



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

MINUTES

BASEBALL NL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th, 2017 MOUNT PEYTON HOTEL GRAND FALLS WINDSOR

1. ROLL CALL

Delegates:	Ken Curtis	St. John's Minor Baseball
	Brian Hunt	Mount Pearl Minor Baseball
	David Coates	CBS Kiwanis Minor Baseball
	Craig Walker	Paradise Minor Baseball
	Dale Green	Grand Falls Windsor Minor Baseball
	Paul Briffett	Pasadena Minor Baseball
	Darrin O'Quinn	Corner Brook Minor Baseball
	Jason Mosher	Corner Brook Senior/Junior Baseball
	Mark Healy	St. John's Amateur Baseball
	Joe Wadden	Mount Pearl Senior/Junior Baseball

BNL Executive:	Kevin Legge	President
	Kevin McCarthy	Vice President
	Joe Fowler	Treasurer
	Kristyn Coley	Eastern Director
	David Janes	Central Director
	Peter Burt	Western Director
	Randy Hennessey	Minor Chairperson
	Paul Briffett	Assistant Minor Chairperson
	Darrin O'Quinn	Director of Female Baseball
	Greg Williams	Coaching Chairperson
	Mark Jones	Umpire-In-Chief

Staff:	Ryan Garland	Executive Director
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Observers: Keith Ball Nicholas Mercer Mike Buist Robert Morgan

2. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Kevin Legge thanked everyone for traveling and taking the time to attend the meetings this year.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING

Kevin Legge asked everyone to review the minutes from the Semi Annual Meeting on April 29th and, if there were no issues, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

MOTION: Briffett/Curtis

To accept the minutes from the April 29th Semi Annual Meeting as presented.

CARRIED

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4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS

President Kevin Legge began by noting that his report was included in the package of material. He quickly noted some highlights and then opened the floor for questions. While there were no specific questions, everyone noted the overall success of Baseball NL once again this year.

Treasurer Joe Fowler then presented the financial statements and spoke to the figures he presented. Joe highlighted the areas of growth, particularly in player registration and tournament registration. Those in attendance were pleased to see the strength of the financial outlook and commended Joe for his involvement and attention to the finances.

Ryan Garland presented the registrars report and noted that once again there was a significant increase in player registration for 2017. Ryan also pointed out and highlighted a few centres in particular that experienced significant growth.

Ryan also presented the Challenger Baseball report for 2017. Once again, a highlight was an increase in registrations for the program. Ryan made mention of Colin Rose's contributions to the program, as well. Mark Jones noted that this could be an area where Baseball NL could look to get some additional P/R as a result of the program, the people it serves, and the overall message it portrays.

Coaching Chairperson Greg Williams gave a brief overview of his report and noted the number of coaches taking part in each of the various coaching clinics in the area. Greg then made particular mention of a couple of different areas where he was looking to improve and grow the coaching program:

- Increase the requirements for the female program given the development of the program over the last number of years
- Increase the number of Learning Facilitators (LFs) in the province.
 - o Greg mentioned there was possible training to happen in Moncton, and that more information would be available after the Baseball Canada Convention in November.
- Decrease the number of unqualified coaches coaching at Provincials.
 - o Greg highlighted that, based on the rosters submitted, 35% of coaches involved at Provincials in 2017 were uncertified, and that he would like to get this closer to 0% moving forward.
- Tightening up the number of personnel (coaches, managers, trainers, etc.) that are on the bench during Provincial Championships, as well as making sure a minimum of two (2) personnel were fully certified coaches.

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- The importance of submitting valid and accurate rosters that make it easier on the Baseball NL office and Greg, as Coaching Chair, to background check the coaches prior to Provincial Championships.
- Greg also noted that clinic fees for all clinics would increase to \$50 from \$40 to come further in line with the rest of the country.

Umpire-In-Chief Mark Jones then presented his umpiring report for 2017 and noted the increase in Level I and II Clinic participants experienced. He then mentioned a few key areas and highlights from the past year:

- Scott Mosher completing his National Exam for the first time
- A successful trip to National Championships for Doug Spracklin and Ryan Garland (umpires), as well as Dave Buckingham and Mark (supervisors). Mark made a particular mention of Doug officiating the gold medal game at the Canada Games.

Mark also mentioned the need for another Level III SuperClinic. Mark noted the high number of experienced Level II Umpires that are in the province that would benefit greatly from this type of clinic. Mark lastly made mention of the responsibilities of each local association to host a clinic (either on their own or by partnering with another association) and to send participants to clinics in their area to further their development and training.

Darrin O'Quinn then gave his report as the Director of Female Baseball, which was included in the package of material for those in attendance. Darrin did note that while player registration had plateaued compared to 2016, there was an increase in the number of teams playing in Provincial Championships, especially evidenced by the higher numbers in the 12U category. Darrin then made mention of a couple of ideas that he would like to see discussed and possibly implemented for 2018:

- The addition of an 18U program, including an 18U Provincial Championship.
- The possibility of adding pitch count to the 14U and 16U Provincials, especially at the 14U level where pitch count is used at the Baseball Atlantic Championships.
- The necessity, as Greg Williams mentioned, to increase the coaching levels required for the female program.

David Coates, as coach of the 15U Provincial Team, then gave his report and overview of the team's 2017 season. David made note of the tryout process, as well as the team's success at the 15U Nationals, including their 2 – 2 round robin record, as well as Alejandro Lopez (Top Defensive Player) and Alex French (tournament all-star) on their individual success at the tournament.

Robert Morgan, as coach of the 16U Provincial team, then gave his report and overview of the team's 2017 season. He noted that at the Nationals, though winless, the team was competitive against like competition. As the 16U Girls National is not a tiered event like the other National Championships, this is one of the biggest contributors to the lack of parity in

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competition against other provinces. It was noted that this is one of the topics for discussion at the Baseball Canada Convention and that there is some interest from other provinces to make the 16U Nationals a tiered event for the 2018 season. It was also commented that there has been a big overall improvement in skill and ability of the players over the last couple of years.

Greg Williams, as Chef de Mission of the Canada Games Team, gave an overview on the program over the past three years, which culminated at the Canada Games in Winnipeg this summer. Greg highlighted the team selection process, especially since January when the team was nearing finalization. Greg also commented on the travel and pre-competition games the team played, including stops in Okotoks, Moncton and Prince Edward Island leading into the Canada Games. Greg did say there was some disappointment in both players and coaches, but positively commented that there is no longer an expectation that Newfoundland is an “easy” game at the Nationals, at any level, which should be seen as a credit to our development and growth as a baseball province.

Ryan Garland, in lieu of an 18U Provincial Team Coach present, gave a brief overview of the team, including their tournament at the 18U Nationals in London, Ontario. Ryan did mention that over the past two years this team, led by Aaron Flood, has played to an overall 7 – 5 record and were close two of three losses this year that could have changed the overall placing this year significantly. Ryan also echoed Greg’s comments concerning Newfoundland as a competitive province, and noted that no longer are we considered a team to be taken lightly.

Brian Hunt, as Chef de Mission of the 21U Provincial Junior Team, then gave a brief overview of the team. This was the first year since 2013 that our province has sent a team to this tournament, and everyone in attendance was very appreciative of the work the coaching staff put in to get a team to this event once again. There were some questions around the process of team selection, but once explained (as well as the rationale behind the decision) everyone was understanding of the decisions. There was some discussion around changing the process for team selection moving forward, and it was agreed that this would be discussed with the 2018 coaching staff, while keeping in mind the financial implications and deadlines as set by Baseball Canada.

Minor Chairperson Randy Hennessey then gave his report and highlights for the 2017 season. Randy spoke to both positives and negatives to come from the 2017 season, the latter of which was far less compared to the former. Randy also spoke to the need to comprise a Steering Committee to look at athlete development, as well as ways to spend revenues that have been generated over the past number of years. Possible spending initiatives included a Technical Director’s position, guest instructors to work with grassroots and provincial team players, and further investment in coaching and umpiring programs.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF THE CONSITIUTION

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Mark Healy spoke to the need to add a Senior Chair's position to the Baseball NL Executive. Mark noted that with the changes to the Senior/Junior Division in recent years, there needed to be someone that could serve as a main point of contact that anyone with concerns about Senior or Junior baseball could reach.

Motion: Hennessey/Healy

To, for the 2018 season, add the position of Senior Chair to the Baseball NL Executive
CARRIED

It was also noted that, as per a motion passed at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, work needed to be completed on the external review of Baseball NL, including a review of the constitution and review of the Executive to ensure Baseball NL is functioning as best fits baseball in the province in 2017 and beyond.

ACTION ITEM: To form an internal Committee, from the Baseball NL Executive, to begin work on this review, and determine the best course of action moving forward, including the possibility of an external review by an external group, if the committee deems this to be necessary.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

For the 2017 Election of Officers, six (6) positions would be up for election – Vice President, Eastern Director, Western Director, Assistant Minor Chairperson, Director of Female Baseball and the newly added Senior Chair. Kevin Legge (President), Joe Fowler (treasurer), David Janes (Central Director) and Randy Hennessey (Minor Chairperson) all accepted the second year of their two year terms from the 2016 Election of Officers. Following the Election of Officers, the new Baseball NL Executive is as follows:

President – Kevin Legge
Vice President – Kevin McCarthy
Treasurer – Joe Fowler
Eastern Director – Kristyn Coley
Central Director – David Janes
Western Director – Darrin O'Quinn
Minor Chairperson – Randy Hennessey
Assistant Minor Chairperson – Paul Briffett
Senior Chairperson – Justin Kelly
Director of Female Baseball – Mark Healy

Following the completion of the Election of Officers, Mike Buist then asked to have the ballots destroyed

MOTION: Buist/Williams

To destroy the ballots used during the Election of Officers

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

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- a. Minor Division
 - i. Brian Hunt brought up the idea of removing ties from Minor Division Provincial Championships in favor of the international tiebreaker, similar to Baseball Canada. This would see runners on first and second base to begin each half inning of extra innings.

MOTION: Hunt/Williams

To remove ties in Minor Division Provincial Championships in favor of the international tiebreaker as per Baseball Canada

CARRIED

- ii. Mike Buist brought up the need to alter Baseball NL rules to mirror the other rules in Atlantic Canada, specifically bat sizes for Mosquito and the game length for 14U girls.
- b. Tournament Sites and Dates
 - i. Ryan Garland presented a copy of the proposed 2018 Calendar of Events that was drafted based on the 2017 Calendar of Events with alterations made to accommodate the 2018 Calendar. After some discussion and realigning of tournaments, the following Provincial Championship Calendar of Events for 2018, with host locations, was created:

June 29 – July 1	Senior Club Tournament	Corner Brook
July 13 – 15	Provincial Senior B	Corner Brook
July 20 – 22	Provincial Junior A	Corner Brook
July 27 – 29	Provincial Senior A Finals (Games 1 – 3)	St. John’s
	Midget Qualifier	Corner Brook
August 3 – 5	Provincial Senior A Finals (Games 4 – 7)	Senior B Winner
August 10 – 12	Provincial 16U Girls	St. John’s
August 17 – 19	Provincial Bantam AA	Gander
	Provincial Bantam A	St. John’s
	Provincial 14U Girls	St. John’s
August 24 – 26	Provincial Pee Wee AAA	Paradise
	Provincial Pee Wee AA	Pasadena
	Provincial Pee Wee A	Grand Falls Windsor
	Provincial Midget AA	Mount Pearl
August 31 – Sept 2	Provincial Bantam AAA	St. John’s
	Provincial Mosquito AAA	Mount Pearl
	Provincial Mosquito AA	Grand Falls Windsor
	Provincial Mosquito A	Conception Bay North
	Provincial 12U Girls	Corner Brook
	Provincial 18U Girls	Grand Falls Windsor

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Upon completion of the Baseball Canada Meeting in Hamilton, Ontario (in the event of changes with the proposed National Championship dates), the complete Calendar of Events, including invitational tournaments, Baseball Canada Championships, and Baseball Atlantic Championships will be posted to the Baseball NL website and communicated to local associations.

c. Provincial Tournaments

- i. General discussion was had on provincial tournaments, specifically around coaches meetings and the necessity for them. It was discussed that this meeting, whether in person or via a conference call, needs to happen prior to any tournament beginning. There was also discussion around a penalty for missing a coaches meeting, either in person or via a conference call.

MOTION: Hunt/Williams

To implement a fine system mirroring Baseball Canada's, for failure to attend a pre-tournament coaches meeting

CARRIED

- ii. David Coates also brought up the necessity for all teams, regardless of their travel needs, should be prepared to play at 9:00 AM on Friday morning to alleviate the need, if possible, for teams to have to play double headers to allow teams from other centres to travel.

d. Provincial Teams

- i. Mark Healy brought up some concerns with the Provincial Team Program, focusing on pre-registration and apparel.
 1. Mark brought up the idea of having a pre-registration for each Provincial Team tryout to better gauge the possible attendance. Mark was made aware that this topic came up at the Baseball NL Executive Meeting and this would be implemented for 2018
 2. Concerning the Provincial Team apparel, Mark noted there were some issues with clothing, specifically for his 16U team and the second jersey, and asked that they be addressed in 2018. Mark was assured that they would be looked at and improved upon leading into next summer.
- ii. Mark also brought up the idea of having a Provincial Baseball weekend, whereby players from all Provincial teams would convene on one area for a weekend of drills, camps and development. Mark noted that he and Aaron Flood were planning to put together a package for the Baseball NL Executive to consider.
- iii. Joe Wadden also discussed the idea of appointing coaching staffs for multiple years to allow for continuity among the players and coaching staffs. Those in the room felt this was a good idea, but it would be tough to

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deliver given the uncertainties with applicants, players, etc. that happen from year to year.

- e. Coaching
 - i. There was no new business to discuss.
- f. Umpiring
 - i. Mark Jones asked all centres in the room to actively recruit interested female umpires that could take the Level I Clinic this coming spring as a way to further grow and develop female involvement in the game.
- g. Baseball Canada and Baseball Atlantic
 - i. Kevin Legge noted that Ryan, Greg, Mark Jones and himself would be in attendance at the Baseball Canada Convention, and also mentioned his and Ryan's attendance at the Baseball Atlantic AGM in December. Kevin asked anyone with issues/concerns for anyone involved in either of these meetings to send them along to the Baseball NL office.
- h. Hall of Fame
 - i. David Janes, as Hall of Fame Chair, noted that the Hall of Fame Committee was in the final stages of adopting new rules and regulations that would be ready for the Semi Annual Meeting. It was also noted that Tom Devine has taken over from Dave Buckingham as the Eastern Representative and is being brought up to speed on the new rules and regulations.

9. ADJOURNMENT

After all discussions had wrapped up, Kevin Legge called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Janes/Coates

To adjourn the 2017 Baseball NL Annual General Meeting

CARRIED

10. ANNUAL AWARD WINNERD

At the Molson Reception, the Annual Awards for 2017 were presented:

Minor Male Player of the Year: Alex French (Mount Pearl)

Minor Female Player of the Year (Stephanie Bavis Memorial Award): Brooklyn Childs (Corner Brook) and Maddi Healy (St. John's)

Minor Coach of the Year: Jason Mosher/Steve Budgen (Corner Brook) and Mark Healy (St. John's)

Minor Umpire of the Year: Dawson Chaulk (Corner Brook)

Senior/Junior Player of the Year: Riley King (Gander) & Dylan MacKenzie (St. John's)

Senior/Junior Coach of the Year: Sean Gulliver (St. John's)

Senior/Junior Umpire of the Year: Doug Spracklin (St. John's)

Les Noseworthy Memorial Award: Glenn Cribb (St. John's)