

# Baseball PEI

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## Baseball PEI Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Monday, 28 September 2020, 5:45 pm

Room 212, Sport PEI

### In attendance

- Walter MacEwen, President, Baseball PEI
- Janet Cameron, Director of Provincial Teams, Baseball PEI
- Connor Myers, Director of Skill Development/Administration, Baseball PEI
- Darrel Kirev, Director of 11U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- John Munro, Director of 13U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Ian Clays, Director of 15U and 18U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Mike Richards, Supervisor of Umpires, PEIBUA
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

### Regrets

- Joelyne Taylor, Director of Female Baseball, Baseball PEI

### Meeting

- 1) Walter called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm.
- 2) The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed.
  - o Motion to approve the agenda moved by Ian Clays; seconded by John Munro. **Motion Passed.**
- 3) The Minutes from the last Board of Directors' Meeting (24 February 2020) was briefly reviewed.
  - o Motion to approve the Minutes of the 24 February 2020 meeting moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Connor Myers. **Motion Passed.**
- 4) Based on the decision by the Board of Directors via email in regards to the upcoming 2020 Baseball PEI AGM and Fall Forum, the 2020 AGM and Fall Forum will be done electronically via Zoom.
  - o Motion to hold the 2020 Baseball PEI Annual General Meeting and Fall Forum on Saturday, 17 October, starting at 9 am, electronically via Zoom moved by Connor Myers; seconded by Janet Cameron. **Motion Passed.**
- 5) Based on the decision by the Board of Directors via email in regards to the upcoming 2020 Baseball PEI Awards, the 2020 Awards will be posted in late November on the Baseball PEI website and social media platforms. One award winner will be announced per day.
  - o Motion to announce the 2020 Baseball PEI Awards via the Baseball PEI website and social media platforms in late-November moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 6) Each Director gave a short review and update of their area.
  - a. Janet Cameron reviewed what the Provincial teams did during the summer and their plans for the offseason. The Youth Selects/Canada Games training team played a schedule in the Kings County Baseball League and practised throughout the summer, and just finished an intra-squad best-of-five series. The Provincial 16U girls played a schedule in the 15U "A" leagues and practised throughout the summer. They will need a new head coach moving forward in 2021 but the players are excited to work indoors throughout the winter. The Provincial 15U team will start holding tryouts/sessions starting in October. The Provincial 13U team has already started a tryout process with 59 players registered; when the seven tryouts are over the team will be cut down to a training squad of 25 players.



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- b. Connor Myers spoke to Baseball PEI's plans of offseason camps during the winter, to be held at the EBA Complex, starting in early November. Due to the situation with school gymnasiums, the 13U Regional Camps will likely not take place this January. Baseball PEI may look at bringing somebody in from Atlantic Canada to lead a High-Performance clinic around April but we will have to wait and see how Covid-19 restrictions play out.
  - c. Randy Byrne gave a brief report on girls' baseball in place of Joelyne Taylor. The Provincial 16U girls had a successful season, and with the National 16U Girls Championships scheduled to be in Summerside for two years, it appears girls' baseball is slowly growing. Due to the situation around Covid-19, Canadian Girls Baseball did not happen this summer, which affects our girls' baseball numbers.
  - d. Darrel Kirev gave a review of the 11U categories. Eastern won the 11U "AAA" league and Cornwall Hood won the 11U "AA" league. No issues with discipline and a fairly easy summer from the Director's perspective.
  - e. John Munro spoke about of the 13U categories. There were discipline issues surrounding two teams at 13U "AAA," there were issues with coaches in terms of discipline and trying to "play the rules" at 13U "A," while 13U "AA" went fairly smoothly. John recommended eliminating the rule at 13U "A" (and 15U "A") where plays cannot score at home on a wild pitch and a passed ball.
  - f. Ian Clays gave an update on the 15U and 18U categories. There were discipline issues, especially concerning one team, at 18U "A." However, the quality of baseball in these categories was excellent. Teams did a decent job of following the Covid-19 rules.
  - g. Randy spoke to Fall Baseball. Twenty-seven teams registered with 385 players, and after the first weekend of play, things have started well. With the summer registration numbers down by 3%, the numbers of registered players from Fall Baseball will put our 2020 numbers higher than in 2019. There were more NCCP clinics this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, and Initiation clinics were done online.
  - h. Mike Richards discussed the summer in regards to the PEIBUA. It was a difficult start and a lot of learning-on-the-fly with umpires calling balls-and-strikes from behind the pitcher, and there was more abuse of umpires and ejections. However, the extended registration period worked well and more senior umpires got a chance to work with younger umpires, which compensated well for the lack of mentorship that was due to Covid-19 maximum number of people permitted at the field.
- 7) Walter reported on the current finances of Baseball PEI. While Baseball PEI brought in less with our 2020 Blue Jays Getaway Fundraiser than in the past (\$15,000 compared to \$25,000), by getting out on the field and running leagues, receiving more funding from the Provincial and Federal governments (including emergency Covid-19 funds given to PSOs), spending less on Provincial teams and chefs-de-mission due to no National Championships and not having to pay any dues to Baseball Canada, financially Baseball PEI is in very good condition with \$160,000 in the bank with some more funds due to come in. Baseball PEI is in much better condition than what was expected would be the situation in April or May.
- o Motion to approve the acceptance of the financial report moved by John Munro; seconded by Ian Clays.  
**Motion Passed.**
- 8) There was a discussion about discipline issues had during the 2020 season. Ejections were up over double from 2019 (eighteen ejections in 2019 compared to forty-one in 2020) and umpire abuse was up, especially in regards to balls-and-strikes and judgment calls. While there were a couple of umpires who were quicker to eject than others and rules prohibited coaches from going onto the field to argue a call, there was a definite increase in poor behaviour. It appeared that social and other issues related to Covid-19 had people more on edge; however, that must be



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monitored next year to ensure no other major issues are contributing to poor discipline. There was a suggestion that the Discipline Guidelines Policy be looked at to reflect setting in some circumstances (for example, a certain profanity at 18U may be looked at differently than at 11U), and the thought that ejections should be carried over, in terms of suspensions, for two years instead of one. John mentioned that in some circumstances, coaches that are ejected maybe should have to have an electronic meeting with a director and/or the (senior) umpire, to make them reconsider their behaviour in the future. Finally, Walter and Mike discussed Baseball PEI may be looking to hire an older university-aged student to work at mentorships with young umpires.

- 9) The 2020 Baseball PEI AGM and Fall Forum were discussed. Three positions on the Board of Directors are up for election – Provincial Teams, 11U, and 13U. All Directors in those portfolios will reoffer. Topics for the Fall Forum were discussed. The following topics were brought forward:
- a. Recruiting more volunteers and better, more knowledgeable coaches.
    - i. How do you lessen requirements of coaches but still maintain training, an orderly reporting process, and make sure we are covered risk-management wise? How do you make it so that coaches can discipline players if necessary, and make decisions on the field, without incurring the wrath or constant second-guessing of over-the-top helicopter parents (short of barring them from the field)?
    - ii. How do you make it that more people will be willing to volunteer for associations, therefore lessening the work for the main people and the chance of burnout?
  - b. Ways to make minor baseball more appealing.
    - i. Our numbers are good, but is there a way(s) to attract more children that we don't see?
  - c. Eliminating not being able to steal home or score on a passed ball/wild pitch at 13U and 15U "A."
    - i. It's a quagmire for umpires to call, it makes catchers lazy behind the plate and it doesn't speed the game up.
  - d. How to make the baseball field a more respectful, safer environment for young umpires.
    - i. Umpire abuse is rising – how do we combat that?
    - ii. How do we better support young umpires?
  - e. Is there an appetite to hold Provincial Championships in the playoff format used this year, and have Eliminations to determine representatives at Baseball Atlantic Championships?
    - i. While the format worked well this year, there are concerns around the turnaround time necessary, whether fields will be available like they were this year and how early the regular season would have to finish.
- 10) Randy had sent out, last week, some updated proposed policy/procedure on transfers, players applying to play "AAA" at an older age category and players asking to play at a young age category. While Baseball PEI had procedures for these situations, these procedures weren't always clearly written and defined. The Directors who reviewed it thought it was adequate, but Randy asked that other Directors review it as well. Based on feedback, it will be added to the 2021 Procedures Manual.
- 11) Walter conveyed to the group that the Baseball Canada Fall Conference will be done electronically this year due to Covid-19, therefore saving a considerable sum in travel costs.
- 12) Walter stated that there will have to be a conversation with minor baseball associations to lessen the number of players on the RAMP InterActive system being deleted, as it does cost Baseball PEI \$1.50 per player. That will be done at the Presidents' Meeting and in the spring of 2021.
- 13) There was an in-camera session.
- 14) John Munro adjourned this meeting at 7:34 pm.

