



Baseball PEI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 September 2019, 6 pm

Room 2L, Sport PEI

In attendance

- Walter MacEwen, President, Baseball PEI
- Janet Cameron, Director of Provincial Teams, Baseball PEI
- Darrel Kirev, Director of 11U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Allison Macdonald, Director of 15U and 18U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Mike Richards, Supervisor of Umpires, PEIBUA
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Regrets

- Spencer Myers, Director of Administration and Skill Development, Baseball PEI
- John Munro, Director of 13U Competitions, Baseball PEI

Meeting

- 1) Walter called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
- 2) The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the agenda moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Allison Macdonald.
Motion Passed.
- 3) The Minutes from the last Board of Directors Meeting (23 January 2019) was briefly reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the Minutes of the 23 January 2019 meeting moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Allison Macdonald. **Motion Passed.**
- 4) Walter gave a report on the current finances of Baseball PEI. \$44,000 was transferred to the savings account in order to accumulate more interest. It appears that after necessary bills and expenses are paid, Baseball PEI will have approximately \$79,000 in its savings account. Baseball PEI in good stead financially, and a lot of that can be credited to the very successful Blue Jays Getaway fundraiser.
 - o Motion to approve the acceptance of the financial report moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Darrel Kirev. **Motion Passed.**
- 5) Directors gave brief updates on our their area went during the summer:
 - a. Janet reviewed the results for Provincial teams at National Championships. The 13Us finished fourth, just barely missing out on a bronze medal. The 15Us won bronze, the 16U Girls won one game, the Youth Selects went 3-3 and the 18U All-Stars won one game as well. It was a relatively successful year overall for Baseball PEI at National Championships
 - b. Darrel discussed the 11U leagues and the 9U league. The summer went well at these categories. As well, Darrel discussed some of the highlights of the surveys sent out to coaches/managers in those leagues. One issue that came up in both the 11U “AA” and “AAA” Provincial Championship were teams playing only nine players on the field, and leaving players on the bench for entire games. This conduct is against the rules at the 11U category (in one case, Darrel alerted one of the offending teams to this rule but that team ignored the rule and his directive). It was decided this issue will be brought up at the Fall Forum, and Walter will send a letter to the offending coaches and their associations condemning such behaviour.
 - c. Allison reviewed the 15U and 18U categories. The year went well; however, there were some issues with discipline and behaviour at Provincial Championships. Some issues that need to be addressed are “A” level teams cutting players just to have a better chance at winning; a draft policy for any future instances where a zone does not offer a “AAA” team; and refining the AP



policy so “A” level teams don’t call up “AA” players from a younger age category in order to make them more competitive, at the expense of the players already on that team.

- 6) Mike Richards discussed the PEIBUA perspective of the assigning pilot. From the PEIBUA’s perspective, it went well. More grassroots umpires got more experience and payment was consistent. There was a lack of communication between some teams and zone assignors, which led to issues with umpires not showing up to games, as they were not told about them, or umpires not informed a game was cancelled/rescheduled. There was a real lack of umpires in rural associations, which led to a lot of mileage for those associations and urban associations upset about some of their umpires doing games in other associations than their own. As well, there is a real need for more adult umpires. Mike is going to create a survey for Randy to send out to the associations about how they felt the summer went in relation to umpiring and the assigning pilot, and that survey will be due back prior to the Fall Forum/AGM.
- 7) There was some discussion as to whether it would be wise to re-evaluate the “AAA” zone structure, as four years had passed since it was implemented and numbers and demographics have changed. In the end, it was determined that there were very few issues with it and that the subject be left alone.
- 8) Allison presented to the group a situation at the 15U “A” Provincial Championships where a Stratford team had 12 players present and called up four APs from 13U “AA” in order to strengthen the bottom of their lineup. That was an abuse of the AP rule – which exists to give a team the option of having enough players to play a game when not enough players on their own roster will be present for a game – and it needs to be rectified. Allison will draft an amendment to the AP rule, send it to Randy, and Randy will distribute it to the Board of Directors for ratification.
- 9) Several playing rules were discussed, and these amendments will be presented to the association presidents at the Fall Forum for feedback:
 - a. The time limit rule at “AA” and “A” in 2019 was that if a regular season/exhibition game was still going on at the one hour, forty-five minute-mark after the first pitch, the inning the game was in would be finished and no new innings would start. Most are in favour of a time limit, but most coaches would like that number pushed to two hours instead of one hour, forty-five minutes. The Board of Directors is considering moving the time limit to two hours for the 2020 season.
 - b. Based on feedback from coaches, the improved quality of play and the fact there is now a time limit rule, the Board of Directors are considering removing the “one-strike” rule from 13U “A” and 15U “A” in the 2020 season.
 - c. At the 13U “A” and 15U “A” levels, the Board of Directors is considering changing the baserunning rules so that a runner can leave the base once the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. The rule as it stands right now is that a baserunner cannot leave the base until the ball reaches the plate (which is the rule at 11U), which means at these levels stealing a base is almost impossible if the catcher is anywhere decent.
- 10) The change implemented in 2019 to the four-team draw, when sending two teams to a Baseball Canada/Baseball Atlantic Championship, was discussed, i.e. that there is automatically a semi-final, and only one final (which, in theory, means that a 3-0 team can lose to a team with one or two losses in the final and that the other team is the Champion). It was decided to leave the rule as is.
- 11) The positions of President, Director of Administration/Skill Development, and Director of 15U and 18U Competitions are for election at the 2019 AGM. Spencer will not be returning as Director of Administration/Skill Development, and Allison will not be returning as Director of 15U and 18U Competitions. All Board members will be asked to come up with some names of people to approach to fill these positions. Also, there was discussion about adding positions to the Board for



sponsorship/marketing, girls' baseball and legal/risk assessment. It was agreed by the Board that girls' baseball is a position that should be added so long as the right person can be found. As for sponsorship/marketing and legal/risk assessment, it was thought it would be difficult to find people to fill these positions on a volunteer basis. It was decided that Allison Macdonald get some feedback from Jansen Simmonds about the marketing/sponsorship idea and/or position, and to speak to Sean Corcoran about some feedback about a potential legal/risk assessment position.

- 12) Randy presented the group with some information on potential screening and abuse issues that Baseball PEI will have to address in 2020. Randy has draft screening and abuse policies written, but is attending a day-long seminar on risk management in October and wants to wait to send out the draft screening and abuse policies until after that seminar (in case valuable information is given there). As well, Baseball PEI will be responsible for screening of all volunteers (coaches and umpires over the age of 18-years-old) in 2020. It was decided that background checks should be valid for two years in our screening policy. In addition, it was agreed that Randy should contact Sterling BackCheck about setting up an account with them so coaches can pay and get their background check done online, and set up an email account for coaches who would prefer to go to a local police station and get a background check done free. Any coaches who do not have a background check into Baseball PEI by a certain date in 2020 shall not be permitted to be on the bench/field with a team.
- 13) Randy and Walter talked briefly about the RAMP system. It made things much easier in terms of Randy getting numbers, names, information, et cetera about registration, rosters, and so on. It was agreed that we should retain the RAMP online registration system and Baseball PEI will continue to pay the \$1.25 per player fee.
- 14) The Summer Clinics Program was reviewed. It was another successful year with many happy teams benefitting from our clinics. There was a discussion about setting aside some money in case government funding does not come through in order to hire a clinician(s). It was determined that Baseball PEI may consider this if a very good candidate for clinician comes forward and government money does not come through, however, at this point no extra money will be set aside hiring clinicians for the summer.
- 15) The position of the Baseball PEI representative at Provincial tournaments was reviewed. There is difficulty getting people to fulfil these positions, and some who fulfil them are lacking in quality. There was discussion about paying them more but there wasn't agreement as to whether that would solve this issue. It will be discussed more during the winter.
- 16) The topic of enforcement of team's posting scores and pitch counts on the website came up. It is an ongoing struggle to get all teams to update website consistently, as Directors don't necessarily like to issue automatic fines, some teams have communication issues between the coach and the person tasked to update the website (and therefore they say they don't know how to/have issues with updating the website), and it seems to be an ongoing struggle. It was thought that perhaps a how-to video could be produced on how to update the website, but that wouldn't solve all of the issues. This will be discussed more at the Fall Forum/during the winter.
- 17) At the Baseball Atlantic 18U "AA" Championships, every Atlantic province except for PEI is permitted up to three pick-ups, and PEI is allowed unlimited pick-ups. That being said, no Island teams ever take advantage of having unlimited pick-ups and it does create some needless animosity with coaches from other provinces at the 18U "AA" level. It was agreed to by the Board of Directors to ask Baseball Atlantic to modify the pick-up rules at the 18U "AA" level so PEI is only permitted three pick-ups like the other Atlantic provinces.
- 18) Allison Macdonald moved for adjournment at 8:19 pm.