



## British Columbia Minor Baseball Association

*BC's Largest Youth Baseball Organization Since 1963*

Rally Cap - 9U - 11U - 13U - 15U - 18U - Junior Men's

Girls Baseball - Challenger Baseball

[www.bcminorbaseball.org](http://www.bcminorbaseball.org)

### MINUTES - BCMBA Board of Directors Meeting

June 02, 2020 Meeting done by conference call

#### Board of Directors:

**Conference Call:** G. Butler, J. Braaten, A. Hayes, V. Greenwood, R. Miciuk, A. Wong-de Leon, S. McCann, M. Kelly, R. Puri, J. Raymond, R. Wearing, H. Gurney, C. Martin, T. Baker-Cornett, M. Hall, D. Crone, D. Garton, N. Dhaliwal,

#### Absent: None

Call Meeting to order: 7:02 pm

#### President's Opening Remarks:

- Notices were posted to the website noting the passing of Bruce Lawson and Bill Stebbings, both long standing members of the baseball community in British Columbia, condolences have been shared and they will be dearly missed
- I've accepted Sanda's resignation for personal reasons and have wished her all the best going forward

#### Adoption of Minutes

- **MOTION: V. Greenwood / C. Martin**

**Motion to accept May minutes as distributed.**

**M/S/C**

#### Additions to the Agenda:

- **None**

#### Correspondence:

- **Secretary** - General questions on when season will start
- Notices and communications with Baseball BC

#### Business Arising:

- **None**

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

### 1) President – Grant Butler

- May turns out to have been a bit of an up and down month with the Return to Play momentum starting and stopping with different authorities struggling to find their way in regards to how, what, when and where baseball can return. “Why” is the questions I ask everyone to consider going forward as I see losing a year of ball a small price for the health and well-being of our baseball community compared to forcing a return due to the perception of losing something. Continued confidence in our Health Officials shows that the course of action to date have been successful in curtailing new cases of the Covis-19 virus in BC and limiting its threat to all of us.
- John Braaten has been our appointed committee member on the Baseball BC RTP committee, and he will be bringing us up to date tonight.

### 2) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – John Braaten

- Baseball BC has a 10-page document on Return to Play – needs to be finalized by the Baseball BC Board before going public
- John went over several items in report and a lengthy discussion was had by the board
- **See John’s full report in the “addendum reports” at the end of the minutes**

### 3) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – (Open) - No Report

### 4) Treasurer – Anne Hayes

- **MOTION: V. Greenwood / J. Braaten**

**Motion to accept Treasurer’s report as distributed.**

**M/S/C**

### 5) Secretary – Val Greenwood - No Report

### 6) Administrative Director – James Raymond

- BC Travel Teams - Awaiting a response from Seattle Elite regarding their refund policy and status of the tournament - No update
- **Administrative Support**
  - May BoD Meeting Minutes
  - Preparation of Survey report for BoD. (Included as a separate document)
  - 2020 BCMBA Coaches Caravan Travel logistics cancelled, and refunds requested and completed
  - Support communications for the BoD.
  - BoD support with new email implementation and shared folders set up.

- Continued work on the Procedures segment draft complete. Currently updating and adding meeting agenda
- templates, forms, and misc. document samples.
- Committed focus on support of BoD members and member Presidents communicating updates and notices on season status.
- Troubleshooting and fix of outgoing bcminorbaseball.org domain emails being flagged as “suspicious” or
- “potentially harmful” - confirmed complete.
- Marketing Committee Report

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **1. Rules – Dave Garton (Chair) – Ray Wearing**

- Article XX motion needs to be done so subtle changes can be made to adjust for the “season”. Does not need to go to AGM as it is for the 2020 season only.
- Notice to board and then an email vote or phone vote

### **2. Eligibility - Tina Baker-Cornett – Neal Dhaliwal – Abigail Wong-de Leon – No Report**

### **3. Discipline – Ray Wearing (Chair) – Ron Miciuk – Hugh Gurney – Abigail Wong-de Leon – No Report**

### **4. Female Baseball – Val Greenwood - No Report**

### **5. Umpire Liaison – Dave Garton – Neal Dhaliwal – Grant Butler – No Report**

### **6. High Performance – Mike Kelly (Chair) – Hugh Gurney – Ron Miciuk – Marty Hall – Ray Wearing – John Braaten – James Raymond – No Report**

### **7. Boundaries - (Chair) John Braaten – Abigail Wong-de Leon – No Report**

### **8. Coaching Development/NCCP – Mike Kelly - John Braaten (Co-Chair) – Ron Miciuk, Raj Puri, Doug Crone, Marty Hall**

- Will meet next month to discuss NCCP for Provincials
- I will defer to Mike Kelly for updates as he has kept me updated on potential 2021 planning and developments.

### **9. Marketing - James Raymond (Chair / Admin) – John Braaten – Sanda King – Ron Miciuk – Hugh Gurney – Tina Baker-Cornett**

- Currently investigating revenue-generating opportunities to assist in the delivery of programming for the fall and 2021 season events.
- Development of sponsorship opportunity packages for key 2021 events.

#### **10. Grass Roots – John Braaten (Chair)**

- The Grassroots Survey Phase I (coaches) of this expansive project is almost complete. Looking to have initial insights back to the BCMBA Board once the surveys and in-person interviews have been disseminated towards the end of April beginning of May.

#### **11. Risk Management / Insurance – John Braaten (Chair) – Anne Hayes**

- Following Baseball BC return to play (RTP) guidelines which is still heavily dependent on various levels of government.
- No update to report as of this date that is not already posted on their website <https://www.baseball.bc.ca/> BC Minor
- Baseball has also been updating membership in addition to the PSO <https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/>. As social media postings increase, we truly understand members wanting to get outside and play. Most all of this is of our control as we await direction to be able to move forward amid the COVID-19 virus concerns.

#### **12. Challenger – Steve McCann (Chair) - No Report**

- Mission has withdrawn from hosting the 2020 Jamboree

#### **13. Web Site – James Raymond (Chair) – John Braaten – Anne Hayes**

- Source and promote sport-related training and educational opportunities (NCCP/Coaching Live Streams/Athletic
- Performance Webinars/ Etc.).
- Formatting of Honour Roll and Hall of Fame for consistency complete.
- Daily SM posts and updates.
- NEW Youth Athlete Development Page launched (<https://www.bcminorbaseball.org/page/show/5740162-youth-athlete-development-and-performance>)
- Continued website resources and content audit (update and/or delete documents as needed)

#### **14. Human Resources – Anne Hayes (Chair) – Val Greenwood – Raj Puri – Tina Baker-Cornett**

- Have received two (2) months Canadian emergency subsidy for James

#### **15. Awards – Val Greenwood (Chair) – Mike Kelly – Raj Puri – No Report**

#### **16. Scholarship – Abigail Wong-de Leon (Chair) – Raj Puri – Ron Miciuk**

- Discussion on whether to have any out this year due to limited fund – where would the money come from
- Tabled to July

## **17. Baseball BC - Grant Butler – John Braaten**

- AGM is to be held June 22
- BCMBA will have two (2) Director positions, Grant will be one and the other will be filled by John Braaten, Ray has indicated that he will step aside for John.

### **DIVISIONAL REPORTS:**

#### **a) 25U Chair –(Jr. Men’s) – Anne Hayes - No Report**

#### **b) 18U Chair – Ray Wearing – No Report**

##### **➤ 18U AAA – Hugh Gurney – No Report**

##### **➤ 18U AA – Raj Puri – No Report**

#### **c) 15U Chair – Anne Hayes - No Report**

##### **➤ 15U AAA – Ron Miciuk – No Report**

##### **➤ 15U AA – Abigail Wong-de Leon – No Report**

##### **➤ 15U A – Doug Crone – No Report**

#### **d) 13U - Chair – John Braaten No Report**

##### **➤ 13U AAA – Marty Hall –No report**

##### **➤ 13U AA Steve McCann - No Report**

##### **➤ 13U A – Open - John Braaten No Report**

##### **➤ John Main – John Braaten**

- The 2020 John Main tournament is postponed until further notice. All registered and waitlisted teams were notified.
- Until the various levels of government and the PSO provide further RTP direction we do not have a firm date to run this event.

#### **e) 11U Chair – Mike Kelly – No Report**

#### **f) 9U Chair – John Braaten - No Report**

#### **g) Island – 15U / 18U – Dave Garton / Tina Baker-Cornett - No Report**

**h) Island – 11U / 13U – Dave Garton / Tina Baker-Cornett - No Report**

**i) Interior – 11U / 18U – Neal Dhaliwal - No Report**

**j) Interior – 13U / 15 – Ron Miciuk – No Report**

**k) North – Carmen Martin – No Report**

**l) NEW BUSINESS:**

**i) Provincials – to be determined**

**ii) Waiting for Baseball BC – Return to Play guidelines**

**iii) What to do with 18U players – guidelines to play next year**

**➤ Motion to Adjourn meeting – 8:25 – A. Hayes / J. Braaten**

**Next meeting July 07 – Conference Call at 7 pm**

**See John's report below**

## ADDENDUM REPORTS

I am writing two reports; one provided recent timelines since the initial announcements of the suspension of the 2020 baseball season to-date and also provides some information as being part of Baseball BC's Return to Play (RTP) working group since it was struck in April. We are now into June and wanted to provide some general information of where we are all at to our June 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting.

A public health emergency was declared in the province on March 17<sup>th</sup>. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, BC Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth declared a province-wide state of emergency. In early May the government presented a four (4) Phase "reopening" plan for the province. Phase 1 "Essential Services Operating during COVID-19" ended May 18<sup>th</sup>, Phase 2 started May 19<sup>th</sup> "asking people to stay close to home and avoid any travel between communities that is not essential under enhanced protocols". This phase of the province's restart program is still current as of this date and have not yet moved to Phase 3. Many people were hoping that based on the reopening announcement that return to play for baseball would be part of this...we are still awaiting next steps.

BC Minor Baseball through all of this has kept the membership updated with multiple communications and/or social media postings beginning March 12<sup>th</sup> with a COVID-19 "Advisory" notice to presidents that we share the concerns of our member Associations in regards to the health and safety of their players, coaches, parents and volunteers, as well as all other organizations, and we trust that the health and safety of our communities will be put ahead of, in our case, baseball activities. The observing of "social gathering" was recommended and BCMBA would continue to monitor the COVID-19 developments. From there BCMBA has been in constant communication with Baseball BC and kept the membership updated with information as it comes in.

Now, previous to the March 17<sup>th</sup> announcement by the provincial government on March 13<sup>th</sup> Baseball BC posted an announcement that "effective immediately suspended all sanctioned in person baseball activity for a period of seven (7) days". Then given the public health emergency declaration on March 17<sup>th</sup> by the government Baseball BC posted another notice "Effective immediately Baseball BC has extended the suspension of all sanctioned in person baseball activity indefinitely". Since then they have provided COVID-19 updates for the baseball community last dated May 15<sup>th</sup>. On May 30<sup>th</sup> Baseball BC posted an amendment to its current suspension of baseball activities in regards to "off-field matters related to baseball operations" essentially assisting local associations in administrative and maintenance of operational duties <https://www.baseball.bc.ca/>

The Province of BC recently gave individuals permission to expand their personal networks outside of their household. Expanding that too quickly whether with baseball activities or other activities greatly increases the risk of exposure. If there are outbreaks in a community or at a baseball game, this could result in the tightening of restrictions and possible directives from the government to shut down sporting activities.

Also attached to the report is a recent document from the BC Recreation & Parks Association for the recreation sector "Guideline to Restarting Operations" that might help provide some insight of what communities are looking at when they begin to slowly reopen.

BCMBA continues to keep our members updated as information comes in whether local, regional or national. There are thousands of kids wanting to get outside back onto the field of play, but unfortunately it is not our decision and must follow the any guidelines of the government to lead us back onto the ball fields. The RTP work group has been in constant communication during this time and hopefully more clarity of what the rest of the year may look like.

For those discussing baseball starting up also know that school is returning and in turn sports should also. Schools are

reopened part-time June 1<sup>st</sup> and is optional attendance. Provincial Ministry Officials warn, however, that the reopened schools will look different from before COVID-19. Student numbers will be limited in schools (under 50% for kindergarten to Grade 5 and 20% for Grade 6 and above), things like lunch breaks/pick-up/drop-off will be staggered, and parents will be required to self-check for flu-like symptoms every morning. The guidelines mean that students Grade 5 and under who choose to return will be in class 2-3 days a week and those from Grade 6-12 will be in school one day per week.

So all of those who are wanting to get back on the field I think we have to look how the rest of the school year is to look like and with our fingers crossed there will be no uptick in COVID-19 cases. Baseball in whatever form for the remainder of 2020 I do not think will look the same as traditionally played.

Let's not forget the 2,573 BC reported cases and the 164 that lost their lives to COVID-19 to May 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Baseball BC "Return to Play" working group update**

Baseball BC formed a Return to Play (RTP) Protocol work group in April. This group is made of various people within the baseball community. Prior to this Baseball BC had already been in contact with other British Columbia sport PSO's and baseball governing bodies across Canada sharing information in preparation of our youth athletes returning to the fields of play.

The RTP work group has been developing a fluid document of "protocols/recommendations" for possible restart guidelines for players, coaches, families and associations in BC. The fluid draft document has built a mandate, philosophy and areas of focus:

- 12U and older - assumptions, personal health & hygiene (foundational, practice, game), facility adaptations, rule adaptations, general recommendations, administration adaptations and responsibilities
- 11U and younger **has the majority of players** - assumptions, personal health & hygiene (foundational, practice, game), facility adaptations, rule adaptations, general recommendations, administration adaptations and responsibilities
- Provincial Sport Organization(Baseball BC) requirements and action

As mentioned the document is fluid and continues to be updated as information is gathered and vetted. There are many external issues that are out of the control of this committee: Ministry of Health, various regional health agencies, various City park and recreation regulations, bylaws, travel restrictions and social distancing protocols to name a few.

Sport BC started to take an active lead in return to play May 1<sup>st</sup> and requested that individual sport plans be submitted and will turn into the foundational piece for all sports for RTP. viaSport around this time also was asking for information from the sport sector with Baseball BC completing a requested survey on baseball's behalf May 1<sup>st</sup>.

All during all this time there has never been a RTP date for baseball. viaSport has been working on FAQ's, guidelines: parameters to follow when creating return to play procedures for specific sport & roundtable discussions for an opportunity for specific discussion groups relevant to each sport's return to play conditions. Below is the link to their presentation to the PSO's prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>:

[https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Sport\\_webinar\\_final.pdf?utm\\_source=PSO+Connector&utm\\_campaign=bd37daf7b1-Sportscape\\_2019\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_9305c55a53-bd37daf7b1-384327641](https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Sport_webinar_final.pdf?utm_source=PSO+Connector&utm_campaign=bd37daf7b1-Sportscape_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9305c55a53-bd37daf7b1-384327641)



So moving 10 days later the approval process as previously outlined by viaSport at the beginning of May changed again and it has been shared that neither the Ministry of Health nor viaSport will take the responsibility of approving any RTP. What does remain to be seen is how the process will need to evolve after the final RTP recommendations are received. We are all in a hurry up and wait situation as we do not control the process.

[https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Sport\\_webinar\\_final.pdf?utm\\_source=PSO+Connector&utm\\_campaign=bd37daf7b1-Sportscape\\_2019\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_9305c55a53-bd37daf7b1-384327641](https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Sport_webinar_final.pdf?utm_source=PSO+Connector&utm_campaign=bd37daf7b1-Sportscape_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9305c55a53-bd37daf7b1-384327641)

Baseball BC on May 15<sup>th</sup> posted a COVID-19 notice update which also added another layer to the RTP where any approvals will come from government health officials and WorkSafe BC. Also noted was the revised viaSport process is set out in more detail here: [https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Sport\\_FAQ\\_05-13-2020.pdf](https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Sport_FAQ_05-13-2020.pdf)

Now last week Baseball BC did receive a draft copy of what may be a RTP Chart based on the four “sport” phases (no specific timelines just generalizations). Now that the province is in Phase 2 the draft chart shows BC Sport transition measures from now into September which include: physical distancing (2m), non-essential travel, no gathering of 50 or more people, increased hygiene, symptom screening, no or limited spectators, skills training, no contact (look for non-contact alternatives), in-club play or modified games may slowly be introduced and minimal shared equipment.

The next phase (dates TBD) of the chart would be progressively loosening for example may increase limited spectators, expansion of training, introduction to pair or small group contact skills, inter-club or regional play may be considered and some shared equipment.

The final phase (dates TBD) of the chart would be the “new normal” of no restrictions on spectators, no restrictions on activity type, provincial competitions and large scale events may return and shared equipment.

**Again, these phases as just noted above have no set timelines.**

Last week viaSport provided some further RTP FAQ’s to the Committee based on our fluid document and we are in the process of updating accordingly.

Just to note viaSport and the government have stressed the importance of slowly re-introducing activities, as there are a number of different risk and liability factors to consider. Baseball has risk factors as we all know that still expose individuals to the potential for the spreading of the virus. The initial phases within the RTP work group guidelines seem to be aligned to government recommendations and look to limit that exposure.