



2020 SEEBA Presidents Report

The SEEBA Baseball program got off to a quick start during the 2020 season.

The SEEBA Board of Directors revamped the SEEBA Winter Camp so it did not form part of the regular team tryouts but was a camp open to any and all athletes who wished to increase their baseball and fitness skills. After many years of the SEEBA financially supporting the Winter Camp program with funds between \$5000-\$10,000, it was decided at by the Board of Directors that the Winter Camp program must stand on its own merit. Jordan Blundell and Brad Badger were involved in running the 2020 camps and each camp was specifically designed to operate on a cost recovery basis. Feedback from camp participants was that the camp was more focused and provided exceptional value and development for players that attended.

As we move into the Winter of 2020, we are currently reviewing all options for winter camps with Baseball Alberta, our facility providers and development coaches with an anticipated start date as soon as permitted by Alberta Health Services and Baseball Alberta.

The SEEBA Edmonton Expos AAA program in cooperation with our partners SJP and SWEMBA, began our AAA tryouts in February in order to facilitate player movement from AAA to AA and then to community baseball. All three Edmonton Expos teams were selected prior to the end of March 2020 and prior to any lockdown related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shortly following the selection of our teams for the 2020 season, we became immersed in the Covid-19 pandemic which began to effect Canada and all countries around the world.

The SEEBA Board of Directors immediately suspended all sanctioned activities for all three AAA teams until we received direction from Baseball Alberta.

The SEEBA Board continue to work with and take direction from Alberta Health Services and Baseball Alberta as information became available in order to get our athletes back to training and game play throughout the summer.

All three AAA teams began meeting via zoom in April and May to provide direction to our players in what they could be doing on an individual basis as we moved toward an eventual return to diamonds in a team environment. All of our coaches did an excellent job keeping our

players engaged during the very difficult period where we were not permitted any in person team activities.

The SEEBA Board of Directors looked at various options available in order to get our teams back on the field for practicing and playing baseball games when appropriate. The SEEBA Board felt the best way to facilitate any return to baseball training and games was to ensure we were in compliance with all Alberta Health Services rules and regulations and continue to follow the lead of Baseball Alberta as they navigated the pandemic situation for all of their member associations.

We continued our strong partnerships with SJP and SWEMBA and through these partnerships were able to use the facilities at Callingwood Fields for the majority of team practices for all three teams. This allowed us to store equipment and made things easier for our coaches and players to have all practices in the same location. We very much appreciate the support and partnership with SJP to provide us use of their facilities.

We were able return to train with our three teams near the middle of June as teams were able to take to the field for the first time during the 2020 season. All three teams put protocols in place at the recommendations for SJP, SEEBA and Baseball Alberta to ensure our athletes, coaches and parents were always in a safe environment. We were extremely proud of all of our participants in adhering to all policies and protocols as we navigating the challenging summer.

As we moved into July we were able to begin a two week isolation period in order to be cohorted with another AAA program in the Baseball Alberta Zone to facilitate a return to modified game play. We were very please to be able to work with NEZ Baseball at U13, U15 and U18 to allow our athletes to return to limited game play during July and August.

Our teams continued to operate until mid-August within their cohort groupings with NEZ. Several factors led to cohort groups not finishing till the end of August which included, isolation periods for Post Secondary Education starting, Fall Ball, Hockey Tryouts and other fall and winter sports. The U15 and U18 teams were finished the third week of August. The U13 team continue to operate in a development practice environment with Head Coach Ray Brown twice a week until the end of September.

The SEEBA Board of Directors handled a number of difficult decisions during the 2020 baseball season which include the following:

- Player registration fees were refunded in May 2020 and new registration per player was set at \$200 and included field rentals, equipment and Baseball Alberta fees. Umpiring fees for modified game play was the responsibility of the teams.
- SEEBA covered the cost of the three head coaches to ensure they were compensated for their efforts during a challenging season, this was not charge back to registration fees in previous years but was absorbed by the SEEBA organization in an effort to keep

registration fees as low as possible due to the current economic climate in the capital region.

- Continue to adhere to Baseball Alberta requirements for return to baseball while other associations in different parts of the province returned to regular game play. We are very proud of the fact that although our cohort groups were paused on a couple of different occasions, we did not have any positive Covid-19 tests within our association during the 2020 season.

SEEBA had our Casino in November of 2020, thank you to Lise Cox our Casino Director and all of those who volunteered for shifts to ensure our organization continues to benefit from AGLC funds for all SEEBA players.

The SEEBA website was updated in the Fall of 2020 with a new domain under www.edmontonexposbaseball.ca with all new branding and communication.

The Coach Selection Committee was very pleased to have all three AAA Coaches named for the 2021 season as the following:

U13 AAA Head Coach CJ Jayasekera

U15 AAA Head Coach Jamie Wilson

U18 AAA Head Coach Gavin Turinek

Following the SEEBA AGM at the first official Board of Directors meeting, we will look to discuss and implement plans for Winter Camp and Tryouts as we move into January 2021.

In closing, we believe we have a successful program to build on for the future and we wish to thank all players, parents, coaches and administrators who have been integral over the history of SEEBA in building the organization we have today and we look forward to the 2021 season.

Respectfully,

Chris March

President SEEBA Baseball

chris.march@shaw.ca

780-863-1100