end of December.

j. Working Groups

i) District Review Working Group
R. Benson reported that the working group will be meeting in the latter part of October to discuss the proposed list of recommendations.

ii) Rural Participation Working Group
D. St-Denis reported that the evaluation report was shared with the Minor Advisory Council. The council did not have time to review it at their last meeting. She recommended the Board not move forward with reviewing the report until the Council has provided feedback.

2.02 Softball Canada

a. Update on Fee Structure and Registration
D. St-Denis shared with the Board the most recent proposal from Softball Canada and the feedback she provided as part of a working committee she and the President of Softball SK were invited to join. She anticipates an update by October 16th and is cautiously optimistic about Softball Canada providing a final report and motions by October 21st (21 days before the AGM).

2.03 Western Canadian Softball Association
No update. Next meeting is November 11th in Fredericton.

2.04 Softball BC Board Meeting Schedule
The new Softball BC Board of Directors will meet on Sunday, October 18th at 9 a.m. to discuss Onboarding and the election of officers.

3. Operational Business

3.01 Management Report
No update.

3.02 Strategic Plan / Operational Plan
No update.

3.03 OEI Implementation Update
No update.

3.04 Championships

b. Bid status - deadline for bid submission is Oct 15th

c. Status of CASS bid for the 2027 U20 Men's/Women's Canadian Fastpitch Championships
Response from CASS - *No. But our bid isn't official until October 1st because BC didn't have any teams compete in either nationals last year.*

3.05 Membership

a. Peachland conditional membership status review
D. St-Denis shared with the Board the report prepared by the President of the Peachland Minor Fastball Association as well as correspondence from the District 9 Coordinator.

While the Board acknowledged the concerns raised by the D9 Minor Coordinator, they also noted that their March 2026 conditional membership approval required Peachland to register at least 30 Learn to Play and/or U7 and/or U9 participants by September 30th, a condition they met by registering 37 participants in their All-Learner Play program.

Move by J. Hawes, seconded by K. Langley, to approve the Peachland Minor Fastball Association for full membership effective immediately.
CARRIED (5-2-0) Benson and Larson against

4. New Business

4.01 in Camera
There was no in camera meeting.

5. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Appendix A
2027 Slo-Pitch Qualifier – Planning Update

The Slo-Pitch Committee met on September 23, 2026, to continue developing the proposed qualifier. The committee identified two potential weekends at Softball City:

- April 9–11, 2027
- April 16–18, 2027

Softball City has confirmed that both weekends are currently available.

Following consultation with the coordinators, the responses were:

- Three coordinators preferred April 16–18.
- Two preferred April 9–11, although one indicated that either weekend would be workable.
- One coordinator indicated that either weekend would work.
- The Kootenay Kaos were contacted but have not responded.

Based on the feedback received, the committee's preferred date is **April 16–18, 2027**.

The proposed budget remains consistent with the model previously presented to the Board. It is based on a maximum of eight men's teams and eight women's teams, with an entry fee of $750 per team.

Projected revenue

- Team entry fees: $12,000

Projected expenses

- Hosting grant: $3,200
- Umpire game fees: $4,140
- Umpire travel: $3,000
- UIC per diem and expenses: $2,000
- Board representative per diem and expenses: $1,000
- Softballs: $1,020

Total projected expenses: $14,360
Maximum projected net cost to Softball BC: $2,360

The model does not include medals, banners or additional prizes. If the cost of softballs is covered through sponsorship, the projected net cost would be reduced to $1,340. The committee will also explore using local officials wherever possible to further reduce travel expenses.

The next step will be to ask Softball City to submit a formal hosting bid for April 16–18. The event date, structure and budget will remain subject to final Board approval.