

# NCBL Annual Kick-Off Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

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## *Teams Absent (0)*

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**1. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 7:40pm.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the NCBL Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2016 were approved without change.

(moved by Red Sox, seconded by Braves, **carried**)

**3. Ottawa Orioles Leave of Absence** – Unable to field a team this year, the Commissioner proposed that instead of folding and reapplying as a new team next year, that a 1 year leave of absence be issued. In 2017, the Orioles will return to the NCBL, in Tier 3, with full voting rights.

(moved by the Commissioner, seconded by Misfits, **carried**)

**4. 2015 Financial Statements** – NCBL Treasurer Craig Cornell explained, line-by-line, the league's income statement and balance sheet from 2015. The league equity report was missing from the information package handout, but will be emailed to the managers before sunrise. The Treasurer noted that fines were above projections in 2015, helping manage fees ever so slightly.

(moved by the Treasurer, seconded by Marc Sports, **carried**)

**5. The 2016 Budget** – NCBL Treasurer Craig Cornell explained, line-by-line, the league's 2016 proposed budget. Commissioner Beelen let the league know that his proposal to little league associations about splitting the weekly costs of painting the foul lines has been successful so far, and is still waiting to hear back from 2 more leagues.

(moved by the Treasurer, seconded by Red Sox, **carried**)

**6. Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Park** – The City of Ottawa has made several policy changes regarding Stadium bookings since last year, most notably premature weather cancellations and stricter time slots. Rather than risk having games unnecessarily cancelled the day before, or having to abide by a tighter window to get the games in, the league voted to eliminate all stadium games in 2016.

(moved by Braves, seconded by Knights, **carried**)

**7. Procedures and Protocols for the Season** – Included in the information package handout were instructions for how to open the gates and/or turn on the lights at all the fields, what to do when there's a rainout, and general pre-game, in-game, and post-game procedures. New this year is how teams will be reporting final scores. No longer will teams be able to leave a message on an answering machine (it's gone), you'll have to email, Tweet, or text the score in to the league.

**8. Operations Committee Procedures** – Beginning this year, if a player commits a 1-2 game suspensionable infraction, the presidents of the other 3 tiers will review the information and vote on the punishment (if applicable). The player will still have the option to have his case heard by the discipline committee, but by having the tier presidents initially handle the case it will eliminate unnecessary disciplinary committee meetings, lighten the load for the OPS committee, while speeding up the overall process for open and shut cases.

**9. Social Media Code of Conduct** – Joe Beelen, on behalf of the Social Media Committee, presented the 4-page Social Media Code of Conduct that was included in the information package handout. The proposed Code of Conduct details who the code applies to (teams/players/umpires), what a violation is (insulting/threatening/offensive/non-family friendly), what the consequences are (banning the account, suspensions, fines), and how to report a suspected violation (Incident Report Form).

(moved by Brewers, seconded by Battalion, **carried**)

**10. NCBL Minimum Age Requirement** – Section 3, Article 3.7 of the NCBL Constitution reads: *The age limit for players in the League shall be a minimum of sixteen years of age but where the player's age is less than eighteen years of age, parental consent is a mandatory condition of membership.* John Flannigan (Cornwall River Rats) proposed changing the rule so that any player turning 16 in that calendar year, with parental consent, is eligible to play in the NCBL.

(moved by River Rats, seconded by Cardinals, **carried**)

**11. Time Limits** – NCBL Bylaw 2.3 reads: *No new inning may begin more than 2 hours and 15 minutes after first pitch regardless of scheduled start of game. For early evening games, no new inning may begin after 8:15pm regardless of when the first pitch was thrown, unless no team(s) shows up for the field in the late slot at that field.* For early evening or afternoon games (when there is a game afterwards), the Commissioner proposed some kind of drop-dead time so that the early game doesn't go long and significantly reduce the amount of time the next game has. The drop-dead time for early games and the first game for afternoon double slots will be 15 minutes after the "no new inning can start after" time (so for 6:15pm games, at 8:30pm the game will end as if the lights went off).

(moved by Braumeisters, seconded by Knights, **carried**)

**12. Sliding Rule at 2nd Base** – Head Umpire Jean Lazure made a proposal that the NCBL follow the new MLB rules with regards sliding and defense at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The rules would be applied as written: a runner would have make a bona fide slide attempt, be able to touch the base on a slide, stay on the base after a slide, and not change direction during the slide.

(moved by the Head Umpire, seconded by Lynx, **failed**)

*\*since the proposal failed, the major league rule will **not** be applied and thus slides to break up a double play will be called as they always have been*

**13. Exhibition Game Umpires** – If a team is playing in an exhibition game and wants to book an umpire, contact Umpire Assignor Mark Keeping. The rate is \$40 for 1 or 2 umpires depending on availability.

**14. Multi-Team Exemptions** – NCBL Bylaw 3.8 reads: *Unless prior approval is obtained from the League no person shall attempt to have playing and/or non-playing roles concurrently with two or more teams in the League.* Bill Beelen (coaching Brewers, playing for Braumeisters) and Joe Beelen (coaching Brewers, playing for Dukes) both requested approval to do so.

(moved by the Commissioner, seconded by Braumeisters, **carried**)

**15. Distribution of Baseballs and Lineup Cards** – The teams paid their league fees with installment cheques in exchange for baseballs and lineup cards.

**16. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.