THOROLD MINOR BASEBALL

Annual General Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2026 | Zoom | 8:15 p.m. to 9:18 p.m.

Chair: President Chris Green

Welcome

President Chris Green chaired the Annual General Meeting, which was called to order at 8:15 p.m. on Zoom.

President's Report

Chris Green delivered his report. Below is an executive summary of the report. To see the full report, visit www.ThoroldBaseball.com

Thorold Minor Baseball delivered a successful 2026 season, combining registration growth, championship results and continued investment in player development. Participation reached 385 players, up 4.6% from 2025, with 301 House League and introductory players and 84 Rep players. The 142 players registered in 5U and 7U provide a strong foundation for future growth.

Competitive highlights included the 9U Rep team winning Thorold's 36th OBA championship, its first provincial title at that age level in 26 years. The 15U Rep team captured its second consecutive Niagara District championship and finished as the runner-up at the "C" OBA Championships. Development opportunities included six free House League sessions with the Thorold Senior Anchors and a well-received six-week pitching and catching clinic. The Fred Matheson "Play Ball" Fund supported six players with $1,430 in bursaries.

Weather significantly disrupted tournaments, reducing revenue and increasing volunteer workload. Despite these challenges, tournaments generated an estimated $261,000 in economic activity across Niagara, including approximately $77,300 in direct spending at Thorold businesses, excluding accommodation.

The association remains in a strong financial position. Improvements to the website, payment processing, financial tracking and coach expense reporting have strengthened administration and accountability. Sponsorship remains important to affordability, although additional volunteer support is needed to maintain sponsor relationships.

The City partnership improved substantially during the second half of the season, creating a stronger basis for addressing drainage, lighting and field standards. Key pressures for 2027 include proposed umpire rate increases of approximately 30% in some areas, equipment needs and an unsustainable concentration of responsibilities among too few volunteers.

Priorities for 2027 are to:

- Advance facility improvements, particularly at McMillan, Sullivan and Port Robinson.
- Introduce structured coach development and expand skill-specific player training.
- Establish a sustainable Select program, building on the newly selected 11U Dedicated Select team.
- Explore an end-of-season celebration and recognition event.
- Strengthen volunteer recruitment, delegation and accountability.

The report also recognizes outgoing Vice-President Robb Norris for his longstanding contributions to rebuilding programs and strengthening the organization.

Treasurer / Budget Review

Chris Green presented the financial review. Total revenue was approximately $251,000 against a budget of $270,000 and expenses of $214,000 against a budget of $241,000. The association reported a surplus of approximately $13,000.

- Registration revenue exceeded budget by approximately $2,000, and sponsorship revenue met its target.
- Tournament revenue was below budget because of weather cancellations and lower attendance at the hosted C OBA's. Select revenue was also lower as there was only 1 team.
- Equipment expenses were over budget by $652, reflecting increased baseball usage.
- Uniform expenses were approximately $47,000 against a $60,000 budget. Sponsored clothing, more efficient coach uniforms, and two less select teams were the reasons.
- Hosted tournament expenses were $24,270 against a budget of $23,955. An additional $4,000 honorarium was not originally budgeted to support a tournament coordinator role that is vital to hosting tournaments.

House League registration fees will remain unchanged. Rep registration fees will increase from $775 to $825-$850.

Action: Adam Smith will continue monitoring the budget, including the new Rep coaching expense tracking process. A new expense tracking form is in place and working well and will ensure team revenue flows through the association.

Constitution / By-Law Review and Updates

Chris Green reviewed proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws. Discussion covered:

- The responsibilities of the Registrar and Secretary and the Vice-President, including Vice-President support for the Director of Select.
- Membership voting, governance responsibilities and decision-making processes.
- Conflict of interest procedures and discipline processes, including a 15-day appeal period.
- Rep and Select team financial management, including prohibiting separate Rep team bank accounts and establishing procedures for unused team balances.

Unused team funds were discussed in relation to reasonable end-of-season activities, association costs and exceptional circumstances that would require refunds to families. Exceptional refunds will be subject to Board review and approval and not been the norm.

Vote to adopt changes

The proposed constitutional amendments and bylaw changes were approved.

Action: Chris Green will remove tracked changes and finalize the approved constitution and bylaws, and establish a process for Board review of exceptional family refunds from Rep and Select team balances.

Elections

The following appointments and continuing roles were confirmed:

Position	Name	Term or status
Vice-President	Sean Millette	Elected 2-year term
Treasurer	Adam Smith	Elected 2-year term
Scheduler	Sandra Gorges	Elected 2-year term
Registrar/Secretary	Chris Ciolfi	Elected Final year of 2-year term
Umpire-in-Chief	Stacy Muzyka	Elected
Director of Select	Chris Arsenault	Elected
Director of Tournaments	Aaron McInnis	Elected
Sponsorship / Fundraising	Carly Aanen	Elected
Jr. Program Coordinator	Steph Green	Elected
Convenor 9U	Mike Lavalle	Elected
Convenor 11U/13U	Vacant	Vacant
Convenor 15U/18U	Dieter Gorges	Elected
Convenor Equipment	Tim O'Brien	Elected

Action: Chris Green will recruit an 11U/13U convenor and finalize sponsorship support arrangements.

Open Forum

The meeting discussed opportunities to work with the incoming City Council on field upgrades and municipal partnerships. Chris Green will send a welcome letter with Thorold Minor Baseball priorities and the tournament economic impact report to councillors and Mayor Whalen, recognizing the support of Taylor Whitty and Brooke Nicholson and Dave Baldoni from City staff.

Chris talked about the excitement of the new council and Mayor Whalen, and thanked Henry D'Angela for his support of Thorold Minor Baseball over the years as a councilor and as the unsuccessful mayoral candidate.

An end-of-season celebration or awards night for players and coaches was proposed to provide a stronger close to the season. Chris will explore options and budget requirements.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.