



British Columbia Minor Baseball Association

BC's Largest Youth Baseball Organization Since 1963

Rally Cap - 9U - 11U - 13U - 15U - 18U - Junior Mens

Girls Baseball - Challenger Baseball

www.bcmminorbaseball.org

2021 BCMBA Spring Workshop - Compiled Minutes Meeting done by Google Meet

Attendance:

March 3, 2021 - Lower Mainland. Call Meeting to Order: 7:03 pm

BCMBA BoD: G. Butler, D. Garton, A. Hayes, A. Wong-de Leon, A. Forman, M. Kelly, N. Dhaliwal, T. Baker-Cornett

Administration: J. Raymond

Associations: M. McCann (Vancouver Minor), J. Powell (Coquitlam-Moody), D. Michaud (Surrey), B. Durant (Powell River), N. North (Ladner), N. Van Dyk (North Shore), C. Healey (Burnaby)

March 4, 2021 - Island. Call Meeting to Order: 7:03 pm

BCMBA BoD: G. Butler, J. Braaten, D. Garton, A. Hayes, A. Wong-de Leon, A. Forman, N. Dhaliwal, T. Baker-Cornett, M. Hall

Administration: J. Raymond

Associations: Jim Jaggars (Chemainus), Brian White/Mike Brown (Victoria Triangle), Shannon Gaboury (COMOX), Mike Peters/Ehren Madill (Nanaimo), Roxanne Garnett (Lake Cowichan), Magnolia Pauker (Salt Spring Island), Vicki Seredick (Alberni)

March 8, 2021 - Interior. Call Meeting to Order: 7:01 pm

BCMBA BoD: G. Butler, J. Braaten, D. Garton, A. Hayes, A. Wong-de Leon, A. Forman, N. Dhaliwal, T. Baker-Cornett, M. Kelly, R. Puri

Administration: J. Raymond

Associations: Jim Soper/Stacey Larsen (Enderby), Keith Dewitt (Trail), Colin Mitzel (West Kelowna), Stacey Matkowski (Kamloops), Chad Geisbrecht/Ravonne Foulger/Marlena Robinson/Kristen Steward (Salmon Arm), Pauline Portas (Revelstoke), Michael Sanfilippo (Vernon), Kevin Castelone (SOMBA)

President's Report/Remarks:

- As we're getting a lot of questions about what's going to happen with baseball year, we're assuming most associations are gearing up with some level of baseball this year and that most should be able to ramp up because they already got their RTP in place. Of course, we're all waiting on the PHO. We expect that this year will be very similar to last year – start slow and wrap up; hopefully things will be a month earlier than that last year. At this time we're uncertain if we will be able to offer house provincials.
- Right now, we're on the fence waiting for Baseball Canada's meeting on March 9, which will tell us whether they will be canceling or changing the Westerns or Nationals' dates. We will then know what Baseball BC is going to do as far as their play down goes and then we will look at our provincials. Last year, we had no house program championships and single season championships were called championships, and not provincials, as not all participated. Single seasons all went to a Final 4.
- Please have Executive Rosters and Boundaries up to date and submitted.
- Division director arrangements are the same as last year, we have a division chair who is not a division director, allowing for a single messaging point per division.
- Regarding our messaging to the presidents. Recently we've been getting the usual questions from Coaches and Managers about RTP and are finding many of them are either not getting the messaging from their President or are choosing not to read them, don't care, or don't get it. Uncertain what to suggest to get our message out.
- Rules – always an issue. A lot of people do not read the rulebook, or they think they know the rules.
 - Top-down approach/multiple people talking – we tried to have single-point contact.
E.g., a question regarding 18UAAA rules. Go to the 18UAAA director or 18U Chair, and one of them will

- contact the Rules Chair to discuss the rule and get a standard answer out
 - o Last February, the board passed an Article XX, which allowed us to make adjustments to the rulebook related to Covid issues and the changes Covid created this year – things like changes to declaration dates, withdrawal dates, single-season fees because they did not get the full games in, but it does not give us the ability to do anything/everything. We run by the rulebook.
 - o We are following the rulebook. If something doesn't fall in the rulebook or does not like how the rulebook is written, bring it forward for a possible rule amendment at the AGM. Any questions or clarifications, don't hesitate to reach out. We don't set the rules.
 - o Anything comes up with the rules; reach out to Dave Garton.
- Covid – John Braaten
 - o Baseball BC, last week, updated the RTP guidelines. It was posted via social media through their website. Everybody should have received the communication sent by James regarding the Baseball BC March 1 update to the Return to Play guidelines. James messaged this out via BC Minor to all association presidents of the new updated package. Hopefully, this passes down to your executive and membership.
 - o What we are finding is that this message is not being pushed down to coaches or members. ie: Questions have been coming in asking about setting up exhibition games. People are unaware that it is still essentially **practice only** for teams along with each of your respective Covid safety guidelines and protocols on your website.
 - o We are in **Phase 2 Stage 1** at this time. We have no timeline from the government as to when we will see an update from them. But the feeling is we will see something probably at the beginning of April. That is no guarantee of an update to any of the steps within the Phase.
 - o From Mar 3rd and 4th, **Phase 2, Stage 1** is where you can practice 10/2 (10 players and 2 coaches) You cannot take an entire team. We haven't heard when the next phase is going to be. [This was updated by Baseball BC and confirmed, *see following*].
 - *This from Mar 8: **Phase 2, Stage 1**.... which allows full team training with coaches; compared to last year's Phase 2 Level 1, which was 10 players and 2 coaches, given the overall understanding of Covid, Baseball BC through viaSport has updated this to allow a full team training and development sessions. Standard guidelines are in place – social distancing, no dugout use, no sharing of personal equipment, etc.*
 - o The next Stage will be cohorts – really small cohorts. 2 teams in-house. If you only have one peewee team, you can play your neighboring association, one team except for the single-season teams.
 - o If we get to **Phase 2 Stage 2**:
 - we will have games **within associations only**. You can run your internal 11U, 9U, 7U, 5U also under your Return to Play guideline posted on your website.
 - When it comes to 13U, if you have one 13UAA team or one 13UA team, you cannot play anybody with these conditions. If you do an inter-squad with your 13UA and 13UAA teams, if and when we move to the next step, to be able to play with someone else, you have to quarantine for that; that could put your team out for 2 weeks after. This is what Baseball BC has put forward.
 - o If we get to **Phase 2 Stage 3**, we can look towards external games. This would be for associations with One 13UAA team, and they are allowed to play the neighboring association's one 13UAA team. (this allows the smaller/mid-size associations to play games) With associations with multiple 13UAA teams, they are to play internally.
 - o If we move to Phase 3, again, with no timeline:
 - we can start moving into where we were last year (end of summer, the beginning of fall ball), that's when we get into the cohorts groups. Last year was 100 players or less. To start working towards possible interlock games. Again, no timeline on this.
 - Usually, BC Minor is not part of spring play management and interlocks, but we would like to help, by overseeing/managing and messaging the cohorts to ensure we are under the 100 players limit.
 - We don't want baseball to be in the news with regards to possible cases and outbreaks. Last year, we found that when we got to Phase 3, not all messaging went down to coaches and coaches going outside their cohorts and getting games. So we have to continue the messaging, and we have to be firm on this. Please read our minutes with regards to Risk Management and Return to Play updates.
 - o Any questions are to be sent to John Braaten.

Floor questions:

Roster Sizes? D. Michaud: spoke with D. Laing, Baseball BC. Outside there is no roster limit.

N. Van Dyk: There is no description of numbers per se on Baseball BC's website.

J. Raymond: Later June or July 2020 amendment from Baseball BC that allowed a full-squad practice.

J. Powell: Last year, when we got to be able to play games, it was like "free for all" – choose your own cohorts, and some associations got connected right away. Can BC Minor handle the cohort assignment this year so that associations are not stuck without a cohort?

G. Butler: Cohorts were discussed during our March board meeting. We are looking at stepping up and trying to manage that and set up a way to manage the cohorts so everyone will be on the same page.

Dave Garton: A clarification about the 14 days quarantine does not mean that kids are locked down in their houses and not going anywhere. They cannot play ball.

Anne Hayes: Single-season teams. When we get to Phase 2 Stage 2, the single-season will start to play each other. They do not play in-house. They play against single-season teams; they are considered high-performance teams.

Raj Puri: Please clarify the Phase 3 cohorts idea. Regarding teams that are not a single season, are we just asking them to report their cohorts to BC Minor? or, is BC Minor actually forming the cohorts?

John Braaten: Last year, for 13U, we asked associations to report to us what they are declaring for 13UA. They formed their cohorts. We want to ensure that they did not go beyond their player limit and understand they have to stay within their cohorts and not stray away from their cohorts. Most in the lower mainland are in natural cohorts. When we get into that stage, there would be more communication from us and a little more assistance. They can schedule their games.

- Discipline-
 - Minimal discipline issues as we got no games.
 - There are some issues on disciplines – primarily internal.
 - Most associations, as per the rule book, should have a dispute resolution process. If you don't have one, you should think of having one. BC Minor will try to have some language available in the future.
- BCBUA – Umpires
 - BCBUA told us that they had a 40% drop in umpires due to the numbers of games being very limited. Should we get a reasonable season started, umpires will be a difficult issue this year.
- Eligibility – Lower Mainland
 - Tryout releases/Full releases. We know that there are associations with joint tryouts (PBL and BC Minor), and Neil has not received a single tryout release. We are in a spot where we have a BC Minor Association participating in the PBL in a tryout and no tryout releases. BC Minor will have to start policing and get the association to read the rules and behave like a BC Minor Association. Presidents, please read Rule 6.03 (g) as we don't want to fine you, but the Rule book says SHALL, not may.
 - When Neil receives a release request, he collects them all, reviews and sends them to his committee, and tries to respond between 7-10 days after receiving the application. If it's urgent, he will try his best.
- Eligibility – Island
 - Tryouts are all over the province between different associations, trying to put teams together.
 - We have noticed Nanaimo – having their 15UAA group practicing, trying out with PBL to make the team for PBL and the leftover team for Nanaimo. Not sure what the arrangement is. Neil has not received a single tryout release. It just creates a lot of issues and problems. Not sure why there is a joint tryout.
 - Tryout releases/Full releases. Presidents, please read Rule 6.03 (g). We don't want to fine you, but it said you SHALL be fined.

Mike Peters: Nanaimo had a joint tryout with the PBL. Mike was not sure what Grant meant (about joint tryouts with PBL), but he knew that PBL had their tryouts. PBL had their Bantam. And anybody who did not make that team will try out for the NMBA program. Not sure what they did wrong. BCMBA was told it was a joint tryout. Not sure where we stand. Mike confirmed that the NMBA Bantam tryout hadn't happened yet. Grant said there was information floating around; we don't know where it came from. Did this really happen? Once we find something out, we have to do something about it. Please provide details. Mike will be happy to give details, happy to chat about it. PBL had their tryout last week; theirs is not till April 10.

Neil Dhaliwal: With those tryouts, if you have players coming outside of your associations, they are not allowed to go onto the field at all until we see that process. If they are out of your catchment area, they need to be sent in immediately before they get into any field of play, tryouts, working out with your groupings because they have not been released yet to go there. So I need those in. I don't want the players to suffer for paperwork not being sent in by the association that the player is going to. With the tryouts, he collects them all week; 1st day, he gets them, sent to committee members, reviewed them, and sends back their comments, and usually, on Sunday nights, he makes his response to everybody unless there is a time crunch.

Shannon Gaboury: They have a PBL team in Parksville. They are running practices and tryouts for their Bantam Preps. They are running practices/tryouts for the 15UAA BC Minor team. They are not co-joint tryouts because there are separate tryouts, but they practice in the same location. All players are all from the merge associations. I don't think there are restrictions on that—no control over PBL players. There is a PBL tryout, then BC Minor tryout - held in the same place, same practice facilities, same practice time within an hour. He does not have PBL players trying out for 15UAA and vice versa.

Ehren Madill: To clarify, NMBA has not had any tryouts yet. Some of their players are not registered with NMBA. In many cases, the kids went to tryout for PBL and if they don't make it to PBL, they will sign up with NMBA. He does not think they have anything to declare or to release.

- Baseball BC
 - Baseball BC's new president is Chris Ballison, and Grant Butler, as the BCMBA PResident is the VP.
 - Chris is bringing in more business-style management to the group, is currently reviewing everything and going through their procedures. Communication within Baseball BC and its members (us) has been a lot better. Baseball BC is working hard to become more relevant in our world.
 - There is also, we just found out, a cheque coming in the mail supporting our upcoming coaching conference.
- Coaching Conference
 - This year is virtual. James has been communicating, sending out flyers. It's happening from March 26-28.
 - We have 25 different sessions in regards to speakers. The platform itself is similar to the super clinic for Canadian Umpires. James is sending out daily updates on our guest speakers.
 - Being virtual, no travel, we are looking for greater attendance from the interior.
 - Baseball BC will be honoring the points for attending this conference to keep the certifications up. Coaches who register, will get their CPD points. **[This added: You need to request them through their website]**
 - Association billing code has been emailed to all member Association presidents that will allow you to send coaches to the coaches conference if your association is paying for your coaches. BC Minor will bill the association in one lump invoice instead of them paying online. James will send weekly reports that will show you who from your association has registered.
 - There is an NCCP portion as well, which will be the following weekend. Coaches who attended the conference have the opportunity to go on to Baseball BC courses for \$29 a course the following weekend.
 - We are going to check NCCP certification this year as per the Rulebook.
 - This is the information you need for your coaches when it comes to certifications. When we get into certain divisions, the criteria in our rulebook sets out what coaches need regarding certifications. **[This added: BCMBA has discovered that Baseball Canada changes the NCCP requirements, more to follow.]**

Floor questions:

N. North: Will the NCCP registration be live this Friday? YES

D. Michaud: Is it going to be on the BC Minor site? YES, it will be linked, and promotional materials will be distributed.

N. Van Dyk: Is this different from the other NCCP training posted on the Baseball Canada website. The one BC Minor is hosting is the 2 weekends after the coaching conference, and if you have attended the coaching conference, you will get a discounted rate of \$29 module.

J. Powell: He has a coach who signed up on the Baseball Canada website and asking for an access ID. Is that different for payment? The association billing code does not apply to the NCCP training because the way we pay for NCCP training differs. We have to pay Baseball BC and Baseball Canada.

Shannon Gaboury: On the coaches conference, if we register, will the sessions be available online afterward so we can review, or is it only a live conference only

John Braaten: We will work to make it available after the weekend.

Shannon Gaboury: NCCP certification, April 3rd weekend. Is that for initiation only?

John Braaten: It's everything. They are doing 14-15 different modules offered that weekend. Initiation will be a double offering for absolutes and initiations just for this year for new coaches. The NCCP model has changed as of January 1, 2021. There has not been a lot of messaging from Baseball Canada through the PSO yet. It will be coming shortly.

- Administrative Report - James Raymond, BCMBA Administrative Director
 - o Focusing mainly on RTP messaging, getting all our documents up to date, coaching conference support. The marketing group is looking for "feel good" association stuff that we can work through our social media channel.
 - o Survey to address certain things like "how can we message your coaches," "how can we help you message your coaches and other areas." Please take a moment to complete the survey.

- Divisions

- o 26U – Lower Mainland Only, not a concern to the Island and Interior Associations
Anne Hayes: This is the only level of ball that cannot even practice. Anybody that is over 22 is considered an adult and cannot be on the field. The declaration date is extended to April 1 and likely will be extended again.

Floor question:

M. McCann: Do you think we can negotiate to raise the age up to 22 from Baseball BC or viaSport.

Anne: We are not in the negotiation – that is with Baseball BC. BC Minor is the only level of play that has ages over 22.

- o 18U – Mike Kelly: Everything is under control. We got confirmation from all the single-season teams, and schedules will be out soon subject to RTP guidelines.

CP had a meeting in February with 11 teams that will play in cohorts. Anne is still waiting for field availabilities, and their schedule will be posted as soon as we get to play .

18UAAA – Meeting has been completed. 13 teams, 3 teams on the island. Need to send field availabilities.

18UAA – holding pattern right now.

- o 15U – Anne Hayes:
15UAAA: The Spring meeting just happened, there are no island teams this year.

15UAA: Spring meeting will be on Tuesday next week. Need field availability. Very different schedule because 28 teams are playing in this province. Very challenging to get the schedule done. The maximum number of teams in any cohort is 4 teams.

Scheduling: Anne will start the 15UAAA schedule and work down to the 15UAA schedule.

15U A: will be whether the associations want to play. If we get to start in May, do you want to play May – to the end of June for spring and do a regular summer ball season if we can, or do you want to extend the spring season? We are guessing that we will start in May subject to the PHO announcement on April 12.

- o 13UAA – John Braaten: Pretty much the same as 15UA house ball. Same with 11U and 9U.

The John Main, we carried over the teams who registered last year. 16 teams plus 4 or 5 on the waitlist. The co-host will be North Langley and Cloverdale.

Floor questions:

N. North: Has the 13UAA meeting happened yet, or to happen. No meeting yet.

N. Van Dyk: On the April date, from the BC Minor perspective, are you ready to go with gameplay? Should there be a change before that? They did say in both of the last couple of announcements they would monitor and potentially react before they pre-defined common dates if things change dramatically?
Grant: Anne looks after all the single-season schedules and is waiting for the field availability forms; the schedule will be built, like last year's. House play will wrap up pretty quickly at the local associations level, if they move ahead.

Mike Peters: 13U question. In Nanaimo, we have had 65+ kids tried out for the 13U team. We want to have some clarifications, and we understand that we have to have at least 2-13UAA teams. So, we want to know the correct interpretation of it and if we do make teams, do we make 2 equal teams or have one team with the top 12, and the 2nd team will be our 13th to the 24th best players.

John Braaten: with the current rule change, 61 or more Peewee registered players have to have 2 -13UAA teams; they have to be balanced. The rosters have to be signed by the association president and submitted to the chair. 3 rule changes were passed at the AGM regarding the 13U that are highlighted in the rulebook.

Mike Peters: The last question – once the spring season is over, would it be normal to make your top 12 players go to 13UAAA and your 13 to 24 players to 13UAA.

John Braaten: It's up to the association to deal with that.

Stacey: 13UAA teams – typically, they have enough players to run 2 – 13UAA teams. In the rulebook, 61 players or more registered, you have to field 2-13UAA teams, they just run their tryout, and only 17 kids tried out, so it looks like they will only have one team. But they currently have 63 registrants. There is no way that they can run 2 – 13UAA teams. What is the process?

John: You are not alone. Right now, field what you can. We don't know where the divisions are until we see the affiliation numbers and get an idea of where the province is following this. Do what you can with regards to the one team.

o 11U – John Braaten:

Tiering: A rule change brought forward at the AGM; Tiering is in-house only if you choose to Tier, but associations may not do both tiering and/or MSET/Prospect programs.

Prospects: Will not work right now due to RTP guidelines..

MSET: Is virtually dead now – basically, you are picking All-Stars teams.

- High Performance: Nothing will be happening for this year
- Round table:

Anne – for new presidents. April 1 – affiliation form is due. We expect every association as soon as you close your registration to submit your affiliation form with the player's name, coach's name, address, postal code, phone#, gender, and level of play. This information is for insurance purposes. Also, this is in the rulebook.

Can we allow kids to join after registration closes and we update the list?

YES. The list goes to Anne Hayes @ treasurer@bcminorbaseball.org.

M. McCann: What can 15UAA stuck with the schedule this year.

Anne: 28 teams are playing Bantam AA, so it is a nightmare. You are playing in a cohort of a maximum of 4 teams. It all depends where you are. Teams are already split into cohorts. When they get out of cohorts, we don't know. If we were to start by the middle of April for single-season, we are looking at 40 game schedules for 15UAA, 48 games for the other 3. CP – 18 to play, 15UAAA – 48 game schedule. The later the start date reduces because CP and 18UAAA do not want to go past the 2nd week of August because they have Grade 12.

N. North: Is there anything set or organized for the MSET program this year that usually happens at the 11U age. We are completely out of the MSET. There was a rule change last year that did allow tiering in the 11U. Review the new rules of 11U. Basically, you can tier. You can do MSET or prospect within your association only.

C. Healey: In terms of the house level teams, when do you anticipate knowing how far that's going to go. What point is the cut-off – approximate date? Really difficult to have a grasp right now.

Will there be provincials this year? Will there be baseball this year? Suppose we don't get regular season play that allows interlock by May 1.

G Butler: In that case, we will likely not have any provincials for the house leagues but possibly regional championships but not calling them provincials as there will not be Provincial participation. Travel is a big issue. Single-season teams, it will go like last year's. It will be Final 4/Final 5.

John Braaten: Question for the associations. How are registrations compared to before the 2020 shutdown?

- ☐ Nanaimo: Extremely high. Highest they have in 10 years. (ongoing communication to members)
- ☐ Lake Cowichan: Tadpole and Rallycaps are growing substantially – finding coaches remains a challenge.
- ☐ Victoria: registration is close to last year's.

Marketing group: Is always looking for good stories to share and help promote your organization
BC Minor Member Associations have a good reputation when it comes to the Covid protocols

What will be the dropdead date for play to allow Provincial Championships?

G Butler: May 1st would be the most reasonable date, it would allow for a compressed spring play and usual summer play.

- Links

- o BCMBA Executives List - <https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/baseball-executives>
BCMBA COVID-19 Resources - <https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/page/show/5788253-bcmba-covid-19-resources>
- o BCMBA Rulebook 2021- https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/6ebc-2331438/2021_BCMBA_RuleBook_29490_.pdf#_ga=2.189373419.1739577826.1615940615-607755786.1599365529
- o BCMBA Documents Page - <https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/documents>
- o BCMBA Interlock Scheduler Form - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYmGa73eaPtRcHXDAwrgX8m-3Sr1I9hCxnESul8pGoURhbKA/viewform>
- o BCMBA Coaches Conference 2021 Registration - https://bcminorbaseball.sportngin.com/register/form/502933227#_ga=2.86044760.1739577826.1615940615-607755786.1599365529
- o Association Affiliation Forms Page - <https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/forms-for-associations>
- o Address to send member logos or content for BCMBA Social Media promotion - marketing@bcminorbaseball.org
- o Forms for Associations - <https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/forms-for-associations>
 - Affiliation Application Package
 - Executive Roster Form
 - Association Member Player Affiliation Form
 - Single Season Affiliation Form
 - Summer Season Affiliation Form
- o Player Tryout/Release Form - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnNLPuCOw0TZefw4gv4FSf98IUWFNL7F6XRq9mg0ZDcZJTOg/viewform>

- o Interlock Scheduler Form -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYmGa73eaPtRcHXDAwrqX8m-3Sr1I9hCxnESul8pGoURhbK/viewform>

Lower Mainland: Motion to adjourn meeting: Mary McCann, 7:58pm

Island: Motion to adjourn meeting: Vicki Seferick, 7:58pm

Interior: Motion to adjourn meeting: Mike Kelly, 7:41 pm.