

Stittsville Minor Softball Association (the “Association”) 2011 Season Association Report



Overview

2011 was another successful season for Stittsville Minor Softball but also one with many challenges (especially the start of the season due to the weather). With the announcement that the Kanata Minor Softball Association (KMSA) was not running a House League program and, the SMSA had decided to run a House League program without the Richmond Munster Minor Softball Association (RMMSA), the SMSA had increased challenges related to registration and scheduling.

With that, registration continues to grow; a dedicated group of volunteers continues to support the development of the Association; and a new Board structure was introduced with new volunteers taking on leadership roles. Prior year's new initiatives were continued including on-line registration, standardized game nights for both Fun League and House League and a more rigorous game schedule for the Year End House League Tournament. Finally, our financial position continues to be strong with opportunities to strengthen the Association.

Registration

Overall registration for the Association increased by 6 children this past season (2011 – 635 children; 2010- 629 children; 2009 – 617 children; 2008 – approximately 570 children). This increase was attributable to a growth within most House League levels...but there was an approximate 10% decline in the Fun League program.

For the 2011 season, the Association again distributed flyers within the local schools and posted registration signs throughout Stittsville at most busy intersections. Additional sections within the online registration were provided to determine the most effective approach for advertisements/announcements.

Also for the 2011 season, the Association continued with on-line registration. The on-line system has been very well received and will be continued in the future with over 91% of the Association membership using online registration in 2011.

For more details on 2011 registration please refer to the Registrar's Report.

Volunteers

Stittsville Minor Softball is run by volunteers. They supply the significant infrastructure required to provide a wonderful sporting opportunity for the youth in our area. In addition to our Executive, the Association was fortunate to obtain the services of many volunteers this past season. These volunteers helped to reduce the work load of the Executive and a big thank you goes to all of them. The main roles and the volunteers that filled them are shown below:

Photography - Lynn Preston

Skills Development/Clinics - Ed Joy
Special Events/Fun Day - James Hernandez/Donna Forward/Danya Hernandez/Bethany Roy
Trophies/Awards - Steve Strike
Uniforms - Brenda Smith
Webmaster - Mike Kotuba
...and last but not least, Thanks to all our Convenors and Coaches for your dedication to softball and the SMSA.

2011 Executive

Board Members:

Paul Hansen
Wendy Hawthorne
Ed Joy
Mike Kotuba
Dave Lee
Craig Pavia

Administrator - Karen Halse
Equipment Director - Michael Roy
Fun League Director - James Hernandez
Fundraising - Dave Lee
House League Director Boys - Karen Halse
House League Director Girls - Colleen Hache
Media Relations/Communication - Ann McPhail
Registrar - Mary Lee
Scheduling - Mike Kotuba
Select Director Boys - Sylvia McGinnis
Select Director Girls - Marek Driver
Umpire Scheduling Director - Claire Moore
Umpire Training Director - Eryn White

Administrator

As recommended in the 2010 Report, the SMSA continued with a paid Administrator position and Karen Halse continued in this role. The position continued to be a big success applying valued cycles to take care of the day to day items of the Association and informing the SMSA membership on weekly scheduled events and meetings. Thanks again for a great job this past season Karen – We all appreciate it.

Leagues

For the 2011 season the Association continued with standardized game nights for all age levels within both Fun League and House League. Several issues were raised due to the inclement weather at the beginning of the season and adjustments were required for both leagues. If at all possible, standardized game nights should be continued in the future as it is well received by parents.

Very successful Events and Tournaments were held as follows:

Fun League – Fun Day was held Saturday, June 4th.

House League (Mite and Squirt Levels) – Year End Tournament was held Friday, June 17th to Sunday, June 19th.

House League (PeeWee, Bantam and Midget Levels) – Year End Tournament was held Thursday, June 23rd to Monday, June 27th.

New for 2011, Fun Day was held in the middle of the Fun League season to promote enjoyment and love of the game. In previous seasons, the Fun Day denoted the end of the season and the new approach in 2011 was an opportunity to extend the fun.

The approved format for the House League Year End Tournament continued in 2011 and was held over two weekends with Mites and Squirts playing the first weekend and PeeWees, Bantams and Midgets playing the second weekend. This format continued to be successful and should be maintained for several reasons including:

- Will accommodate a more rigorous tournament game schedule;
- Will ensure availability of sufficient diamonds; and
- Will ensure availability of sufficient umpires.

Refer to the Fun League Director's Report and the House League Director's Report for more information on the 2011 season.

Equipment

In the 2011 season, the Association decided to utilize a standard lock/code for all field boxes; this change proved to be highly successful with all coaches. For each season, a new lock code will be provided by the SMSA Equipment Director and all boxes will be supplied with required equipment.

During 2011, we continued to upgrade player equipment and the Association will continue to do so in the future. To expedite next season's equipment pick-up, the 2011 equipment drop-off was utilized to inventory and stock all bags for the 2012 season; this change should prove to be a valued approach for the coming seasons.

Refer to the Equipment Director's Report for more information on the 2011 season and areas of improvement for 2012.

Clinics

The Association hosted the following clinics this year:

Coach

As mother-nature controlled the beginning of the 2011 season, an on-field and hands-on coaches' clinic was cancelled. Given this outcome, the Association will strive to ensure in-door clinics are arranged as well as on-field clinics for future seasons.

Player

There were two indoor Warm up Sessions and one indoor Pitching Session offered to 2011 registrants at the Tyke, Mite, Squirt, and PeeWee levels.

Indoor winter clinics were offered as well as a CANPitch program to ensure ongoing development of our players.

Umpire

Continuing with the Association's award winning approach, there was a Junior Development Umpire clinic offered to individuals wanting to umpire within our Association during the 2011 season. Feedback was very positive as to the quality and professionalism of these umpires.

Uniforms

Pro2col Uniforms and Sportswear continued as the supplier of player shirts for the 2011 season. In addition to providing good service and low prices, this supplier continues to be a loyal supporter of softball by regularly donating sportswear to our Association.

For the 2011 season, the Association continued with generic sizing for its shirt ordering rather than tracking and ordering specific sizes for each registrant.

New for 2011, the Association purchased jerseys for the Bantam-Midget Girls division similar to the purchase made for the Midget Boys in a previous season. It was great to see these Teams on the field and the decision was made to induce continued play to the older levels.

Fields

With the growth of Stittsville Minor Softball, field availability has become an issue - all ball fields within Stittsville were permitted for the entire season. Games and practices were scheduled for virtually every available time slot. Given the KMSA announcement and the resulting increase of players from Kanata, diamonds were available in the Kanata area to alleviate the issue. Association representatives continued to make City officials aware of the current field situation and to ensure that future green space development includes new ball fields. A proposal for a Major Capital improvement project to provide lights at GRC was initiated but extensive field issues (as noticed this year with the rain) will introduced considerable delays in improving GRC.

Pictures

Picture This Too Photography continued to be our photo supplier. They too have provided great service at a reasonable price for many years.

In 2011 the Association continued to provide all players with a digital mate rather than a single team picture. This increased the cost to the Association but eliminated duplication in that families no longer needed to purchase additional pictures. Again this change was welcomed by parents and should be continued in the future.

Website and Systems

Our website www.stittvillesoftball.org continued to provide a vital role in disseminating information about the Association. The website was further enhanced with a new look and feel for 2011 thanks to the efforts of our webmaster, Mike Kotuba.

During 2007 we chose to adopt the use of the E2E umpire scheduling tool. This was an excellent addition and was again used successfully in 2011. Refer to the Umpire Director's Report for further details.

2011 Sponsorship

The Association would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their gracious donations and support relative to the 2011 season – This year was our most successful Sponsorship year in recent history thanks to the continued effort of Fundraising by Dave Lee:

Arrc Holdings	Bond's Decor
Bradley's Insurance	Calabogie Motorsports
Cavanagh Construction	Ecivda Financial
Green Motion Travel	Independent Learning Systems
Jim Bell Design	Jojo's Pizza
Kellco Car Care	Kumon Math and Reading Centre of Stittsville
Main Street Medical	Mojo Fresh
Ottawa Trim & Door	Rona
SATEC Communications	Stittsville and District Legion
Stittsville Glass & Sign	Stittsville Pool & Spa
Stittsville Trailers	Sunrise Roofing
TD Small Loads	The Renovator
Waste Management	

Select Play

The 2011 season (once again) represented a very successful year for Select play. Select teams were formed as follows: Mite Girls, Squirt Girls, PeeWee Girls, Squirt Boys, PeeWee Boys and Bantam Boys. All teams completed their seasons by participating in Provincial Championships in August. Congratulations to the Major Bantam boys for capturing a silver medal and the Major Squirt girls for winning the consolation silver at their Provincial Tournament.

Softball Ontario

The SMSA prides itself on offering a quality level of softball to all ages within the Stittsville community. This year, just as in previous years, the SMSA took part in the Ontario Softball *Get in the Game* Symposium in Toronto which was held in February 2011. An SMSA Board member and our Fun League Director attended very informative sessions to further develop our Association. Further, the SMSA has continued to

recognize various Softball Ontario programs including *Respect My Game* and the new *Softball Association Fundamental Excellence (S.A.F.E.) Star Program*.

Attending the Symposium was a great way for SMSA to network with other Softball Associations from across the province, to share and exchange ideas, and to learn about what is happening in softball in Ontario.

The Association is moving forward with its S.A.F.E. Star Program application and more information will be provided on our Association web-site.

Submitted by SMSA Executive Board – September 2011