



Baseball PEI Annual Presidents' Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 7 March 2019, 6 pm

Room 212, Sport PEI

In attendance:

- Walter MacEwen, President, Baseball PEI
- Allison Macdonald, Director of 15U and 18U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Darrel Kirev, Director of 11U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Mike Richards, PEIBUA
- Dave Benton, Cornwall
- Matthew Richards, Western
- Andy Worth, Charlottetown
- Rudy MacDonald, Bedeque
- Andrew MacKay, Bedeque
- Bob Doyle, Sherwood/Parkdale
- Kris O'Brien, Cardigan
- Tanner Doiron, Summerside
- Darren Cash, Kensington
- Adam Smith, Stratford
- Denver Clinton, Northside
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Associations Unable to Attend:

- Souris Minor Baseball Association

Meeting:

- 1) Walter called the meeting to order at 6 pm.
- 2) The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the agenda moved by Andy Worth; seconded by Dave Benton. **Motion Passed.**
- 3) The Minutes from the last Annual Presidents' Meeting (3 March 2018) was briefly reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the Minutes of the 3 March 2018 meeting moved by Adam Smith; seconded by Tanner Doiron. **Motion Passed.**
- 4) There were updates on issues discussed at the Fall Forum and any resolutions/policy changes that came from those discussions.
 - a. On a trial basis for 2019, Baseball PEI will be using the PEIBUA system of assigning umpires for all regular season and Provincial tournament games, and teams/associations may use this system to assign umpires for any exhibition games or tournaments they may schedule. It will be re-evaluated at the end of the season as to whether or not it will continue in 2020. There were questions about the PEIBUA game fees rising, amounts of mileage that will have to be paid, as well as the costs of implementing this assigning system for associations.
 - b. The 18U "A" league will be going on Mondays and Tuesdays in 2019 while the 18U "AA" league will continue to play on Mondays and Thursdays. Also, every second Sunday afternoon/evening will be set aside for makeup games in both divisions. Finally, for the first few weeks of the season for both 18U divisions, "mini-tournaments" – where three teams travel to one location on a Saturday and play the other two teams, and each game will count as a regular season game – will take place at least twice over the first 3-4 weeks of the season to open up the week for school activities and other issues that inevitably lead to many games during this part of the season to be postponed.
 - c. For all regular season and exhibition games (not Provincial tournament games) in 2019 and beyond, at the "AA" and "A" levels – including 18U "A" but excluding 18U "AA" – once a game has reached the one hour, forty-five-minute mark from the time of first pitch, that inning will be finished but no new innings can start after that point. There are no exceptions. Also, at these levels, there will be no extra innings if



the game is tied. The whole purpose is so parents will know that usually a game will be finished within two hours, and help with field scheduling.

- d. AP rules have been changed so that “A” level teams may pick up players from the “AA” level at a lower age category. However, these players can only play the corner outfield positions and bat at the bottom of the batting order, in order for teams not to call up “ringers” for Provincial Championship games.
 - e. There was a discussion about the upcoming introduction of the RAMP InterActive database system for player registrations. Some associations have had difficulty getting answers to questions sent to RAMP. Randy will contact RAMP immediately and voice concerns and let them know we expect better. Also, he will work with RAMP to set up some sort of teleconference to go over questions and issues associations are having with the system.
 - f. Baseball PEI has adopted an appeal process for suspensions. It is largely based off of the current appeal process; however, the timelines are reduced and the cost to lodge an appeal is prohibitive except in cases where people truly feel there has been an unfair decision.
 - g. In 2019, there will only be Eliminations in categories where the Baseball Atlantic Championship is in Newfoundland and Labrador (15U “AA” is the only division in 2019). The Provincial representatives of the other Atlantic Championships will be determined by the Provincial Championships. Due to this, in any category sending a team to an Atlantic Championship, the playing rules of that Atlantic Championship will be the playing rules used in that Provincial Championship.
- 5) In 2019 and beyond, at 9U, 11U “A” and younger ages, a smaller baseball will be used (TV850 for 9U and R850 at 11U “A”) in order for children to grip and throw the baseball easier. All present thought it was a good idea.
 - 6) Due to the rise in umpires’ fees, there will be an increase of Provincial/Eliminations fees from \$300 to \$325 for 11U “AA” and “AAA,” and from \$300 to \$350 for 13U and above.
 - 7) Randy spoke to upcoming changes to screening and education in regards to abuse for coaches and volunteers. Due to insurance requirements, plus upcoming requirements coming from the federal government, all coaches and volunteers will need to be “screened,” and there will have to be some education component (something like “Respect in Sport,” for example). Baseball Canada is working to provide ways for Provinces to get coaches screened, and is looking at creating its own education piece for abuse. We don’t have a lot of details yet and there are a lot of issues that have to be ironed out, but it’s important that associations know changes are coming and could come quite quickly.
 - 8) Randy presented the 2019 Baseball PEI Calendar and gave a brief explanation. It included Provincial tournaments and the 2019 NCCP clinics. Extra Initiation level NCCP clinics will be offered in Cardigan and O’Leary in April for coaches who are busy in May and June, so folks from those areas don’t have to travel as far, and to hopefully improve the congestion of the Initiation clinics held in Charlottetown and Summerside.
 - 9) A brief report was given on the plans of the 2019 Provincial teams (Bob Doyle spoke to the Provincial 13Us and Randy spoke to the other teams). All but the 18U All-Stars are currently running some form of development camps and will be starting with I.D. camps and tryouts later this month/early-April. The 18U All-Stars will scout the 18U “AA” league and go to players they want on the squad and ask them to join.
 - 10) Randy discussed the plan for the Provincial 14U/16U girls’ program in 2019. Efforts will be made to practice at least once a week and get teams together from this program to go to the National 16U Girls Championships in Bedford, NS in August and potentially the Baseball Atlantic 14U Girls Championships in Moncton, NB in September. Obviously, the number of girls that come forward and take part will dictate what can be done with this program. On another note, there is preparation going on for the 2020 National 16U Girls Championships that will be held in Summerside, PE, and the goal is to have a competitive PEI representative at these National Championships.

Baseball PEI needs associations to push female players to participate in this program – that will be supplemental to their club baseball – or give us names and we’ll contact them. The best recruitment comes from the local association, where parents/players know the folks talking to them.



11) In other girls baseball news, Baseball PEI is holding a Spring Girls Camp in April at the Indoor Soccer Complex in Stratford. There was a question as to whether or not this could be made free for girls participating, in order to recruit more girls to take part. Baseball PEI will consider this idea. As well, PEI Girls' Baseball – a division of Canadian Girls' Baseball – will be taking part in Charlottetown and Summerside this July and August. The hope is that girls who normally wouldn't participate in baseball will take part in this program, enjoy the sport, and eventually join minor baseball as a result or as well. The PEI Girls' Baseball group will register with Baseball PEI.

Other ideas about getting more girls into baseball were to try to get into the schools, send flyers/brochures to association presidents so they can distribute to schools within their association, and appeal to some of the U16/U19 girl softball players who are being phased out of provincial softball. Also, Baseball PEI is going to make all NCCP clinics free for women in 2019, in order to try to recruit more female coaches.

12) There was a brief update on grassroots programs and Association business.

- a. The Summer Clinics Program will be back again this year and will be similar to the last few years. Associations can get us out in May/early June to work with groups, and coaches can contact us as well. It is one of our most successful grassroots programs.
- b. Associations cannot function if they have no or a handful of umpires from many teams. Associations have to work hard to recruit more umpires. This isn't just the prerogative of the PEIBUA. All groups must work together to get more umpires.
- c. The Blue Jays Getaway Fundraiser will be back on in 2019. It has raised thousands for minor baseball teams and Baseball PEI over the last four years. Tickets will be available toward the end of April.
- d. We ask all associations to remind their coaches of Baseball PEI's Code of Conduct, and take a firm stance on their players/coaches and fans following this Code. This has been followed by the majority of coaches over the past few years and incidences of ill-discipline have decreased significantly. Credit for this must go to the associations; however, each must remain vigilant in order for this trend to continue.

13) There were issues of late payment last year for Provincial fees and other dues from a few teams. Associations are asked to push teams to pay by the deadlines to avoid late fees and a lot of chasing by Baseball PEI.

14) Allison Macdonald moved for adjournment at 7:50 pm.