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## Baseball PEI Planning Day Meeting Minutes

January 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-1:00pm

### **Members in attendance via Zoom/Call In**

Walter MacEwen – President  
Nicole Ready-Doucette – Dir of 13U  
Rayanne Frizzell –Dir of Female Baseball  
Janet Cameron – Dir of Prov Teams  
Michael D’Agostino – Ass’t Dir of 9U (non-voting)  
Darrel Kirev – Dir of 11U  
Connor Myers – Dir of Skill Dev  
Mike Richards – Prov Supervisor Umpires  
Bob Doyle – Dir 9U

### **REGRETS:**

Ian Clays – Dir of 18U/15U  
John Munro – Special Inv.

### **1. Calendar of Events - improvements to be made**

- a. Time between end of league play and Atlantic championships issue has been resolved. No more tight turnarounds that impact pitching rotations
- b. Suggested we “lump” more deadline days into ONE day rather than have several in close range. Challenges with the office having too many things coming in all at once at the end – will work to find a happy medium that reduces the overall number of “deadline dates”.
- c. Format changes – we will still post the “master calendar” in the linear written design, but ALSO post and hand out a simplified calendar that highlights each division’s key dates. This “version” of the calendar to be posted at the top of each division’s page on the website. ALSO\* - move the HEADER for the Calendar to a more prominent place on the homepage of our website.
- d. WORK ON: Moving the 15U AA championships away from the 13U and 11U championships as many of the umpires who are needed to officiate these tournaments play in the 15U AA division. *\*Separation of the 15U AA and 13U AA highest priority.*
- e. Work to draft a weeknights + SUNDAY date series of games for 15U AAA provincials to free up the Saturday for multiple other tournaments. We need the game nights to be in series (M,T,W etc.) so that there are no extra “rest nights”



in the schedule that would allow the top pitchers to be used throughout the entire tournament.

- f. Potentially look at earlier dates for the “A” division championships following a similar weeknights + 1 weekend date to not have to hold them so late in September.
- g. (Note – Janet requested this item after the meeting was over so you will not remember this bullet!) That we add a calendar date of September 8<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for 2024 High Performance Coaching applications to be received by the office.

## **2. Host Sites for 2023 change options:**

- a. #1: Increase team fees to register (hasn’t changed in 3-4 years?) and incentivize hosting by offering more money. **AGREED TO THIS APPROACH**
  - i. We will increase the provincial TEAM registration fees for all championships by \$50. This fee has not been increased for 3+ years and is lower than any other tournament registration fee our teams attend in other places.
    - 1. 9U Jamborees will REMAIN at \$200
    - 2. 11U AAA and BELOW will now be \$375
    - 3. 13U A and ABOVE will now be \$400
  - ii. We will WAIVE the team registration fee for provincials and Jamborees (\$200/\$375/\$400) for the hosting association as an incentive – which effectively doubles the hosting fee from last year.
- b. #2: Create a hosting rotation across the 4 zones. – **NOT THIS YEAR** – will try option #1 first as it was felt that we limit the actual “teams” who are keen to host if their zone doesn’t happen to be the one assigned that championship in a given year.

## **3. League Structure**

- a. Tiering at midpoint based on standings (tiering determined by team outcomes) for leagues with more than 9 teams. **NO – THIS WAS A DISASTER last year** – families couldn’t plan their summer and it caused us to add a week on the end to make up for the mid-season rescheduling break. Team feedback was very negative on this pilot.
- b. Tier at the start (requires association evaluations of all players– tiering is determined by player abilities) **NO** – Too much work and adds time and facilities on at the beginning of the season that would be impeded by hockey – we could never get all the players out so it would not be consistent.
- c. Tier for provincials (8 team max) **YES – WE WILL TRY THIS FOR 2023!** We will use Darrel’s draft of games that “count” and games that are “exhibition” to ensure all key games are played in time to schedule the tournament. Division Directors will need to monitor the outcomes and keep on the teams to complete their required games.



- d. Tier II championships will take place FIRST, and the top 2 teams of that Championship will move up to compete in the Tier I division. So, in essence, the T2 Championship will act as an elimination for the last 2 spots at the T1.
- 4. Tiering – application within the AP Policy**
- a. We will NOT allow tiered players from the same age grouping to be AP'd by a higher tier. Ex. 13UA T1 may **NOT** AP a player for provincials from the 13UA T2 division.
- 5. Championships/Provincials**
- a. Consideration of Darrel's proposal to create an 8 teams (or less – and eliminate 7 team tournaments altogether!) championship structure. **YES** – we will pilot this structure this year. We will also make necessary changes to the format in policy to reflect 4-day (used to be 3 day) championships and note we are moving to 4 day pitch-count charts used in BBC championships.
- b. Seeding – continue with West to East format or move to seeding based on standings. **UNANIMOUS support for moving to a rankings-based seeding for Championships.**
- i. Option 1: From start of season - **NO**
- ii. Option 2: From mid-point of season – **NO**
- iii. Standings will count for Seeding – Darrel has designed a chart that allows a couple exhibition games at the beginning of the season for teams to gel and move players around and try spots. A main body of games that will “count” will then follow – and then there will be 2-4 games at the end of the season after the “cut off” of the standings so we can schedule the tournaments with enough advance time that teams can plan their travel.  
**See draft chart attached\***
- 6. Player transfer policy:**
- a. Consideration of the proposed change:
- i. **MOTION:** “A player requesting a release from their home zone to play (AAA) for another zone, will forfeit their right to play in Provincial Championships, Eliminations Tournaments and/or Atlantic Championships”. MOVED: Janet C/ Second: Bob D - **CARRIED**
- ii. *The player **MUST** play out of their home association/zone to be eligible for Provincials and Atlantics. A player's eligibility for selection to a PROVINCIAL team is NOT impacted by their transfer. \*NOTE: The HOME ASSOCIATION/ZONE is determined by where the athlete LIVES while they are attending school.*
- iii. Association/zone AA/AAA Selection Committee members:
1. Agreement in principle that we use the *Summerside Policy* (as an example) as a *recommended* practice in all associations/zones. The “nutshell” is that you have unbiased, 3<sup>rd</sup> party (no skin in the game) representation as part of the selection committee present



for all tryouts and selections in order to ensure a fair and transparent process. *\*See Summerside Policy exemplar attached (to follow when I find it!)*

**7. Financial Update**

- a. Financials attached: update/rationale on \$13,000 position change from what was anticipated.
- b. Discussion around increasing travel support for Atlantic/National teams travelling to NL as the cost has gone up significantly and is not much different than teams travelling to the west.

**8. Uniforms – feedback on our drafts**

- a. These options have been run past all provincial coaches as well as the female provincial players.
- b. Provincial team coach and players have offered examples for consideration.
- c. The BOD indicated support to proceed with the purchase of uniforms as outlined.

**9. Consideration of Officials' mentorship program support for work done in 2022 season.**

- a. The PEIBUA made substantial efforts to provide quality and equitable mentorship of officials across all zones on the island this year, indicating a 60% increase in mentorships provided over the 2021 season. They are working on a multi-year improvement plan and are committed to the time and energy it takes to move the umpiring program forward through consistent mentorship of officials. The cost of mentorship is prohibitive in light of gas prices - to get mentors to all areas of the island. Mileage is a substantial portion of the costs. Given the limited member fees paid by 120 mostly youth officials, their ability to grow this program without the assistance of BPEI is modest at best.
- b. Support will require a board motion (Mike Richards exited the meeting prior to discussion and decision) **MOTION:** "That BPEI provide \$3000 to the PEIBUA in support of mentorship and development costs for officials in the 2022 year."  
MOVED: Walter M/ Seconded: Connor M - **CARRIED**

**10. *Strategic Planning – this item will be moved to another date\****

11. Adjournment 1pm