



2017 Baseball PEI Fall Forum Minutes

Saturday, 14 October 2017, 9 am

Room 125, Sport PEI

In attendance:

- Don LeClair, President, Baseball PEI
- Walter MacEwen, Director of Administration, Baseball PEI
- Allison Macdonald, Director of Bantam and Midget Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Darrel Kirev, Director of Mosquito Competitions, Baseball PEI
- Connor Myers, Baseball PEI
- Andrew Cameron, Cornwall
- Dave Benton, Cornwall
- Bob Doyle, Sherwood/Parkdale
- Cale Doyle, Sherwood/Parkdale
- Rudy MacDonald, Bedeque
- Scott Taylor, Stratford
- Joe Carroll, Stratford
- Andy Worth, Charlottetown
- John Munro, Cardigan
- Kent Walker, PEIBUA
- Kent Quigley, PEIBUA
- Mike Richards, PEIBUA
- Randy Byrne, Executive Director, Baseball PEI

Meeting:

- 1) Don called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
- 2) A roll call was done for the purposes for everybody to introduce themselves to the group and to be highlighted on the roll call for the meeting. Eighteen (18) people were present.
- 3) Head Clinician Connor Myers did a presentation for the group about the camps that would be taking place during the off-season of 2017-2018. Two “elite” hitting camps will take place in November and December 2017, designed in mind primarily for players at a higher level. Then, from January to March 2018, there will be four (4) regional camps across PEI for ten (10) weeks for players at any level who are between 11 – 13 years old. These regional camps will work on the fundamental aspects of throwing, pitching, hitting, infielding and catching. Connor is currently working on securing head instructors and locations for these camps. Walter then gave a rationale for these off-season camps and informed the group of Baseball PEI’s intention of bringing somebody like Greg O’Halloran to run a weekend catcher’s camp in the early spring of 2018, and Jason Dickson to run a weekend pitcher’s camp in the early spring of 2018.
- 4) The suggested resolutions that came from the post-season Board of Directors Retreat were presented to the group. Each resolution was discussed, and then either was approved to be brought forward at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or altered and the altered resolution will be brought forward at the AGM. Also, resolutions that were born out of discussion from those in attendance and separate from the suggested resolutions were also created and agreed to be brought forward to the AGM. The resolutions that will be brought forward to the AGM are as follows:
 - Resolution #1: In 2018, minor baseball associations on PEI are permitted to have experienced individuals become certified as a PEIBUA umpire by taking an online test instead of attending a one-day clinic. However, the associations will still have to pay \$60 per experienced individual to the PEIBUA, that person must pass the online test and be approved by Baseball PEI and the PEIBUA, and that experienced person will only be permitted to umpire a limited number of games.
 - Resolution #2: It will be the responsibility of the host committee, prior to submitting an application to host a Provincial/Atlantic tournament, to identify one person to serve as the “Baseball PEI representative” at their Provincial/Atlantic tournament. That person must be approved by the Board of Directors of Baseball PEI. This person will serve as the official Baseball PEI presence at this event.



- As part of this resolution, the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, will create a job description for the Baseball PEI representative at each Provincial Championship/Elimination tournament.
 - Resolution #3: For all Provincial “AA” and “A” Championships, all round-robin games will be played over one weekend, with the semi-final and Championship games being played a following weekend as part of the “Final-Four” event for all Provincial “AA” and “A” Championships.
 - Resolution #4: In all divisions that will be sending a team - or two teams - to an Atlantic Competition, a Provincial Elimination tournament will be held in approximately late-July/early-August to determine the Provincial representatives at these events.
 - Resolution #5: For any four-team Elimination/Provincial Championship draw determining two teams attending an Atlantic Championship, upon completion of the round-robin, teams finishing second and third place will play in a semi-final on Sunday morning, with the winner of that game advancing to the final to play the team finishing in first place.
 - Resolution #6: At the 13U/Peewee and 15U/Bantam “A” levels, all batters will begin the count with a no-ball-and-one-strike count, baserunners will not be permitted to lead-off (leave the base until the pitch crosses home plate), and no runners will be permitted to score on a passed ball. As in the past, all 13U/Peewee “A” games will be six (6) innings long (unless extra-innings are necessary), and all 15U/Bantam “A” games will be seven (7) innings long (unless extra-innings are necessary).
 - The purpose of this resolution to help pitchers at these levels, who often have difficulties throwing strikes, to focus on the batter without the distraction of baserunners, and to keep the game going at a quicker pace.
 - Resolution #7: A player can be called up to a higher division within their age category or an older age category for three regular season, Elimination and/or Provincial Championship games within their own Association/Zone as an affiliate player. Exhibition games (including tournaments not run by Baseball PEI) do not count towards the three games a player is permitted to affiliate with one team each season. All other affiliate player rules will remain in effect.
 - Resolution #8: At the 11U/Mosquito “AA” and “A,” 13U/Peewee “AA” and “A”, and 15U/Bantam “A” divisions, the maximum number of runs that can be scored in one inning – except the designated “open” innings – will be four (4). The 11U/Mosquito “AAA” and 15U/Bantam “AA” divisions will remain with five (5) run maximum innings.
 - The purpose of this resolution is speed up the pace of the game, which is slower that the “AAA”, 15U/Bantam “AA”, and 18U/Midget leagues. It is used by Baseball Nova Scotia.
 - Resolution #9: For all Provincial teams that require try-outs to select the roster, Baseball PEI will select the official manager of that team.
 - The purpose of this resolution is to reduce the instances of a parent being chosen as the manager of the team prior to the team being selected, which then leads to the perception that the manager’s child will be selected to the team regardless of their deserving to be there or not.
- 5) Other issues discussed that will be investigated or monitored further were as follows:
- The “No Tolerance Policy” used in regards to abuse/discussion with umpires by Baseball Nova Scotia and by Baseball Canada at the National Atlantic 13U Championships will be investigated more at the Baseball Canada National Convention in Hamilton, ON, in November. Based on information gathered, it will be brought forward during the winter/spring to examine whether this is something Baseball PEI would consider at some or all divisions going forward.
 - Many at the Fall Forum had reservations about some aspects of it, including representatives of the PEIBUA, so it was felt more information was needed before any decisions were made going forward.
 - The PEIBUA will look at modifying the scheduling of their spring clinics in order to make it easier for players and people like farmers and fishermen to attend these clinics. As well, the PEIBUA will examine the idea of adjusting the need for umpires with certain levels to attend a clinic each year (for example, in Alberta, Level 3 officials only must take a clinic once every three years).
 - It will be encouraged strongly that all Provincial teams that require try-outs will have try-outs in different areas of PEI, not just in the central areas, in order to encourage more players from more eastern and western locations to try-out.
 - With the number of players graduating from 15U/Bantam, especially at the “A” and “AA” levels, Baseball PEI will try to form two 18U/Midget leagues - “AA” and “A” – in 2018. This will be contingent



on the numbers of registered 18U/Midget players being enough to form two leagues and cooperation between local associations and Baseball PEI. For the past number of years, there has been one 18U/Midget league on PEI, featuring a wide array of talent (some players who play on Youth Selects/Canada Games and have played “AAA” baseball all their lives, while there are other players just starting baseball or who’ve played “A” level baseball all their lives). This may have discouraged players of “A” or low-level “AA” talent to continue playing 18U/Midget baseball. By offering a “AA” and “A” league, that may be incentive for those players who have played “A” or low-level “AA” baseball to continue to play baseball at the 18U/Midget level.

- 6) The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.