

The 2020 NCBL Annual Winter Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

Teams Absent (3): *Kanata Athletics, Cornwall River Rats, and Kingston Ponies*

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 10:32am.

2. Confirmation of Teams Added in 2019 from Probationary to Full Status – The Ferda Baseball Club, recently rebranded the Rideau Valley Reapers, were promoted to full status members of the NCBL.

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – The minutes of the 2019 NCBL Annual Kick-Off Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2019 were approved without change.

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

4. Commissioner's Report on 2019 – The official 2019 Commissioner's Report was attached in the handout package. Commissioner Beelen read some of the highlights:

- Was very pleased with the competitive balance seen in last year's playoffs in all 4 of the tiers.
- For the third 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 2019 was near-perfect; then announced Fred Malo has stepped down as NCBL Head Umpire.
- We had a record number of 179 attending our banquet last year, surpassing the previous high of 160 in 2015. Continuing to charge for banquet no-shows turned what would've been a possible loss into an \$800 surplus for the league.
- Our budget situation was comfortably in the black thanks to 3 major factors: raising league fees last season for the first time in 3 years, the spring practice schedule was rained out, and umpire costs being lower than expected.

5. Report from Umpires and Operations Committee for 2019 – Umpire Assignor Mark Keeping spoke about the near perfect umpire coverage last year, despite the difficulties in getting proper coverage on Sunday's. He also talked about the core of umpires getting older and wanting to recruit that next generation of younger umpires. OPS Committee Chair Brett Stott, who may or may not be up for re-election this year, had "nothing to add" on behalf of the OPS Committee.

6. Financial Overviews for 2019 and 2020 – NCBL Treasurer Craig Cornell promised a full 2019/2020 financial breakdown at the NCBL Spring Meeting.

7. The Knights Reinstatement Application – After multiple suspensions last season as a "Red" team, the Tier 4 Knights were placed into league probation, forfeited their performance bond, and had to reapply to the league for re-instatement (by a vote from all teams). After a lengthy discussion, the Knights were granted reinstatement without any additional sanctions (at this time).

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

8. The Unofficial Team Intentions for 2020 – To get a general idea of the 2020 tier structure, teams were asked where they stand as of this meeting.

- The Metcalfe Mudd will not fight their automatic move down to Tier 2.
- The 180 Fitness Laurier Social House Ottawa-Nepean Cardinals are undecided about whether or not they will fight their automatic move up to Tier 1.
- The Sharks will make a pitch to stay in Tier 2.
- The Orioles are undecided about whether or not they will fight their automatic move up to Tier 2.
- The Coyotes will make a pitch to stay in Tier 3.
- The Mavericks will make a pitch to move down to Tier 4.
- The Winchester Heat will not fight their automatic move up to Tier 3.

9. New Team Application Process and Timetable – Commissioner Beelen announced that he had heard from 4 groups this offseason who were interested in joining the league; 2 of those groups have since dropped out of consideration. The Commissioner will forward any relevant details about the remaining groups in the spring meeting information package (email).

10. Election of Officers for 2020 – 9 positions were up for election:

- Craig Cornell acclaimed as Treasurer
- Cory Bond acclaimed as Secretary
- Nick Ianiero acclaimed as 1st Deputy Umpire
- Ben Milinkovich acclaimed as OPS Committee Member
- Adam Lowry acclaimed as OPS Committee Member
- Mark Keeping elected NCBL Head Umpire by a unanimous vote. He will perform double-duty and continue to serve as the league's Umpire Assignor.
- The Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Presidential Elections were tabled until the Spring Meeting.

11. Constitution or Bylaw-Amendments: SUSPENDING PLAYOFF GAMES - A proposal was made by the Commissioner that any playoff game, once started, will be suspended rather than called if a stoppage occurs before 5 innings are played. By-Law 2.2 (a) would be amended with the following addendum:

Beginning in 2020, after a playoff game has started (i.e. after 1st pitch) and a stoppage happens before the end of the 5th inning which would normally result in the game being called, the game will be suspended rather than called. For purposes of time limits, the umpires must take note of the time played and that will be carried over to when the game is continued.

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

12. Save It for Next Time - Several other constitution/by-law changes were deferred until the Spring meeting, including: an optional Extra Hitter (EH) rule, and ignoring the MLB rule requiring pitchers to face 3 batters minimum.

13. Next Meeting – The 2020 NCBL Annual Spring Meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 8th, with March 1st being an option if there are issues booking the usual location.

14. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at exactly 11:31am.