

2023 Fall Forum Feedback- Compiled

Topic	Pros	Cons	Suggestions
Championship Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeding forced an emphasis on winning games (they mattered)</li> <li>• Better (balanced) competition with tiers in same age group</li> <li>• 8 teams easier to organize/rework if rain etc</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host could get knocked out of 6/7or 8/9 series</li> <li>• 2 weekends necessary when a 6/7or 8/9 series is required</li> <li>• Last minute finding out if you play or not the next weekend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host gets a BYE to championship</li> <li>• Predetermine host by zones but wait to decide which tier they host</li> </ul>
BPEI Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpful to umpires – when needed</li> <li>• Help host make changes/decisions with weather or problems</li> <li>• Easy to identify when need help</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard to find – usually last minute</li> <li>• Unpopular jobs to do</li> <li>• Don't know enough ahead of time about their responsibilities/expectations.</li> <li>• certain locations are harder than others due to driving distance</li> <li>• expenses not covered (mileage/food)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More/better incentive</li> <li>• Each association have a “pool” of reps ahead of time with when they are available</li> <li>• Use reps strategically when in proximity to a closer tournament</li> <li>• Pay meal and mileage on top of honorarium or increase honorarium to include this</li> </ul>
Host Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant works for associations who don't pay for fields</li> <li>• Pre-determining hosts would allow early field bookings and guarantee the space</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding hosts with 7 days turnaround with tiering not enough</li> <li>• Not enough time with tiering</li> <li>• Some associations never host – bulk of hosting work is done by same groups</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotating zones would allow associations to share reps/sites</li> <li>• If predetermined – allow zones to “swap” if both agree parent group better suited to host that division</li> <li>• Pilot the zone allocation model with the 18U division and AAA teams first</li> <li>• Get associations to agree to host in JANUARY</li> </ul>

Championship dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates worked well for higher divisions</li> <li>• Liked zone groups – so there’s little travel</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower divisions went too late into September and were competing with school sports and hockey</li> <li>• Umpire shortage in September as they play school sports and are less available</li> <li>• Too many baseball coaches are also hockey coaches – no longer available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play some division championships through the week</li> <li>• Only schedule semis/final on weekend</li> </ul>
9U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like BPEI as prov organizer – smaller assoc not left out</li> <li>• Feels more like a big deal if opened up to other association teams to play rather than just in-house</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Player trophies too costly – do medals or ribbons</li> <li>• Association initiated jamborees less organized than when BPEI does it</li> <li>• Bigger associations prefer to have their own jamboree – no travel required and still has tournament “feel”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamborees – allow multiple weekends, don’t regulate dates</li> <li>• Do “grab bag” instead of trophies/awards</li> <li>• Allow friends to stay/play together</li> </ul>
League Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make 2hr time limits across the board – all same will stop confusion and be consistent for higher levels</li> <li>• Lower levels 9U/11UA/11UAA need 90 min time limits</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A” divisions able to steal home – no good for development</li> <li>• AP’s should get more than 3 games – needs to increase</li> <li>• Girls don’t have “home fields”</li> <li>• Some teams had too many games concentrated in a few weeks and other weeks with no games</li> <li>• Not enough fields at many levels to create proper schedule – too many allocations bunched up on same day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require “A” level runners to be “hit home” no stealing home</li> <li>• Allow 13UA and 15UA to steal until 3B – prepare them to move up – real rules</li> <li>• AP’s – allow to be called up when their division is over without game # restriction</li> <li>• Remove restriction for AP’s after their regular season is done</li> <li>• League play needs to start sooner and end before Sept.</li> <li>• Girls registration could be done all through SURGE groupings on RAMP – and pay BPEI directly if fee</li> <li>• Schedule double headers more to get games in</li> <li>• Change game-start times on weekdays – 5:30 and 8:30pm</li> <li>• Consider reducing the innings for teams who never get them in/never get to the open inning</li> <li>• Can BPEI work with the municipalities to revive a number of school fields that have been let go?</li> </ul>

Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentorship is going well – keep up good work!</li> <li>• Super camp certification well received and engaging</li> <li>• Non-Conf rule – is effective – need to improve umpire enforcement</li> <li>• Non Confrontation Policy was well received for it being in its first year</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to pay more – incentivise to try/return</li> <li>• Pay more regularly – too long to wait currently</li> <li>• Payment of Umpires was inconsistent and took longer than usual</li> <li>• More training needed for the newer umpires to know how and when to enforce the Non-conf rule</li> <li>• Too much familiarity with the home coaches – appear to be more lenient if they know them</li> <li>• Not enough adult umpires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umpires need to be more diligent in providing availability</li> <li>• Pay plate and base umpire the SAME – so more will not want bases if they can't get a plate</li> <li>• All coaches can be intimidating to a 12 year old –more coach education needed.</li> <li>• Possible inclusion of Non-Confrontation Policy to NCCP Coaching Clinics (further education needed for coaches)</li> <li>• Payment at games with monthly invoicing for mileages/per diems</li> <li>• Community School program and further alternatives to clinics during the winter months</li> <li>• Free registration for players/coaches who umpire a set number of games</li> <li>• BPEI rep at grassroots games to ensure compliance</li> <li>• Access to equipment/assoc supply and umpire work off cost</li> <li>• Can we move to CASH at the field for association games</li> <li>• BUA formalize an equipment loan/exchange program?</li> <li>• Mentors taking a more “active” approach to non-conf enforcement when a coach is breaking the rule</li> </ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer clinicians great for coach development at grassroots level</li> <li>• Shawn Schaefer camp very good – hope to see again</li> <li>• Grassroots (9U/11UA) support helped for those who availed themselves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More leniency for coaches to obtain minimum certification</li> <li>• Need another strategy for getting late coaches NCCP</li> <li>• Coaches prioritize attending a practice or a game/tournament over getting their credentials</li> <li>• Presidents don't always forward pertinent information from BPEI – and some people don't follow social media – is there a way to add more “key” people to the distribution of emails when they are sent out?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look into online learning NCCP options</li> <li>• MORE late NCCP clinics</li> <li>• More media/email/reminder for NCCP certs and importance</li> <li>• Rally Cap – can we start to push for the basic certs when we have all captive audience at RC training?</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

<p>ZONE dominance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even with the 9U players taken out of overall #'s Eastern is still in same position – most assoc allow 9U's to play up</li> <li>• We contend at Atlantics consistently.</li> <li>• Not all Eastern teams are dominant</li> <li>• Eastern has worked hard to develop their coaches and programs and they have been successful because of this</li> <li>• Eastern 11UAAA went 12-5-3 in 2023 – finished 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Sherwood and did not medal in Atlantics</li> <li>• Eastern zone runs ID camps and winter conditioning/training that all players are encouraged to attend. Do other zones do this? This contributes to their success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern only having one AAA team at 11U limits a lot of kids from getting to play on a hp team – more would develop and move to the next level and hopefully stay longer if they knew they would have more opp's to play at higher level</li> <li>• Is this penalizing Eastern for being successful?</li> <li>• Many other teams and players are discouraged by Eastern's consistent dominance at the lower levels</li> <li>• Even visiting teams at Atlantics don't expect to beat Eastern</li> <li>• Based on the zone number from 2023, separating Stratford from 3R/NS/Souris would result in: Western – 115, Cap Dist – 139 (fields 2-AAA teams), Midisle-137, Stratford-91, 3R/NS/Souris – 72. Those numbers don't equalize the situation either.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the participation (of AA/AAA) breakdown from each association in the Eastern Zone</li> <li>• Is the discussion about eastern dominance related to their success at some levels, or their numbers?</li> <li>• What if Eastern Zone had to field 2 AAA teams – split players evenly – doubled # of kids playing and keeps zone together</li> <li>• Stratford has the numbers to field a AAA team. Sherwood and Charlottetown both do.</li> <li>• Western is growing – they will likely be able to field their own teams at lower levels soon for AAA.</li> <li>• Can we start to expand the AAA program to 6 teams across the island and then in 2 years add the 13U AAA once we have built the base up</li> <li>• We need a boundary change – can RAMP set roads to move kids into different catchments?</li> <li>• What if Summerside expanded their reach West more – they would be more competitive at the AAA level.</li> <li>• Is it attractive to “western” players to wear a Chevies jerseys for zone play? If this is a combined zone at the AAA level, would it help identity to be a “western” team?</li> <li>• Would more western players participate in AAA ball if the practices and games were scheduled to rotate in the zone instead of always in Summerside?</li> </ul>
<p>Girls Registration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls only option great for retaining grassroots girls after RC and 9U</li> <li>• Good that no extra fee was charged for girls to play co-ed and girls only too if they wanted</li> <li>• Girls numbers up by 40% across the province this year</li> <li>• Girls baseball much more visible now and attractive to female players – need to keep momentum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not clear enough where and how to register for SURGE girls programming</li> <li>• Some associations wouldn't take girls only registration – need to solve this</li> <li>• Need to find home fields for girls baseball -</li> <li>• Girls in the east had no access – everything was scheduled central and west</li> <li>• Need to recruit more adult coaches for girls program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summerside has most girls registered – can they be the “hub” of girls baseball?</li> <li>• Can BPEI host the girls registrations for SURGE on RAMP?</li> <li>• Can BPEI create a “division” for girls only baseball and require all associations to offer even if they do not host a full team in their association?</li> </ul>
<p>Fall Ball</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives kids a chance who don't play school ball or other sports to extend season and play “up” at next level – this is good for baseball</li> <li>• Saturday play is good – but can be flexible if an assoc needs to move to Sunday just consult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weather is terrible – dealing with more hurricanes in early fall</li> <li>• School ball is on – so low numbers</li> <li>• Hard to find coaches – so teams are limited even if we have the numbers</li> <li>• Too many rainouts – people wanted a credit back this year</li> <li>• Competing with hockey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the benefit of Fall ball outweighing the challenges it presents us with?</li> <li>• Do not stress winning at all – maybe advertise this as a “come try” to encourage players who missed spring season?</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Parent code of conduct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do have a code of conduct already that parents sign on RAMP-it should apply to everyone</li> <li>• If we had specific parent code – and it was gone over at first parent team meeting there would be no excuses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many negative parent interactions at games this year</li> <li>• Need more VISIBLE reminders for parents about expectations – signs on field fences?</li> <li>• Nobody wants to deal with their own team parents – coaches and even assoc presidents are too “close” to many of their families through neighborhoods, work and school and other sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having each team go over the parent code of conduct in person and having parents sign a real paper – more “meaningful” than online signing – do they even read it?</li> <li>• Institute parent marshall program – take turns being the enforcer.</li> <li>• Make “Incident” reports available to everyone through RAMP – not just umpires so parents can report</li> <li>•</li> </ul>