



DKMB MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Delaware Community Centre
MEETING #: AGM
DATE: November 6th, 2023

START OF MEETING: 7:00 PM
END OF MEETING: 9:22 PM
CHAIRPERSONS: B. Lipskey & B. McGonigle

Attendees:

Brent Lipskey
Steve Rumford
Jamie Kopal
Charlotte Oliver
Jill Johnston

Attendees:

Brad McGonigle
Jenn Kopal
Don Thody
Jerry Blizman

Attendees:

Trish Ladner-Foster April Hunter
Mark Frederick Nick Hunter
Lisa Holman Eric Provost
Jeremy Hogeveen Sarah Hogeveen
Laura Plank Nikki Clark
Shawn Winship Andrew Mitchell
Brad Mitchell Mike Bryans
Brady Kjeldgaard Tim Lawrence
Loren Kjeldgaard
Shaye Couglin

PREVIOUS MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO.

minutes

Moved by Brent Lipskey and seconded by Don Thody to approve the AGM meeting minutes from November 10, 2022 meeting as presented. Carried.

President's Report – Brent Lipskey

- We extend our sincere appreciation to our coaches, volunteers, families, board members, and players for their dedication and hard work throughout the season.
- This year, we have nearly returned to our pre-pandemic participation levels, with 33 teams and a total of 402 players. The team breakdown is as follows:
- *Local League Hardball & Fastball:*
 - o Blastball – 9 teams
 - o 7U – 2 teams
 - o 9U – 3 teams
 - o 11U – 2 teams
 - o 13U – 2 teams
 - o 15U – 2 teams
 - o 18U – 1 team
 - o 22U – 2 teams
 - o U11 – 1 team
 - o U13 – 2 teams
 - o U15 – 1 team
 - o U17/19 – 2 teams
 - o Intermediate Ladies – 1 team
- *Representative & Select Teams:*
 - o 9U Rep
 - o 11U Select

- o 12U Rep
- o 13U Rep
- A total of 443 games were played across five communities.

Moved by Don Thody and seconded by Jerry Blizman to approve the President's report as presented. Carried

Treasurer's Report – Jamie Kopal

- Financial Summary: See Appendix 1 for the 2023 Revenue & Expense Report.
- Umpire Training: DKMB hosted an umpire training clinic for DKMB umpires and neighboring associations, covering clinic fees for all DKMB umpires.
- Uniform Deposits: Revenue from unreturned uniform jerseys was collected.
- Volunteer Bond Revenue: Includes both pre-paid bonds and fees from individuals who did not complete their volunteer hours.
- Tournament Revenue & Expenses: A detailed breakdown is available on page 2 of Appendix 1.
- Municipal Fees: A \$25 participant fee was paid per player to the Municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc and Middlesex Centre.
- Equipment Upgrades: New catcher's equipment was purchased for most teams.
- Scoreboard Project: All costs for the Komoka Back scoreboard project have been finalized.
- Dugout Improvements: A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for dugouts at Del Main and Del Lions. An application has been submitted to the Hydro Fund for permanent structures, with plans to partner if approved.
- Gateway Fund: This fund continues to support players who require financial assistance with registration fees.

Moved by Brent Lipskey and seconded by Brad McGonigle to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

CSL Report – Charlotte Oliver

- The goal of the girls' fastball program is to provide a team for every player who wants to participate.
- DKMB's girls' fastball teams compete in the Community Softball League (CSL). Since COVID, the number of players at the U19 and U21 levels has declined significantly. To ensure all interested U19 players had a team, CSL voted to merge the U17 and U19 divisions.
- This season, DKMB fielded teams at the following levels: U11, two U13 teams, U15, and two U17/U19 teams. Participation grew from 58 to 75 players. Charlotte Oliver expressed pride in the increasing numbers, particularly in the older divisions, as players continue to return. DKMB also has an Intermediate Ladies team consisting of both full-time and part-time players.
- DKMB teams had a strong season, with two teams winning league championships and all others finishing in the top half of their division. One of our U13 teams won the B Division playoffs, and the Intermediate Ladies team hosted playoffs.
- The CSL includes teams from Southwest, Dorchester, North London, South London, Ilderton, Byron, and DKMB. The

league had a smooth and successful season, with no major issues.

- Participation numbers have continued to rise post-COVID, with last year’s registration comparable to 2019. The number of teams also increased this year.

Moved by Steve Rumford and Seconded by Jerry Blizman to accept the CSL Report as presented. Carried.

LDBA Report-Jamie Kopal

- The Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) and local associations continue to emphasize respect for umpires. LDBA reported an improvement in overall umpire satisfaction this season, but ongoing support and mentorship are essential to retain and develop new and returning umpires.
- LDBA takes pride in hosting tournaments; however, securing volunteers remains a challenge.
- A vote was held regarding potential changes to the playoff format, but the decision was made to maintain the current system.
- DKMB would like to congratulate the following competitive teams on their achievements:
 - o 13U Rep – League Champions
 - o 13U Rep – OBA Provincial Champions
 - o 11U Select – League Champions
 - o 12U Rep – Enjoyed participating in the Cooperstown Tournament and representing DKMB.
- DKMB was the only association in LDBA to field U22 teams. Two teams were formed and played each other weekly. The season was successful, and players have expressed interest in returning next year.

Moved by Charlotte Oliver and seconded by Don Thody to accept the LDBA Report as presented. Carried.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

No proposed amendments this year.

Election of Directors

Current Board Directors were provided the opportunity for re-election prior to nominations from the floor. One vote per household.

The following members were elected as Directors of the Association:

Director	Term	Term Expires
Steve Rumford	2 yrs	2026
Brent Lipskey	2 yrs	2026
Charlotte Oliver	2 yrs	2026
Jill Johnston	2 yrs	2026

Shaye Coughlin	2 yrs	2026
Lisa Holman	2 yrs	2026

Nominated by Brad McGonigle and seconded by Brent Lipskey to re-elect Steve Rumford to the DKMB Board of Directors as presented. Carried.

Nominated by Jill Johnston and seconded by Charlotte Oliver to re-elect Brent Lipskey to the DKMB Board of Directors as presented. Carried.

Nominated by Brent Lipskey and seconded by Jill Johnston to re-elect Charlotte Oliver to the DKMB Board of Directors as presented. Carried.

Nominated by Charlotte Oliver and seconded by Jenn Kopal to re-elect Jill Johnston to the DKMB Board of Directors as presented. Carried.

Nominated by Brent Lipskey and seconded by Jerry Blizman to elect Shaye Coughlin to the DKMB Board of Directors as presented. Carried.

Nominated by Sarah Hogeveen and seconded by Brady Kjeldgaard to elect Lisa Holman to the DKMB Board of Directors as presented. Carried.

The directors above will join the continuing directors below:

Director	Term Expires
Jerry Blizman	2024
Brad McGonigle	2024
Jenn Kopal	2024
Don Thody	2024
Jamie Kopal	2024

Open Discussion:

The following questions were provided in advance of the AGM with answers provided throughout the meeting.

Question: How does the coach selection process work? Who is involved, and what criteria are considered? Does this process change, or is it always the same individuals making the selections?

Response:

- A Coach Selection Committee is convened to manage coach applications.
- The committee reviews evaluations, conducts an initial assessment, and reports findings to the Board.
- Coaching candidates are discussed and approved or declined by the Board during a meeting with quorum.
- If a coach is declined, a thorough discussion takes place among the full Board, ensuring all members have an opportunity to provide input. The decision is made by majority vote.
- Coach evaluations from previous seasons are considered but are not the sole determining factor in coach selection.
- For the 2024 season, all coaching decisions were unanimous.

- Committee members may change annually and are approved by the Board of Directors.

Question: How and when can a coach access their feedback or evaluations if there is no formal discussion at the mid- or end-of-season?

Response:

- Coaching evaluations are collected anonymously to maintain the integrity of the process and protect evaluator confidentiality; therefore, coaches do not have direct access to their evaluations.
- Aggregated, high-level feedback from evaluations may be shared with coaches.
- The Board is considering implementing a mid-season evaluation to provide constructive feedback and address any concerns earlier in the season.

Question: How can community members provide feedback regarding Board members and coaches? How is negative feedback handled?

Response:

- Members may submit feedback in writing to the Board at any time.
- If necessary, a Complaint/Protest Committee, excluding any involved Board members, will be formed by the President to evaluate the feedback and determine an appropriate resolution.
- Feedback is provided to coaches as necessary, though not in a public forum.
- The Board has met with coaches on several occasions to discuss concerns and improvement strategies.
- Feedback from the membership is generally limited and typically arises in response to significant issues.
- A mid-season evaluation process is being considered for implementation.

Question: Are there term limits or specific requirements for serving on the Board?

Response:

- The Board consists of up to 11 Directors, including the Past President.
- Directors are elected at the AGM for terms of one, two, or three years and may seek re-election.
- Vacancies on the Board may be filled by the remaining Directors from within the Association.
- The Board's election process aligns with the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act.

Question: Why do only current Board members vote on new Board members? Can the selection process be opened to the community?

Response:

- DKMB operates under the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, which governs the Board's administration and election process.
- The DKMB Constitution and By-Laws comply with this Act, ensuring proper election procedures.

Question: Where can community members access the association's budget, board meeting minutes, and governing documents?

Response:

- The association's financial report is presented at the AGM.
- Board meetings are not open to the general membership, and minutes, agendas, and attendance records are not publicly available due to the sensitivity of discussions, which may involve specific coaches, players, financial aid requests, or disciplinary matters. Members are encouraged to reach out to any member of the board with suggestions, comments, feedback, etc.
- The DKMB Constitution and By-Laws are currently being reviewed and updated in accordance with the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act.

Question: Why are some Board members holding multiple positions when community members are willing to volunteer?

Response:

- There are no regulations preventing Board members from holding multiple roles.
- The DKMB Constitution allows for up to 11 Directors, but many listed roles are non-director positions that can be filled by volunteers.
- Efforts were made to recruit new members at the previous AGM and at the season wrap-up day, but no volunteers came forward.
- The reality is that without Board members taking on multiple roles, the association could not function.
- New members may join the association to fill vacant or existing roles at any Board meeting.
- Ideally, members will serve in an appointed role for a year before being nominated as a director, provided they and the Board deem it a good fit and a vacancy exists.

Question: Why was the association's feedback form inactive since December 31, 2020?

Response:

- The form's expiration was overlooked due to the lack of an automated notification system.
- Between 2016 and 2020, no feedback forms were submitted.
- The form has since been reactivated and is now available for use.

Question: Why are there limited options for DKMB-branded apparel on the Source for Sports website?

Response:

- The online store is managed by Source for Sports.
- DKMB does not restrict product offerings aside from ensuring association colors and logos remain unchanged.
- Suggestions for additional items can be submitted and will be relayed to Source for consideration.

Question: What were the reasons for not fielding rep teams at certain age groups, and how did this impact player retention?

Response:

- The association fielded more select and rep teams this year than in the past five years.
- In some cases, viable teams could not be formed due to a lack of coaching applicants or insufficient player registrations.

- The Board worked with affected families to explore alternative opportunities for players, including trying out for other associations.

Question: Does the Board set annual goals and evaluate its performance?

Response:

- The Board's mission and values serve as overarching objectives each season.
- Capital improvement projects are considered in collaboration with the municipality but depend on municipal support.
- The season's successes and challenges are always reviewed at year-end.

Question: Are there discussions about merging or partnering with Strathroy?

Response:

- No formal discussions or plans exist for an amalgamation.
- The decision for some DKMB players to try out in Strathroy was based solely on player availability and ensuring competitive opportunities.

Moved by Brent Lipskey and seconded by Charlotte Oliver to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. Carried.

The preceding is intended to be an accurate recording of the discussions of the meeting. It is the responsibility of those present to identify any errors or omissions. These corrections should be noted to the recorder within ten (10) days of the issuance of these minutes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

**TBD
7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Signed at Delaware this November 6th, 2023

Brent Lipskey, President

Steve Rumford, Vice-President