

The 2020 NCBL Executive Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 9, 2020 to Wednesday, April 15, 2020
via a Reply-All Discussion Thread over E-Mail

Executive Members Absent (0)

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 5:16pm on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

2. Factors Affecting Our Ability to Start Play – Commissioner Beelen updated the Executive on 2 of the factors affecting our ability to start play: fields, and insurance.

- The City of Ottawa baseball fields are officially closed until June 30, and our contracts will be amended accordingly by next week. Therefore, the earliest that our schedule might be able to start is July 2 and that, of course, is subject to an easing of current distancing restrictions.
- Ontario's new Rowan's law requires us to have a concussion code of conduct with a waiver signed by all participants in the league. Baseball Ontario has suggested to all associations that they should go ahead with registrations and waivers so that once municipalities open up the fields and ease the distancing restrictions, leagues can start up as soon as possible if that is their wish (assuming the insurance program is renewed by then).

3. Potential Scheduling Scenarios – The Executive discussed several options for scheduling the 2020 season. NCBL Commissioner Bill Beelen and I, Secretary of the NCBL Cory Bond, co-authored a statement that was emailed to the entire league, summarizing the recommended scheduling scenarios to the team representatives (*Appendix A*).

(to be voted on by all teams at a later date)

4. Elimination of Non-Essential Costs from the 2020 Budget – The Executive discussed ways to keep costs for teams as low as possible if/when the fields open up. NCBL Treasurer Cornell recommended eliminating the following costs from the budget this year: foul line painting, the new field maintenance program, umpire fee increases & bonuses, team pennant and championship bonuses, and the banquet.

(The NCBL Executive **approved** the suggested budget cuts)

5. Concussion Code of Conduct and Waiver Form (required to comply with Rowan's Law) – Rowan's law requires that we have a Concussion Code of Conduct and Waiver form that we can put on our website. It also requires the waiver form be signed by all participants acknowledging that they have read and agree to abide by that code of conduct. In March, Commissioner Beelen worked with Baseball Ontario to come up with a draft Concussion Code of Conduct (*Appendix B*) as well as a Waiver Form (*Appendix C*). Baseball Ontario has agreed with these drafts and required approval from our governing board.

(The NCBL Executive **approved** the suggested drafts)

6. Registration Information Collection (NCBL Roster and Registration Sheet) – The registration information that Baseball Ontario now requires includes name, birth date, home address, and phone number as well as an acknowledgement that the participant has signed the waiver form. Notwithstanding the approval of the waiver form in item 5 of these minutes, Brett Stott suggested some software for Joe to look into to make it easy enough to implement electronic signatures. Once Joe has this sorted out, a new process with electronic signature will be

developed and communicated to all teams at a later date. This will add the required registration information to the waiver form and therefore eliminate the need for the email Registration Sheet.

7. Refund Policy Required in our By-Laws – One of the requirements from Baseball Ontario this year is that the registration waiver includes an acknowledgement that players are aware of our league’s refund policy. The By-laws break down what happens when a player owes a team money, but nothing for the other way around. The NCBL Executive voted to amend By-Law 3.11 to include our “refund” policy.

Revised **By-Law 3.11**: Financial obligations between an NCBL team and its players are the responsibility of that team’s management. However, if a dispute arises from either 3.11 a) or 3.11 b) below, about the existence or extent of indebtedness between a team and a player or vice versa, the issue shall be referred to the discipline committee for a ruling on the penalty.

a) A player who owes money or other assets to the team with which he/she was last registered is ineligible to play in the League, subject to appeal as a dispute.

b) NCBL refund policy: Any potential refunds to players for any reason are between a team’s management and the individual player subject to appeal as a dispute.

(The NCBL Executive **approved** the updated By-Law)

8. Potential Option for Teams to Opt Out of the 2020 Season Without Penalty – To help teams out that may not be able to field a team this year, the league voted to approve teams being able to opt out of the 2020 season without penalty (a 1-year leave of absence), if they do so by a yet to be determined date. Teams that opt out will be automatically reinstated for the 2021 season.

(The NCBL Executive **approved** the 2020 Opt Out Option)

9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at exactly 9:58am on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

2020 NCBL Scheduling Recommendation

With the fields in Ottawa closed until at least the end of June, the NCBL Executive came up with a best case scheduling scenario in anticipation of a July 1st start to the season.

The Executive believes that a 12-game regular season (11 in Tier 4), where every team qualifies for some kind of playoff format, is preferable if the season can start July 1st. Rain outs will be rescheduled so that all teams play the same number of games. Sometime before the season starts, the league as a whole will decide how a shortened playoff structure will work. In this unique year a single elimination tournament with best of 3 final is recommended to keep overall costs low. To avoid disputes over fields, it is also recommended that all tiers agree on a common playoff structure.

If the fields only open sometime in July after July 1st, an official season can still be held albeit with a reduced number of regular season games (compared to the July 1 option) with the exact amount contingent on when exactly the fields are opened. The shortened playoff structure would then still apply in September.

However, if the fields only open on August 4 or later, then an official season is no longer viable so we will see how many teams want to play at least some baseball and then figure it out at that time.

National Capital Baseball League (NCBL)
Concussion Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches and Umpires
and Parents/Guardians (for athletes under 18 year of age)

The following is the NCBL's Concussion Code of Conduct for all participants effective for the 2020 season. All participants must review and commit to this code of conduct in order to be eligible for the 2020 season. Without this commitment, we will be unable to obtain Baseball Ontario insurance for that participant. .

I will help prevent concussions by:

- Wearing the proper equipment for my sport and wearing it correctly.
- Developing my skills and strength so that I can participate to the best of my ability.
- Respecting the rules of my sport or activity.
- My commitment to fair play and respect for all* (respecting other athletes, coaches, team trainers and officials).

I will care for my health and safety by taking concussions seriously, and I understand that:

- A concussion is a brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- A blow to my head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that causes the brain to move around inside the skull may cause a concussion.
- I don't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- I have a commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when an individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion.* (Meaning: If I think I might have a concussion I should stop participating in further training, practice or competition **immediately**, or tell an adult if I think another athlete has a concussion).
- Continuing to participate in further training, practice or competition with a possible concussion increases my risk of more severe, longer lasting symptoms, and increases my risk of other injuries.

I will not hide concussion symptoms. I will speak up for myself and others.

- I will not hide my symptoms. I will tell a coach, official, team trainer, parent or another adult I trust if I experience **any** symptoms of concussion.
- If someone else tells me about concussion symptoms, or I see signs they might have a concussion, I will tell a coach, official, team trainer, parent or another adult I trust so they can help.
- I understand that if I have a suspected concussion, I will be removed from sport and that I will not be able to return to training, practice or competition until I undergo a medical assessment by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice or competition.
- I have a commitment to sharing any pertinent information regarding incidents of removal from sport with the athlete's school and any other sport organization with which the athlete has registered* (Meaning: If I am diagnosed with a concussion, I understand that letting all of my other coaches and teachers know about my injury will help them support me while I recover.)

I will take the time I need to recover, because it is important for my health.

- I understand my commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process* and that I will have to follow my sport organization's Return-to-Sport Protocol as described on the Baseball Ontario website as follows:
www.baseballontario.com/filestore/htmleditattachedfiles/return_to_play2019-06-28t12-20-52v001_by_292.pdf
- I understand I will have to be medically cleared by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner before returning to training, practice or competition.
- I will respect my coaches, team trainers, parents, health-care professionals, and medical doctors and nurse practitioners, regarding my health and safety.

I will help prevent concussions, through my:

- Commitment to zero-tolerance for prohibited play that is considered high risk for causing concussions.
- Acknowledgement of mandatory expulsion from competition for violating zero-tolerance for prohibited play that is considered high risk for causing concussions (Meaning: I will be disqualified/expelled from play if I violate the zero-tolerance policy).
- Acknowledgement of the escalating consequences for those who repeatedly violate the Concussion Code of Conduct.

