WHITE BUTTE MINOR BALL ASSOCIATION



2024 Annual General Meeting Season End Reports

White Butte Minor Ball Association is a non-profit organization that coordinates Storm Softball and Broncos Baseball in the White Butte Region. The Association is led year-round by a volunteer Board of Directors and is joined by additional volunteers during the ball season to coach and manage the teams. The Board is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Storm Softball within the rules, regulations and policies of Regina Minor Softball League, Softball Saskatchewan, and Softball Canada. Storm Softball is an independent, non-profit branch of White Butte Minor Ball Association. We are committed to providing all girls with an experience that fosters positive self-esteem, team spirit and individual growth through personal achievement and team play. Our softball program is well received by our community and the families we serve. Those families entrust us to teach their daughters various skills and we accept that honor with great pride. Each participating family plays an important role with countless hours of hard work and commitment, which coupled with your help, makes it possible for our program to instill the importance of integrity, hard work and dedication. Storm Softball's mission is to develop fast pitch softball players; not only in terms of their skills, but also build their self-esteem and self-confidence. Our coaches are committed to creating sportsmanship, teamwork, and confidence in each player.

PRESIDENT – Submitted by Leigh Fuessel

The 2024 Season officially began in September 2023 with U17A, U15A tryouts and U13A ID Camps. Head coaches in these divisions were identified prior to the tryout camps. Our U17A and U15A teams were formed in the fall. Registrations opened up in January 2024, closing at the beginning of February. Evaluations for the U11, U13, U15B and U17B divisions were held at the Regina Sports Performance Center and Yara Center. All athletes were evaluated by independent evaluators from 222's Fastpitch. These evaluations were run by volunteer board members and senior Storm Softball players. We also offered pre-evaluation skills camps prior to evaluations to allow for some prep. All teams were drafted by their division coordinators and coaches were identified. Head coaches for our U11 teams were identified after the U11 evaluations, all other coaches were identified once teams were drafted or formed by the division coordinators. Teams began practicing in the gym in April. Our U7 and U9 divisions wrapped up their season mid June. The U9 teams hosted the Clash of Cleats Tournament at the end of May. The U7's held their end of year Storm Showcase mid June. The U11, U13, U15 and U17 teams played into mid July. Our Storm teams attended multiple tournaments throughout the province and saw many successes. Provincials were held for the U11, U13, U15 and U17 divisions in July. Our athletes, coaches and families continue to represent the Storm Softball Association with great pride. We are recognized as an association that builds great ball players, community leaders and amazing young ladies. We are looking forward to another exciting 2025 ball season!

2024 Season Highlights-Presidents Tournament- U17 A- Gold U9 Clash of Cleats- Gold Cyclones, Bronze Hurricanes Queen City Classic- U11A Lightning - Gold Queen City Classic- U17A - Gold League Playoffs- U13 B Heat Gold Twin City Classic -U15A Storm Gold 2024 Canada Cup - B side Champs U17A Storm League Playoffs- U13A- Gold League Playoffs- U15A- Gold League Playoffs- U17A- Gold 2024 U15 A Provincials - Bronze U15A Storm

VISE PRESIDENT- Submitted by Mike Bourque

I would like to thank all the volunteers, coaches, and parents that continue to make Storm Softball a success. Storm softball has seen continual growth over the past few years, in part because of the volunteers committed to growing the sport. Programs like pitch club, player development, come try softball and Clash of the Cleats just to name a few are key pieces to player and association success. I would like to encourage everyone, regardless of your skill level/knowledge to continue supporting your child and get involved when/where you can. Our children and the association depend on volunteers.

SCHEDULER – Submitted by Shelley Stamm

The 2024 Softball Season was another great year on the ball diamonds. The diamonds in all three communities were busy once again and almost always fully booked despite the rainy month of June. Our registration numbers were strong again this year and we were able to field teams in almost all the divisions. It is great to see Softball remaining strong in the community and to see all the successes with all the teams.

As with previous years I was in close contact with all three communities. We review the scheduling plan prior to the beginning of the season and adjust as the season progresses. Coordination with the towns is important to ensure the proper setups are done on the diamonds, including lights and base setup.

I enjoyed working closely with the managers and coaches of all the teams. It is great to see such wonderful volunteers supporting our association. Their time and commitment to White Butte Storm Softball does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

Planning of the 2025 Season is well under way. I am looking forward to another great season.

REGISTRAR - Submitted by Lee Peters

White Butte Softball Association was pleased to have its strongest year for registrations with the following numbers

U7 – 63 (6 teams) U9 – 58 (5 teams) U11 – 73 (7 teams made up of 2 A teams and 5 B teams) U13 – 47 (4 teams comprised of 1 A and 3 B) U15 – 45 (3 teams comprised of 1 A and 2 B) U17 – 33 (3 teams comprised of 1 A and 2 B) We had no adult team this year due to lack of registration Total registration was 319 which was up from 285 in the 2023 season and 273 in the 2022 season. We are pleased to see the continued increasing trend.

DIVISION REPORTS

U5/U7-Submitted by Wanda Pillipow

In U5/U7 we had 6 teams with around 10-11 kids on each team. They did 1/2 practice and 1/2 games. The showcase tournament was busy with the great weather. Everyone of the coaches planned so when it was time they already had their volunteer.

U9-Submitted by Nate Wilson

This year in the U9 division we had 5 teams competing with 11-12 players per team. All teams competed against each other along with 3 teams from Lumsden in league play which worked well. We hosted our annual Clash of the Cleats tournament in Balgonie on May 24th-26th. We had visiting teams from Regina, Weyburn, Indian Head, Fort Qu'Appelle and Quad Town with 13 teams in total. The Storm Softball Cyclones ended up taking home first place in the tournament. All of the teams competed hard and made great progress in their development. Thanks again to all of our coaches and volunteers, overall we had another successful U9 season.

U11-Submitted by Reena Legien

We had 5 teams – 2 A teams and 3 B teams. First year for A ball in U11

- A -Jenn Flaman, Jen Denouden, Aimee Knoll, Nate Wilson
- A -Trevor Wasilow, Jerrod Mohr and Kyle Pillipow
- B Jen Soos, Crystal Lavadier, Jodi, Yanko, Jen Denouden
- B Deanna Unser, Mel Collie, Brandon Boon
- B Pam Whyte, Audra Hill and maybe one other I am not aware of

There were 73 girls registered and all but 2 evaluated. One was a late registrant.

Trevor, Deanna, Jen Soos, Nate, Deanna, and Pam all obtained their community certification early

spring.

Our A teams both finished well at Provincials. They struggled in the end with Moose Jaw and Weyburn. They went to 3 or tournaments each and made it to play-off rounds each time.

Our B teams entered tournaments in Odessa, Minot, Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw (I believe) and played well.

The B teams combined to make a provincial team. The coaches that I received feedback from agreed that next year they would like to see was possibly a tryout prior to making the roster- just to ensure the players joining are aware of the more competitive nature of that team. We still did equal playing time, but it was a little heartbreaking for the girls who were dying to play in exchange for players that would rather be camping or at the lake. I think with the tryout you could set the expectations of the more competitive nature of the team- similar to the difference between an A and a B team. Some feedback....

There isn't a single B team that was happy with RMSL and I don't blame them. Their initial schedule was a nightmare, I am not sure the FINAL FINAL one was any better. And I say it that way because numerous versions of the FINAL schedule came out, making it even more messy and confusing than it already was. Both of our A teams did not participate in play-offs. It was left up to them to make that decision. They decided against it because play-offs would have started right after the Moose Jaw tournament and went the whole following week that led into provincials. Both teams found it too busy for the girls. Suggestion, but out of our hands would be that next year we ask our A players to commit to play-offs the week after provincials.

Equipment: I had lots of requests for catching gloves in the equipment bags. Some girls are getting a feel for being catchers, but don't want to commit to buying the glove and some girls are starting to throw hard. I understand new gloves wouldn't be a great idea since they aren't broken in, but maybe we can buy used or do an equipment sale/exchange night and scoop some from people.

Scheduling: Everyone loves Shelley!! Some have mentioned wanting longer time slots, but I think that may just be a communication thing where they don't realize they can book for 2 hours instead of just 1.5 hrs

I feel we had good communication amongst myself and the coaches/managers. We used WhatsApp but weren't limited to that. They had my email and cell number.

Overall, it was a good year and a great year to introduce U11A ball.

U13- Submitted by Jenn Soos

The U13 Division had another outstanding year with enough girls to round out three "B" teams and one 'A' team. ID camps were held for U13 in the fall of 2023, the A team was chosen after evaluations in February 2024, our B teams were drafted after that. Our A team consisted of only two veterans and 10 rookies to round out a 12-person roster.

This team represented the Storm association at the Saskatoon's President's Day tournament, Battle of the Borders in Lloydminster, both Regina Tournaments in May and June, and the Moose Jaw Tournament. At each tournament the A team made it to the playoff rounds which is impressive with a rookie team but were also able to clinch the B-side championship in Moose Jaw. The A team rounded out their season back in Moose Jaw for Provincials with a strong showing but topped their season being the U13A RMSL league champions. Great season ladies and to the head coach Reena Legien, and the group of volunteers that helped her throughout the season. Although the A team did not represent this year at Westerns, we had two Storm players picked up attend the competition with the Southeast Sun Devils in Brandon, MB.

The U13 Division was fortunate to have three "B" teams. We had a veteran coach Shona Elder who coached the Storm Lightning team. Here team rounded out her season with 11 games played and finished strong with 7 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie.

The Storm Heat was coached by Corinne Charko this year. Their season consisted of 11 games and were top heavy with 9 wins, 2 losses and 1 tied game.

The Storm Hurricanes were coached by Jessica Walker this year, and a big thank you to Jessica as she was asked to coach by the board and stepped up to get all of her certifications. The Hurricanes rounded their year out with playing 12 games, with 9 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie. The B-division performed exceptionally well in placing in the RMSL league all three teams in the top 6 out of 16 teams. Way to represent ladies.

The B division was represented this year at provincials with one team and was head coached by Shona Elder. Tryouts were held for this team in late May and a team was selected with representatives from each of the three B teams. The team represented well in Saskatoon. Congratulations ladies.

It was encouraging to see many teams in this age division. A big thank you goes out to all the coaches and volunteers in this division. We are thankful for your hard work, dedication, and effort to make our teams successful every year. Your contributions made it possible for the players and fans to enjoy an incredible year and grow this sport. Looking forward to another great season in 2025.

Thank you!

U15- Submitted by Mike Bourque

15A (12 players)

Tryouts were completed outdoors in the fall allowing the team additional opportunities for team building, training and fundraising – coaches enjoyed this style of evaluation as it was more realistic and created opportunities to evaluate live hitting and outfield evaluations.

24 pre-season practices, 15 in season practices, 14 league games, 5 tournaments Gold medal in Warman tournament

Tied for 1 st place in league play, winning Gold in league playoffs

3 rd place finish at Provincials, securing a spot at Canadian Championships in Montreal, QC with a 17 th place finish.

15B Heat (14 players)

League record 8-4.

Played a game under the lights in White City against the Twisters, which is always a season highlight.

Lost in Semi finals to at Sharon Knott tournament and attended Moose Jaw tournament finishing 1-1-1 in pool play, but did not make it to playoff round.

Playoffs were during the week, making it difficult for many of the grade 8 girls to attend because of graduations. May have preferred a weekend style format.

Attended Provincial Championships with 11 players, finished with a 1-2 record.

14 players was not ideal. Too many players to rotate in/out of the lineup.

15B Twisters (14 Players/1 second year)

Finished regular season in middle of standings.

Played some home games in Balgonie and enjoyed the updated facilities.

Attended tournaments in Minot, Moose Jaw and Regina

Finished 8 th of 32 teams at Provincials – highlight of the season.

14 players was not ideal. Too many players to rotate in/out of the lineup.

U17- Submitted by Wanda Pillipow

Storm ended up having 3 teams this year 1 A team and 2 B teams. With the 2 B teams we ended up having to pull up (5) U15 girls as the teams were too small for U17 roster requirements and it would have been too big for one team. Dion Greiner stepped up to the plate and put together a provincial team with the U17B girls that wanted to go.

U19/Ladies- Vacant

Registration opened in January for our U19/ladies aged players. We had no registrations most likely due to the fact that there was no team the previous year.

CLOTHING- Submitted by Kari Griffin

Once again we have used Torchy's for our clothing and as usual it was a great success. Orders increased substantially this year with high numbers of younger athletes joining the association. We will continue to work with Torchy's and use the online store as this seems to work best for people. This year we have opened up orders for Christmas. Starting Oct. 1 the store was opened and will remain open until the end of November. Some new items like the Quarter zip sweater have been added. Torchy will contact people directly when their orders are ready and they can be picked up from the store.

We also did another order for the OKAY Storm Softball bags. We also had a good number of bags ordered this year despite rising costs.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS- Submitted by Chris Ross

This year equipment was handed out at Balgonie where all bags were pulled apart and cleaned and damaged equipment was replaced. Many new items were purchased this year to replace worn out or damaged equipment. Game balls, indoor balls were a large expenditure, as well as new catchers equipment to ensure our players are protected. We also purchased more bow nets and batting tees as well as ball baskets. The association ordered temporary fences that were installed at 2 diamonds at Balgonie and will be available for use in the 2025 season.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT – Submitted by Kara Felske

Pitch club started in October with sessions on Friday nights. We had a 6:00 and 7:00 session. It ran from October until the end of March. It was another successful year with new and returning pitchers. Cost was \$5. Feedback from athletes and parents was positive and saw improvement with each child. Player development was held on Thursday nights in Pilot Butte. The U17 A team was able to run most sessions as a fundraiser. Charging \$15 for each child. \$10 going to the U17A team and \$5 going to the organization to pay for registration costs. Feedback from the girls running the sessions was very positive. The young girls really look up to the older girls and enjoy having them instruct. Player development ran from January until the end of March.

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING – Submitted by Lee Peters

White Butte was awarded \$1800 from the Town of Pilot Butte through the Sask Lotteries Community Grants. An application was made to the Town of White City however we have not yet heard back on funding.

TOURNAMENTS – Submitted by Leigh Fuessel (VACANT)

Clash of the Cleats was once again hosted at Balgonie Diamonds May 24-26, 2024 - A total 13 teams participated (including 5 of our own), out of town teams included Regina, Fort Qu'appelle, Quad Town and Lumsden. - We used RAMP to register teams again. - Sponsors included this year were Avana, Chatters, Capital GMC, Cameo Restoration, Fine Foods, Western Cycle Source for Sports, Happy Hour, Queen City Hat Company, Nulmage, Sweet Cheeks, Auto Electric, Queen City Vending and Allied Printers - Did a 50/50 through Raffle Box and promoted it through the Facebook page, winner took approx \$1,025. Received positive feedback that the tournament went over very well and the girls had a blast. Team Cyclones took the candy cup, with QT Steelers finishing 2nd! U7 Storm Softball & Broncos Jr. & Sr. Rally Cap Showcase was hosted at Balgonie Diamonds mid June - We had beautiful and sunny weather to enjoy the day.

COACH DEVELOPER- Submitted by Pamela Kydd

Storm Softball registered 99 coaches total. As our association continues to grow every year we are thrilled to also see the number of willing and excited coaches join our association each season. We are getting more and more volunteers who are excited to have the opportunity to be a coach with us and Less and less begging people to step up to coach.

-Ramp website registration has now become a tool to make registration easier for affiliation every year. Next year we look to streamline the work needed as we collect registrations as far as timing of opening up coaches ramp registration availability.

-Every Coach provided us with the necessary credentials including Respect In Sport numbers, NCCP numbers and levels according to age group coached, recent within 2 years VSC. All applicants' information was checked and verified by myself before the affiliation deadline.

-I am very happy to report that all Coaches who I reached out to, to complete their required clinics and online courses, did put in the effort and got it done. This shows the passion and commitment in our volunteers.

-Head Coach's information was provided to Softball SK for the purpose of gaining them access to the coaching resource app that supported them with practice plans, drills etc.

-All team head coach applicants were reviewed, and due to being qualified and ideal volunteers for the positions they were awarded their teams.

-Coaches who needed to obtain coaching clinics for their provincial coach requirements were given that information very early and many times throughout the spring. We were able to have all age divisions with a coach who qualified to coach in their provincials again this year. We were very excited to have two U15B teams with qualified coaches attend provincials and one U17B team as none did last season.

-We held a pre-season meeting for all Head coaches of all teams to attend. We handed out printouts of the coaching information document as well as emailed it to all coaches. This meeting was led by Pam Kydd and Shelley Stamm. Coaches had a chance to ask questions and give some discussion about plans and how to make the most of their season. I feel that this document was extremely thorough and provided all coaches with somewhere to turn first to remind themselves of the answers that they need. They were of course encouraged to reach out to myself or their division coordinators for anything they might need as well.

-Coach evaluations were sent out to our membership to receive non anonymous useful feedback to help support our coaches with their own growth and development. Total of 35 responses. There is much positive and appreciative feedback for our coaches, also some constructive feedback to help find points for growth as always. All responses were forwarded to the corresponding coach with a message thanking

them for their time and any notes for focus if future development and or improvement. Will continue with the non- anonymous approach to acquiring this feedback.

-Any post season coach development opportunities have been re-posted/promoted and sent out to our membership to help promote earlier preparation for our coaches gaining their requirements.
-The goal of Coach Developer continues to be: to successfully provide channels of communication between our coaches and our board members, and provide easily accessible answers somewhere for the coaches who are either experienced or brand new to feel equally supported by myself and Storm Softball.

Preplanning for 2025 season

-U13A Head coach has been selected.

-U15A Head Coach has been selected.

-U17A Head Coach has been selected.

-Plans are again to send out an informational survey to all our registered Storm Softball coaches asking them what more as a board we can do to help them with their growth and development.

UMPIRE COORDINATOR/ DEVELOPER- Submitted by Audra Hill

In 2024, we adopted the use of the Ramp System for Umpires to be able to create e a profile, view games and sign up for games themselves. The system is shared with Broncos Baseball also. Overall the system worked great to automate the process with the umpires. The feedback for returning umpires was that it was so much easier than manually signing up for games. There were 61 Games booked through the Ramp system and umpires supplied from April 25 July 9, 2024

We an Umpire Clinic at Pilot Butte Elementary School on April 28, 2024 with 28 new and returning umpires in attendance from our region, and a few others from Vibank, Fort Qu'appelle and Regina.

21 of them actively were umpires for Storm Softball in 2024.

Out of these 21 umpires; 15 of them were new umpires. Overall, these kids had a great experience in their first year. The Storm Softball coaches were informed when they would be receiving a newer umpire for their game and they communicated with the other coach well on mentoring the umpire if they felt a call should be challenged. We tried our best to team up a newer umpire with a returning umpire to provide mentorship. When this wasn't available, I had attended the game to assist and communicate with the coaches. Respect and professionalism were used all around and both the new umpires and parents appreciated the time it takes to build a future generation of umpires. We only had a couple occurrences of coaches who were vocal with the umpires which gave some great teaching moments for the kids. Next year, we will ensure that each umpire carries a yellow and red card to be used with confidence when the need arises.

For our more senior, returning umpires. Most of these ladies were on "A" teams and simply couldn't commit to U15 and U17 Games. Both Brody Schneider and Maggie Hill were our most senior and available for most. They both did well in these games and really enjoyed the pace of the game. The coaches appreciated that an umpire was available. In my opinion, not the most ideal as these 2 individuals tried to make most games but as a community, we sometimes need to work with what we have available.

There was lot of engagement with the softball community near the end of the year about adults becoming umpires and having the ability to be an umpire in the same game as their child. For the 2025 season, I would like to advertise this more as we were extremely short umpires for the U15 and U17 Games. I had heard that for the U15A and U17A games at RMSL; seasoned umpires were sometimes not available also. A goal would be to continue to build and grow our

umpires to be able to accommodate. Another recommendation would be to have Jim, Ian or Duane come out mid-season or a required 1 hour Zoom call to discuss specific rules to ensure consistency with RMSL with the higher age groups and allow our umpires to follow up on calls they had questions on.

My last recommendation would be to change the pay rates to more align with Broncos utilizing a higher pay rate for the base umpire position. As of right now, here is a breakdown of the umpire rates for each organization:

BRONCOS AGE/DIVISION PAY RATES: 11u is \$45 for plate and \$35 for base 13u is \$55 for plate and \$45 for base 15u is \$80 for plate and \$70 for base 18u is \$80 for plate and \$70 for base

STORM SOFTBALL AGE/DIVISION PAY RATES: For all age divisions, \$40 is paid to the plate and \$40 is paid for the base umpire.

I had noted the following in the Ramp System "Although indicated in Ramp, you may be required to be placed as a plate ump within short notice." As most newer umpires were simply signing up on as a base umpire. Our umpires can see the difference in the pay rates, and some had questioned why Storms rates were less. Overall, not many complained as the \$40 rate paid in cash is still a good rate. I would however like to propose the adoption of the following for the 2025 Softball Year:

STORM SOFTBALL AGE/DIVISION PAY RATES:

U11 is \$45 for plate and \$35 for base

U13 is \$45 for plate and \$35 for base

U15 is \$55 for plate and \$45 for base

U17 is \$55 for plate and \$45 for base

It was a successful year for the Softball community to see these young umpires gain confidence and experience. All of our umpires work well together and gained new skills throughout the 2024 season. A huge thank you to the parents and families to also give rides and ensure that the umpires were equipped with everything they needed.

TREASURER – Submitted by Michelle Maystrowich

For the 2024 season Storm Softball ended the year with net income of \$6,687 which was \$4,187 more than the budgeted profit of \$2,500.

Revenue of \$88,961 was \$7,241 above budget. Registration income was \$2,876 above budget due to more registrations than expected. Tournament profits were \$5,077 higher than anticipated thanks to fundraising efforts. Finally, revenue from player development clinics was \$1,654 lower than expected as the Association did not hold any fall player development sessions/evaluations in 2024.

Expenses of \$82,274 were \$3,054 higher than budget. During 2024, Storm Softball invested \$16,679 in equipment and supplies which included new fences for two diamonds in Balgonie. There was \$1,793 budgeted for uniform purchases which was not required in 2024.

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	2024			2024		2024	2023	
	A	CTUAL	В	UDGET	V/	ARIAN CE	А	CTUAL
REVENUE								
Registration Income		71,876		69,000		2,876		65,130
Tournament Profits		10,077		5,000		5,077		10,405
Player Development Clinics		1,768		3,422		(1,654)		3,355
Storm Softball Hat and Other Branded Items Sales		2,880		2,760		120		2,235
Grants		2,360		1,538		822		1,411
Donations		-		-		-		-
Miscellaneous Income		-		-		-		-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	88,961	\$	81,720	\$	7,241	\$	82,536
EXPEN SES								
Regina Minor Softball League Fees		25,700		25,000		(700)		22,100
Ball Diamond and Batting Cage Rentals		15,137		15,840		703		14,214
Equipment and Supplies		16,679		12,776		(3,903)		11, 197
Donations		-		-		-		8,000
Evaluation Expenses		7,211		7,416		205		7,271
Softball Saskatchewan Affiliate Fees		6,090		5,618		(472)		5,414
Storm Softball Hat and Other Branded Items Cost		4,262		5,066		804		4,967
Bank Charges		2,154		2,146		(8)		2,104
Uniforms		-		1,793		1,793		1,758
Umpire Development		1,827		1,587		(240)		1,556
Player Development		840		890		50		873
Coaching Development		1,492		574		(918)		563
Other Costs (Deposits, Board meeting costs, etc)		880		512		(368)		502
Regina Ladies Softball League Fees		-		-		-		-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	82,274	\$	79,220	\$	(3,054)	\$	80,518
NETINCOME	\$	6,687	\$	2,500	\$	4,187	\$	2, 0 18
	,	0,007	Ŷ	2,500	Ŷ	1,107	<u>,</u>	2,010
Current Bank Balance (Adjusted)	\$	66,634					\$	57,441
Current Tournament Account Balance (Adjusted)	ŝ	15,919					Ś	17,483
Total Cash	\$	82,553					\$	74,924