

REVISED ISA MINUTES

Meeting

September 12, 2021/1:30 p.m. | Meeting called to order by Steve Warmington

Welcome

Welcome, from Steve Warmington. Thanks for participating as best you can during this pandemic and getting the children in your centre out on the ball diamond.

Attendants

PRESENT: Alma-Paul Driedger; Arthur-Jeff McKee; Grand Valley-Darryl Bell; Minto-Elaine Elliott, Rhonda Schill; Mount Forest-Ruth Risidore; Ponsonby-Scott Holman, Shirley Obergan, Steve Warmington, Teresa Warmington; Puslinch-Cameron Tuck.

ABSENT: Dundalk, Kincardine, Listowel, Port Elgin, Tara and Walkerton sent their apologies. Brussels, Chepstow, Drayton Moorefield, Durham, Hillsburgh, Lucknow, Markdale, Mildmay, Wingham.

Minutes

- February 23, 2020 minutes were reviewed
- Accepted by Puslinch
- Seconded by Grand Valley

Treasurer Report

- 2021 Financial Report as of September 1, 2021, was reviewed
- Fees for missed meetings are waived until 2022 due to COVID situation
- Accepted by Grand Valley
- Seconded by Puslinch

Umpire in Chief Report

- Darryl Bell notes children have lost skills due to the lack of play in both 2020 and 2021
- Lack of play and clinics in 2020 and 2021 have also affected the number and skills of umpires

Report On Year End Tournaments

- ISA as a group has not run tournaments in 2021 due to COVID
- Individual centres have been successful running their own independent tournaments
- Also, once COVID restrictions were lifted somewhat, teams were able to participate in exhibition games with other centres

DISCUSSION ONE: ISA Celebrates 50th Anniversary in 2022

Should we have a celebration?

Please come to the February 2022 meeting with your ideas. There are funds for a gathering (perhaps at the Alma Community Centre?)

Shirley Obergan suggests ISA executives and two representatives from each centre receive a commemorative 50th anniversary ball jacket. Other members could order jackets for \$50. The order would be placed at the April 2022 meeting with jackets handed out at the September 2022 year end meeting.

DISCUSSION TWO: Softball Ontario's Changes That Become Effective in 2022

Should ISA adopt these changes?

Three areas are being affected by these changes – age categories, size of balls, and pitching distances.

For example, with the change in age categories, 10-year-old children will be in U11 with no ball size change and a pitching increase of 5 feet (30 feet to 35 feet). See the charts below:

| Softball Canada Fast Pitch Distance Chart Changes for 2022 Comparison | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|-------|--|--------|------|-------|-------|
| Male | | 2021 | | | Male | 2022 | | |
| | Ball | Pitch | Bases | | | Ball | Pitch | Bases |
| U23 | 12" | 46 | 60 | | U23 | 12" | 46 | 60 |
| U19 | 12" | 46 | 60 | | U20 | 12" | 46 | 60 |
| U16 | 12" | 42 | 60 | | U17 | 12" | 46 | 60 |
| U14 | 12" | 40 | 60 | | U15 | 12" | 42 | 60 |
| U12 | 11" | 35 | 55 | | U13 | 11" | 38 | 55 |
| U10 | 11" | 30 | 45 | | U11 | 11" | 35 | 45 |
| U8 | 11" | 30 | 45 | | U9 | 11" | 30 | 45 |
| U6 | 11" | 30 | 45 | | U7 | 11" | 30 | 45 |
| Softball Canada Fast Pitch Distance Chart Changes for 2022 Comparison | | | | | | | | |
| Female | | 2021 | | | Female | 2022 | | |
| | Ball | Pitch | Bases | | | Ball | Pitch | Bases |
| U23 | 12" | 43 | 60 | | U23 | 12" | 43 | 60 |
| U19 | 12" | 43 | 60 | | U19 | 12" | 43 | 60 |
| U16 | 12" | 40 | 60 | | U17 | 12" | 43 | 60 |
| U14 | 12" | 38 | 60 | | U15 | 12" | 40 | 60 |
| U12 | 11" | 35 | 55 | | U13 | 11" | 38 | 55 |
| U10 | 11" | 30 | 45 | | U11 | 11" | 35 | 45 |
| U8 | 11" | 30 | 45 | | U9 | 11" | 30 | 45 |
| U6 | 11" | 30 | 45 | | U7 | 11" | 30 | 45 |

In emails submitted, Dundalk, Kincardine, Listowel, Port Elgin, Tara and Walkerton support changing to the Softball Ontario rules.

For those present at the meeting, the consensus is that 10-year-olds already have difficulty pitching 30 feet. The move to 35 feet is not productive to developing skills. Also, children have lost basic skills during the two seasons affected by this pandemic; it does not seem appropriate to make changes at this time.

We should not follow Softball Ontario blindly but think about what is best for our children.

If age category changes are accepted, ball and hockey ages are inconsistent.

The safety issue of using loaded bats and red dot or green dot balls came up during these discussions. Should ISA ban their use through amendments to our rules? (Example: only allow gold dot balls.)

******VERY IMPORTANT******

If your centre wants to make proposed changes to the ISA Constitution and Rules, they must be introduced, accepted, or declined at the February 2022 AGM.

There are deadlines that must be met to introduce recommendations at the 2022 AGM:

- **October 31st, 2021** – centre recommendations must be submitted in writing to Steve Warmington
- **December 1st, 2021** – Steve Warmington will forward submitted recommendations to all centres for consideration

Recommended changes will be voted on at the 2022 AGM. Attendance is important since each centre gets a maximum of two votes.

Next Meeting

February 2022, Exact Time, Date and Location to follow.

Motion to adjourn was made at 2:14 pm and passed unanimously.