

The 2019 NCBL Annual Winter Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

Teams Absent (3): *Bytown Battalion, Kingston Ponies, and Expos*

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 10:39am.

2. Confirmation of Teams Added in 2018 from Probationary to Full Status – The Russell Blue Jays were promoted to full status members of the NCBL.

(moved by Cardinals, seconded by Misfits, **carried**)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – The minutes of the 2018 NCBL Annual Kick-Off Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2018 were approved without change.

(moved by Secretary Bond, seconded by Bandits, **carried**)

4. Commissioner's Report on 2018 – The official 2018 Commissioner's Report was attached in the handout package. Commissioner Beelen read some of the highlights:

- Was very pleased with the competitive balance in all 4 of the tiers.
- For the second straight season we had boxscores posted for all games. Thanks again to Joe Beelen for setting it up and thanks to all teams for making it work.
- Umpire coverage in 2018 was perfect; then sadly announced Maxime Leroux has stepped down as NCBL Head Umpire.
- The Operations Committee have done an exemplary job with the difficult role in handling league discipline.
- Banquet attendance was the 3rd highest in 12 years, and despite some price increases at the venue was a financial success.
- Can expect league fees to increase in 2019; current projections forecast a \$100ish increase per team.

5. Report from Umpires – Were generally pleased with the successes of 2018; and have set goals of an increased effort into the recruiting and training of umpires. They would also like to improve umpire relations with the managers, specifically in Tier 1.

6. The Unofficial Team Intentions for 2019 – To get a general idea of the 2019 tier structure, teams were asked where they stand as of this meeting.

- The Naturals announced earlier this week that they have officially folded.
- The Metcalfe Mudd will make a pitch to stay in Tier 1.
- The 180 Fitness Laurier Social House Ottawa-Nepean Cardinals will make a pitch to stay in Tier 2.
- The Russell Blue Jays will make a pitch to stay in Tier 2.
- The Misfits are undecided about whether they will fight their automatic move up to Tier 2, but they're pretty-sure they're sort-of kind-of leaning towards going up.
- The Capitals are undecided about whether they will fight their automatic move down to Tier 4, but they are currently leaning towards staying.
- The Coyotes will not fight their automatic move up to Tier 3.
- The Dukes will make a pitch to move down to Tier 4.
- The Black Sox will make a pitch to move up to Tier 2.

7. New Team Application Process and Timetable – Commissioner Beelen announced that he had heard from 6 groups this offseason who were interested in joining the league; 1 group has since dropped out of consideration. The deadline to submit application packages is next week (unless an extension is granted), and the Commissioner will forward any relevant details in the pre-spring meeting email information package.

8. Constitution Amendment: Change the Umpire Designations – to more properly align with common terminology used in the baseball world, a proposal was made to amend the titles of the Head Umpire and Deputy Head Umpire to Umpire-in-Chief and Deputy Umpire-in-Chief.

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

9. Constitution Amendment: Add a 2nd Deputy Umpire-in-Chief – to help alleviate the workload of the Umpire-in-Chief, a proposal was made to add a 2nd Deputy Umpire-in-Chief, who's primary responsibilities would include working with the UIC on day-to-day administration, and deal with all Operations Committee matters.

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

10. Constitution Amendment: When Constitution Amendments Can Be Changed – currently, all constitution amendments must happen at the Winter Meeting. A proposal was made to allow these amendments to take place at both the Winter and Spring meetings.

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

11. Election of Officers for 2019 – Bill Beelen (Commissioner) and Joe Beelen (Registrar) were acclaimed without opposition. Fred Malo (Umpire-in-Chief) and Jean Lazure (2nd Deputy Umpire-in-Chief) were unanimously voted into their respective positions effective immediately.

12. Playoff Mercy Rule – currently, there is no mercy rule in the playoffs. A proposal was made to carry the standard mercy rule from the regular season over to the playoffs (10+ runs after 4.5+ innings).

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

13. 7-Run Playoff Continuation Rule - currently, by-law 2.2(a) states that if a playoff game run differential is less than 7 runs, it will be suspended and finished at a later date. A proposal was made to change the run differential from "less than 7 runs" to "less than 5 runs". For example: a 10-5 game would be over, but a 10-6 game would be suspended and continued later on.

(moved by Commissioner Beelen, seconded by Red Sox, **carried**)

14. Save It for Next Time - Several other constitution/by-law changes were tabled until the Spring meeting, including: changing playoff-eligibility rules for tenured injured players of that team, allowing some leeway with late inning ejections as it relates to an automatic suspension, procedures for cancelling/postponing playoff games, automatically sending championship winners up a Tier too, forfeiting outs to fast forward to the next inning if the situation calls for it, creating some sort of pitching mound repair fund (to purchase clay and storage boxes) and more!

15. Tournament Umpires – if any teams are planning on hosting a tournament and would like the services of the NCBL umpires, please contact Assignor Mark Keeping asap to make arrangements.

16. Next Meeting – The 2019 NCBL Annual Spring Meeting will be tentatively scheduled for March 3rd, 2019.

17. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at exactly 11:47am.