



Baseball PEI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 5 November 2019, 6 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
- Joelyne Taylor, Director of Female Baseball, Baseball PEI
- Darrel Kirev, Director of 11U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Ian Clays, Director of 15U and 18U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Regrets

- John Munro, Director of 13U Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Mike Richards, Supervisor of Umpires, PEIBUA

Meeting

- 1) Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- 2) The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the agenda moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Janet Cameron. **Motion Passed.**
- 3) The Minutes from the last Board of Directors Meeting (18 September 2019) was briefly reviewed.
 - o Motion to approve the Minutes of the 18 September 2019 meeting moved by Ian Clays; seconded by Connor Myers. **Motion Passed.**
- 4) Walter welcomed all new members of the Board of Directors, thanked previous members for staying on the Board, and spoke to the different programs, directions and areas of concern for Baseball PEI in the future.
- 5) Walter gave a report on the current finances of Baseball PEI. Our financial situation is healthy, thanks in part to the annual Blue Jays Getaway Fundraiser and increased government funding. We will be overspending during the next fiscal year due to increased money in the account, but the spending will probably be cut some during the following fiscal year. With all bills currently paid and some money still due to us, we currently have \$115,000 in the bank account.
 - o Motion to approve the acceptance of the financial report moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Joelyne Taylor. **Motion Passed.**
- 6) The PEIBUA Zone Assigning system was discussed based on the feedback received at the Fall Forum and the AGM. While it worked decently, there are a lot of concerns about mileage costs, umpires doing games at a level too challenging for them, associations cancelling games due to a lack of umpires while their own umpires are doing games in other associations, and how evaluations and mentorships are being conducted (i.e. late in the season, when feedback may be late and when the need for umpires is greater). It was agreed that the PEIBUA should be asked to provide a written review of how they felt the Zone Assigning system went in 2019. As well, a meeting should be set up between Randy, Walter, and the PEIBUA to discuss the Zone Assigning system going ahead in 2020. Finally, it was agreed that the Zone Assigning System should be reviewed by Baseball PEI and the PEIBUA at the completion of each season.
- 7) There was some discussion about rule changes at the 13U "A" and 15U "A" categories for 2020 and beyond. It was agreed that the following three rules should be introduced:
 - i. Each at-bat starts with the traditional baseball count of no balls and no strikes.



- ii. The baserunner can leave the base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand (not when the ball reaches the plate).
 - iii. Baserunners cannot score from third base on a "pitched ball" (either on the pitch thrown by the pitcher or a catcher throwing the ball back to the pitcher after the pitch was thrown).
 - o Motion to approve the three rule changes above at the 13U "A" and 15U "A" categories moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 8) The Board of Directors discussed the will of most people at the Fall Forum and AGM of increasing the time limit at the "AA" – minus 18U "AA" – and 18U, 15U and 13U "A" levels from one hour, forty-five minutes to two hours.
- o Motion that in 2020 and beyond, at the "AA" and "A" levels – excluding 18U "AA" – for all regular season and exhibition games, when a game hits the two-hour mark, no new innings shall be started moved by Connor Myers; seconded by Janet Cameron. **Motion Passed (by a vote of 4-1).**
- 9) Playing equity was discussed, and it was felt that Baseball Canada's rule for playing equity at 11U should be strengthened, and a strong rule should be created and introduced at all levels in which all players bat and there are unlimited defensive substitutions. This rule shall be in effect for all games in which a team bats all players and there are unlimited defensive substitutes. Any complaints lodged must come from a player's home team, and all incidents involving this rule will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of Baseball PEI. The following rule on playing equity was introduced:
- i. All physically able and eligible players must be in the batting lineup.
 - ii. Every physically able and eligible player must be in the defensive starting lineup at least one out of every two consecutive games that he/she is present.
 - iii. An equitable usage of the players is expected (e.g. if a team plays two consecutive six [6] inning games of defence, a physically able player **must** play a minimum of six [6] defensive innings over these two games).
 - iv. Parents/players must recognize the reality that scheduled and unscheduled happenings (e.g. being the visiting team, the ten-run rule, forfeits, ejections, darkness, weather, improper behaviour by a player, et cetera) can and will prevent coaches this from applying this rule literally. However, the onus is on the coach(es) to coach by the spirit of the rule, which attempts to ensure that every player bats and every player plays at least half of the defensive innings played by his team."
 - v. If a coach does not play a player due to disciplinary reasons, that must be communicated to the parents of the player subject to discipline. It is also encouraged that this is communicated to the opposing coach prior to the game.
- o Motion to approve the playing equity rule stated above moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 10) The Affiliated Player rule was discussed, and it was determined that clauses should be added into the AP rules that prevent an "A" team from calling up "AA" players from a lower age category in order to strengthen the bottom of their batting order, especially when they have sufficient numbers of players on their team to avoid forfeit.
- The following clauses were created, to be added to Baseball PEI Affiliated Players rule:
- i. Teams that are playing in a Baseball PEI League or Provincial Tournament where, by rule, everyone on the roster must bat can only use affiliate players when less than twelve (12)



regular-roster players are available and can only add enough affiliate players to raise the game-eligible roster to a maximum of twelve (12).

- ii. Teams that are playing in a Baseball PEI League or Provincial Tournament where, by rule, nine (9) players bat – with or without re-entry – can only use affiliate players when less than thirteen (13) regular-roster players are available and can only add enough affiliate players to raise the game-eligible roster to thirteen (13) players.
- iii. “A” teams are permitted a maximum of two (2) eligible “AA” players from a lower age category as affiliated players in a game.

- o Motion to approve the three clauses above to the Affiliated Player rules moved by Darrel Kirev; seconded by Joelyne Taylor. **Motion Passed.**

11) Prior to the end of his term as Director of 15U and 18U Competitions, Allison Macdonald deemed that there needed to a policy on the procedure of what happens if a zone does not enter a “AAA” team into a specific age category. The Board of Directors discussed this and agreed that something should be created. As well, it was determined that in the situation where a zone does not enter a “AAA” team into an age category, “AA” teams within that zone at that age category should not be permitted to enter into Provincial tournaments (Eliminations and/or Championships); however, “A” teams within that zone at that age category should be permitted to enter in Provincial Championships.

The following rules were created to be added to Baseball PEI “AAA” zone policy:

- i. Should it happen that a zone does not enter a team into one or more “AAA” leagues, parents/guardians of players from within that zone that wish to play “AAA” in the age categories that their zone is not entering a team must register that athlete with Baseball PEI no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the league start-up meeting. Baseball PEI will oversee the process of assigning this/these player/players to one of the registered teams. Unless there are special and/or exceptional circumstances, this process will be a draft.

1. If there is a draft, it will be held within forty-eight (48) hours after the cut-off time for parents/guardians to register their athletes.
2. Any eligible team can choose to not participate in the draft or participate in any or all of the rounds.
3. Teams that choose to participate in the draft will be ranked by a random draw. In the first round, teams will draft in that order. In the second round, teams will draft in the reverse order to the first round.
4. Unless there are special and/or exceptional circumstances – as determined by Baseball PEI – no team will be permitted to draft any more than two (2) players, except to replace any drafted players that refuse to report.

- a. Players who refuse to report to the team that has drafted them, players who do not make their drafted team’s final roster and players who are not drafted will be reassigned to their home associations’ “AA” or “A” teams and will not be permitted to play in that “AAA” division’s League and/or Provincial tournaments.

- ii. Please note that if a zone does not enter a team into one or more “AAA” leagues, even if this draft procedure takes place, the “AA” teams from that Zone in the age categories that do not enter a “AAA” teams will not be eligible for any Provincial tournaments.

- o Motion to approve to following rules to be added to the Baseball PEI “AAA” zone policy moved by Joelyne Taylor; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**



- 12) There was a discussion about Baseball PEI adopting a standardized discipline matrix or guidelines. Many provinces – including Nova Scotia – and other organizations – including Baseball Atlantic – use one and it makes life easier for directors in charge of handing out discipline. It leads to more standardized decisions in regards to discipline; and all teams, coaches and players will know beforehand the consequences of ill-discipline. It was decided that Connor, Walter and Randy will review the Baseball Atlantic discipline guidelines, make changes to it and base a future Baseball PEI discipline guidelines/matrix off this document. A future Baseball PEI Discipline Guidelines/Matrix will be completed prior to the start of the 2020 season.
- 13) At all levels in which a time limit is in effect during regular season and exhibition games, the traditional rules around what constitutes an official game – i.e. five complete innings or four and a half innings when the home team is leading – does not really work, as a game can theoretically be ended by the time limit rule before actually getting five innings completed. After some discussion, it was determined a “time limit” game that has completed 75-minutes should be deemed official.
 - Motion to adopt that all regular season and exhibition games at the “AA” – minus 18U “AA” – and 18U, 15U and 13U “A” levels will be deemed official after the seventy-five-minute mark from the time the first pitch is thrown moved by Janet Cameron; seconded by Ian Clays. **Motion Passed.**
- 14) The Board of Directors was reminded that the 2019 Baseball PEI Awards Night will be held at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel on Thursday, 19 November at 6 pm. Janet and Ian volunteered to work at the door at this event.
- 15) There was an in-camera session held.
- 16) Connor Myers adjourned this meeting at 7:46 pm.