



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



President's Report

The 2017 season marked the third and final year in my term serving as President of Frederickton Minor Baseball Association (hereafter FMBA). It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to serve as the President of FMBA during my tenure. Three years has passed very quickly and as much as FMBA continues to improve and has incurred several changes over that time, it does seem like there is much unfinished business. Unfortunately, time passes quickly when you are surrounded by a Board whom works as diligently, effectively and efficiently as our FMBA Board members do. Furthermore, the board couldn't be passed on to more capable hands to allow FMBA to continue to thrive. I would like to thank every board member for the extraordinary dedication to baseball in our community as well as every member of FMBA for making the last 3 years such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. It's been an honor to work with every person on the board over the past 3 years, for an association which has such terrific support from it's volunteers and for an association with such a long and storied history.

This past year, we were once again able to accomplish a great deal, continued to improve FMBA and give our members a terrific experience. We have made additional improvements to our programs, expanded our programs and continue, as a board and membership, to look for further improvements to every aspect of our association.

In Rally Cap we were able to add a significant partner in Dairy Queen, not just due to the National partnership agreement, but more importantly from our local DQ Ownership group whom has assisted greatly on many levels. DQ became the National Sponsor via Baseball Canada to assist significantly with Uniforms. Rally Cap had record numbers of registrants again, exceeding 2016 which caused significant concern on scheduling due to insufficient facilities. Fortunately, we were able to expand and use MacLoon Field and find a solution in that regard. Thanks to Jason Fitzgerald and our Field Coordinator Adam Humphrey for that solution. RC Coordinator Amanda Buchannan has continued to provide great assistance with organizing, scheduling, etc. with that program and we thank her greatly for her efforts.

In our Rookie program we added Tim Horton's as a sponsor of the Minor division to assist with jerseys in that program. These partnerships have allowed us to invest in additional equipment for those programs with the increased enrollment requiring such to be done. Also, at the Rookie level we added an enrichment program that has had great reviews to allow further baseball development for 24 players whom were interested in doing so. We look to expand on that in 2018 and improve upon the program based on feedback received and lessons learned in the inaugural season. But a huge thank you to Scott Brennan, Jason Fitzgerald and of course Coordinator Sean O'Shea whom did another fantastic job of coordinating this division. The biggest concern going forward is the limitations of scheduling due to a lack of fields, thus a solution for 2018 will need to be determined and addressed early in 2018.

From 11U to 18U our programs had record numbers as well. In fact, due to the significant increase in registrants and the facility restrictions we actually had to close registration for our



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



11U programs in 2017. Interest in baseball from the Recreational to the Competitive Levels is terrific and great news for baseball. Ultimately, it's great for society in general in relation to physical activity. The Coordinators at these levels did a tremendous job of scheduling with additional teams, late changes to field locations due to the registration numbers, thus increased teams, with rescheduling due to the June rains and coordination of competitive tryouts. Therefore, a huge thank you to each of the 11U, 13U & 18U Coordinators, respectively Sally Goodwin, Jamie Boyle & Tony Hay.

To address the common theme in my report thus far, I honestly think that baseball & softball in this city is at a crucial point for which the City of Fredericton truly needs to address the situation. Unless, I'm mistaken, not since 1985 has there been a new field built or a major renovation made to fields within the City other than to Royals Field & the Prospect Street Fields, the latter of which FMBA has limited access to. That said, with limited fields and the fact they are booked from 5pm – close daily, there really is no opportunity for upgrades as closing a field for major renovations would cause even further scheduling difficulties and ability to run proper programming. At every level within FMBA, we are affected by scheduling limitations and need to ensure programming for our registrants continues to be at the highest level.

At Rally Cap we were fortunate to be able to find a solution. Such assisted at Rookie, be we still have some less ideal times on Friday and Sunday evenings. Although on the surface this doesn't seem like an inconvenience, for our summer sport at the younger levels and recreational levels, it very much is an inconvenience and undesirable compromise. Therefore, solutions for 2018 need to be a priority. At the 11U, 13U, 15U & 18U programs, we also experienced similar issues and due to the lack of fields our competitive teams across each division were sharing fields for practices or shortening them to allow each team to have individual team practices and practices at recreational levels became more limited.

Unfortunately, we also have very limited fields with lights to alleviate such issues. There is no 15U appropriate field whatsoever and haven't had such since the construction of the Bliss Carmen Middle School. Additionally, we have been unable to accommodate any High Performance Baseball Training within our City with the Provincial 15U & 18U teams for a number of years despite requests due to no appropriate 15U facility and due to the fact that the 3 Senior Fields have no availability due to our 18U programs, the Junior & Senior Royals and a vibrant 6-team Intermediate Baseball League. That latter of which only stands to increase over time with our record participation levels which is terrific news. At a time when participation is so prevalent in the daily news with concerns for health in society, personally I think these issues need addressed immediately before local facilities become a barrier to entry in baseball and softball, limiting and/or reducing participation in sport.

Like any season, it wasn't all smooth sailing or without a few roadblocks, but as a group we attempted and for the most part were successful in finding solutions in order to persevere and make the collective experience a positive one for all involved.



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



As a board we were ecstatic with the growth that we experienced in the 2017 season as we had in excess of 60 additional registrants to a total of 635, which is a two year increase of 34% or specifically 163 registrants. Naturally, with such growth, there are growing pains with field availability and scheduling, team assignments, apparel, equipment, etc., but those are welcome issues. They are issues that we are actively addressing in order to continue to foster growth within our association as well as the sport as a whole throughout NB and Canada. Baseball is an incredible game that is fosters teaching our youth great life lessons, creates lifetime friendships and provides opportunities for experiences of a lifetime for youth in our community.

At a competitive level FMBA was able to add terrific partners with our local Dairy Queen & the Senior Royals being the most significant as we entered into a 3-year jersey replacement agreement as detailed on our website. DQ becomes the major sponsor of every competitive team going forward. All 'AAA' team jerseys were replaced in 2017. All 'AA' will be replaced in 2018 and we'll complete the project with 'A' jerseys in 2019. In combination with that, we also added an exceptional partner in Valley Graphics whom not only provided an exceptional product, but as importantly exceptional service.

Additionally, we were able to enter into a very favorable partnership with Under Armour to supply all apparel for our Competitive teams going forward. This certainly had a few hiccups which I take full responsibility for, but do promise 2018 and beyond has already been addressed, thus all should operate much more favourably and be a much more pleasurable experience from an ordering and supply standpoint as the product itself in 2017 was exceptional. It was well received by our members and received significant compliments from other association teams wherever they travelled.





FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Once again we were able to offer 'AAA', 'AA' and 'A' level teams at all levels except 15U for a total of 11 competitive teams. Numbers at tryouts were exceptional at all levels. This is incredibly encouraging as we see all involved striving to achieve their best and pushing themselves to improve upon their skills. Part of being a better person in general is always striving to be the best you can be at whatever you pursue. To see that on the baseball field is tremendous. We thank all whom attended tryouts as they certainly pushed those players and teams to be 'the best they can be'.

On that note, congratulations to our competitive teams whom had tremendous results. 2017 was one of the most successful seasons on record. FMBA teams captured Provincial Gold at 11U, 13U & 15U 'AAA', at 11U & 13U 'A' and & 18U 'AA' with a Provincial Silver at 15U 'AA', thus capturing medals in 7 of the 10 levels in which we competed. At 18U we had 2 teams qualify for 'AA' Provincials which is an achievement of itself. Also, at 11U & 13U 'AA' the teams had very successful season, thus were favored to capture gold, but each unfortunately suffered tough semi-final losses. At every level our teams competed incredibly well and we were extremely proud of their accomplishments. Port City was the only other association to capture more than 1 Provincial Championship medal in 2017. FMBA captured 7!

I'd also like to thank our coaches across the association. Your work does not go unnoticed. From Rally Cap to 18U 'AAA' you are an incredibly dedicated group that strives hard to give a terrific experience to FMBA players. I speak for all on the Board when I say we are very grateful, appreciative and proud of your efforts and accomplishments. Thank you!

To the umpires and their association a heartfelt thank you as well. They are a dedicated group and likely the toughest job in our great sport. Unfortunately it's far too easy to not be appreciative of their efforts, but their commitment to do multiple games, sometimes in extreme heat is no easy task and without them, the games don't go on. So, again, thank you very much for your commitment, time and dedication to our sport. It is greatly appreciated!

Finally, to the parent members of our association. Again, I speak for all on the board when I say we are grateful and appreciative of you enrolling your children in this tremendous sport of baseball. Your dedication to travelling to practices, games, tournaments, special events, etc. is greatly appreciated and without such would not allow our great sport to exist. Thank you!

For me personally, these past 3 years has been a rewarding and by the same token a challenging experience. Nonetheless, it's an experience that even though there are trials and tribulations filled with moments where sometimes you're the villain and sometimes the hero. However, the opportunity to lead this great association, FMBA, has been an absolute privilege.



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



2016 / 17 Recap

November 2016 – I was fortunate that 17 of 19 members of a terrific group of board members, with an incredible work ethic and desire to not only offer a great baseball program to our members, but more importantly with a desire to make each of our young members better persons, not just better baseball players were wanting to continue with their board duties. As such we bid a fond farewell to long-serving members whom contributed greatly to FMBA for a number of years as Angie Burt & Chuck O'Donnell stepped down from their positions. Fortunately, 2 new terrific board members joined our ranks, Jeff Allen & Jason Fitzgerald, who were tremendous additions to our board while Stacey McKinney joined the Executive.

We opened registration for the 2nd annual Royals Off-Season Baseball Program at The Ville for Sunday evenings. Once again it was a resounding success as we had 96 registrants for the season looking to improve upon their skills. Speaking from an instructor/coaching response aspect to a player registration aspect, the 2 year response has been almost overwhelming. The results may be in the pudding with successes achieved in 2017.

January 2017 – Discussions with DQ, the Senior Royals and Under Armour began, setting in motion the beginning of a tremendous partnership for all that was finalized and announced in June.

April 2017 – We began extensive spring training for our members in preparation for the season with final off-season sessions at The Ville and with additional age specific sessions on the Turf Fields. We actually began tryouts at the end of April for some programs on the Turf Fields as a terrific winter and spring allowed us to begin our season's. Our annual Competitive Coaches Meeting was hosted by our partner Delta Marriot Fredericton. Finally, discussions with Valley Graphics were initiated and culminated in the June announcement of partnerships as well.

May 2017 – All competitive teams were selected and Recreational Programs hit the ground running. FMBA again had 11 competitive teams that would be competing in provincial play during the 2017 season. Our annual Rally Cap Coaches Meeting was held at The Ville.

FMBA also hosted it's 2nd Annual Royals' Opening Weekend on May 28th & 29th as we welcomed 10 competitive teams from Dartmouth and 1 from Dieppe to Fredericton to play our 11 teams in 2 sets of double-headers for a total of 44 games to kick off the season. This was a tremendous weekend of baseball throughout as we witnessed exciting games at every level, great baseball and a celebration of baseball as a whole. In 2017 we added a breakfast to the activities on Sunday morning and all participants enjoyed a terrific presentation by Dr. Ryan Hamilton. Again, the event was well received by Dartmouth whom wishes to return to open the 2018 season.



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



June 2017 – All FMBA programs were fully underway from Rally Cap to 18U (Midget). This month also saw our 7th annual FMBA Baseball Camp operate another successful and enjoyable camp at Royals Field, Marysville Community Centre and 'The Ville' when rain required field closures. 2017 was the final year for Paul Hornibrook directing our program and we thank him for 7 years of devotion to the camp as well as his wife Bev whom gave countless hours to the camps over the years. Thank you for a job well done.

Also, we congratulated several association members on being named to Elite Level teams as Sam Beaulieu, Craig Oliver, Riley Burt, Oliver Burnett & Max Grant were named to the NB Canada Games team. In addition Sam McKinney, Jackson Wilson, Max Grant, Sam Tingley, Nick Rushton and Jakob Whelan were named to the 15U Jr Selects team.

July 2017 – We hosted the inaugural Rod Wilson Jr 15U 'AA' Tournament as we hosted 8 teams at Queen Square and Tingley Field in what was a very successful event. Thank you to Judy &



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Derek Wilson for granting FMBA with the ability to honor a local legend with the naming of the event that will surely become a fixture in our association for years to come.

August 2017 – All divisions held their year-end jamborees, most of which included our neighboring associations in New Maryland and Oromocto and by all reports each was a resounding success culminating a successful season at all levels within FMBA. Many thanks on behalf of the kids to each of the division coordinators Amanda Buchanan (Rally Cap), Sean O'Shea (Rookie), Sally Goodwin (11U), Jamie Boyle (13U) and Tony Hay (18U) for your tremendous efforts.

Fredericton again congratulated talented young men whom were chosen to attend the prestigious T12 Tournament. Riley Burtt once again was chosen along with Max Grant. Both performed admirably at the tournament at Rogers Centre in Toronto.

At Provincials, we had another very successful season. Every team competed very well in their respective tournaments.

11U 'A' – Provincial Gold

11U 'AAA' – Provincial Gold

13U 'A' – Provincial Gold

13U 'AAA' – Provincial Gold

15U 'AA' – Provincial Silver

15U 'AAA' – Provincial Gold

18U 'AA' – Provincial Gold and qualified 2 teams to the Provincial 'AA' Championships

September/October/November 2016 – We were advised the 2017 initiative to study baseball & softball playing fields approved at the budgetary meeting by the City has been delayed to 2018 sometime. Therefore, we are very pleased that our concerns and needs are being considering thoroughly although tremendously disappointed that it has been delayed and that the City doesn't recognize the urgency to the limitations we are experiencing as we've expressed.

On September 23rd we hosted a demonstration of Challenger Baseball at Grant Harvey Centre which was well received and a very enjoyable day. The spirit and enthusiasm at the field that day was tremendous and plans to have our own program for 2018 are underway. We look forward to this exciting addition in 2018.

Plans for the 3rd Royals Off-Season were completed and expanded to include training with Athletic One and to have baseball specific session lead exclusively by Mike Washburn Jr. along with a weekly assistant specific to training objectives to provide a higher level experience to



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



registrants. As such FMBA will continue to include voluntary assistant coaches. 3 of 5 age groups are already filled as 89 participants have registered to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim O'Hara, President

18U/15U Coordinator Report

The 2017 season went fairly well at all levels of the 18U and 15U divisions. The 15U 'AAA' and 'AA' teams had very successful seasons, culminating with the 'AAA' team winning a Provincial gold medal and the 'AA' team winning a silver medal at Provincials. The 'AA' team hosted the inaugural Rod Wilson Sr. memorial tournament this summer and it went very well.

With the 18U , they were able to field 3 competitive teams with the standard 'AAA' and 2 'AA' teams. The two teams combined to host the Provincial Championships in which the team coached by Chuck Poore won the gold medal, advancing to represent NB at Atlantics in Summerside, PEI.

The Swifty's DQ 'AAA' team hosted a tournament for the second consecutive summer with once again eight teams participating with NB teams playing 3 NS teams and the eventual National Silver Medal winning 15U NB Selects. They also hosted the Provincial Championships at Royals' Field & Thompson Field in which the Port City Pirates defeated the 3-time defending Metro Mudcats to advance to the 2018 21U Nationals in Fort McMurray.

The U18/U15 recreation division had four teams with one of those teams being from New Maryland. We struggled at first finding a third head coach for one of the teams but as usual volunteers stepped forward to be able to make it work for the benefit of the kids.

A special thank you goes out to Anna Lee Brewer who helped out significantly with organizing uniform pick up, drop off and also with the year end Jamboree.

All in all, from a coordinator's point of view, the season went quite smoothly. Lines of communication could have been better with some teams, thus something to look at for improvements in 2018.

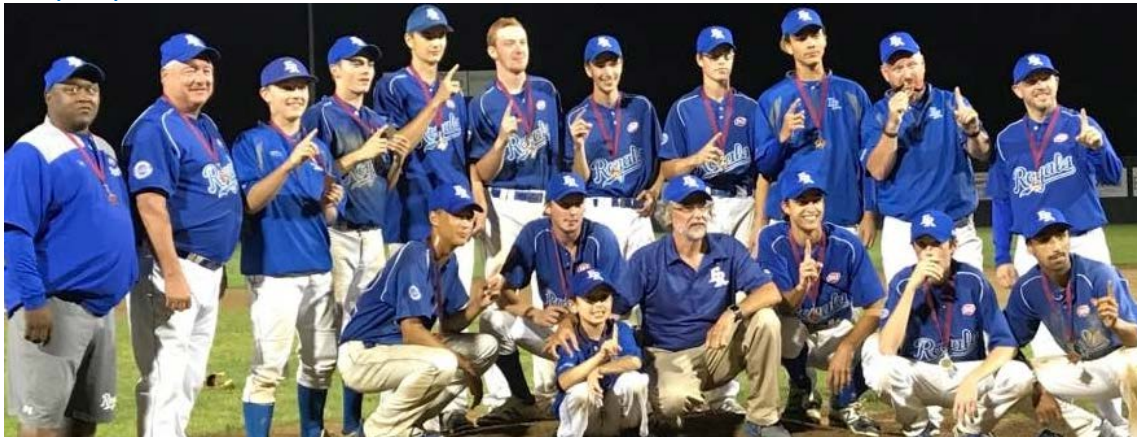
Respectfully,



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Tony Hay





FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



13U Coordinator Report

For the 2017 baseball season at the 13U level within FMBA we had 84 registrants in total. This gave us enough players to have 3 competitive teams as well as 3 recreational teams.

With regards to the recreational portion of 13U Division, it was a very successful year. There were a total of 8 teams in the league. This was comprised of 3 from FMBA, 2 from New Maryland, an Oromocto, Woodstock and Nackawic team in the league.

For 2017 we implemented something new in which batters had a 1 ball and 1 strike count to start their at bat. Initially, there were some concerns regarding this new rule/format, but as the season got going, this became quite acceptable by all within the league. The results were as intended when the Board discussed and implemented the rule; games moved along quickly and games were completing the entire 7 innings in. There were many parents whom expressed their happiness with this rule change.

There were some issues trying to get the year end Jamboree in. The first weekend we tried got rained out, the only rain after June 26th. Then the second weekend we chose, overlapped with hockey tryouts, thus only the 3 FMBA teams were able to attend the Jamboree. I showed up to make sure things ran smoothly and it seemed like a good time was had by all.

As for the competitive teams, the 'AAA' team won their Provincial Championships, advancing to the Canadian Atlantic Championships in Moncton in September where they represented NB & Fredericton very well. The 'AA' team also had a very successful season, unfortunately lost a heart breaker in it's Provincial Semi-Finals to the eventual Provincial Champions whom advanced to Atlantics where they won a Silver Medal. Lastly the 'A' team won their Provincial Championship.

In conclusion, I would say it was a very successful year for 13U baseball in Fredericton.

Regards,

Jamie Boyle



FREDERICK MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017





FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



11U Coordinator Report

The 11U division experienced a small bump in registration numbers from 2016. With a total number of registrations of 128, we were able to field 1 'AAA' team with 12 players, 1 'AA' team with 13 players, 1 'A' team with 13 players and 6 recreational teams with 15 players each.

As the coordinator, my main focus was the recreational division, and this report will pertain mostly to that group.

The new registration system with SportsEngine was great. It provided customizable reports regarding registrations as they came in, as well as an easy way to email all parents.

Competitive tryouts were held in early May and we had a record number of participants come out. With a total of 72 hopefuls, the competitive coaches did a great job of evaluating them all and choosing their teams. There was some parent feedback suggesting that independent evaluators be included in the process for future years. I agree this is the best practice for competitive tryouts, and would recommend the suggestion.

Once the tryouts were complete, we were able to host 2 days of recreational evaluations on May 23rd and 25th. This early start allowed the recreational division to play a grand total of 13 weeks of baseball which included 16-17 games and a minimum of 6 practices per team. Oromocto and New Maryland also fielded 2 teams each for a grand total of 10 recreational 11U level teams. We did have a few rain outs, but luckily we were able to reschedule most of them.

We had some really dedicated coaches this year and their efforts were rewarded by enormous improvement in skills from the players. While even recreational coaches can sometimes become swept in the competitive nature of the game, great focus was placed on three main objectives A) Having fun B) Player development and C) fair play for all. 2 out of the 6 recreational teams were able to give each of their 15 players an opportunity on the mound during the regular season which exemplified the idea of fair play.

Chipp McCrea did an amazing job of organizing the uniforms with the available resources. Having said that, I do think we can do a little better with regards to the final product for players at this age. While the hats and jerseys were sometimes uncoordinated in colour, they were of good quality. The pants handed out to players, however, were mostly worn, stained and ill-fitting. For the majority of players in this age group the available pants were both too short to be pants and too long to be knickers. Many players abandoned their FMBA pants in favour of purchasing pants that fit properly and looked good. This resulted in teams with some players wearing black pants and some wearing grey or white. Equipment and uniform return was a bit of a challenge this year, but I'm happy to report that we have received all equipment bags back from the coaches and have achieved an 85% pants return rate.

We instituted a new rule this year for at-bats. Each batter started with 1 ball and 1 strike when they approached the plate. This was at first a bit of a hard sell for coaches, but by the end of



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



the summer most coaches agreed that it worked well with regards to having batters focused and aggressive when they approach the plate, as well as keeping the pitch counts down. The 1 and 1 also enabled us to get more innings into a night than in previous summers. The one down side to this approach is that each batter spends less time than normal at the actual plate. To counteract this effect, I would recommend the addition of special batting practices for all rec teams. Perhaps they could even use the indoor batting cages once or twice during the season.

It's impossible to sum up the 11U season without mentioning Terry Dexter and the amazing team of umpires who officiated all of our games. Terry was able to reschedule his team to handle last minute scheduling, and his umpires showed great professionalism and grace at each game while learning their craft.

We decided to replace the year end jamboree with a recreational tournament at the end of the season. This was met with much support by the coaches and players. The format we used this year was a double elimination bracket with a guarantee of at least 2 games per team. The tournament went very well, and it was very good for the kids (and coaches) to get a taste of a bit of friendly competition. We did have a few disagreements through that week that were dealt with as they came up, and overall it was a great experience.

All in all, a great summer, and the kids had fun which is the main thing.

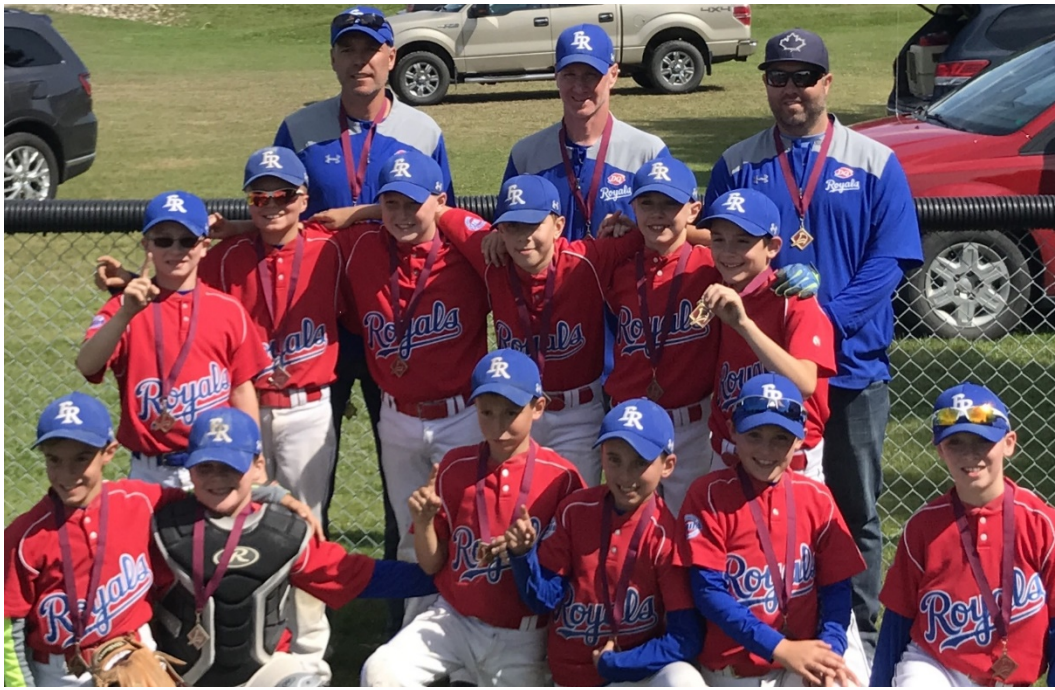
In summary, I am very excited to have rejoined the FMBA team as a coordinator, and I look forward to an even bigger and better summer in 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SUMMER (2018)

- 1) COACHES MEETING - This year we held a coaches meeting on June 25th. This was a great opportunity for the coaches to meet together and with Tim to go over the values of the organization and ask any questions they had about coaching, scheduling etc. I would recommend repeating this meeting but perhaps doing it earlier in the season. (early to mid may)
- 2) UNIFORMS – I would recommend an evaluation of team uniforms at the rec level.
- 3) BATTING PRACTICE - I would recommend the addition of special batting practices for all rec teams. This will give the players more experience in batting that will help them with the 1 and 1 at bat rule.
- 4) INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS - independent evaluators should be included in the process for competitive tryouts. If they are already included, then their presence needs to be emphasized so that all parents are aware of the process. The tryout process in general would benefit from more transparency.
- 5) YEAR END TOURNAMENT - Continue the year end tournament for the rec level. Explore different tournament structures to ensure a successful event.



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017





FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Rookie Coordinator Report

- Personally, I believe the use of the new registration system was a success. It was easy to correspond with each group, or team, if need be. There were 2 parents who were not able to receive messages from my Sports Engine account. They supplied an alternate e-mail address, or created new ones, in order to receive any notifications I sent out.
- The 2017 FMBA Rookie group consisted of 11 teams (6 Rookie major, 5 Rookie minor), with roster sizes ranging from 11-13 players per team. Oromocto joined our Rookie major group, and entered 3 teams, bringing the total to 9 teams. New Maryland entered 2 teams in our Rookie minor group, bringing the total to 7 teams. Overall, there were a total of 16 teams in the Rookie league.
- Due to the large number of teams, Sunday evenings were added to the practice/game schedule for Rookie major, to ensure each team had 2 field times per week. Rookie major practiced on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. With Rookie minor having an odd number of teams, Henry Park T-Ball was opened on Wednesday evening to accommodate a fifth team, ensuring everyone in that group had 2 field times per week. Rookie minor practiced on Mondays and Wednesdays during the summer.
- With so many teams participating in both groups, every evening but Saturday, was used for games or practices.
- Tim Horton's graciously stepped forward, and sponsored the entire Rookie minor group, providing players with t-shirts and hats. Unfortunately, one parent in particular, voiced his/her displeasure to me on a couple of occasions, as to the quality of the uniforms provided, along with the delay in getting the uniforms out to the kids. That parent was told that the sponsorship was made aware to us at the last minute, and the ordering and delivery process takes time. FMBA provided pants to the Rookie minor group, as they were not part of the sponsorship deal. New pants were ordered, and arrived after the Tim Horton's jerseys and hats. As pants were handed out, the final team to receive them (Mariners) did not have enough of the appropriate sizes for the kids. Only 2 players received pants from the first order, and upon receiving a second order, the pant sizes were too big. I'm not aware if parents purchased pants for those kids that did not receive a pair.
- The summer was a prefect one for baseball. There were only a couple of rain cancellations during the year, and 2 evenings were cancelled due to lightning. Again, many parents questioned playing in extreme heat. I told them we were following BNB guidelines, and they should do what they think is best for their kids.
- The field conditions were quite dusty due to the lack of rain. Royal Rd field has 2 areas of concern in the infield. The ground between 1st and 2nd base has a trench forming,



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



and it looks like it is from water flow (from heavy rain or the Spring thaw?). There is also a depression in the ground between 2nd and 3rd base. I witnessed a few bad hops there this year, where players took hard hits to their arms and body.

- The year-end jamboree ran much more smoothly than it did last year. Each team had a game in the morning, had a pizza party for lunch, and played another game in the afternoon. A huge thank-you goes out to Tim Horton's for providing hundreds of Timbits for the kids, and to Papa John's for their fast delivery of piping-hot pizzas. Also, thank you to the parents and coaches who helped hand out pizza, chips, drinks, and who cleaned up the mess afterward.
- There were some concerns raised by parents, and coaches, regarding the Oromocto playing field. Summerhill field is very small and looks like it is designed for T-Ball. Many people were concerned that someone was going to get hurt. With the player benches so close to the playing field, and without protection, we were worried about kids being hit by foul balls or bad throws. I don't think we should allow Rookie major to play on small fields. The players reaction times are still not fully developed, and there is no time to get out of the way of line drives or hard throws, when playing in close quarters. It's unfortunate, but there were also some of our kids that did not make one trip to play in Oromocto, but chose to play soccer or hockey on those nights instead.
- The 3 teams Oromocto that played Rookie major, were not Rookie major age. They were a combination of major, minor, along with some 7 year-olds. In future years, we may want to look at putting their teams in Rookie minor, if most of the player's ages dictate it. For the past 2 years, they have gone Rookie major with the 5 teams that took part in our league.
- The Rookie Enrichment trial program was a big hit with players and parents. There were close to 60 kids that came to try-outs, with 24 being selected to make up 2 teams. I spoke with many parents, and they said the program was a god-send, as their kids were thrilled with the extra playing time and challenge provided with playing at an advanced level. I, along with the other coaches, received messages, thanking us for the time and effort we put in to the program, and how much their kids enjoyed it. There are many strong players throughout the entire Rookie group, and future looks bright for baseball in Frederickton.

Yours in Baseball,

Sean O'Shea

Rookie Coordinator



FREDERICKTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Rally Cap Coordinator Report

The Rally Cap 2017 season ended with a big bang, as we had the 13U 'AA' team and their coaches help us out. The kids and parents seemed to really enjoy this aspect, and I personally think it really added some heart to the summer and looked very professional. We also had a few of the older FMBA players help out at practices and the response from the parents was fantastic. Numbers were up to approx 180 kids. This was a huge leap from the previous summer and we had to scramble to get a few more gear bags together. We did however, have quite a few kids register after uniforms had been handed out, so this added a bit of an obstacle as every night during the first month we had new kids that required a uniform. Coaches were in low numbers this year, which also added to the start of season chaos, but it all came together eventually and we had a nice group of AWESOME parents coaching our kids this season. We ended the season with our jamboree the last week of August and the kids enjoyed pizza and drinks and received their Rally Caps and medals. Here's to hoping that Rally Cap numbers continue to rise and we have the same season opener "issues" next summer!

Respectfully,

Amanda Buchanan

Rally Cap Coordinator

Equipment Coordinator Report

To the FMBA Executive and Board

This was my third full year as Equipment Coordinator. Through the winter of 2016-2017 I took inventory of what we had for equipment, baseballs, jerseys, hats, etc and began preparing my order for the summer 2017 baseball season. Our registration numbers increased again this year, so on top of ordering the regular inventory of recreational jerseys and hats we needed to purchase various new pieces of equipment including more new sets of bases, several left-hand throw catchers gloves and batting tees. In particular, the Rally Cap division number continued to explode this year and we had to purchase equipment for another 8 or 9 teams. A big thanks to Amanda Buchanan for all her help there.

We maintained a good level of inventory in order to facilitate all competitive and recreational divisions and levels by quickly adjusting to the need and ordering further products where



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



necessary. Suppliers like MacTavish's, Home Run Sports and Club Fred Grafx were all super to deal with. Home Run Sports remained our main supplier of baseballs.

This year was the first year in a three year program where the Senior Royals supplied new jerseys for our competitive teams. The plan is to "brand" the FR Royals with the minor association. This year the Senior Royals purchased a new set of jerseys for our AAA competitive teams. Next year they will do the same for our AA competitive teams, and the following year they will supply the A competitive division with new jerseys. The President and the Equipment Coordinator are looking at options as to what to do with the retired sets of competitive jerseys.

Also, this past year a part of the program was to have all competitive teams sponsored and outfitted with Under Armour apparel. This is a four way collaboration between FMBA, the Senior Royals, Under Armour and MacTavishes as the local supplier. We experienced various bugs and delays in the execution of this program this past year, but with that experience has come learning and it is expected that the system will work more efficiently in the future.

There were some changes to the recreational leagues this past year as well as a part of the FR Royals branding. We used all of the remaining inventory of colored recreational hats and starting in the 2017-2018 year all recreational players, no matter what team they are on, will receive a blue hat with FR embroidered on the face of the hat. Also, as much of the remaining inventory of recreational jerseys containing various MLB team names printed on the chest were used up this year. Starting in the 2018 season the recreational teams will continue to have different colored jerseys but they will all be printed with ROYALS across the chest. We will have to make some decisions on what to do with the remaining inventory of old printed jerseys.

Tim Hortons became the sponsor of the Rookie Minor Division starting this past year. They provide hats and jerseys for that division. The Equipment Coordinator was required to order these hats and jerseys through a Tim Hortons online portal. Similarly, Dairy Queen, sponsored the Rally Cap Division and provided hats and jerseys for the Rally Cap team players. Amanda Buchanan coordinated the ordering of those hats and jerseys and the Equipment Coordinator assisted with the distribution of same.

The issue of the distribution and collection of recreational players' pants remains a point of contention for FMBA. All players are provided with baseball pants when they receive their jersey and hat at the first of the year. This is distributed at the equipment room by the Equipment Coordinator when each team is scheduled. Some parents are not able to attend at the scheduled time. Many parents complain about the sizing. Many parents pick the wrong size initially, etc. All of this leads to inefficient recording of the distribution of pants and requiring the equipment coordinator to make numerous returns to the equipment room throughout the spring and summer to make exchanges etc.



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



The most significant problem with respect to baseball pants is the collection of the pants at the end of the year. All parents are advised when they receive the pants that they are to return the pants to their coach at the end of the season. Coaches are to collect all of their players' pants and return them, along with their team equipment, to either their Division Coordinator or the Equipment Coordinator. Inevitably, every year this is a struggle and a point of major stress and cost for FMBA. Many pairs of pants go missing and are never returned each year.

As equipment Coordinator over the last three or four years I have tried different ways to determine a more efficient and effective way of distributing and collecting pants but without success. The keeping of inventory of pants is time consuming and costly. There has been discussion of other options. My recommendation to the Executive for the future is to consider the possibility of either (1) increasing the cost of registration to include the cost of pants and thus the player/parent keeps the pants with their jersey and hat, or (2) we cease buying and keeping inventory of pants altogether and the players/parents are responsible for buying and providing their own pants which they can purchase at MacTavishes or other sporting good stores.

For the upcoming 2018 season there will be the cost of regularly required purchases of baseballs, recreational and competitive hats, rec jerseys, new bases, and some repairs and replacement of old equipment. There are some other known purchases which are not regular in nature. Many of our gear bags are old and unusable. I believe we need to purchase at least 25 new gear bags. It was discovered this year that there is no equipment for the Bantam AAA team so some new equipment may need to be purchased for a Bantam AAA team. Our L-Screens are all in need of repair and if the parts cannot be purchased new L-Screens may need to be purchased.

This past year the City of Fredericton determined that, due to the frequency of vandalism at the Johnson Avenue batting Cage, they would not put up and maintain the netting on the top of that Cage. Thus, the Batting Cage was not usable. Further, three locks went missing at the Royals Field Batting cage, at a cost of over \$600.00 to FMBA, and a decision had to be made not to maintain a lock or L-Screen at that location. The future of our Batting Cages is in jeopardy and decisions will need to be made as to how to deal with those circumstances.

The collection of competitive team jerseys, pants and equipment bags is basically complete. In regards to the recreational level, I am still waiting to collect the Rookie Minor and Major division gear and pants. Overall the inventory of equipment continues to be in relatively good shape and there is lots of equipment for the number of teams expected.

Although I have a good idea of what needs to be ordered for next year, I will be taking stock of the equipment room over the winter to make a full assessment of our needs for the spring.

Finally, I am happy to advise the Board that I am prepared to carry on as Equipment Coordinator for one more season provided someone is appointed to work with me. The Equipment Coordinator's duties have become a year-round responsibility and it requires more



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



hands. I understand that the addition of the Executive Director will take some of those duties and responsibilities off the Equipment Coordinator's hands.

Respectfully Submitted November 3, 2017.

K. Chipp McCrea

Umpire Coordinator Report

No report submitted.

Director of Player Development Report

The 2017 FMBA baseball program continued with its second year of Off-Season training at The Ville gym every Sunday evening putting to good use our indoor hitting tunnels and equipment. The program ran from December 4, 2016 to April 30, 2017. In addition to this training, FMBA offered its 7th Annual Royals Baseball Camp with 60 kids during the last full week of June. The Association also worked with the Fredericton Senior Royals and import Shane Kraemer to have additional day camps during the month of July. It is very evident that the success of our FMBA athletes at the Provincial, Atlantic and National levels can be traced back to the additional programs provided outside of our regular summer league.

We also had a Fredericton team, lead by Coaches Andrew Rice and Pat Wall, which travelled to Cuba for a week of games in February 2017 as part of the 4th year of the Canada/Cuba Goodwill tour. We had very positive feedback on the week. Dennis Woodworth, Director of the Goodwill Tours has invited me to be part of a tour February 14-21, 2018 that will expand the tour into the Dominican Republic. Both Dennis and I have dreamed of an opportunity to engage with Tony Fernandez (Tony was our guest coach in 2012 at Royals Baseball Camp) and Juan Guzman. Dennis has done a lot of the leg work and secured an opportunity to take 3 teams this year. I am hopeful that in 2019 perhaps Fredericton will be able to take a team to DR for this experience. I will report back to the board on the success of my trip in 2018.



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



As we turn the page to 2018 I have stepped back from Director of Player Development with the Off-Season Program and Royals Baseball Camp. My focus is to complete my NCCP high performance baseball coaching certification and work within Baseball New Brunswick to become a NCCP coaching facilitator and continue to work with Dennis Woodworth to support his program to give kids a baseball experience above what most programs can offer. I hope

FMBA will continue to see the value in supporting our kids and other kids through the Goodwill Tour.

As I continue to serve FMBA as Past President I want to thank everyone for their support these past 10 years. It all started as I joined the Association as Director at Large in 2007, running the Matt Stairs Celebration of Success, then on to President, director of Royals Baseball Camp, development of the indoor training facility and running several clinics every year. I want to thank Jim Born, Ed Dunham, Tim O'Hara and Jason Dickson specifically who have been with me each step of the way. They are incredible people who gave direction and mentorship as I worked with a tremendous group of board members over this time.



Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Hornibrook

FMBA Past President

Director of Player Development



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Field Coordinator Report

Field bookings for the various 2017 FMBA tournaments were provided to the City in February, ensuring we would have fields set aside for hosting purposes. The main summer schedule, based on projected registrations, was then booked in late March. As happened in 2016, there were a number of "double-up" situations, where a single field was required for two back-to-back practices.

With the poor (cold and wet) weather we endured in the spring, ball fields did not open until the Victoria Day long weekend in May, setting many of our programs behind schedule. This resulted in a number of competitive teams being selected based only on turf field workouts,

However, this could not be done at the Bantam or Midget levels as there is insufficient room for hitting, thus pushing their teams selections back even further. With the turf fields only having been available for FMBA's use the last couple of years (and decent springs during those years), we were not adequately prepared for weather, and did not have turf sessions pre-booked, making it difficult for teams to get any workout/team selection time. Moving forward, we will attempt to have a number of turf bookings pre-booked in anticipation of bad weather, and can cancel these if the ball fields become available.

Once the season started, it was quickly discovered that we had severely outgrown our fields at the Rally Cap and Rookie levels, while the recreational programs were bursting at the seams. We were able to acquire use of McLoon Field on Mondays & Wednesdays for our Rally Cap program, which alleviated their field concerns. At the 8U level, the Minors were able to use the now available Henry Park T-ball field, and all levels from 9U through 15U/18U rec began playing on Sunday evenings. This alleviated the majority of the field issues, though we were unable to find a dedicated practice time for the U18-A team, so they ended up sharing practice time with the 18U AAA.

Many of the ball fields were setup this summer for play in multiple divisions – ie, base chains and pitching slabs for 11U and 13U were both installed at multiple fields, while other fields had both 13U and 15U setups. This allowed for flexibility in weekend scheduling when there were dates that were heavily booked with baseball and softball games/tournaments.

We met with the City a couple of times during the summer regarding the field shortage issue, as this is just going to get worse in future years. While the issue of our missing 15U field is still to be resolved, we worked with the City to find some additional 9U field options. After some onsite reviews, all agreed that two 9U fields with a common outfield could be built using the existing field behind Liverpool Elementary school. This has the potential to have a huge impact on field bookings, as existing 9U fields can be shifted to the 11U division (and 11U fields to 13U); unfortunately, no work was done on this area during the fall period, so it does not appear



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



we will have these fields available in early 2018 – thus, we will still have a field shortage issue, resulting in more teams being forced into late afternoon field times (ie doubling up on field usage). Field shortages at the 15U and 18U levels remain to be dealt with, as there is not currently sufficient fields for these levels, nor are there adequate options to shift teams around to make additional times.

Other field improvements that the City committed to include a higher fence on Dunham Field between the backstop and first base dugout to stop foul balls from being lost in the ravine (completed in late July), installing base line fencing at Johnston Ave field, and installing a taller outfield fence at Johnston Ave.

With the City's change to charging minor associations for each hour of field time booked (instead of a flat rate for the entire season), it required FMBA to stay on top of the field bookings to ensure any field time not being used was cancelled, though it did cause issues on

the payment side when attempting to reconcile through the 100+ contracts that we had. As in the past, division Coordinators, competitive coaches, and City staff all received a weekly report listing the field bookings for the upcoming week; this worked extremely well as tournaments were well staffed with field maintenance occurring both at the start of the day, and again in mid-afternoon.

Looking ahead to the 2018 season, we will continue pushing the City regarding FMBA's field shortage problems, as these issues are just going to get worse as our membership continues to increase. All scheduled special events will be booked early in the new year.

Adam Humphrey

Promotions and Fundraising Coordinator Report

No Report Submitted



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Coaching Coordinator Report

The 2017 season was very successful from a coaching perspective. Despite another year of higher registration, we were able to successfully find sufficient quality volunteers to fill coaching roles on each team across all divisions.

The 2017 season saw us continue to provide more rigor in our coaching processes. We continued toward our goal of having each coach complete a criminal and vulnerable sector check, a process we will continue to pursue and improve upon. We also conducted our first set of head coach interviews in cases where multiple coaches put their name forward to lead a similar team-this was a learning process and one for which we will seek to document for future cases.

2017 also saw us develop and launch our first electronic coaches survey for parents. This survey provided the opportunity for parents to provide open and anonymous and honest feedback on the season and the coaching staff. This process provided us with valuable insight to carry forward into future years and will allow us to provide specific, tactical and tangible feedback to individual coaches going forward. As we look to the 2018 season, this process will

be leveraged at the season's midpoint which will act as a temperature check for coaches and players. Midseason feedback should prove valuable in ensuring we are providing the absolute best experience for our registrants.

I want to take this opportunity to offer a sincere thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers from the 2017 season. Without the substantial time and energy that each of our volunteers put in throughout the season, our program would not be able to provide such a high level of development and enjoyment. Thank you!

Justin Hill

Coaching Coordinator



FREDERICTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Motions

Requiring Ratification

Amending original by law: addition to 6.2 (part 4) player grouping – must be invited...

6.24(a) Fredericton Minor Baseball will hold three combined opportunities for competitive tryouts. Any player wishing to play competitive baseball must attend at least one competitive tryout in order to be eligible for any level of competitive team.

Motion moved by Stacey, seconded by Chris.

Motion approved by the Board.

6.4 (5) Any player affiliating with the Junior Royals program must be part of the U18AAA program.

Motion moved by Ed, seconded by Chris.

Motion approved by the Board

Motions

As per FMBA constitution:

- Amendments 12(12.1)

Section VIII (5) stricken from the by-laws as it is discriminating to all Midget players not playing Midget AAA.

By Chuck Poore