



AMBA Board Meeting

October 21, 2025 @ 8:00 – 9:30 PM – ARC Mezzanine

Date: October 20, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Location: ARC Mezzanine

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at **8:36 PM**.

Attendance

Present: Rob Brandsma, Joe Meleg, Kevin Allen, Derek Giesbrecht, Steph Ingwersen, Chelsey Iwama, Steph Deglan, Lauren Meinen, Colin Dawes, Steve Coleman, Todd Stewardson

Absent: Brad Nedimovich

Additions to the Agenda

- Discussion on 18U teams for next year
- Addition of documents: Sponsorship letters and proposals, Code of Conduct bylaw
- Scholarships

Motion to adopt the agenda:

1st – Chelsey Iwama, 2nd – Joe Meleg

Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt previous minutes:

1st – Steph Deglan, 2nd – Joe Meleg

Special Guests

Todd Stewardson – City of Abbotsford Parks Manager

Steve Coleman – President, Sport Abbotsford

Todd Stewardson:

- Provided an update on the Sport Field & Sport Court Strategy, targeted for implementation by 2027.
- Discussed understanding community growth and field investment priorities.
- Shared that funding is allocated for the next five years to support the plan.
- Mentioned upcoming plans for King Road and McKenzie sites (pending Agricultural Land Commission approval).
- Noted work being done to standardize field maintenance practices.

Steve Coleman:

- Explained Sport Abbotsford's structure and purpose, operating under three pillars:
 1. **Advocacy** – Representing the needs of local sports organizations.
 2. **Communication** – Facilitating collaboration among sports groups (baseball, softball, slo-pitch, etc.), as well as with the City and School District.
 3. **Education** – Supporting development opportunities for local organizations.
- Sport Abbotsford is a non-profit organization that brings groups together to identify and address common challenges.

Treasurer's Report (Stephanie Deglan)

- Gaming grant update and preparation of financials for AGM.
- Budget remains on track; all payments are current.
- Sufficient funds available to upgrade aging equipment, including umpire gear, catching gear, tents, and signage.
- A scholarship fund has been added to next year's budget, which remains similar to last year's overall budget.

Secretary's Report (Stephanie Ingwersen)

- Preparing AGM documents and supporting the transition to a new Secretary following the AGM.

Vice President & Director Reports

VP1 – Chelsey Iwama

- Preparing AGM report and assisting with transition for incoming VP1.
- Reviewed Feedback Form results: only 7% response rate; majority feedback was positive toward coaches.

- 60.5% of respondents indicated they had not contacted commissioners.
- Higher number of ejections this year — need to emphasize education and mentorship.
- Suggested pairing experienced coaches with new ones and possibly inviting a BC Umpire Association guest speaker for the coaches' banquet.
- Volunteer points system will apply to the summer season only (to be revisited in spring).
- Responsible for registering teams for tournaments and booking hotels; will help onboard new VP1 into these duties.

VP2 – Brad Nedimovich (Report by Email)

- Preparing AGM report.
- 15U single-season tryouts completed; 15U AAA coach selected (Derek Giesbrecht).
- 15U AAA team announcement: **October 25**. 15U AA coach and team selection to follow.
- 13U evaluations in progress; 13U AAA announcement in **October 28**, followed by 13U AA selection.
- Currently leaning toward one 13U AA team (TBD).
- Winter barn sessions for house league start in November, along with pitching and catching clinics.
- Continuing work on website policies, procedures, and improved layout.

Director #1 – Colin Dawes

- Preparing AGM report.

Director #2 – Derek Giesbrecht

- Preparing AGM report and assisting transition of incoming Director #2.

Director #3 – Joe Meleg

- Preparing AGM report.
- Jenni R. will continue assisting with uniforms until a replacement is found.

Director #4 – Kevin Allen

- Preparing AGM report.
- Provided updates on sponsorship agreements for board review.
- Proposed a Directors' Code of Ethical Conduct to be reviewed in a separate December meeting.

Director #5 – Lauren Meinen

- Preparing AGM report and supporting transition for new Director #5.
- Suggested issuing small individual first aid kits per team instead of keeping them in bins (which often go missing). Kits would be replaced annually.

Business Arising

Scholarship Program

- Steph Deglan developed a draft scholarship program proposal, now included in the budget.
- To be reviewed by the board for feedback, and a committee will be formed to oversee the program.

Motion to adopt the Scholarship Program: *Unanimously carried.*

Registration – November 1 Launch

- Signs and school banners are ready.
- Registrar will be notified to activate registration.

Winter Barn Sessions

- Scheduling and preparation underway for November start.

Advertising & Promotion

- Lawn signs placed in East Abbotsford.
- Flyers and school bulletin board materials being distributed.

Community Events Coordinator Update

- Jacqueline Demkes has stepped away from the Community Engagement Coordinator role due to personal family matters.
- AMBA will still host a booth at the **Winter Jubilee on November 22.**
- Discussion on possibly having players attend and hand out stickers.

AGM Preparation

- AGM scheduled for **November 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM.**
- Positions up for election: **VP1, Secretary, Director #2, Director #4, Director #5.**
- Members asked to confirm if they wish to continue or step away after their term.

Volunteer Roles

- Encourage more members to step up and help fill open volunteer positions.

18U Program Discussion

- Early discussion for 2026 season; exploring options and capacity for an 18U team.

- Goal to communicate plans to parents by spring 2026.

Wrap-Up Meetings

- Open forum discussions encouraged to minimize “meetings after meetings.”

Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting (AGM): In Person
November 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **10:02 PM**.

Motion to adjourn 1st – Derek Giesbrecht, 2nd – Steph Deglan