



Dear Softball BC Members

Enough will have been spoken about the challenges and difficulties of 2020, I would like to instead speak about the legacy of this past year and the opportunities waiting for us in 2021 and beyond.

As a provincial sport organization, and as members of our own communities, we can never say enough to express our gratitude and appreciation to the volunteers who gave up so much of their time, their energy and wisdom to enable members to take part in various forms of softball activities. No one will ever be able to comprehend or tabulate the effort it took to manage this year, what we had always taken for granted, organizing a group of kids or adults on a ball field. Somehow thank you just does not seem enough, but to all of the administrators, executive/board members, coaches, and volunteers, without your dedication and passion, none of this could have been possible.

THANK YOU!

One theme which kept recurring this year, was how, through improved communication, clubs were working together more often. People got to know each other through endless Zoom meetings, and there was a spirit of cooperation and understanding which grew as a result. If there is one legacy from this year, I hope will continue and grow, it was that we all, through our common interest, will continue to nurture that spirit by engaging in more virtual and at some point in time, face to face discussions with fellow members across the province. There is strength in numbers, and to ensure softball grows and can continue to be enjoyed by future generations, we can help make that happen by working together.

The provincial organization continues to plan initiatives and programmes to fulfill the objectives laid out in the member's strategic plan. This is not a time to step back, or be timid, it is the time to continue to promote softball and develop more opportunities for our members to be successful. The board of directors, through their guidance and direction have strongly endorsed this plan, and we look forward to helping meet those objectives.

In closing, I want to thank, first my team at the provincial office, every one of us has been inspired by the work of the volunteers through the province, staff all stepped up as partners in the work that took place to return to play, I couldn't be more proud.

And, last, but most definitely not least, a huge thank you to our board of directors, for without their support, encouragement, and wisdom we would have floundered, not able to find our way. In particular, I want to thank our leader, Jake Dewitt, who is stepping down this year. Jake has led this organization from financial disaster and inconsistent governance to being well on the road of sustainability and a strong, clear governance model with no doubt of the role for Softball BC, both provincially and nationally. We will miss you, Jake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Benson'.

Rick Benson
Executive Director



2020 President's Report

2020 has been a year to remember, or forget, it depends on your perspective I guess. Either way, it was a challenge, with the Covid-19 pandemic hitting right at the start of our spring season. Things did not look positive for softball to be played this year, but many dedicated volunteers stepped up to make it happen. From local association executive members, Provincial Board members, employees, and many, many volunteers from across the province, I want to thank you on behalf of all the players that did get to play this year!

When Softball BC put out the call for volunteers to develop our Return to Play Plan, I was blown away by the impressive quality of the people from all across our province who stepped up to volunteer countless hours to develop a plan that would allow our players to safely get back on the diamond. From every part of our game; umpires, coaches, parents, doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers pulled together and quickly put a plan in place. I need to give recognition and a thank you to our Executive Director, Rick Benson, and all of our staff members, for going above and beyond expectations during this crisis.

Currently, Softball BC is in good financial shape. This is due to government support and the superb work of current and past Board members in reducing debt and controlling spending. Hopefully we can continue to be fiscally responsible and continue to implement our recent strategic plan.

Softball BC lost a great person this July when our former Vice President of Finance, Zeone Andrijaszyn passed away. As everyone involved with softball knows, Zeone was the main reason for our fiscal turnaround. He worked tirelessly for this sport, guarded our money like it was his own, and was the most solid, loyal and honest person I have ever met. He will be greatly missed.

This will be my last report as President. As President, the last 7 years has been a very rewarding and challenging time. I have learned a lot of valuable skills that have helped me in business and life, met many great people in BC and across Canada, and I am thankful to have been given this experience. I would like to thank all current and past Board members for their passion to the game and support of Softball BC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Dewitt".

Jake Dewitt



Vice President Board Report

To all,

Please see below for some of the items I have been working on or involved with over the last number of months. 2020 certainly has been a year to remember!

As one of the Western Canadian Softball Association Board of Directors, on January 19/20 2020, I along with our SBBC Minor Director, Merv Sandrel attended the WCSA Annual General Meeting in Regina Saskatchewan. There were many great discussions around our sport. One notable discussion was creating a U12 Boys Western Canadian Championship as a 2-year pilot program which was endorsed by all Provinces/Territories. The 2020 Championship was to be in Saskatchewan and the 2021 championship would be moved to Alberta. Of course, with COVID-19 this 2020 season, we were not able to make this a reality for our Western Canadian Provinces/Territories boy's programs.

Earlier this year, as the Chair of the SBBC Long Term Development Committee, I was working with our SBBC office developing a new Long Term Development Plan in Partnership with Matt Young of Quality Sports Hub. We were to introduce this new LTD model to a few LSO's within our Province as a pilot program. Our SBBC office had created a "Letter of Understanding" of partnership with Matt Young and we were literally a week or two away from implementing the program when we had to stop do to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We do hope to continue this relationship with Matt Young in the coming months once we have navigated through the end of this 2020 COVID-19 Season.

As part of our SBBC LTD plan I have been working with Mike Smith our SBBC Technical Coordinator this summer to review Softball BC's partnership with the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific to develop high-performance players and align SBBC's high performance programming with Softball Canada's LTD model. We would like to ensure SBBC uses the Canadian Sport Institute's Athletes Services program the most effective way possible which will help the athletes with the highest potential to leap from the Provincial level athlete to a National level elite athlete. One of the questions to be answered is how does SBBC support small associations to raise the bar to ensure their athletes get a chance to take part in the program?

The spring and summer of 2020 has been an extremely unique and unprecedented time with COVID-19 infiltrating our society and our game. I became involved with 2 of the original Softball BC task force teams which were created to provide a return to play guideline for our Provincial body that could be used by all our LSO's to get our game back on the field. I was the chair of the Safety and Sanitation Committee during the initial task force phases and then was a sitting member on the final task force where we amalgamated the Safety and Sanitation criteria with the Umpires and the Rules of the game criteria.

The Return to Play Guideline which was created was a monumental undertaking and I would like to recognize our Executive Director, Rick Benson for his incredible leadership, determination and patience during this process as well as his efforts in coordinating our task forces to align with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, Work Safe BC and Viasport. I would also like to make mention and thank all our SBBC membership volunteers from the four corners of our Province and even one from New Brunswick who took part in these task force group meetings and brought forward their ideas which were pivotal in creating our Return to Play Document. We were certainly the leaders among our Provinces and Territories with creating such a thorough and recognized document.

I believe we are all very proud of our final Return to Play document which have allowed all of us to get back onto our fields and enjoy coaching, playing and administering the game we love.

From a District 9 and LSO standpoint, I continue to manage the operations of our Enderby Minor Fastball Association and am also coaching a U16 team during this summer/fall 2020 COVID-19 season. I did however resign as President of the District 9 Minor Fastball Association in March 2020. We were also able to fill the long-time vacant position of District 9



Adult Women and Men's Coordinator with one of our long time Umpires and players, Jason Ranchoux. Thank you, Jason, for coming on board as one of our SBBC Coordinators.

As you are all aware, I have also resigned my position on the SBBC Board of Directors as 1st Vice President in order to pursue the soon to be vacant position of President of Softball BC. I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you I have worked with on the board and in our Provincial softball community over the last number of years while I have been a member of the SBBC board. The mentorship and teamwork you have all shown me has been amazing. Together we have accomplished some great initiatives for our Sport in this time. As we speak of mentorship, I would be remiss not to mention our good friend Zeone Andrijaszyn, as he will be sorely missed by all of us. He was an amazing ambassador for our sport and a true gentleman in every way.

Thank you. I look forward to continuing to work with you all and serving our SBBC members in the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Graeme Duncan

1st Vice President Softball BC (Resigned)



Minor Directors Report

September 2020

I re read my report from 2019 for the AGM. Many of our plans and goals kind of went out the window this season. This has and continues to be a bizarre year for everyone in life and sport.

Many volunteers worked on return to play committees and poured in uncountable hours to try to get the kids on the fields in some fashion. Working with the Provincial government and viaSport, Softball BC slowly returned the kids to the park. Practices at first, then scrimmages, games within cohorts and the year ending Celebration of Softball which ended yesterday.

I attended the Celebration of Softball games being played at POCO, Richmond and North Delta. It was great to see all the kids on the field playing. There was much positive feedback from the kids, parents, and coaches. It was interesting to see the spectators watch from the outfield, with no one on the bleachers behind the plate and umpire there did seem to be much less chirping. Hard to chirp from centre field. Many umpires and coaches commented on the better vibe. Many kids told me it was great not hearing some parents sigh out loud and complain. Maybe a model for the future?

I cannot thank enough the associations that stepped up and hosted these events in the various parks with a small group of volunteers. It saved our season and gave the kids that did play spring, summer a decent ending to the year.

I asked the board of directors to consider postponing the rep tryouts 2 weeks to allow the kids time to get back into the new normal of attending school. I felt the stress of tryouts coupled with going back to school amid all the uncertainty of the protocols would not be fair or considerate to the kids and parents. I was more than distressed that some associations and coaches felt this was a bad decision. 2 weeks was not a long time and as it turned out many teams got in more games. I stand by that decision.

Amid the many upsides this season I would be remiss if I did not mention my disappointment with the coaches that shamelessly recruited players PRIOR to the Celebration of Softball weekend and the rep tryouts. There may not be rules against the practice but there are certainly some ethical issues there. An argument was put to me that technically the season ended when Provincials, Westerns and Nationals were cancelled.... nit picking at its finest. The players have an obligation to finish their commitment to their minor team until the season has ended. Our 2020 season ended with the Celebration of Softball. I would like to think we teach the kids a little more than just how to play softball. Ethics and a good moral compass are right up there with how to field a ground ball.

Moving forward in 2021 we are likely to be working with the same protocols with the hope we move to Phase 4 (Province) or Inning 5 (SBBC) which would allow our meaningful competitions. I ran out of time this year but hopefully in 2021 we can have some good dialogue about player movement. The removal of 12.6 had unintended consequences such as entire teams moving to other Districts. I am hopeful there is a way to rework this, so all stakeholders are happy. More discussion concerning the "over supply" of "B" teams in some areas might lead to a strengthening of our foundation "C" program. Lots of work ahead of us.



This was a season of zoom meetings for many people, not just the softball family. I want to give a huge shout out to the staff of SBBC. I lost track of the hours spent navigating the protocols, changing provincial and viaSport guidelines, preparing the board members for meetings with the newest information, many, many phone calls, and emails. Thank you to Lesley, Mike, Haili and Rick, sadly most people will never know the hours you all put in...above and beyond paid hours.

I would like to thank our "retiring" Jake Dewitt for everything he has done to help SBBC and wish him the best in future endeavours. Our thoughts go out to Zeone's family, he was an amazing volunteer and one helluva nice man. Zeone is missed by all.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Merv Sandrel'.

Merv Sandrel
Minor Director



Dear Softball BC Members

Our hearts were full of excitement when we learned that 2020 would be the year that we could, once again, watch softball in the Olympics and cheer on our fellow athletes. However, forces outside of our control had other plans, and this changed all of our lives and certainly the world of sports as we knew it. My heart goes out to those directly affected by COVID-19, and I hope that you all are keeping well and staying safe.

Although it started as a season of disappointment, I am choosing to remember it as a season of opportunity which saw our community become stronger than ever. Volunteers raised their hands and rose to the occasion to join task forces in an effort to get us back onto the field and through this process, we opened our eyes and our arms to new people and new relationships. Players, teams, and associations not only came back to the game but collaborated to work together with people who had never shared a field before.

There has never been a better, and more necessary, time for us to come together and lead change for our sport. Over the past months, we might have found ourselves (Softball BC) facing criticism from the public and even our own selves as we feared the failure of our own plans. It is up to us, though, to develop a new vision for the game and to see this through by holding one another accountable and supporting each other along the way.

I appreciate all of the time and effort that you have invested in shaping the future of softball. The professionalism and fluidity I witnessed this season certainly reminded me what a great team we are!

All good things,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Terri Boizard'.

Terri Boizard
Men's & Women's Director



Director of Coaching Report 2020

Dear Softball BC Members,

In this, my second year as the Director of Coaching, I am sure it has been unlike any previous year for all of us. As this report is being put together in late August, I am pleased to see and hear that at least some sense of normalcy is beginning to return to amateur sports, albeit with numerous understandable limitations.

Under the area of my role as director of coaching, our coaching development through NCCP clinics was in full swing when the sport sector shutdown was implemented. Fortunately for us and many of our coaches, a number of our clinics took place in January and February, allowing for their delivery before the aforementioned shutdown. As a result we were actually up in the number of participants in our Competition- Introduction weekend 1 & 2 clinics in comparison to our 2019 numbers, however our community sport clinics, which tend to be scheduled later in the spring saw a decrease as Covid-19 concerns began to rise in March.

A shout out goes to our Learning Facilitators, Master Coach Developers, Softball BC staff and in particular our Softball BC Program Director (Jackie Desilets) for their collective efforts on behalf of our coaches and for providing support to our sport throughout our shut down. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of our provincial network of Association Coach Coordinators who form part of our team that provide additional support to our coaches throughout the province.

I am sad to say that we also lost two key supporters of coaching in our Province in the passing of Zeone Andrijaszyn from our Board of Directors and our long term Master Coach Developer, Bryan Sask who had delivered clinics to over 1300 coaches over his many years of service to our sport.

On a personal note, in addition to my role as a Director with Softball BC, I have remained active in coaching development both Nationally and Internationally; serving on Softball Canada's Coaching development committee as well as an instructor with the WBSC (World Baseball/Softball Confederation) that included an assignment to conduct a clinic in Benin, West Africa this past December.

It has been my honour to have served on the Softball BC Board of Directors for the better part of the past two years and with my term ending I do not feel I can fairly commit to a renewed two-year term and thus will not be standing for re-election to this position. However, rather than leaving the board all together, given the high number of new board member, I will be seeking a one-year term as a member at large to provide some stability to the board should the membership support my nomination.

In closing, I am looking forward to 2021, when we can all hopefully look forward to the return of normalcy in our world and specifically our sport that will, not only include our Team BC Boys and Girls teams (led by head coaches Doug Allin and Mark Dunlop respectively) taking to the field at the 2021 Canada Games, but also culminate with the rescheduled 2020 Olympic games.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Renney - Director of Coaching



Provincial Umpire-In-Chief Report 2020

Submitted by:
Susan Strafford

Well, it has been quite a year! Unfortunately, I was unable to be at last year's AGM as I was out of the country umpiring! Came back and the first thing up was the Softball Canada AGM in Richmond. All the P/T UIC's met on Friday and Saturday and covered a multitude of items.

Leadership weekend was held at Douglas College this year. We had Rhonda Pauls come in to speak on mentorship and facilitate some breakout sessions. Rhonda is a senior baseball official and instructor. She also extended an invitation for a few of us to attend the senior baseball clinic she was hosting which had 2 MLB umpires as instructors. Marni, Laura, Scott McLaren, and I accepted the invitation and enjoyed seeing how their clinic was run.

We hosted a National Umpire School. This was very well attended and positive feedback came from all. A special thanks to Marni Bodnarchuk for the many hours put in organizing the event. There were different sessions on plate setup, game management, 3 and 4 umpire system.

Softball Canada once again offered the Level IV clinic online. I am pleased to announce the following umpires completed the course and passed the exam and are now a Level IV T. They will be eligible to obtain their full Level IV at a U19 or above Canadian Championship.

Brad Snyder

Tyler Warren

Mike Moorlag

Curtis Holt-Robinson

Teresa Allen

Calvin Holman

THEN COVID HIT AND THE WORLD CHANGED!

Clinics and tournaments were cancelled, and we were all left wondering if we would have any season at all! After a couple of months, we started to try and put together a return to play plan based on information from Via Sport and the BC Government. Many Zoom meetings later we had the plan ready for approval by the governing bodies. We were finally able to get back on the field in early July although not quite the way we were used to. Adjustments were made and people seemed happy. Thank you to all who took time to be part of the meetings.

Softball Canada decided to offer the Instructor/Evaluator clinic online for the first time. Hopefully, this is the first of many! The following umpires successfully completed the course.

Jason Ranchoux

Tyler Warren

Susanna Larsen

Paige Cross

Ken Edwards

Nicola Janzen

Brett Orton



Normally we would have information on registrations and be able to report on umpire's successes, but we don't have any of that this year. Any numbers provided would be meaningless!

I would like to thank the PODC, Marni Bodnarchuk, Laura MacMillan and Nick Allen. It has been a challenging year and unfortunately, we were not able to implement some of the great ideas. Hopefully next year!

Our softball family lost 3 long time members this year that were very dear to me. Bob Symons was an umpire and we had known each other for over 30 years. Bob actually umpired my games when I played orthodox! Bryan Sask was a master coach clinician and as well as an assistant coach as SFU. Bryan had a great respect for the umpires and it showed when he coached.

Zeone Andrijaszyn spent his life in softball. The last several years as our VP of Finance. Zeone was a pleasure to work with and a joy to be around at the ballpark. All of these people made a positive impact on the game we all love and they will be missed!

A huge shoutout to Rick Benson! When Covid hit Rick spent innumerable hours in meetings with lawyers, government officials, P/Ts and Softball Canada. Rick also facilitated all the return to play meetings in the evenings. Rick handled all the aspects that allowed us to get back onto the diamond. He was truly a great leader throughout.

Working from home created new challenges and the office staff adapted well. Communications have exceptional and they also got to attend lots of the afterhours meetings. Thank you to all for your help and support!

To the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of our program and your commitment to the game. Every decision and discussion is all about what can be done to make our game better for everyone at all levels.

Hopefully we will all be back on the diamond next year!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Strafford', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Susan Strafford