



2018 Baseball PEI Fall Forum Minutes

Saturday, 20 October 2018, 9 am

Room 125, Sport PEI

In attendance:

- Walter MacEwen, President, Baseball PEI
- Spencer Myers, Director of Administration and Skill Development, Baseball PEI
- Janet Cameron, Director of Provincial Teams, Baseball PEI
- Darrel Kirev, Director of 11U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- John Munro, Director of 13U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Kent Walker, Supervisor of Umpires, PEIBUA
- Mike Richards, PEIBUA
- Bobby Drake, Stratford
- Rudy MacDonald, Bedeque
- Desi Doyle, Northside
- Andrew Cameron, Cornwall
- Andy Worth, Charlottetown
- Bob Doyle, Sherwood/Parkdale
- Jason Monaghan, Eastern Baseball Academy
- Darren Cash, Kensington
- Kris O'Brien, Cardigan
- Lisa MacKenzie, Cardigan
- Tanner Doiron, Summerside
- Shawn Adams, Summerside
- Margo Robertson, Souris
- Jamie Antle, Souris
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Meeting:

- 1) Walter called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
- 2) A roll call was done for the purposes for everybody to introduce themselves to the group and to be highlighted on the roll call for the meeting. Twenty-two (22) people were present.
- 3) Several topics submitted by the Board of Directors for discussion were examined:
 - a. Kent Walker and Mike Richards of the PEIBUA delivered a presentation to the group about a plan the PEIBUA had for assigning umpires in 2019. Under their proposed plan, PEI would be divided into four zones – following the “AAA” zones – and each zone would have an umpire assignor and a zone Umpire-in-Chief. For all levels 15U “AA” and below, the assignor for each zone would assign all games (regular season, Provincial tournament, exhibition, et cetera) for that zone and not be bound to just that zone to find umpires (for example, if an umpire was needed for a game in Summerside, they could get umpires from closer locations – Bedeque or Kensington – than the other association within their zone – Western). For all levels 15U “AAA” and above, a Provincial assignor would assign all of those games. The benefit of this is a more consistent and even approach to securing umpires and ensuring umpires are doing appropriate level games. It would cost the teams/associations \$3 per umpire per game assigned (so, for a two-umpire game, \$6). Most associations thought this was a good idea; however, a couple voiced concern about not being able to assign umpires themselves for tournaments, therefore leading to much higher costs. The PEIBUA is going to go back and look at adjusting their proposal for tournaments and exhibition games.

As well, the PEIBUA informed the body of their new policy in 2019 in regards to one-umpire games. For the levels of 15U “AA” and below – excluding “AAA” – if two umpires cannot be gotten, as long as the one umpire available has three-or-more years’ experience and is fine with it, those games can be umpired by one person. For all other levels, the local Umpire-in-Chief will have discretion as to whether to allow one umpire to do a game if that is all that’s available. Along with the PEIBUA’s proposal on assigning umpires, it was deemed this will likely become far less an occurrence. The point was raised that if only



one umpire is able to do a game, they should be paid both the games fees for behind the plate and the bases. The PEIBUA will consider that suggestion.

- b. Randy Byrne informed the group of the idea of changing seeding for Provincial tournaments so while that teams will be seeded based on geography, the pools will be mixed so teams play different teams (not just teams close to them geographically). All agreed that was a good idea and the Board of Directors will likely make that policy for 2019.
- c. Randy talked about the issues about getting hosts for the “Final Fours” at “AA” and “A.” Associations aren’t wanting to commit to hosting as not all of their teams are guaranteed to be playing in the competition. One proposal given to the group was to give an early deadline for associations to apply to host, and if nobody applies before then for Baseball PEI to contact an association who was able to host early in the year and run the event themselves with the help of the teams that make it to the event. Another proposal given was for Baseball PEI to find locations to host the Final Fours and have a location host for multiple years (with Baseball PEI, the teams making the event and the local association working together to ensure the event functions well). There was support for both ideas. The Board of Directors will take the input and determine how they will proceed in 2019.
- d. The issue behind games that are postponed being rescheduled late in the year and then if poor weather strikes, those games not getting played, was discussed (especially at the 18U level). Several ideas were floated, each with positives and negatives. One idea that had the most support was for every Sunday evening or every second Sunday evening, have a make-up date for postponed games to be played. Also, it was discussed that the 18U “AA” and “A” leagues should be on different nights, to lessen the burden on some fields and not have teams playing in doubleheaders leaving the field extremely late. Finally, the point was made that regular-season games at this level should be viewed with more importance than tournament games.
- e. Randy discussed how at the Baseball Canada E.D. meeting in Toronto in May there was a heavy discussion about time limits for games. The reality is that some games last 150 to 180 minutes long, and that is often a deterrent for people to register their children for baseball. The group discussed this and decided they would support that for every regular season and exhibition game – not Provincial tournament games – at the “AA” and “A” levels – excluding 18U “AA” – if a game is still being played at the one hour, forty-five minute mark, that inning shall be finished and no more new innings can start after that point (the exception to this is 9U, where a rule like this is already in effect, except the point where no new inning can be started is one hour, thirty minutes). This will not be in place at the “AAA” levels or 18U “AA.” This will lead to games not lasting over the two-hour mark and force teams to hustle on-and-off the field more to get games completed.
- f. Randy led a discussion about the issues for “A” teams getting Affiliated Players due to the current rules. A proposal from the Board of Directors was submitted to the group about this, so players on “AA” teams in an age-division lower will be permitted to be affiliated with a higher age-division “A” team. However, at Provincial Championships, those “AA” players will only be permitted to play the corner outfield positions and bat at the bottom of the batting order (so that skilled “AA” players cannot dominant “A” Provincial Championship games). All thought this was a good idea.
- g. RAMP Interactive had a video call with the group to discuss and demonstrate the online registration system (and the capabilities for associations to have online registration with them) that Baseball PEI is looking to implement for all associations in 2019. The benefits of this are obvious to Baseball PEI; they will be able to track trends, send reports to the Provincial government easier, contact parents easier, et cetera. There are also several benefits to associations, as they can easier determine who has and hasn’t registered in comparison to previous years, send surveys out, send rosters to Baseball PEI much more quickly and simply, and et cetera. There was discussion as to who should pay the \$1.50 per registered player fee. The Board of Directors of Baseball PEI is going to discuss that point amongst themselves.
- h. The idea of tiering 11U “A” was discussed so that players with a little more skill level would be challenged appropriately a little more. The majority of those in attendance felt there was enough tiering in baseball, especially at the 11U level, and this was unnecessary and would lead to disappointment and players quitting. It was decided that perhaps the better route to take would be to look at changing individual rules within the 11U “A” league to improve the experience and development of players.
- i. Based on a resolution passed at the 2017 AGM, it was discussed whether assistant coaches for Provincial teams should be selected prior to the selection of the roster. Much of the group felt it would be difficult for the head coach to conduct proper tryouts without assistant coaches confirmed. The consensus was that



assistant coaches who do not have children on the team they are coaching could/should be confirmed prior to tryouts, while perhaps assistant coaches who have children trying out for the team they are coaching should not be confirmed until the roster was chosen.

- 4) Three topics submitted by those in attendance were examined:
 - a. Lisa MacKenzie spoke to how she felt the appeal process did not work for appealing suspensions as it took too long (between two to four weeks). Randy revealed to the group that after speaking to Sport PEI and other Provincial Sport Organizations that Baseball PEI's appeal process was consistent with others in terms of timeline and breadth. That being said appeal processes are not designed in mind for player/coach suspensions. Randy and Walter told the group of the Board of Directors' proposal that if somebody wishes to appeal a commissioner/Director's suspension, that appeal – so long as the people appeal the suspension put down a sizable bond yet to be determined – would go to the entire Board of Directors. Once their decision is made, there can be no further appeals, and this could all be done in 2 – 3 days. Those in attendance thought this was sensible.
 - b. Andy Worth stated that he felt Eliminations – except for when the Atlantic Championship is in Newfoundland – detracted from Provincial Championships and were unnecessary. After some discussion, Walter took an unofficial poll to see how many associations agreed with Andy's position. All associations present agreed with this position. The Board of Directors will take this information back and consider making changes to Eliminations in 2019.
 - c. Kris O'Brien discussed the issues the Eastern zone had at the "AAA" level, especially at the 13U level in 2018 when Stratford declared they would field their own "AAA" a couple of days prior to the deadline for zones to submit "AAA" teams to Baseball PEI, despite all associations within the zone agreeing months beforehand that the Eastern 13U "AAA" team would be out of Cardigan (which basically undercut the Cardigan team and led it playing 13U "AA"). There was a discussion about "AAA" zones which the Board of Directors will take back and consider. One idea that was popular was to have more zones/teams at the 11U level and go to four zones by the time you get to 15U.
- 5) The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 pm.