



# Fort Saskatchewan Mixed Slo-Pitch Association

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## Fort Saskatchewan Mixed Slo Pitch Association Fall General Meeting

Wednesday October 11, 2017 - Lions Mane Room DCC

### I. Call to Order

Brian Howie called to order the executive meeting of the Fort Saskatchewan Mixed Slo Pitch Association at 7:00pm on October 11, 2017 in the Lions Mane DCC.

Purpose of the meeting is to review the season.

Handouts included: Agenda

No changes or additions to the agenda.

### II. Roll Call

The following executive members were present:

Brian Howie	Chandra Henry	Tara Wilson
Dan Wilson	Dave Peacock	Adam Henry
Tara Ouellet	Paul Kruger	Matt Tremblay
Larry Brandenburg	Sean Ansell	Nadine Stang

### III. Finance Report - Paul Kruger

Paul went over the financials for the year. We were \$9000 higher than anticipated on our budget for income. The extra income came from rentals and unreturned bond fees. Paul went over the expenses as well, majority of items were on budget, some were slightly over. We had anticipated a surplus of \$5000, and we ended up with a surplus of just over \$5000.



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### IV. Umpire Report - Larry Brandenburg

Larry put out a call for umpires. It is possible to play and umpire. Larry is willing to work with your schedule. The clinic will be held in mid April next year.

Larry mentioned that SPN is making a motion to make batting helmets necessary, so it is something to be prepared for.

### V. Season Overview - Brian Howie

Game rescheduling was discussed, specifically with playoff hockey games early in the season. Our scheduling coordinator did his best to reschedule, and it became a challenge. It was reminded that our policy is 7 days to reschedule, and we try to work around that but it is not always possible. In the future fees may be charged for cancelled games. Will revisit in the spring.

Our association does have some coverage through SPN in case of injury. When an injury occurs, an incident report form needs to be filled in by the injured and the umpire. We would like an incident report form filled out whether or not you are intending on making a claim. Forms can be found online and Larry will keep a stash in the umpire shed. In Fall League when there are no umpires, both teams should sign.

Reminders were given about etiquette on the diamonds with regards to language, smoking, and music. If the cigarette butts on the ground/field do not improve, we will make it a smoke free facility.

A reminder was given to communicate the information from meetings to team members.



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Feedback from the membership - TT1, TT3, MW3 said they found their league very respectful, and were happy to be a part of it. Umpires were appreciated.

It was suggested to play with a small ball for females. Questions were also raised about implementing new rules that were tested in Fall League.

MW 2/3 movement was questioned this season. Brian explained rationale for the moves, and thanked the team for their feedback.

Complaints about the boards we have been using being too slippery were brought up as we switched from plywood to sign board. It was suggested to spray the board or add a rubber strip.

Questions were raised about threats of physical violence towards members. Each situation is assessed on a case by case basis. The umpires are the impartial body, which should help pass the judgements on those cases. We need to document these cases, and if serious enough players can be suspended from SPN.

Questions about lengthening the season as opposed to playing fall league. In the past votes have been in favour of the shorter summer season by the majority.

Questions about more opportunities to get more bond hours. Several members would like further opportunities. If a team has an idea of something to do for bond hours, they are encouraged to contact the div rep, facilities, or bond coordinator. The bond work does need to be verifiable. Another suggestion was to lower the bond fee.

Questions were raised about playing every Tuesday/Thursday. We only play a 20 game season over 14 weeks. The history was explained. Generally teams are scheduled to play at least once a week, but mistakes do happen.



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### VI. Facilities Update - Dan Wilson

Shale has been brought down to the diamonds, and we are in need of volunteers on Saturday, October 14. Bond hours will be given towards next year for any members that are willing to come down. Members are encouraged to contact Dan to sign up.

Fencing will be examined and fixed before next season. Two access holes will be put in each diamond for home run balls as well.

Diamond six backstop blew over in a windstorm this year. The feedback on diamond six was mixed on the privacy slats, and insurance will only cover the repairs if we convert back to the original state. This is what we are planning on doing, and games will be scheduled only as needed on that diamond.

Feedback on facilities was requested from the membership. Maintenance on first base was a priority. Questions about water on the outfields were raised. We have looked into a water truck, but the cost was too high for our budget. Irrigation is a goal for the association, but with the overall cost it will not be in the near future (more like a ten year goal). A call was put out to the membership for any help with upgrading facilities.

### VII. Fall League - Dan Wilson

Rules that were tested in fall league were explained to the membership - homerun rule of 4+1, anticipation allowed, and extra male hitter. These rules will be discussed in the offseason to determine whether or not they will be implemented in regular season.

In the fall league tournament we tested out a new rule on timing - 1 hour plus last inning. Umpire calls time at one hour and then an additional inning is played which is open. A vote was taken, no one objected to it.



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Questions were raised about an extra hitter and the impact on our games. Most feedback was negative. Suggestions were to make different rules for each division, but this makes it complicated.

Starting with a 1-1 count was a suggestion of another rule - possibly for fall league next year.

Feedback from membership: didn't like playing the same team twice on double header nights. Needs more accountability - for game cancellations during fall league and games need to be rescheduled earlier.

### VIII. Safety - Dan Wilson

There will be discussion within all leagues across the country this year about batting helmets, and possibly pitchers masks as well. The story of the young man in BC was brought up. The membership was asked what their thoughts are on batters helmets. If SPN doesn't put it in, we could make a league rule, or we could leave it as an individual choice. We will wait on SPN and discuss as an executive over the offseason. The issue will be brought up again in the Spring.

Pitchers masks were also discussed. Concerns were raised about the distance of the pitcher from the batters. If a pitcher is in front of the line, it was suggested to bring it to the umpires attention. The ropes that are currently there are not visible.

### IX. Fall Bond Hours - Alanna

October 14, fall bond hours are available towards next year for the shale spreading party.



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### X. Elections

President: Dan Wilson nominated Adam Henry. Matt Tremblay seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

League Commissioner: Adam Henry nominated Dan Wilson. Dave Peacock seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

Secretary: Tara Wilson nominated Alanna Marklund. Dan Wilson seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

Bond Coordinator: Tara Ouellet nominated Sean Ansell. Adam Henry seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

Facilities Coordinator: Dan Wilson nominated Matt Tremblay. Chandra Henry seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

Rental Coordinator: Adam Henry nominated Tara Wilson. Alanna Marklund seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

Website/Statistician: Dan Wilson nominated Adam Henry. Chandra Henry seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

TT Div Rep: Matt Tremblay nominated Chris Stather. Tara Wilson seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.

Signs/Fundraising: Adam Henry nominated Tyler Kuefler. Dan Wilson seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken, all were in favour.



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### XI. General Feedback

Appreciation and thanks were given to executive. Good umpires, good diamonds, well run.

Questions about communication with the city about the stop sign with the new dog park.

Twitter is not being used and will be dropped for next season.

### XII. Adjournment

Brian Howie adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.