

Baseball PEI

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Baseball PEI Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Monday, 28 October 2020, 5:45 pm

Room 149, 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
- Joelyne Taylor, Director of Female Baseball, 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

Meeting

- 1) Walter called the meeting to order at 5:49 pm.
- 2) The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the agenda moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Joelyne Taylor. **Motion Passed.**
- 3) The Minutes from the last Board of Directors' Meeting (28 September 2020) was briefly reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the Minutes of the 28 September 2020 meeting moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 4) Walter MacEwen gave a brief update on the current financials. Baseball PEI is in a very healthy financial situation, with more money to come in and only a few expenses to go out. There will be some money to spend over the next year on projects to help grow and improve baseball on PEI. One project Walter mentioned was involving scorekeeping and a pilot in which Baseball PEI will train scorekeepers at the 15U "AAA" level in 2021 and paying them \$10 a game. This will help to grow the pool of scorekeepers on PEI, which eventually should lead to more scorekeeping at other levels and helping us provide scorekeepers for Baseball Canada National Championships.
 - o Motion to approve the acceptance of the financial report moved by Connor Myers; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 5) The proposed amendments to the Association in Good-Standing with Baseball PEI Policy, which was distributed to the Board of Directors via email, were discussed. There was discussion about whether there should be a clause within the policy about penalties for associations if they don't meet deadlines for fees to the PEIBUA; however, it was decided that the PEIBUA should create their own policy and Baseball PEI would support this policy. It was agreed that the changes to the policy will be sent out to the associations early next week.
 - o Motion to approve the changes to the Association in Good-Standing with Baseball PEI Policy moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 6) Some Directors gave a short review and update of their area.
 - a. Walter MacEwen and Janet Cameron discussed Baseball Canada's decision – via a vote by the Board of Directors of Baseball Canada – to have the 2022 Canada Games as a 17U event, but allowing PEI to have six 18-years-old overagers instead of three (and Newfoundland and Labrador to have an 18U team). As long as National Championships go ahead in 2021, there will be a Baseball Canada Cup (17U) in Regina, Saskatchewan.



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- b. Connor Myers gave an update on the 2020/2021 Winter Camps. The 11U and 12+ Hitting Camps start this upcoming Sunday and run all of November and are full, with a waitlist. The Catching Camp has fifteen registrants, which is exciting. The Infielding Camp has eight registrants at this point, but there is optimism that more players will register. The 11U and 12+ Pitching Camps are full and almost full, respectively. Logan MacDougall and Cole MacLaren are lined up to lead the Hitting, Catching and Infielding Camps, with Tyler Johnston and Dawson McCormack assisting, and Tyler Johnston leading the Pitching Camps. Things are progressing very well with these camps.
 - c. Joelyne Taylor updated the group on the search for a head coach for the Provincial 16U Girls. There are a couple of people interested in applying. As well, a girls' baseball subcommittee is being formed with to help with the growth of girls' baseball at the grassroots level.
 - d. Randy Byrne discussed a few topics. He spoke to the recently finished Fall Baseball Pilot. It went very well with minimal issues and great weather. A change to consider in 2021 is changing age groups to 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U so to help with player development and limit talent disparity, especially at the 11U level. Randy mentioned that the Baseball Canada Fall Meetings are online this year due to Covid-19 and encouraged all members to take part if they wish. Finally, Randy briefly described the changes coming to the baseball NCCP program, which will likely lead to confusion and some difficulties in 2021.
- 7) Randy discussed the need to create a tutorial video on how to update and do all the necessary things in terms of the website for 2021. There is a paper document for coaches/teams on how to use the website but it is not meeting the needs of coaches/managers. He will look into how to do it over the winter and have it completed prior to the spring of 2021.
 - 8) Ideas on coaching mentorship were discussed in length. Walter mentioned a "Coach, eh?" camp where "A" level coaches will be encouraged to take part and learn important fundamentals, how to run a practice, how to prepare for a game, et cetera. It was determined such a venture should be done right before the start of the season when these coaches were lined up. Darrel Kirev suggested that "A" league meetings be held on Saturday morning, where the league meetings can be held plus sessions on fundamentals/running a proper practice can be held. Randy spoke about recruiting some coaches with a lot of experience and asking them to go to a few games/practices, for a fee, and that associations would request for Baseball PEI to send these coaches out to work with inexperienced coaches. That idea was expanded upon so that the senior coach would maybe go out and demonstrate a proper practice with our summer clinicians. Finally, there was discussion about maybe helping develop Rally Cap coaches. However, it was determined that the success of a Rally Cap program was organization and coaches following the Rally Cap booklet, and that trying to working on growing the knowledge of Rally Cap coaches was probably not an effective use of resources. The more effective use of resources at the Rally Cap level was promoting and helping with more organization within associations' Rally Cap programs.
 - 9) Some thoughts on improving umpire mentorship were discussed. Walter put forth an idea largely based upon what the BCBUA does, where senior umpires have to do two games with new/inexperienced umpires and mentor them. Mike Richards thought that would be difficult to do. An idea discussed at a previous meeting, where Baseball PEI would try to get a summer student with baseball knowledge, presence and in second- or third-year university, to train and go out and mentor new/inexperienced umpires was expanded upon. If Baseball PEI could get a third summer position from the various levels of government, it was agreed that this will be done. If not, there was discussion about whether Baseball PEI and the PEIBUA could cost-share such a venture. There was also talk about whether or not 35 hours would be necessary for this type of summer position, but it was determined that if it wasn't, there was a lot more that could be done at the Baseball PEI office to supplement this job.



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- 10) Based on some feedback at the Fall Forum, it was agreed that Baseball PEI would set aside \$2500 for the 2021 season to help pay for registration fees for players that could not afford to pay registration. The process will involve associations sending in applications to Baseball PEI stating the age of the player and the reason they need a registration fee for, and a subcommittee headed by Janet and John Munro determining whether the application will receive funding from Baseball PEI. Based on how this program works, there could be some changes in 2022 based on cost-sharing registration fees with associations, more money set aside, et cetera.
- 11) The Board of Directors of Baseball PEI examined that nominations for the 2020 Baseball PEI Awards, and determined the winners for the following categories:
 - a. Junior Female Athlete of the Year: Karli Snow
 - b. Minor Junior Male Athlete of the Year: Ryan Doyle
 - c. Major Junior Male Athlete of the Year: Tanner MacLean
 - d. Senior Male Athlete of the Year: Grant Grady
 - e. Coach of the Year: K.J. White
 - f. Team of the Year: Eastern 11U “AAA” Express
 - g. Volunteer Administrator of the Year: Andrew Cameron
 - h. Masters Award: Troy Coffin
 - i. Senior Umpire of the Year: Jonathan Schut
 - j. Junior Umpire of the Year: Kalib Snow
- 12) Some ideas about promoting the game of baseball on PEI in 2021 were examined. There was discussion about trying to get baseball’s profile in the school system raised. Due to the increased stresses and demands on the administrations and the school system on PEI due to Covid-19, it was agreed that this year was probably not the best time to try to ask more from teachers/schools. That being said, it wouldn’t be a bad idea to reach out to the PEI Physical Education Teachers Association about this topic. Other ideas were about getting bases with horns for younger Rally Cap-aged players, establish a “Play Catch Day” in May/June 2021 (and have prizes for submissions of photos and/or videos), and setting up a PEI-version of the old “Hit, Run and Throw.” The Play Catch Day and Hit, Run and Throw competitions were well received and more work will be done over the winter to develop these ideas. Janet brought up the idea of Baseball PEI investing in producing some Baseball PEI masks and Randy will look into this idea. Finally, Walter suggested the idea of training 9U coaches in the “My First Pitch” clinic and having top 9U players take these clinics halfway through the season.
- 13) Randy explained to the Board of Directors the “Support Your Sport” online 50/50 fundraiser between Sport PEI, Kidsport PEI and the PSOs. So far, the pots have been low and Sport PEI has said that if a PSO permits it, minor associations/clubs and Provincial/Canada Games teams can now take part (to help grow the pots). The Board of Directors agreed that minor baseball associations and Provincial teams should be permitted to take part if they wish.
- 14) There was no in-camera session.
- 15) John Munro adjourned this meeting at 7:49 pm.



Appendix I – Revised Association in Good-Standing with Baseball PEI Policy

Association in Good-Standing with Baseball PEI Policy

1.1 Criteria

- These are the following criteria for a member minor baseball association of Baseball PEI to be afforded the rights and privileges Baseball PEI bestows on minor baseball associations who are in good standing with Baseball PEI:
 - The minor baseball association has a Constitution and Bylaws that has been legally approved/adopted at an advertised public meeting.
 - Any changes made to a minor baseball association's Constitution and Bylaws must be made at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or a Special Meeting and they must be sent to Baseball PEI immediately upon the completion of the AGM or a Special Meeting.
 - The minor baseball association has a clearly defined geographical area that is being programmed by the proposed minor baseball association.
 - The minor baseball association must have a duly elected governance body, with a Board of Directors and/or an Executive.
 - The minor baseball association must hold at least one public meeting a year and/or hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) open to the public before 30 April of the calendar year.
 - The minor baseball association must inform Baseball PEI of the date and location for their AGM at least fourteen (14) days before the AGM. If this does not take place, Baseball PEI reserves the right to consider the AGM invalid.
 - The minor baseball association must inform their membership of the date and location of their AGM at least fourteen (14) days before the Annual General Meeting. If this does not take place, Baseball PEI reserves the right to consider the AGM invalid.
 - The minutes of that AGM to Baseball PEI within fourteen (14) days of the completion of the AGM.
 - The minor baseball association must meet all of the registration and fee requirements of Baseball PEI.
 - Baseball PEI reserves the right to consider a minor baseball association that has not met all registration and fee requirements not a member of good standing. As well, Baseball PEI reserves the right to imposed fines on a minor baseball association for not meeting registration and fee requirement deadlines.

