



- b. Discussion: France Bourque inquired about if there is a penalty for unregistered teams participating in sanctioned tournaments. Scott Willis noted this will be on the agenda for the fall 2024 meeting.

4. Finances

- a. Account Update
 - i. Main Bank account Balance - \$69 490.90
 - ii. Technical Fund Balance - \$53 520.86
- b. Cameron Rogers presented the working budget to Date
 - i. Not a significant amount has changed since last meeting
 - ii. Drop in bank account due to having paid the \$6,000 registration to Softball Canada, Canadian Championship Entry Fees, office expenses and wages.
 - iii. Currently waiting for Coach NB Comp Dev funding (\$2,500) and yearly government profile funding to come in.

5. Registration Update

- a. Cameron Rogers presented up to date registration numbers
 - i. 2024 individual registration numbers are comparable to 2023
 - ii. Team registrations are increasing since previous meeting; however, they are down overall from last year due to male ball and Timbits teams not registering their rosters
 - 1. Timbits teams don't appear to be registering because they are not interested in having a vote at the AGM as the main team registration benefit.
 - a. Board agreed there is a need to review the benefits of team registrations this fall
- b. Umpire registration is up to 112 in RAMP
- c. Coach registration is up overall

Ron Campbell joined meeting at 8:17pm



6. Eastern Canadian Qualifiers

a. Recap

i. U17 Girls Division

1. Fit everything in, despite the weather.
2. This division was tight and competitive, the last game had a big impact on standings and was really nice to see lots of close games and meaningful competition.
3. Pickup process is complete, 5 of 6 pickups were used
4. There was an additional spot available, therefore NB will be sending 3 teams from (Host plus 2 from Qualifiers) from the direction of the board's previous meeting.

ii. U15 Girls Division

1. Also fit everything in, despite the weather
2. As expected, the games in this division were not as close (competitive) as we do have a significant skill gap between teams. It was, however, nice to see St Stephen make the playoffs in their first year competing at the AA level, showing growth from our membership and programs in smaller communities around the province.
3. Pickup process is complete, 2 of 4 pickups were used
4. NB will be sending 2 teams from NB (Host plus 1 from Qualifiers) from the direction of the board's previous meeting. The additional spots in the tournament were filled by other provinces decided by the Eastern Canadian Committee.

iii. U13 Girls

1. The final game between Oromocto and Black Bears for seeding still needs to be played due to the rain and schedule changes. It is scheduled for July 30th in Fredericton.



2. Pickup process will be completed once the final game is played to determine who gets first pick. The additional spots in the tournament were filled by other provinces decided by the Eastern Canadian Committee.
- iv. Cameron noted that overall, the Eastern Qualifiers were a great weekend. All the students attended and were of great help. Hannah Walker was the supervisor for U15 Girls and did a great job taking the lead, Monica Bourque and Emma Walker filled other various roles as needed. We were hoping to have more of a social media presence throughout the tournament, but did not get much out as wanted due to the rain, scheduling/field changes so it was all hands-on deck. Shannon Munro will be planning more to go out throughout Provincial Championships in August.
 - v. There was a great atmosphere at the ball field. Scott Willis and Cameron Rogers noted that there is even more opportunity to expand the event for future years. The Eastern Canadian Qualifiers have the opportunity to be a premiere event for Softball NB,.
 - vi. Ron Campbell wished to recognize Rick Russell and all of the officials for a job well done during the qualifiers. With a lot of schedule changes due to weather, he appreciated the flexibility and accommodations.
- b. The Board of Directors revisited the conversation regarding how many teams are allotted to represent each province annually at the Eastern Canadian Championships and how additional teams are selected, if a spot is available.
 - i. Cameron Rogers and Scott Willis outlined the Bylaws from the Eastern Canadians. Each province is permitted two spots; however, if a province is not sending 2 teams and an additional spot opens up, there may be an opportunity for a 3rd.
 - ii. Cameron reminded the Board of the decision to allow a 3rd team for the U17 Girls division, but not for the U15 Girls division.



1. She outlined the overall scores and standing from the qualifiers and Moncton Classic tournament, and the competition level among age groups in the province.
2. The conversation was had about ensuring we are sending quality over quantity.
 - a. France Bourque asked if the Eastern Canadian Committee has the process of filling tournaments written in their bylaws, and if Cameron Rogers could address this at a future Eastern Canadian meeting.
- c. 2025 Projections
 - i. Cameron Rogers reviewed the projected number of teams to attend qualifiers for 2025 ECSC.
 - ii. Normally see a drop off in # of teams that want to qualify when tournaments are ON or NL instead of the Maritimes.
 - iii. Boys' teams are in a tough spot at the moment, but are also being looked at as an opportunity to tackle and prioritize male softball where we will be hosting a few male tournaments in 2025.
 - iv. Projections
 1. U13 Female NS (6)
 2. U15 Female ON (4)
 3. U17 Female QC (6)
 4. U19 Female NB (3)
 5. Women's PEI (1)
 6. U13 Male NB (1-2)
 7. U15 Male ON (0)
 8. U17 Male NS (0)
 9. U20 Male NB → Canada Games Team (East Coast Showdown)
 10. Men's NB (2)



d. 2025 Qualifiers

- i. Cameron Rogers recommended that the Qualifiers be hosted in Fredericton again in 2025, and make the tournament bigger.
 1. Run it similarly to the East Coast Showdown/Eastern Canadian events.
 2. Bring in our volunteers, have music, announcers, full canteen, etc.
 3. Revisit the possibility of hosting in another location in the province for 2026
 4. Decision on 2025 location to be revisited this fall.
- ii. Cameron noted she would like for Qualifiers to be a training opportunity for umpires next year.
 1. Umpires that will be attending Canadian Championships or Eastern Canadians should be in attendance, and use the 3-person system at U17 level (and up) for gaining experience using it, as well include mentors to evaluate.

7. Umpire Update - Provincials / Eastern's / Attending Canadian Championship / Mentorship Program

- a. 112 registered umpires in RAMP. 3 registered JD umpires still to be input in RAMP.
- b. Ron Campbell is hoping to reach 122.
- c. Canadian Championship Umpire Assignments
 - i. Serge Niles – U15B
 - ii. Marc Dugas – U17B
 - iii. Josh Humphey – U20M
 - iv. Carlos Avila – U23M
 - v. Ron Campbell – Senior Men's
 - vi. Tim LeBlanc & BJ Doucette – Slo Pitch
 1. Both going for their Level 4 this year
 - vii. Umpire flights for Canadians were much more affordable. Ron Campbell wishes to thank Ray Blanchette for the booking coordination.



d. Mentorship

- i. Ron Campbell noted it's coming along.
 1. Best it's been in the last few years. However, a work in progress
- ii. Jeff Whipple and Bob Stanton served as mentors during this Showdown event
 1. We welcome this opportunity around the provinces with proper notice
- iii. Jim Comeau is being a mentor in Moncton / Memramcook area
- iv. Gordie Craft is assisting in mentoring in Fundy region, particularly JD officials
- v. 49% of umpires registered this year are between ages of 12-19
 1. Good news for moving up the system, however, we need to retain them
 2. The next problem is retention of adult officials

e. Umpire Financials

- i. Sitting around \$6,800 with a few outstanding expenses
- ii. Have still not applied for Go NB grant, which will bring \$10,000-\$15,000 more funding

f. 2025 is Blue Convention in Calgary

- i. Ron Campbell outlined that they would be looking for additional funding for Blue Convention.

8. Community Development Program Update

a. Cameron Rogers provided an update on the program to date

i. **Grand Manan**

1. Cameron Rogers and the 4 students went over recently.
2. The feedback was awesome; they were very appreciative for all the gear, guidance and instruction, especially with pitching. Their older U15/17 team isn't having as much success as their U11/13 group, but it is a start.
3. The U13 team is playing a doubleheader in St Stephen on Saturday. Cameron has been in talks with them about attending U13 A provincials in Fredericton. They are interested, but have asked to see how their first



games this weekend before committing. Cameron gave a small registration extension to them to consider attending.

4. Really valuable experience. Enjoyed the drill instruction, pitching, etc.

b. River Valley (Doaktown)

- i. Program is up and going for a bit now
- ii. They have been playing a few games
- iii. Students are going down on Thursday to run their practices (U11, U15 COED) and connect with the group.
- iv. They are looking forward to pitching instruction – will be a big draw for them

c. Woodstock

- i. Staff went to Woodstock on July 14th
 1. Brought the U17 Silverbacks, Xplosion and Twins, and hosted 3 games in the area as a promotional opportunity
 2. U17 teams hosted Come Try softball session between games
 - a. The U17 athletes really enjoyed doing this
 3. Numbers were low – only 6. However, good feedback and would want to do it again potential throughout the week.

d. Campobello Island

- i. Hannah Walker is meeting with a volunteer with fastpitch (including pitching) experience willing to take on a group next week to discuss an opportunity
- ii. They liked what was done in Grand Manan, but are struggling to purchase equipment.

9. Provincials Update

- a. Deadline July 15
 - i. Registration is now closed
 - ii. The numbers are looking very good for registered teams, except in the minor boys' divisions
 1. Cameron Rogers presented # of teams in each division



- iii. France Bourque noted there are some athletes in Moncton looking to play on another Intermediate Women's team as their local team folded.

- 1. Action Item - Cameron Rogers will send France Bourque some information on opportunities for these players

b. Tournament Supervisors

- i. Board reviewed tournament supervisors for each Provincial Championship
- ii. Need to fill final gaps by end of week

10. Male Ball

- a. The Board needs to dig into this as of this fall and decide if we want to revive or give up.
 - i. Consider if we need to start a committee
- b. SNB has a responsibility to make an effort and salvage this program

11. Provincial Team Program 2025

- a. Board needs to start looking at what it looks like for next year as we're mid-July.
- b. Currently considering call for coach & interview timelines
 - i. Mid to late August
- c. Need to be cautious being a Canada Games year (less athletes)
- d. Staff will bring a few people together to discuss how it should be run and make a plan for next year so the athletes are getting the best training and competition schedule

12. Regional Funding

- a. Reminder to clubs and regions of their ability to apply for Regional Funding.
- b. Action Item – Cameron Rogers will put together a summarized note to be circulated via RAMP to all associations on how to apply for funding through the Go NB program.
- c. Regional directors and associations are eligible to apply for funding. They can reach out to SNB Staff for guidance on completing the application.

13. Staffing Update

- a. Scott Willis and Gracelyn Kaine made a recommendation to the Board to offer Cameron Rogers the position of permanent Executive Director of Softball New Brunswick.
 - i. They outlined the process they followed in coming to this recommendation.



- ii. France Bourque and Darleen Sobey inquired if a job posting must go out for the position of Executive Director.
 - 1. Scott Willis noted that after speaking with Government Consultant, Christine Powers-Thompson, she advised SNB that posting the job is not required, if a qualified candidate has been identified. Gracelyn Kaine, Ron Campbell and Charlie Chiasson also advised that in their professional roles, hiring internally is a valid process for qualified candidates. Therefore, they recommend going in this direction.
- iii. Motion that Softball NB posts the Executive Director position for hire
 - 1. First: France Bourque Second: Darleen Sobey
Defeated 2-6-0
- iv. Motion to extend a full time offer for the Executive Director position to Cameron Rogers as of July 16th, 2024 at a rate of \$50,000/year.
 - 1. First: Dan Mersereau Second: Matt Whipple
Carried 8-0-0
- v. Motion that Softball NB posts the Technical Director position for hire
 - 1. First: Paul Bedford Second: France Bourque
Carried 8-0-0

14. Next meeting

- a. Date to come for August meeting
 - i. Either August 20 or 27th

15. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn
 - i. First: Paul Bedford