



2019 Baseball PEI Fall Forum Minutes

Saturday, 19 October 2019, 9 am

Room 125, 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
- John Munro, Director of 13U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Mike Richards, Supervisor of Umpires, PEIBUA
- Kevin McKenna, PEIBUA
- Connor Myers, Northside
- Joelyne Taylor, Northside
- Rudy MacDonald, Bedeque
- Andrew Cameron, Cornwall
- Andy Worth, Charlottetown
- Scott Taylor, Stratford
- Darren Cash, Kensington
- Kris O'Brien, Cardigan
- Adam Connolly, Summerside
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Meeting:

- 1) Walter MacEwen called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.
- 2) A roll call was done for the purposes of everybody to introduce themselves to the group and to be highlighted on the roll call for the meeting. Sixteen (16) people were present.
- 3) Several topics submitted by the Board of Directors for discussion were examined:
 - a. Mike Richards and Kevin McKenna of the PEIBUA reviewed the zone assigning pilot that took place during the 2019 season. 2% of games had to be rescheduled due to lack of umpires (none at Provincial Championships). Umpires were pleased to be paid in a timely fashion. As the assignors' knowledge of the Goalline website grew, the assigning process became easier. As far as the PEIBUA is concerned, while the pilot needs a few small tweaks, for the most part, it went well.
Kris O'Brien from Cardigan thought the system worked very well but noted Cardigan will probably charge players more upfront in registration costs in order to ensure the association doesn't lose money from team fees.
John Munro spoke to the inconvenience of umpires having to open an account at a Credit Union in order to get paid via direct deposit. Kevin McKenna said this was to ensure lower fees for the PEIBUA and was based on advice received from Consolidated Credit Union (whom the PEIBUA banks through). He will check into the process of doing direct deposit with other financial institutions (he also stated the PEIBUA is still willing to write cheques for umpires).
Andy Worth stated Charlottetown's concerns about umpires from their association – which covers the registration fee for those umpires – travelling to do games in other associations while their games were being cancelled due to a lack of umpires. Mike Richards acknowledged that was unfair and said that will be remedied in 2020. Randy Byrne also gave Sherwood/Parkdale's thoughts on the pilot, which echoed Andy's statement and mentioned the large increase in mileage and the fact the assigning takes place too late. The PEIBUA will look at assigning earlier, and hopefully with more adults umpiring, Sherwood/Parkdale won't have to pay so much mileage for 15U and 18U games.
There was a discussion about getting more adults to umpire. The PEIBUA is waiting for Baseball Canada to come up with some guidelines about an online module/test for Level 3 umpires to be recertified. They will also look at potentially doing something similar for adults at the Levels 1 and 2 to entice adults to stay with umpiring. In addition, the associations are asked to try to recruit more adult umpires themselves as they know the people within the association better than the PEIBUA does.
 - b. The one hour, forty-five-minute time limit (in which a game that reaches the 105-minute mark finishes the inning it is in and no new innings begin) brought in at the "AA" - except 18U "AA" - and "A" levels for 2019 was discussed. It was recommended by the group that the time limit be increased to two hours,



and more efforts should be made to educate coaches on how to make sure the game proceeds in a swift manner. As well, the PEIBUA will keep working with its umpires to ensure they do their part to maintain a good pace in the games.

- c. It was agreed by those in attendance that at the 13U and 15U “A” levels, the “one-strike” rule should be abolished, runners can leave the base as soon as the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand (not when it crosses the plate), and runners cannot score from third on a “pitched” ball.
 - d. Randy Byrne spoke to the group about Baseball PEI’s screening plan in 2020, with every volunteer over the age of 18 that deals/works with children being required to get a background check (and it will be valid for two years). Coaches/volunteers will be able to get these checks free through their local police agency or online at Sterling BackCheck for \$25 plus tax. If these volunteers don’t have them submitted by a certain date (maybe 1 July), they will not be permitted on the field until they supply Baseball PEI with proof of one. The associations will have to assist Baseball PEI in names of coaches/volunteers at their 8U levels.
 - e. Walter MacEwen and Randy Byrne led a brief discussion about website reporting. The question was asked whether 11U “A” or 9U teams should be required to post a score on the website and update their schedules if there are any changes. Most in the group did not have a feeling one way or another; one point made was that it was good practice for coaches when they get to older levels and will have to update the website more thoroughly.
- 4) Two topics submitted by those in attendance were examined:
- a. Randy Byrne mentioned to all present that if their associations do not have social media accounts and/or aren’t active on social media, they should consider doing so as many parents now look to social media before traditional print media or websites.
 - b. Kris O’Brien asked the group whether many of the associations permit cutting “A” players. Cardigan is looking to pass a motion at their AGM that would state no players at the “A” category should be cut, after an issue this summer where the Cardigan 15U “A” team cut several players and there was a major uproar within the association. Many other associations do not cut at the “A” level. Walter MacEwen said that Baseball PEI would continue to leave it up to associations as to how they wanted to structure their teams, and whether or not they would have cuts at certain levels.
- 5) The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am.