ISA Meeting Summary – September 13, 2026

Attendance:

Representatives attended from Drayton, Durham, Elmira, Guelph, Hanover, Minto, Mount Forest and Palmerston.

CENTRES MUST NOTIFY LINDSAY IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CHANGES TO THEIR EXECUTIVE OR DESIGNATED ISA REPRESENTATIVE SO THE ISA CONTACT AND EMAIL LISTS REMAIN CURRENT. IF YOU DO NOT NEED TO RECEIVE EMAILS FOR ISA AND LONGER - PLEASE RESPOND BACK TO THIS EMAIL SO YOU CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR EMAIL LIST.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved by Ashley Freeman of DMMB and seconded by Lee Neuman of Durham.

Treasurer's Report

The ISA has a bank balance of approximately **$11,013** following the return of the bond. This includes approximately **$450 in profit from the All-Star event**.

A complete financial statement outlining expenses and transactions will be distributed to centres in January or February.

The treasurer's report was approved by Lee Neuman of Durham and seconded by Mike Wilson of Minto.

Umpire Report

Three umpire clinics were held in April and May:

- Two Level 1 clinics, consisting of four hours online and four hours in person
- One Level 2 clinic with approximately 15 participants
- A total of 73 ISA participants attended

Concerns were raised about umpires who work both hardball and softball but are not properly trained in softball rules. Centres offering both sports must ensure their umpires understand the differences.

There was also a shortage of senior umpires during year-end tournaments. ISA will work toward circulating a senior umpire list earlier and securing tournament commitments well in advance.

Year-End Convenor Reports

U7

- Ten teams participated.
- The year-end event used a jamboree format rather than a competitive tournament.
- Feedback was very positive, with fewer issues and a more relaxed atmosphere.
- Only one game was not completed due to weather.
- There were no illegal-player concerns, complaints or significant problems.

U9

- Approximately 23 teams participated across three divisions.

- The tournament in Arthur went well, and centres and coaches represented themselves positively.
- Some confusion occurred regarding differences between U7 and U9 rules.
- These differences need to be communicated more clearly to coaches and umpires before next season.

U11 Girls

- There were 23 teams divided into North, Central and South loops.
- The primary challenges were scheduling, rescheduling, forfeited games and incomplete schedules.
- Rain contributed to delays, but several teams did not cooperate adequately in completing games.
- Rules were not followed consistently across all centres, creating confusion throughout the season and during the year-end tournament.
- Central and South teams generally did well, while most concerns involved teams in the North loop.
- Despite the challenges, the players had fun and the year-end tournament was completed as successfully as possible.

Tournament results:

- **A Division:** Mount Forest Corley, Mount Forest Vanderaa, Drayton/Moorefield Orange
- **B Division:** Kincardine 1, Chepstow, Minto Red
- **C Division:** Saugeen Shores Gold, Saugeen Shores Blue, Saugeen Shores Black

A simplified U11 Girls rule sheet or laminated reference card will be developed once proposed rule changes are finalized. Coaches and umpires must use ISA rules throughout the regular season so teams are not surprised when those rules are enforced at the tournament.

U11 Boys

- Teams played approximately 12 regular-season games.
- The season and year-end tournament went well, with no significant complaints.

  Tournament Results
  A Division: Drayton-Moorefield Gold , DM-Orange Silver; Minto Bronze
  B Division: Ponsonby Gold Gold, Grand Valley Silver, Durham Bronze.

U13 Girls

- Nineteen teams participated in North and South loops.
- Teams received an 18-game schedule. The South loop responded positively, while some North teams found the schedule challenging.
- Heavy rain significantly affected the year-end tournament.
- Alma was thanked for hosting the C Division, and Ponsonby was recognized for its work under difficult conditions.
- Coaches worked cooperatively to determine fair results when games could not be completed.

Tournament results:

- **A Division:** Ponsonby Gold, Mount Forest Reeves, Arthur White
- **B Division:** Grand Valley Gold; silver shared by Ponsonby Green and Drayton/Moorefield
- **C Division:** Guelph Blue, Tara, Puslinch

U13 Boys

- Eighteen teams played a 14-game schedule.
- Most games were completed, with only a few affected by severe weather.
- The year-end tournament used a round-robin format with A and B divisions.
- Overall, the division was cooperative and enjoyable to convene.

Tournament results:

- **A Division:** Minto, Drayton/Moorefield, Ponsonby Green
- **B Division:** Ponsonby Gold, Grand Valley, Durham

U15 Girls

- The regular season was extremely successful, with no major complaints, fights or reported umpire issues.
- Rain created significant challenges during the year-end tournament.
- Two third-place teams forfeited rather than wait for conditions to improve.
- The A Division was completed Sunday, and the B Division was rescheduled and completed Wednesday evening.
- The C Division received praise for its cooperation and willingness to help prepare the diamonds.
- Concerns were raised about parents confronting the convenor and the lack of assistance from some teams with diamond maintenance.

Tournament results:

- **A Division:** Arthur White, Arthur Blue, Walkerton Red
- **B Division:** Drayton Orange, Dundalk, Kincardine
- **C Division:** Puslinch, Mount Forest A, Tara

U15 Boys

- The regular season generally went well, with only a few team-related issues.
- Problems at the tournament were largely connected to teams not understanding or following ISA rules during the regular season.
- Coaches must receive clearer information regarding rules and behaviour expectations.
- Concerns were raised about swearing, inappropriate gestures and poor conduct by coaches in front of players.
- Centres are expected to hold their coaches to a higher standard and address incidents with both the coach and the centre president.
- Providing laminated tournament rules to every coach was recommended.

U18 Girls

The tournament included several close games, extra innings and one-run decisions. Coaches were praised for being cooperative and easy to work with.

Tournament results:

- **A Division:** Mount Forest Reeves, Ponsonby, Mount Forest Corrigan
- **B Division:** Grand Valley, Dundalk, Drayton Black

Different tournament formats were discussed, including double knockout, playoffs and three-game guarantees. Convenors may select from the formats permitted under the bylaws after considering available time, diamonds and feedback from coaches.

A clearer rule is also needed for three-way ties, particularly when combining loops that have played different numbers of games.

Several teams forfeited a large portion of their regular-season games and were therefore unable to meet player-eligibility requirements for the year-end tournament. ISA confirmed that eligibility rules must be enforced consistently, even when the players are negatively affected by decisions made by their coaches.

Frequent forfeits can also distort standings and result in teams being placed in divisions that do not accurately reflect their ability. This issue requires further discussion.

U18 Boys

- Five teams participated.
- Coaches selected a playoff-series format rather than a tournament.
- A scheduling issue was resolved cooperatively by the coaches.
- Game sheets were consistently submitted within 24 hours.
- The division was considered very successful and largely ran itself.

Results:

- **1st:** Drayton
- **2nd:** Chesley
- **3rd:** Ponsonby

New Business

Coach and Umpire Education

Because rule interpretation and enforcement were major concerns across several divisions, ISA plans to hold an educational session for coaches and umpires near the beginning of June.

The session would review ISA bylaws, division-specific rules, coach expectations and common areas of confusion. Centres will be expected to ensure their coaches understand and follow ISA rules throughout the season.

2027 All-Star Event

The All-Star event will continue in 2027 using a similar format.

The Google registration form worked well, but centres must complete it properly and provide all requested information, including the player's centre, age division and parent contact information.

Beginning in 2027:

- Centres will pay directly for all players listed on their registration form.
- Individual parents should not send payments directly to ISA.
- Centres will be responsible for the fee for every player registered, whether or not that player attends.

September Meeting Format

The September 2027 meeting will be held online. The February and April meetings will remain in person because they involve rule discussions, voting and more detailed conversation.

Participants attending online will be expected to remain visible and engaged.

Hosting and Convenor Support

The group discussed recognizing the significant workload carried by convenors and tournament hosts.

Possible benefits or reduced fees for convenors and host-centre teams will be explored. No final decision was made because diamond maintenance, staffing costs and volunteer requirements vary considerably between centres.

Centres that have not recently hosted or convened were encouraged to consider helping in the future.

Player Development

The need for additional pitching and player-development opportunities was discussed, particularly for smaller centres.

Centres offering pitching clinics are asked to send the information to Lindsay so a league-wide list can be prepared and circulated. ISA may also explore shared winter or spring development clinics.

Deadlines and Upcoming Dates

- Proposed rule changes and amendments must be submitted by **November 1, 2026**.
- Every proposal must be supported or seconded by another centre.
- Proposals will be organized and discussed at the February AGM.
- Centres must return any remaining medals and other ISA materials.

Upcoming meetings at the Alma Community Centre:

- **AGM:** February 28, 2027 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Spring Meeting:** April 25, 2027 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Fall Meeting:** September 12, 2027 at 1:30 p.m. — to be held online

Elections

The following positions will be addressed at the February AGM:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Umpire in Chief, which currently remains vacant

MEETING ADJOURNED - Ruth wished all a Merry Christmas 🎄