

The 2019 NCBL Annual Spring Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 3, 2019
Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

Teams Absent (5): Panthers, Ponies, Expos, Mavericks, and Barons

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 10:36am.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – The minutes of the 2019 NCBL Winter Meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2019 were approved without change.

(moved by NCBL Secretary Bond, seconded by Braumeisters, **carried**)

3. New Team Application – The Ferda Baseball Club was the only team who completed the application process and made an in-person pitch to join the league. They were voted in the league without restriction.

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

4a. Tier Structure Pitches for the 2019 Season – There were 6 pitches from teams who didn't want to accept the automatic move up or down a tier, or who wanted to switch tiers without having finished first or last in the 2018 standings.

- The Metcalfe Mudd pitch to stay in Tier 1 was successful.
- The Cardinals and Blue Jays' pitch to stay in Tier 2 were successful.
- The Black Sox pitch to move up to Tier 2 was successful.
- The Capitals pitch to stay in Tier 3 was successful.
- The Dukes pitch to move down to Tier 4 was successful.
- The Misfits (up to Tier 2) and Coyotes (up to Tier 3) both switched tiers without resistance.
- The Ferda Baseball Club will play in Tier 4.

4b. Playoff Structure – The individual tiers voted on how many teams will make the playoffs.

- Tier 1 voted that 8 of 10 teams will make the playoffs.
- Tier 2 voted that 8 of 9 teams will make the playoffs.
- Tier 3 voted that 7 of 8 teams will make the playoffs.
- Tier 4 voted that 8 of 11 teams will make the playoffs.

4c. The Official 2019 Tier/Playoff Layout:

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
1	Bytown Battalion	Black Sox	Capitals	Beckwith Bandits
2	Capital City Cubs	Braves	Coyotes	Braumeisters
3	Cornwall River Rats	Cardinals	Lumberjacks	Bytown Bombers
4	Kanata Athletics	Expos	Mavericks	Bytown Barons
5	Kingston Ponies	Misfits	Orioles	Dukes
6	Marc Sports	Outlaws	Rockets	Ferda Baseball Club
7	Mudd	Red Sox	SweatSox	Irish
8	Nepean Brewers	Russell Blue Jays	Team Cuba	Knights
9	Panthers	Sharks		Los Vampiros
10	Winchester Sox			Lynx
11				Winchester Heat
	<i>*top 8 make playoffs</i>	<i>*top 8 make playoffs</i>	<i>*top 7 make playoffs</i>	<i>*top 8 make playoffs</i>

5. Special Election for the Tier 4 Presidency – Now that the Coyotes are officially in Tier 3, Stu Hayes recused himself as the Tier 4 President. A special election took place, where John Mendonca of the Lynx was the only candidate. He was acclaimed without opposition.

6. Umpire Update – Umpire-in-Chief Fred Malo talked about 2 umpiring clinics he was planning on hosting, scheduled to take place on April 27th and May 3rd. Any current or potential umpire is welcome to attend, please contact UIC Malo for the full details.

7. Financial Statements for 2018 – The NCBL Treasurer took a personal day, so it was up to the Commissioner to field any questions about the 2018 financial statements, which were included in the handout package. There were none. These financial statements were also unanimously approved.

(moved by Commissioner Beelen, seconded by Lynx, **carried**)

8. By-Law Amendment: Playoff Eligibility Requirements – A proposal was made to standardize the amount of games needed to qualify for the playoffs throughout the tiers, and to eliminate the separate requirements for batters and pitchers. By-Law 3.10 now reads:

By-Law 3.10 (a): A player in any Tier is eligible for the playoffs if they appear in at least 25% of their current team's regular season games.

NOTE: Included as an official appearance (at-bat, pinch-run, pitch to a batter) is any player who has played defensively for at least one out in an inning.

In the event that the number of regular season games multiplied by the percentage required for eligibility does not result in a whole number of games, the result is rounded up, for example 25% of a 22-game season is 5.5 games, and this is rounded up to 6 games required for eligibility.

(moved by Lumberjacks, seconded by Marc Sports, **carried**)

9. By-Law Amendment: Injured Player Playoff Eligibility – A proposal was made to allow the minimum amount of games required to qualify for the playoffs to be bypassed in extraordinary circumstances (i.e. a player who is recovering from a severe injury). By-Law 3.10 (b) was introduced:

By-Law 3.10 (b): The team representative of any player who is looking to bypass the minimum playoff requirements shall email the four Tier Presidents as soon as possible and present their case. The three Tier Presidents not involved in the tier of the request will be the ones voting on the case, taking into consideration: the legitimacy of the injury, the history of the player on the team, feedback from the other teams in the tier, the timing of the request, and anything else they deem appropriate.

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

10. By-Law Amendment: Last 2 Inning Ejection Rule in the Playoffs – A proposal was made to restrict the current rule to the regular season, and a new part added to cover the playoffs. By-Law 6.7 (a) was modified, and By-Law 6.7 (b) introduced:

Bylaw 6.7 (a) now reads: The following suspensions shall apply automatically in the regular season without leave to Appeal.

Bylaw 6.7 (b): Ejection status for Level 1 ejections resets in the playoffs, but Level 2 ejections remain. (i.e. a player's regular season Level 1 ejection under 6.7 (a) does not carry over into the playoffs). The following suspensions are conditionally applied in the playoffs, with limited opportunity to appeal:

- i. First ejection: should a routine ejection occur before the last two innings the offending player is ejected for the remainder of the game.
- ii. First ejection: if a 6.9 (a)-(p) ejection occurs in the last two innings then the ejection is considered to be continued for the next scheduled game.
- iii. Second ejection: one additional game, the next scheduled game
- iv. Third ejection: three additional games, the next three scheduled games.
(moved by Lumberjacks, seconded by Brewers, **carried**)

11a. By-Law Amendment: Process for Cancelling Regular Season Games – A proposal were made to clarify who can cancel a regular season game, and when. By-Law 2.70 (a) was removed, and By-Law 2-71 introduced:

Bylaw 2.71 (a): The home team shall decide the suitability of the field for play for a regular season game. When conditions warrant cancellation of the game, the home team shall report such cancellation to the League not less than one and a half (1.5) hours before the scheduled starting time.

Bylaw 2.71 (b): If a regular season game is to be cancelled less than one and a half (1.5) hours before the scheduled starting time, a consensus between the home and visiting team representatives needs to be made, otherwise it will be up to the umpires.

NOTE: The 1.5 hour threshold in (a) and (b) is for the local teams/fields only. This remains 3.0 hours for games in Kingston and Cornwall.

(moved by Commissioner Beelen, seconded by Marc Sports, **carried**)

11b. By-Law Amendment: Process for Cancelling Playoff Games – A proposal was made to clarify who can cancel a playoff game, and when.

Bylaw 2.71 (c): If a playoff game is to be cancelled at any time before the scheduled starting time, a consensus between the home and visiting team representatives needs to be made, otherwise it will be up to the umpires.

Bylaw 2.71 (d): If a consensus is not made in 2.71(b) or (c), and one team doesn't show up to the field, that team will forfeit the game.

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

12. Tabled By-Law Amendments - 3 proposals were tabled until the 2019 Kick-Off Meeting:

- a) the number of players required to field a Tier 1 team (Bill Beelen)
- b) introducing intentional strikeouts (John Mendonca)
- c) restricting check-swing appeals to base umpires only when in proper position (John Mendonca)

13. Next Meeting – The 2019 Annual Kick-Off Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2019.

14. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at exactly 12:04pm.