**Mabel League Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 5, 2023 at 7:00pm

**In Attendance**

Kelsey Dries, JM, MH**,** CK, CN, TM, M, MK, Ashley Fehr, SG, M.J.M, SP, TP, MCB, Paige Ready, KN, R, AP , JB, KB, Nat Gingerich, Michelle Coleman, TD, LY, R, ARG, Kathleen Lehan, Angel Pederson, AS, SB, KW, MS, BG, Kate Peterson, BC, HM, ZJ, JG, AB, AP Grace Mathisen, KP, KP, AM, Cristie Rosling, ARG, TP, KJ, LC, LJS, AH, RBH, Jay Geernaert, W, CT, ND, L, C, CT, KP, Jaydeen Williams, Malloreigh Hamilton JO, SD, RR, HW, GC, JM, RC, AR, Amy Adams, CR, CT, J, A, A, AT, Cynthia, Beebe, Dani Monaghan, CC, EG, KL BH, BF, KW, LW, LY, LC, LT.

**7:03 Meeting Begins:**

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

Members of our executive and members of our league are committed to being caring stewards of the places we play and call home, and we appreciate the feedback that we can do more. As we elect new exec members and start planning for next year, we will include that feedback in our planning.

**2.** **Agenda is amended as previously described.**

*\*Amend the agenda to add “resignation of 2023 Executive” before the executive elections, and Business Arising to after the executive elections so the agenda will instead be:   
3 Adopt previous minutes*

*4 Financial Statements*

*5 New Proposals and Bylaw Changes*

*6 Resignation of 2023 Executive*

*7 Election of 2024 Executive*

*8 Business Arising*

*9 Close*

**Seconded. Approved.**

1. **Motion to adopt the 2023 AGM Minutes. Seconded. Approved.**
2. **Motion to adopt the SGM (January 2023). Seconded. Approved.**
3. **Financial Statements**

Jaydeen speaks to the financials. Expect that the fees will go up next year regarding rising costs of fields and potentially umps. Financials do not get audited. Fees have not gone up in the past few years. An unexpected cost was the increase in pricing for the fields, which went up $5000. The grant helped cover this. Our finances are more or less the same as last year.

**Grant Report (Nathaniel Gingerich)**

The grant was used to subsidize new teams for their costs. Existing teams received $400 to help cover their own costs. Many chose to use that to cut down player fees, do training sessions, batting cages, etc. Some further impact was that we were able to expand our range of merchandise from infant to 5X. We were size inclusive.

***Feedback regarding the Grant from our League Members:***

*AP: fruits were able to get new hats and went to the batting cage and got fees lowered. For first year player of this year, AP, “this was fantastic”.*

*RR: cover fees for players who needed it. Purchased equipment. The barrier reduction was the most significant.*

*RBG: I can't speak where I am but heartbreakers used the grant to get a new bat and for our first year back it made a huge difference many huge hits!*

*RBH: We bought catcher's gear for all our different sized catchers.*

*AP: We had a number of new players to the sport this year so were able to buy some team helmets, face masks and a couple bats.*

*Anonymous: grant helped a player anonymously with the barrier regarding fees. It was crucial to them being able to play.*

*CK: Bunt Cakes used it for equipment.*

*ND: As a new team (The Peaches), we used the grant for new equipment and uniforms*

*MK: The grant was so important in helping Catching Feels get up and running. It truly made our season possible!*

*Grant money went to umpire gear tournament signage.*

**Motion to receive the Financial Statements. Seconded. Moved. Financials are passed.**

Teams are allowed to do fundraisers for their teams. It’s a great way to make money for the teams.

KJ – Trivia night rocked.

JM: Fees last went up when the chocolate fundraiser was abolished.

1. **New Proposals and Bylaw Changes - Pitching**
   1. Proposal 1 - Pitching Update [Michelle]- Would like to see the competitive division grow and evolve. As a legitimate option for formerly competitive division players, we would like the 43 feet distance from plate to rubber for pitchers. Have as few modifications as possible for our age and other factors. The proposal for Div A is to introduce the pitching rubber and would be used for windmill and slingshot pitching. There would be a line in the sand for 40 feet for slingshot and orthodox. To achieve this, we propose to amend the Mabel rules (for the competitive division), which are actually an amendment of Softball Canada Rules.

Floor is open for discussion:

KL agrees with the mound at 43 feet. Does not think there should be a delineation between advanced and moderate. Windmill at 43. Any slingshot should be at 40. Believes there is a lot of focus on arm position, does not believe that it is a good indicator. Pitching is legs and body position. Stopping the arm at twelve is purely for mechanics. The speed is from the jump on the ground. Stopping at 12 is very hard on the body and not great mechanics. The arm is the whip, the legs and the body are the determiner of the speed. KL wants to see the proper mechanics getting taught. No limitations are put on any other positions.

CT: Feels similarly to KL and agrees with the amendment to bridge the gap for pitchers. If Mabel wants to invite competitive players, the rules as they currently stand are discouraging.

AP – would prefer 43 ft to be further away from the batter. If you don’t have the power to get it there. There needs to be some balance for the learning curve during cross-divisional play.

CT: Modification for 40 ft is more for batters. Hitting at 40 ft is easier as a batter. Windmill is harder for pitchers, it’s slower. Full windmill from 43 is faster.

CR: Mechanics can change with advanced slingshot and windmill. By changing their mechanics, they would be less accurate if they cannot be able to time their arms and legs. Rise and curve can travel differently.

KL: Consider the future generations of players.

BF: is it left up to the umpires to notice the variations? Will the umpire have to get very well versed in it?

KL: believes we are losing players to other leagues with the 40 ft modification.

No opposition to adding the 43 ft line from the home plate.

**MH: propose an amendment: proposal is that the change be that slingshot pitching of any style may be done from 40 or 43 feet per the decision at the pregame conference between coaches at the beginning of the game, while windmill pitching is always done from 43 feet.**

***Family amendment***

***Seconded. Approved.***

What if there’s a dispute between teams? Defaults to slingshot and modified 40 ft.

Going past 12, will not be an issue next year.

Michelle: comment to the original proposal, the pitching rubber is useful to have in the game.

GM: Farm boy, fetch me that pitcher-

(2) A competitive or intermediate division team may use the windmill pitching style, as described in the current Softball Canada rule book, when agreed upon by the opposing competitive or intermediate division team at the pre-game conference. Note: both teams do not have to make the same choice. Windmill pitching will take place from a pitching rubber set up at 43 feet from home plate. Slingshot pitching can take place at either 40 or 43 feet from home plate, as described below.

(3) There are three major parts to a regular slingshot pitching delivery: the starting position, the backswing up to the top of the windup, and the forward swing down to and through the release.

(b) During the backswing, the pitcher:

(i) Must start the backswing directly out of the paused position.

(ii) Must move the pitching hand backwards to start the delivery.

(iii) May bring the arm above the shoulder line.

(iv) May lift their front foot off the ground.

(4) Slingshot pitching of any style may be done from 40 or 43 feet as decided at the mound between coaches at the beginning of the game. Windmill pitching is always done from 43 feet.

**Motion to amend the pitching rules as proposed.**

**Motion passed.**

**Proxy Votes:**

Lots of discussion about proxy votes. Clarification needed for how they are extended.

*Constitution notes: "(1) Each Member in good standing of the Society, including each Executive: (a) is entitled to attend, forward motions, participate in discussions, and cast one vote at a General Meeting; and - 9 - (b) may vote by proxy by delivering a written proxy to a Member who is attending the General Meeting in person, and the attending Member bringing that written proxy to the General Meeting.*

**Motion to recess for 10 minutes to give time for gathering proxy votes.**

**Seconded and approved.**

No documents have been sent regarding proxies except the one in which Exec was given ahead of time.

* 1. Proposal 2 - Members-at-Large

BF: concern around how many there can be, especially since there’s the stipend as an executive member. It could get financially costly. We can change the maximum number of Members-at-Large

Motioned.

*Over the last couple of months we’ve had conversations about the functionality of Members-at-large. Historically they have been elected with specific projects in mind; this past year we had 4 members at large and ultimately we did find that having additional members on the executive was helpful for pretty much always having enough hands for events and tournaments, having more perspectives on the executive, and creating a space for folks to learn more complicated positions. That being said, we do need to be sure we limit the number of MALs, especially now that we’re offering an honorarium. This motion limits the number of Members at Large to 3.*

People feel they have less ownership if they do not have a formal title. Member at Large as a title still holds value without voting rights at exec meetings or receiving the honorarium.

Cynthia (current Member-at-Large), believes there’s fairness for them not being able to receive the honorarium since the workload is less.

Exec gets a point for every meeting they attend. Exec’s already get 5 points. MaL’s get points already.

TP: believes we should give the honorarium to all members at large regardless, and believes the workload is more than the amount.

**Motion to amend the motion (whether or not MaL’s get an honorarium. It’s a tie) Motion fails. MaL’s do not receive the honorarium.**

**Main Motion: specified, that MaL’s must be given specific roles, and there can only be a maximum of 3.**

**Motion is passed.**

**Motion to use less specific language. Motion to update the wording as given. Motion seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

1. **Resignation of the 2023 Executive:**

(Chairing done by Jaydeen for the voting of the chair as Ashley is running for chair again)

**Election of the 2024 Executive**

**The Executive:**

Chair: **Ashley Fehr** is nominated. Seconded. Elected.

Co-Chair: **Nathaniel Gingerich** nominated. Seconded. Elected.

Statistician: **Sid Hawkins** nominated. Seconded.

Statistician: AP nominated. Seconded.

Put to vote. **Sid Hawkins** is elected.

Treasurer: **Grace Mathisen** is nominated. Seconded. Elected.

Registrar: **Amy Adams** is nominated. Seconded. Elected.

Special Events: **Cristie Rosling** is nominated. Seconded. Elected.

PR Social Media and Communications: Paige Ready and Dani Monaghan are nominated. Seconded.

PR Social Media and Communications: Leigh St-Pierre. Nominated. Seconded.

Put to vote. **Paige Ready and Dani MONAGHAN** are elected.

(In the case of 1 role being filled by two people, their vote is split at meetings and the honorarium is also split)

Umpire in Chief: SL is nominated. Seconded.

Umpire in Chief: **Leigh St. Pierre** is nominated. Seconded.

Put to vote: Leigh St. Pierre is elected.

Fields: **Kelsey Dries** nominated. Seconded. Elected.

Secretary: **Angel Pederson.** Nominated. Seconded. Elected.

**Members-at-Large:**

1: **Jay Geernaert** for sponsorships and donations.

2) **Michelle Johnson** for the website.

3) **Kate Peterson:** assist with scheduling and fields.

All are nominated. Seconded, and elected.

**8. Business Arising**

1. **Future scheduling**

* **Tuesday accommodations and extending the season**
  + We have considered having games on Mondays but there are few fields available and without legacy booking, it would be expensive. For teams that aren’t given the accommodation, the other teams have lots of games on that day of the week which can also be unbalanced.
  + How would the league feel about extending the season? Mixed. Some members are excited, others apprehensive. This is harder for members with children. May need more than a season to consider this.
* **Lil Tournament**
  + Lil’ Tournament. Feedback that many teams do not want games to occur the week before or after the Lil. This as a scheduling issue could be solved by either extending the season, or limiting the allotted 18 games. We do not need to come to a conclusion tonight.
* *The number of 18 games. Does it have to be set?*
* *Can we be more fluid with times for Sunday games?*
* *Are there fields that are good that we don’t normally book?*
* *We may be able to add 2 more teams.*
* **Playing for multiple teams**
* *66 players in the league played for more than one team. What we didn’t catch at the time, 6 were on 3 teams. These numbers are high. If our league is about creating more space for queer players, we are already compromising our ability for such, There are rules currently about being on more than 1 team but we need to create a better system to follow these rules.*
* *A team cannot have more than 4 players who are registered for another higher division team.*
* *When do you declare your primary team? When you do it on the roster. A column must be added.*
* *6 players last season played for three teams*
* *Note that if you’re subbing for a team you don’t need to be on their roster.*
* *Ultimately this is a note to all players that the next exec will have to create a system to ensure the rules are being followed. Teams may also be more responsible internally for this topic.*
* *The deadlines for confirming returns will be decided in January. Returning date is February.*

*The rules are under the Operating Rules, Section 3: Mabel League Structure and Divisions, Clause 7: “A Member may register to play on more than one team, at the discretion of the Executive and pursuant to the following restrictions: (and specifically:)*

*Subclause a: Members may register with a maximum of two teams*

*Subclause f: A team must not have more than four registered players who are also registered to play for a team in a higher division.*

1. **Close**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 pm. Seconded.**

**As you wish.**