



2021 Baseball PEI Presidents' Meeting Minutes

Saturday, 27 February 2021, 9 am
Room 125, Sport PEI

In attendance (in-person):

- 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, PEIBUA
- Desi Doyle, Northside
- Brian Thomson, Three Rivers
- Adam Smith, Stratford
- Andy Worth, Charlottetown
- Andrew Cameron, Cornwall
- Andrew MacKay, Bedeque
- Alex Surrect, Kensington
- Ghislain Bernard, Western
- Tanner Doiron, Summerside (via Zoom)
- Ryan McKenna, Bedeque (via Zoom)
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Associations Unable to Attend:

- Souris Minor Baseball Association
- Sherwood/Parkdale Minor Baseball Association

Meeting

- 1) Walter MacEwen called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
- 2) The Agenda for the 2021 Presidents' Meeting for the meeting was reviewed.
 - Motion to approve the agenda moved by Desi Doyle; seconded by Janet Cameron. **Motion Passed.**
- 3) There were brief discussions about new and/or updated policies and rules passed since the 2020 Annual General Meeting.
 - a. The additions to the Associations in Good-Standing with Baseball Policy were discussed. The purpose of the changes was to provide some deadlines about when AGMs have to be announced, sent to the public and so on. By following these, members of the general public cannot claim that minor baseball associations are not following due process and being open and transparent.
 - b. The updated Discipline Guideline Policy was touched upon. This policy was the result of some desires from minor baseball associations and a lot of back-and-forth between the Board of Directors of Baseball PEI. The discipline is a little more stringent for coaches as opposed to players, as coaches are expected to behave as role models.
 - c. The 2021 Baseball PEI Calendar was reviewed. It followed the template of the 2020 Calendar before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is subject to change with Covid-19 and will likely change throughout the summer.
 - d. Randy Byrne, with the help of NCCP baseball LF Desi Doyle, explained the changes to the baseball NCCP Pathway. The result is there will have to be more clinics offered and Randy and Desi are working to set up a schedule. There were some questions about the number of clinics that are required for coaches at higher levels, and the ability for more clinics to be done electronically. The number of clinics necessary come from Baseball Canada and will not change, and the NCCP pathway is designed for a coach to enter at the younger ages and accumulate clinics as they get older. As far as more clinics being done electronically, there are real issues with rural internet connectivity across PEI and it is difficult to demonstrate and do group work via Zoom. That being said, it's likely that more clinics will be offered via Zoom as time progresses.



- e. Baseball PEI established actual late fees for associations failing to pay on time, and Randy updated the people in attendance about this:
 - i. Failure of a minor baseball association and/or team to pay a fee – whether it be player registration, team, Provincial or any other fees – by the deadline laid out by Baseball PEI will result in a fine of 5% of the total fee if one (1) – seven (7) days late, 10% if eight (8) – fourteen (14) days late, 20% if fifteen (15) - twenty-one (21) days late, 25% if twenty-two (22) – twenty-eight (28) days late, and 50% if twenty-nine (29) days or later.
 - f. Based on some discussions at the Fall Forum and afterwards, \$2500 has been set aside from Baseball PEI for helping fund registrations from low-income households. Minor baseball associations can apply up to four players, and it will be done in a first-come, first-serve method. The application form was shown to the people in attendance.
 - g. To help make batting practice, and even other aspects of practice, easier, Baseball PEI is willing to fund up to half – at a maximum of \$250 per minor baseball association – for an association to purchase a pitching machine. Randy will resend some information sent out about this a month or two ago.
- 4) Mike Richards gave an update on the Prince Edward Island Baseball Umpires Association efforts, in partnership with Baseball PEI, on a mentorship program (U.M.P. – Umpire Mentorship Program). There is always a major turnover in first- and second-year umpires and the goal is to provide them with more support so they are more likely to stick with umpiring. There was also discussion about the PEIBUA's efforts to recruit umpires, Baseball PEI assisting the PEIBUA more, processes to reach out to umpires on-the-fence about registering again, and how to get more umpires in rural associations (one idea was offering a reduction in registration for a 13U or 15U player who agreed to become an umpire).
- 5) On behalf of an absent Joelyne Taylor, Randy outlined the growth plan for girls' baseball created by the new Girls' Grassroots Baseball Committee. It involved four key aspects:
- a. Work towards all-girls competitions and/or leagues.
 - i. Have all-girl Jamborees at Rally Cap and 11U in 2021, and hopefully eventually form all-girls leagues in 2022 or 2023.
 1. If numbers allow in a minor baseball association, associations are asked to offer girls-only Rally Cap in 2021 and/or girls' only 9U teams.
 - b. Get more women role models (coaches and umpires).
 - i. In 2021, Baseball PEI will cover the cost for all women/girls taking NCCP and PEIBUA clinics, and Baseball PEI will look into hosting an NCCP clinic or two just for women.
 - c. Have more "champions" for girls' baseball and have more women active on Boards and other baseball governance areas.
 - i. Associations are asked to create positions on association Boards/Executives in charge of girls' baseball and recruiting more girls to baseball and more women to coaching/umpiring, and maybe get association Board members involved with the GGBC.
 - d. Reduce financial barriers for girls.
 - i. If all minor baseball associations agree to offer registration to girls for no more than \$50 for 2021 and 2022, Baseball PEI will only charge \$10 per girl (instead of the usual \$35) to the associations.

All associations agreed with the first three points, but three associations indicated they are unwilling to charge just \$50 for girls registering to play baseball (as they also have softball as part of their organizations and they feel this would be damaging to softball). However, there were some comments made that Baseball PEI could push forward with this financial initiative and minor baseball associations can sign on if they wish. The Board of Directors of Baseball PEI will discuss this more.

- 6) There was discussion about Baseball PEI hiring a Provincial Rally Cap Coordinator in 2021. The Coordinator's role is to be the go-to person in regards to Rally Cap on PEI; they will run Rally Cap clinics, train coaches on Rally Cap within an association, train coaches to properly do and implement Rally Cap testing, oversee Jamborees, et cetera.

While some association do a great job and take pride in Rally Cap, Baseball PEI feels a renew of emphasis on Rally Cap is necessary. As well, Baseball PEI wants associations to get Rally Cap coordinators in place within



associations early, have coaches/volunteers trained in how Rally Cap should work properly and ensure it is developmental and fun.

- 7) Randy presented to the group some proposed changes to 9U programming; specifically, reducing the number of players on the field to 7 so players have to move a little more on the field, teams will be smaller, players will get more at-bats, et cetera. A couple of minor baseball associations raised concerns about field times, but the vast majority in attendance felt this was a good move that will help players developmentally plus maybe allow smaller associations to field teams when before they could. It was also mentioned that if these changes would be made, there would have to be a little more flexibility allowed within associations to allow players from other 9U teams to be picked up for a game if a team is going to have fewer players.
- 8) There was a brief discussion on MLB's "Pitch, Hit and Run" program (similar to the old Honda Hit, Run and Throw). It can be done now before late July with the top finishers having a chance to advance to a national competition (subject to change due to Covid-19). There are divisions at 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U. In conjunction with associations, Baseball PEI would like to run one of these competitions in each zone, likely around roughly the last weekend of June, with the top finishers eligible to be selected, based on their scores in comparison to other participants across the country, to go to a National Championship later in the summer (if Covid-19 allows). As well, we'd have a Provincial final for the top finishers later in July and maybe twin that with a Senior/22U/18U game, and have some prizes for the winners. Baseball PEI will contact some associations to set up events and get locations.
- 9) Most discipline issues Baseball PEI faces has to do with "A" level coaches. Many of these coaches are just coaching so that their child has a team to play on and don't necessarily have the makeup to be a coach. Many coaches complain of feeling not prepared or assisted by their minor baseball association, and feel "left on their own." Combined with sometimes a lack of baseball knowledge and sometimes a lack of aptitude to work with youth, some coaches become frustrated and lash out at umpires. Minor baseball associations are aware of this and will work with Baseball PEI to support these coaches more, and Baseball PEI will give more in-person materials to help support these coaches.
Baseball PEI is looking to incorporate a training session for coaches in conjunction with the "A" league meetings on Saturday, 5 June. The key is to offer a worthwhile session while not requiring a huge time commitment. Other ideas to help "A" level coaches are more than welcome.
- 10) Like what is often done at the 18U levels, for all categories this year, Baseball PEI is going to try to group three teams to a field and have each team play each other once for two games on the first Saturday of the regular season (depending on numbers, maybe two teams will have to play each other twice). The goal is for teams to get a couple of games in to start the season and to build a little more excitement for the start of the season. There was a question as to whether or not grouping three teams at a field for a day could be done more often, especially with a lack of tournaments. If teams wish to do that, that could certainly be incorporated into schedules.
- 11) Randy mentioned the work that has been done by Alf Blanchard into launching a new PEI 22U League for 2021. Four teams have been identified and a lot of work has already been done, but there is still a great deal of work to be done. The folks leading this league will be having a Zoom meeting during the upcoming week.
- 12) John Munro moved for adjournment at 11:13 am.

