

The 2020 NCBL Annual Spring Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 8, 2020
Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

Teams Absent (1): Kingston Ponies

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 10:35am.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – The minutes of the 2020 NCBL Winter Meeting on Sunday, February 16, 2020 were approved without change.

(moved by NCBL Secretary Bond, seconded by Red Sox, **carried**)

3. New Team Application – Team Korea and the Astros both completed the application process and made an in-person pitch to join the league. Team Korea were voted in the league without restriction. The Astros bid was denied.

4a. Tier Structure Pitches for the 2020 Season – There were 3 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 2019 standings.

- The Mudd (down to Tier 2), Pirates (up to Tier 1), Orioles (up to Tier 2) and Winchester Heat (up to Tier 3) all switched Tiers without resistance.
- The Sharks pitch to stay in Tier 2 was successful.
- The Coyotes pitch to stay in Tier 3 was successful.
- The Mavericks pitch to move down to Tier 4 was successful.
- Team Korea will play in Tier 4.

4b. 2020 Playoff Structure – The individual tiers voted on how many teams will make the 2020 playoffs.

- Tier 1 voted that 8 of 9 teams will make the playoffs.
- Tier 2 voted that 8 of 10 teams will make the playoffs.
- Tier 3 voted that 6 of 7 teams will make the playoffs.
- Tier 4 voted that 8 of 12 teams will make the playoffs.

4c. The Official 2020 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	Expos	Lumberjacks	Bytown Bombers
4	Kanata Athletics	Misfits	Rockets	Bytown Barons
5	Kingston Ponies	Mudd	SweatSox	Dukes
6	Marc Sports	Orioles	Team Cuba	Irish
7	Nepean Brewers	Outlaws	Winchester Heat	Knights
8	Pirates	Red Sox		Los Vampiros
9	Winchester Sox	Russell Blue Jays		Lynx
10		Sharks		Mavericks
11				Rideau Valley Reapers
12				Team Korea
	<i>*top 8 make playoffs</i>	<i>*top 8 make playoffs</i>	<i>*top 6 make playoffs</i>	<i>*top 8 make playoffs</i>

4d. Number of Games in Tier 4 – To balance the schedule out in Tier 4, a proposal was made to increase the amount of games each team will play from 20 to 22. With a 12-team tier, each team will play the others exactly 2 times in a 22-game schedule.

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

5. Election of Officers – Tabled from last meeting were the Presidential Elections for Tiers 1, 2, and 3, and we got some clarification on the Operations Committee status of Brett Stott.

- Rob Lay was acclaimed as Tier 1 President.
- Brian Samuel was acclaimed as Tier 2 President.
- John Drummond did not seek re-election as his team moved out of the Tier. Colleen Embury of the Winchester Heat was the only official candidate seeking the Tier 3 Presidency; she was subsequently named the new Tier 3 President.
- It was confirmed that Brett Stott (Operations Committee) still has 1 more year left in his current term.

6. Financial Statements for 2019 – The NCBL Treasurer took a personal day, so it was up to the Commissioner to discuss any money related matters. There were no financial statements available, but he promised Craig would have them ready before the next meeting.

7. Umpire Update – New Umpire-in-Chief Mark Keeping discussed his general plans for the umpires this summer. He also offered to table his proposal for umpire raises until the 2020 kick-off meeting, so the league could focus on the forthcoming field maintenance proposal.

8. Field Maintenance Proposal – Steve Renaud of A1 Irrigation (and the Bytown Battalion), offered up his services to maintain the pitching mounds (Option 1), or the pitching mounds **and** batter's boxes (Option 2) of the 7 Ottawa fields on a weekly basis. The scope of the maintenance includes cleaning, clay replacement, watering, tamping, etc. The league voted on Option 2 (mounds and batter's boxes), at a projected cost of approximately \$175 per team.

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

9. By-Law Amendment: The Extra Hitter (EH) – A proposal was made by Anthony De Young (Blue Jays) about allowing teams to use an optional EH in their lineup. In a league-wide vote, this proposal was: **defeated**. There was a second vote on the same proposal (minus Tier 1), this proposal was also: **defeated**.

10. By-Law Amendment: Pitching to a Minimum # of Batters – The league briefly discussed the MLB's new rule of having pitchers pitch to a minimum of 3 batters (or the end of an inning, whichever comes first). Ultimately, a proposal to ignore this rule wasn't needed since this is not a Baseball Canada rule.

11. Multi-Team Exemptions – Bill Beelen (*coaching Brewers, playing for Braumeisters*), and Joe Beelen (*coaching Brewers, playing for Dukes*) requested approval to be involved with more than one NCBL team.

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

12. Tabled By-Law Amendments - 1 proposal was tabled until the 2020 Kick-Off Meeting: Pay Raise for the Umpires

13. Next Meeting – The 2020 Annual Kick-Off Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2020.

14. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at exactly 11:56am.