



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026



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
- Shaquille Gilbert, Umpires & Championships Director
- Jim Ullock, Sport Development Director

1. Call to Order

1.01 Territorial Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks

R. Allan called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm and provided a brief territorial acknowledgement.

1.02 Approval of agenda

Moved by D. Simpson, seconded by J. Hawes, to approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Board Business

2.01 Proposed changes to the U11C Celebration and U11 Showcase Pilot

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the U11 Celebrations and U11 Showcases (Appendix A).

Moved by K. Langley, seconded by L. Larson, to proceed with the U11C Celebration and U11 Showcase Pilots as outlined in the document in Appendix A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.02 Approval of U13C Regionals

S. Gilbert provided a brief update on the U13C regionals.

Region 1 (Districts 1, 2, 3): Oceanside Minor submitted the only bid with expressed interest to host, but they proposed non-compliant dates. The Board was concerned that the request for different dates will conflict with the Region 1 Celebration of Softball, which is scheduled for the same weekend. S. Gilbert was directed to meet with the D1 and 2 minor coordinators to discuss dates for both events and to consult with the PUIC on umpire capacity for both events.

Region 2 (Districts 4, 5, 6, 15): Coquitlam-Moody submitted the only bid for the event.



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Their proposal aligns with the proposed dates. The office also received a bid from Richmond. Seeing as Coquitlam-Moody hosted this event last year, the Board supported staff recommendations to have S. Gilbert discuss with the D4, 5, 6 and 15 minor coordinators the rotation they would like to see with this event, and to consult with the PUIC on umpire capacity for both events.

Region 3 (Districts 7, 8, 14): No confirmed host. District 8 lacks capacity due to multiple provincial events. District 14 declined to host as they are hosting several other events. S. Gilbert is awaiting a response from District 7.

D. St-Denis noted that S. Gilbert will be working with the minor coordinators to develop a hosting rotation for the U13C Regionals and U11C Celebrations to ensure associations consider these hosting commitments before bidding for other events.

Moved by L. Larson, seconded by J. Hawes, to approve Merrit Minor Softball as the host for the U13C Regional Championship for Region 4.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Region 5 (Districts 12, 13): Hosting unresolved. Discussion ongoing regarding potential consolidation with Region 4.

S. Gilbert added that discussions are currently underway with Terrace Minor Softball about hosting the Boys Provincials. They are interested in hosting all categories (U13, U15 & U17/U20). He requested confirmation that it would be acceptable for the U17 and U20 categories to play in a combined event, with the top team in each category declared provincial champion. An update on this event will be brought forward at the next meeting.

3. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Moved by K. Langley, seconded by L. Larson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Changes to the U11C Celebration of Softball 2026 pilot

The Board of Directors reviewed at its November 2025 meeting a recommendation from the minor advisory council to eliminate the U11 Celebration of Softball event effective immediately. The Board instructed staff to survey the membership regarding the elimination of the event. Member feedback was mixed, with the primary concern from members and the Board being the lack of alignment between the event's competitive nature and the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD).

Based on feedback from staff, the Board has decided to “alter” the format of the U11 Celebrations for 2026 rather than eliminate them to determine whether the modifications address the concerns raised by members.

New Format

- U11 Celebrations will consist only of round-robin play. There will be no playoffs.
- Softball BC will no longer provide medals or gifts for each participant. The funds saved by this discontinued practice will be added to the hosting grant to support the delivery of social bonding/fun activities that create a memorable event for all participants (fun games, prizes for best cheers, best homemade sign, best costume). A total of \$2,000 per event will be available post-event to each host upon proof of expenditures.
- The previous hosting grant and provisions of balls will be maintained.
- Head coaches will be required to participate in a pre-event briefing (virtual) facilitated by Umpires & Championship Director the week prior to their U11 Celebration. Rules, format and social activities will be the main focus of the meeting. This meeting will replace a large portion of the in-person meeting typically held prior to these events.

Mandatory Education

- Head Coaches will be invited, via their Association President, to attend a preseason briefing for U11 programs. Attendance will be a requirement for participation in the U11 Celebration and Showcase events. The briefing, which will be facilitated by the Softball BC Office, will consist of (i) an overview of U11 regulations coaches need to adhere to in season to prepare their teams for the U11 Celebration or Showcase event. Heavy emphasis will be placed on coaches focusing on player development rather than competitive performance.
- The Softball BC Office will provide each minor association with documentation (in electronic format) to be shared with the parents/guardians of each U11 participant. The goals for distributing the documentation is to (i) emphasize the importance of focusing on learning and enjoying the game vs competitive performance at the U11 level, (ii) how the changes to the U11 Celebration and Showcase events are meant to emphasize that

U11C Celebrations and U11 Showcases

approach, and (ii) most importantly, their role in creating a supporting environment for their child and all other participants to learn the game.

Evaluation

1. As part of the post-season evaluation process, the Softball BC Office will develop an evaluation tool for the designated Softball BC Rep and the UIC to use at the U11 Celebrations to record/report on coach behaviour. The aim here is to determine if the altered format led to more positive conduct.
2. Participants (parents) and coaches will receive a post-event survey to gather their feedback on the event, with a focus on participant enjoyment.
3. The Host will complete the usual post-event host evaluation.

Declaring Participation

- Each district retains the right to host their own U11 year-end events. As such, each District Minor Coordinator will be required to confirm by February 1st which members in their district plan to participate in the U11C Celebration. The declaration is to assist with event planning.
- The team registration process for all U11C Celebrations remains unchanged. Only U11C team can participate.

Securing Hosts

- The changes to the U11 Celebration events will be shared with the Minor Advisory Council and our Member Associations immediately following the Board of Directors meeting on January 12th.
- Coordinators will be asked to consult with other coordinators in their region to identify a suitable host for their regional event. The host must be identified by February 1st. This timeline is intended to align with each coordinator's need to confirm which members in their district plan to participate in the U11 Celebration, as the number of participating teams may affect host selection or signal the cancellation of the event.

Revision of U11 Showcase Pilot

Format

- The format will remain unchanged.
- Two showcases (2 x 24 teams) to be held on a weekend different than the U11 Celebration of Softball.
- Softball BC will no longer provide gifts for each participant. The funds will be provided to the host to use for other awards, such as most sportsmanlike team, best cheers, etc. Award to be voted on by the players themselves (see Abbotsford awards). A total of \$1,000 per event will be available post-event to each host upon proof of expenditures.
- The previous hosting grant and provisions of balls will be maintained.
- Head coaches will be required to participate in a pre-event briefing (virtual) facilitated by Umpires & Championship Director the week prior to their U11 Celebration. Rules, format and social activities will be the main focus of the meeting. This meeting will replace a large portion of the in-person meeting typically held prior to these events.

Mandatory Education

- Head Coaches will be invited, via their Association President, to attend a preseason briefing for U11 programs. Attendance will be a requirement for participation in the U11 Celebration and Showcase events. The briefing, which will be facilitated by the Softball BC Office, will consist of (i) an overview of U11 regulations coaches need to adhere to in season to prepare their teams for the U11 Celebration or Showcase event. Heavy emphasis will be placed on coaches focusing on player development rather than competitive performance.
- The Softball BC Office will provide each minor association with documentation (in electronic format) to be shared with the parents/guardians of each U11 participant. The goals for distributing the documentation is to (i) emphasize the importance of focusing on learning and enjoying the game vs competitive performance at the U11 level, (ii) how the changes to the U11 Celebration and Showcase events are meant to emphasize that approach, and (ii) most importantly, their role in creating a supporting environment for their child and all other participants to learn the game.

Evaluation

1. As part of the post-season evaluation process, the Softball BC Office will develop an evaluation tool for the designated Softball BC Rep and the UIC to use at the U11 Showcase to record/report on coach behaviour. The aim here is to determine if the altered format led to more positive conduct.
2. Participants (parents) and coaches will receive a post-event survey to gather their feedback on the event, with a focus on participant enjoyment.

U11C Celebrations and U11 Showcases

3. The Host will complete the usual post-event host evaluation.

Declaring Participation

- The team registration process for all U11 showcases remains unchanged, except that participation is no longer limited to Rep Teams. Combined teams will be accepted at both events.

Securing Hosts

- The changes to the U11 Showcase events will be shared with our Member Associations immediately following the Board of Directors meeting on January 12th. An invitation for expressions of interest in hosting will accompany the notification.

ACTION ITEMS SPECIFIC TO THESE PILOTS

1. Diane/Shaquille - Email update to Minor Advisory Council on both events and instructions related to the Feb 1st deadline for U11 Celebration information.
2. Diane/Shaquille - Email to member associations on both events and invited for expression of interest to host the Showcase. Encourage them to speak with their District Coordinator if they are interested in the U11 Celebration.
3. Shaquille/Jim - Draft content for
 - a. Head Coach Pre-Season Briefing
 - b. Parent/guardian communication
 - c. Pre-event briefing
4. Shaquille - Draft
 - a. Evaluation form for UIC and Rep
 - b. Post-event survey
5. Jim/Shaquille - Change Article 7 to four distinct documents, each clearly articulating the rules for the category: U9, U11 and U13. Specific attention is to be given to U11 and U13 as these new documents will outline the rules for U11 Celebrations & Showcase and U13 Regionals. Note that the content in Article 8 pertaining to the U13 regionals and U11 Celebrations should be moved to these new documents.