



DRAFT Minutes of March 30, 2023
President's Meeting
Sport PEI, Rm 125 – 6:30pm

1. Welcome and Introductions –
 - a. Present for the Board of Directors: **Walter MacEwen**, President; **Janet Cameron**, Dir. Of Provincial Teams; **Connor Myers**, Director of Skill Development; **Rayanne Frizzell**, Dir. Of Female Baseball; **Darrel Kirev**, Dir. Of 11U Comp; **Nicole Ready-Doucette**, Dir. Of 13U Comp; **Ian Clays**, Dir. Of 15U and 18U Comp; **Bob Doyle**, Dir. Of 9U Comp; **Michael D'Agostino**, Ass't Dir of 9U Comp. Absent: **Mike Richards**, Provincial Supervisor of Umpires
 - b. Representing the Association Presidents:
 - i. Western: Nicole-Ready Doucette, VP
 - ii. Summerside: Nick Hann, President (new)
 - iii. Cornwall:
 - iv. Kensington: Pat Kelly, President
 - v. Bedeque: Faustina Murray, Rep
 - vi. Charlottetown: Andy Worth, President
 - vii. Stratford: Adam Smith, President
 - viii. Sherwood/Parkdale: Bob Doyle, President
 - ix. Northside: Randy Byrne, Rep
 - x. Cardigan/3Rivers: Jack MacKenzie, Rep
 - xi. Souris: Mike Cheverie, President (new)
2. Calendar – an overview of the calendar was presented after much vetting for final comments. The calendar will be presented in break out sections as well as master calendar this year to assist people in finding what they are looking for. When leagues are up and running dates pertinent to each division will be posted on their league sites. New information on the calendar is printed in red for your attention.
 - a. Deadlines
 - i. Of notable discussion on the CRC change of practice – the spirit of this is to ensure that CRC's are in place prior to adults interacting with minors and not have a potential "gap" between the beginning of the season and mid-July when they used to be "due". Please make BEST EFFORT to ensure that new coaches submit prior to coaching and that returning coaches do not let existing CRC's expire.
 - b. Provincials
 - i. Of note here is the fact that we now have several tiers to schedule and it is a busy calendar. Championships will be heavier in September now.

- ii. There is a “one off” delay of one week for the 13U AAA division for this year due to a change in Atlantic championship dates for this division. It will return to the usually scheduled weekend for 2024.
 - c. Nationals/Atlantics
 - i. 13U AAA – see note on 2.b.i.
 - d. NCCP dates – highlighted that we will have an ***all-female NCCP day*** this year. We also stressed that ***coaches need to REGISTER EARLY***, and the associations need to ***PUSH THE NCCP schedule*** up front so coaches don’t miss the opportunities!
- 3. Blue Jays Fundraiser – same format as last year. Older teams will receive less tickets up front as they do not sell as many. We will continue with the team summary and one EFT payment at the end of the sales for each team. Draw date this year is July 21st. Tickets will be given out at the coach’s meetings with their packages.
- 4. Championship format – Everyone had time in advance to digest this new format. Questions around the enforcement of fair-play rules for all games and required completion of games that don’t count for standings – YES to both questions. Overall, this new format and seeding structure was well received.
 - a. New tiering structure – we will tier all leagues for championships and have no larger than 8 team championships and eliminate 7 team formats.
 - b. seeding changes – a specified number of games in the regular season will determine the standings and seeding for provincial championships.
- 5. Fee increases - This item was previously introduced to presidents as a strategy for incentivizing associations to host.
 - a. Championship Fee: By increasing the tournament entry fees nominally for each team, we can double the hosting grant. No change to fees for Jamborees. 11U AAA and below will increase by \$50, to \$375, 13U A and above will increase by \$50, to \$400. Teams will all pay their entry fee and the appointed HOST will be reimbursed their entry fee. (Previously the hosting grant was \$200 – so it will now be the rate of the championship fee of either \$375 or \$400 to host for these divisions)
 - i. Note: Championships registrations will be ASSUMED going forward on an “opt out by deadline” basis. This makes less paperwork for everyone as almost all teams participate in championships.
 - b. Future possible per player (2024) registration increase – this is just a head’s up that we may need to increase per player fees to BPEI next year to offset rising costs. The projection is that the \$10 rate may go to \$15-\$20, and the \$35 rate may go to \$45-\$50. Our 2023 registration numbers and outcome of our forecasted deficit budget will be the determining factors in the fall.
- 6. Recommended for AA/AAA
 - a. Defensible team selection process – a model policy was given out that associations could adapt as needed to implement selection committees for AA/AAA teams. Baseball Canada has given strong direction that to protect the interest of BPEI and the local associations that a transparent, evidence-based, criterion-driven player evaluation process be conducted by an unbiased panel. Additional comments were made that it was a good idea not to allow support

coaching staff to be named by the Head Coaches until after the AA/AAA selection process was complete. Baseball Canada has templates for selection committees, and Summerside also has some they have made adaptations to that they are willing to share with associations if they are interested.

- b. Timing of team selections – this discussion was around the need for the AAA selections to be done in a timely manner to allow for those players who may not make the team to be able to try out in neighboring associations where they may be successful, and that AA selection can't take place until AAA is complete. Some associations dragged it out last year and it caused problems for some players.
7. 9U league – clarification around the Jamboree tiering process – presidents or 9U coordinators who are familiar with how their teams fared out over the season will place their teams into the appropriate level where they can have comparable competition and fun. The tiers will not be “named” but coordinators will “group” the teams into the tiers for parody. Jamborees will likely be named based on the Host association. Ie. These 10 teams, xxxxx will compete at the Summerside Jamboree, These 10 teams, xxxx will compete at the Cardigan Jamboree etc... This is not a ranking exercise.
8. 11U AAA league – This item was simply a declaration that Darrel Kirev, who is the 11U Director of Competitions has removed himself from involvement in the 11U AAA division for the purposes of discipline or any other conflict of interest because he is the Head Coach of a team in this division. Nicole Ready-Doucette will handle this division for this year.
9. Policy Updates
 - a. AAA transfer Policy – as introduced previously by Board motion, the intention here is to eliminate player transfers at the AAA level for “shopping” purposes. Where legitimate extenuating circumstances exist, the BOD will consider these transfers on a case by case basis.
 - b. Screening Policy – just a change of date here – to the best of their ability associations need to ensure that all new or renewing coaches have their CRC in place prior to interacting with the players in any official capacity. This is a Safe Sport recommendation that the BOD supports.
 - c. Non-Confrontation Policy – the new policy was presented in detail to the group. Good questions and comments were brought forward and a positive discussion ensued. It was acknowledged by all that this will be a process, and that solid education on the coaching and umpire end would be the key. Delivery of this education will be done at the Umpire Super-camps this year and at the coaches meetings. Supplementary documents will be created that answer as many “what if” scenarios as possible as a reference point. Associations were strongly advised to promote, explain the rationale for, and support this policy for the betterment of baseball on PEI; and ensure that **ALL COACHES attend the coaches' meetings this year**. This work will lead us to a more positive baseball culture for everyone and enable the growth and development of the officials program which will benefit everyone in the long run.
10. RAMP changeover – we are in the process of transferring our information from Sports Engine over the RAMP platform for our website. No new info is being added to the old

site at this point, so if you are looking for something that is not posted, please contact the ED and Rhonda will provide to you what you need. League admins and association training will need to be scheduled when this is complete so everyone is ready for game play to begin. More information will be forthcoming about this when available.

11. Girls League – 10U/14U: Associations were asked to ensure that there were 10U and 14U options for registration for girls this year. This registration will enable any registered player in a co-ed league to also play in an all-female jamboree league at no additional cost. It will also be open to any female who wants to only play in the all-female jamboree league to do so. The new girls brand “Island Surge” was introduced to the group, and you can expect to see more of this on social media as we launch our new girls 360 baseball program. How we will promote this at the association level with consistency is important and a supplemental Memo will be attached to clarify these registrations.
12. Safe Sport
 - a. Rule of 2 – a Safe Sport infographic was shared with the group depicting all the ways we need to consider the safety of minors, and protect our adults from any possible accusations. We all acknowledged that the suggested protocols would be impossible to follow and police as written, but that we would do our best to promote best-practice in this area and support the spirit of this to the best of our ability.
13. Summer Clinics: Our summer clinics program will run again this year. We have not yet been told how many students we will be able to hire for summer, but expect to have another great bunch of camps for our athletes.
14. Umpire Super-Camps – as discussed above, all umpires will attend one of 2 camps this year to certify. We will be working with the PEIBUA to deliver these camps to unify the officials and move forward with consistency in education delivery and spend time teaching them the new non-confrontation rules as group. A team of Baseball Canada certified instructors will be leading these camps. These camps will be half classroom learning and half gym/dome mechanics and drill work. We expect to attract new members with this format. Please promote these camps at the association level. The PEIBUA and BPEI will be promoting registration shortly through social media.
 - a. Friday, May 5th (pro-D for schools) – Summerside Dome
 - b. Saturday, May 27th – Town of Stratford Gym
15. President’s Closing Remarks:

Walter thanked the group for coming out and for the engaging discussions. He noted thanks to the previously serving presidents who were not in the room and welcomed the new faces to the team.

He also highlighted a few more items of interest:

 - Baseball 5 – new Baseball Canada sport being promoted across the country. Watch for this game – we are piloting it in several of our schools, with our 2 First nation communities, and with the Immigration and Refugee services recreation group. We will most likely do some of this with our summer clinics as well.

- Baseball Canada is adding some over-age player protocols into the 13U National championships for the bottom 3 teams – not yet sure where PEI ranks based on past 3 championships yet, but will advise of any impact on us when we know.
- Summer clinics – encouraged everyone to book early and be creative about different kinds of clinics, ie. Hitting camps, pitching and catching, girls only, come try baseball, Baseball 5 introduction etc...Associations can ask for specific camps not just a round HPT type of camp.
- Rally Cap – we have a strong network of coordinators on the Island that Connor Myers has been working with and we have a lot of great opportunities for our youngest members. We have separated the 5U and 8U Rally Cappers into divisions with same outcomes, but modified delivery for the younger group with Baseball Canada's blessing. Connor has done a great job of leading this adaptation for our members!
- The Baseball PEI Athlete Registration Subsidy will continue this year for families who are having challenges paying the fees. We have a ceiling of \$2500 to be paid out by a deadline , on a case-by-case basis.
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Walter wished everyone a safe drive home and thanked them for coming.
We adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.