

The 2022 NCBL Annual Kick-Off Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 24, 2022
Nepean Sportsplex - Hall F

Teams Absent (1): Lumberjacks

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 11:07am.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - The minutes of the NCBL Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2022, were approved without change.

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

3. Financials - Faulkner Tarp - The Commissioner proposed the league allocate \$1,000 towards the purchase of a tarp for Faulkner. This would not affect the 2022 budget or 2022 league fees.

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

4. Financials - 2022 Proposed Budget Approval - The 2022 proposed budget was included in the information package handout, with fees per team in Tiers 1-3 being \$5,250, and \$4,500 in Tier 4.

(moved by Treasurer Cornell, seconded by Braumeisters, **carried**)

5. Financials – Mound Clay for Purchase - Commissioner Beelen noted that the league now has some mound clay which teams can purchase for \$25/bag. Interested parties can contact the Commissioner for more information.

6. Schedules - The 2022 schedules are not fully done, but still on target for a May 1st release. The Commissioner noted that with several non-Ottawa teams folding/opting out, McCarthy and Southgate will be in play more often, especially in Tier 1.

7. Procedures and Protocols for the Season - Commissioner Beelen made note of the following:

- The updated document with instructions for how to open the gates, turn on the lights, what to do when there's a rainout, and general game-day procedures, will be sent out and posted asap.
- Teams will be told before the season if they have any red/yellow status players.
- Umpire-In-Chief/Umpire Assignor Mark Keeping has a new phone number (*see latest NCBL contact list*).

8. Combining Lineup and Stat Submission Fines – This year, the process for lineup submission and stat entry for each game is combined, so Registrar Beelen proposed combining the fines for not submitting on time to one blanket fine of \$20/game. The umpire rating process + fine remains separate.

(moved by Registrar Beelen, seconded by “that guy over there”, **carried**)

9. By-Law Revisions - Umpire Related Suspension Rule Changes – Umpire-In-Chief Keeping proposed increasing the number of games for several umpire related suspensions (*see APPENDIX A*).

(moved by Umpire-In-Chief Keeping, seconded by “guy right here”, **carried**)

10. By-Law Revisions - Extra Hitter Rule - Anthony De Young (Blue Jays) proposed adding the ability to add an extra hitter (EH) to a lineup, should a team so choose to, on a game-by-game basis (*see APPENDIX B*). This vote was done on a tier-by-tier basis.

Tier 1: (moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Brewers, **denied**)

Tier 2: (moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Braves, **denied**)

Tier 3: (moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Capitals, **carried**)

Tier 4: (moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Bombers, **carried**)

**The Blue Jays would like the record to show that the Tier 2 vote was 4-3 against*

11. By-Law Revisions - Emergency Spares - Tier 4 President Mendonca proposed the creation of a master spare list, where free agents who have already completed the registration and waiver process, could play for any team at any time if needed (*see APPENDIX C*).

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

12. By-Law Revisions - The Everybody Plays Rule - Brett Stott (Lumberjacks) in absentia proposed keeping the "Everybody Plays Rule" that was used last year for the upcoming season (*see APPENDIX D*). This vote was done on a tier-by-tier basis.

Tier 1: (moved by Lumberjacks, seconded by Brewers, **denied**)

Tier 2: (moved by Lumberjacks, no seconder, **no vote**)

Tier 3: (moved by Lumberjacks, seconded by Heat, **denied**)

Tier 4: (moved by Lumberjacks, seconded by Bandits, **carried**)

13. Other Business - Multi-Team Exemptions - Bill Beelen (coaching Brewers, playing for Braumeisters) and Joe Beelen (coaching Brewers, playing for Los Vampiros) requested approval to be involved with more than one NCBL team.

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

14. Other Business – Banquet Venue Discussion - The 2022 Banquet is tentatively scheduled for November 4th at Pineview Golf Course. There was a proposal to investigate the possibility of switching venues, but the voters decided it was too late in the process to make a change happen this year.

(moved by Brewers, seconded by Athletics, **denied***)

*(*the 2022 banquet will remain at Pine View Golf Course)*

15. Other Business - Social Media Committee Opening - Social Media Committee Chair Joe Beelen announced that there was an opening for a Tier 1 Representative on the SMC. Anyone with interest should contact him directly.

16. Distribution of Baseballs and Lineup Cards - The teams paid their league fees with installment cheques (or a promise to send an E-Transfer to Treasurer Cornell ASAP) in exchange for baseballs and lineup cards.

17. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at exactly 12:10pm.

APPENDIX A

Umpire related suspension rule changes (Mark Keeping)

By-law 6.9 League Level Ejections and Suspensions

(b) 5 games - grossly offensive racial comments or sexual orientation insensitive comments (LEVEL 2).

Proposal is to increase the number of games for this penalty to 7 games.

(d) 5 games - indirect physical abuse of an umpire (LEVEL 2), including but not limited to: threats of physical abuse, kicking dirt towards or on an umpire, persistent aggressive swearing at an umpire over and above 6.9 (f), intentional contact with any umpire's equipment or possessions not on his person.

Proposal is to increase the number of games for this penalty to 7 games

(f) 3 games - verbal abuse of an umpire including but not limited to aggressive swearing or cursing at or about an umpire. If this verbal abuse becomes persistent, this section will be superseded by by-law 6.9c in order to determine the length of suspension (LEVEL 2). Standard is 1 game if there is swearing/insults after the ejection (of short duration); 2 games if there is repeated swearing/insults after the ejection (of extended duration); and 3 games if there is an in-your-face swearing/insulting confrontation after the ejection (of extended duration and in the immediate presence of an umpire).

Proposal is to increase the number of games for this penalty to 5 games.

(g) 3 games - verbal abuse and/or threats of an umpire off the playing field (LEVEL 2). 6.9 g) will be in addition to any other previously occurring ejection/suspension within the game, if a continuation of the preceding ejection. Where a reasonable amount of time, as determined by a Disciplinary Committee, elapsed between the initial ejection/suspension and the off-field abuse/threats, off-field actions of the player will be considered a second and separate incident.

Proposal is to increase the number of games for this penalty to 5 games

APPENDIX B

By-law revision proposal # 2

Proposal for the Use of an Extra Hitter (EH) to create an optional 10 position batting order (Anthony Young of the Blue Jays).

- (a) Each team, if they so choose, shall be permitted one Extra Hitter (EH) in the batting order so that there are 10 batting positions.
- (b) The EH is independent of the DH as teams may also elect to use a DH for a defensive player.
- (c) Failure to elect to use the EH prior to the game precludes the use that option for that game. The EH player must be included in the line-up cards presented to the Umpire in Chief.
- (d) The EH position may be collapsed by eliminating the EH's position in the batting order or by having the EH play in the field for a defensive player who is not being DH'ed for. The EH is locked in his position in the batting order and the replaced fielder's position in the batting order is removed to bring the batting order back to 9 positions.
- (e) If the EH takes the defensive position of a player who is being DH'ed for, that player is removed from the game but the batting order remains the same at 10 positions.
- (f) Pinch hitters and pinch runners may be used for the EH. Any substitute hitter or runner for the EH becomes the new EH. The EH may not pinch run. A replaced EH shall not re-enter the game in any capacity except under conditions of injury or ejection as in By-Law 2.10.
- (g) While a team is at-bat, the manager may want to revert back to a 9 man batting order by removing the EH position or by claiming to be moving the EH into the field the next inning and thus remove that fielder's position in the batting order. However, this would appear to be a potentially unfair manipulation of the batting order while the team is batting. Therefore, it is decided that the batting order can be collapsed back to 9 positions only while that team is in the field, (i) Notwithstanding the preceding subsection, if the team at bat loses a player due to injury or ejection, the EH may bat or run for the lost player if no other players are available on the bench for substitution or reinsertion. The batting order thus reverts back to 9 and there is no automatic out for the batting position being removed.

APPENDIX C

By-law revision proposal # 3

Proposal for the Use of an Emergency Spare (John Mendonca of the Lynx)

Where a team is at risk of defaulting a game, they may seek assistance from the league using a “spare’s list”, which will be compiled and provided by the league. A “spare’s list” with the names of individuals interested in sparing, along with their contact information and geographic location, will be made available on the league’s website. This list will be updated and shared periodically throughout the season. All spares on this list will be registered and insured by the league; therefore, these spares will **not** need to be added to a team’s roster prior to the game.

Note: Any team that already has a full roster but requires a spare, will not be penalized for the use of a spare.

When a team does use a player from the “spare’s list”, they will need to advise their opposition prior to the game (at lineup exchange at the minimum) that they are using a non-rostered spare and identify who they are. A spare who is brought out for a game must, at the very least, have one plate appearance. After the game, the team who used the spare will advise the league that they used someone from the spare’s list and who it was. A spare will not be charged any monetary amount for assisting the team. Any spare who is ejected from a game, regardless of reason, will be removed the “spare’s list” and will be unable to participate in the league as a spare.

Should a team wish to add a spare to their roster, they can; however, the individual will forego any future opportunities as a spare unless they are subsequently released from that team’s roster. A team that adds a spare to their roster is to advise the league so that individual can be removed from the “spare’s list”.

In general, this sparing option shall not be applicable for the playoffs. However, a team may request an exemption as stated in By-Law 3.10 (b)

APPENDIX D

By-law revision proposal # 4

The Everybody Bats Option (used in 2021, proposed by Brett Stott for 2022)

2.17-1. Basic application

- a- a team can decide at the start of the game to have all their players in attendance bat.
 - b- the umpire and opposing team must be notified prior to the start of the game that this option is being used.
 - c- once a team starts a game like this, they can not change their minds once the first pitch is thrown.
 - d- if a team only has 9 players at the start of the game, they MUST state prior to starting the game, that they are using the rule for when late-arriving players show up (see 2a below)
 - e- when using this rule, defensive substitutions are un-limited EXCEPT for pitchers. For example, a player can play in the field in the 1st inning, sit for the 2nd and 3rd, and then go back in the field for the 4th....and so on...
- Please note: Pitchers must still follow the NCBL rules regarding re-entry. (ie. Can not re-enter as pitcher in same inning and if removed from pitching, must stay in game defensively in order to re-enter as a pitcher later)

2.17-2. What if a player arrives late?

- a- if a team is using this option and a player arrives after the start of the game, this player is to be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
For example, a team has 12 batters in the lineup and a player arrives in the 3rd inning when they are at the 3rd spot in the order. The late arriving player would become the 13th batter in the lineup in slot 13. (NOT in the 4th slot)
- b- if a player arrives late, but does not want to hit, no new batting slot is created and he can only play in the field. If the team wishes to bat this player later, he would have to sub into one of the existing batting slots, thus removing the player he is replacing from the batting order (this does not affect defensive substitutions, both players are still able to play in the field)

2.17-3. What if a player leaves prior to the end of the game (this includes leaving due to injury)?

- a- if a player leaves prior to the end of the game, his spot in the order will simply be skipped.
EXCEPTION - if this player leaving brings the number of batters to 8 batters, his spot in the order would become an automatic OUT. If this player leaving brings the number of batters to 7, the team forfeits the game.

2.17-4. What if a player gets hurt while being on base?

- a- the last out would replace the injured player and the injured players spot in the lineup will be skipped next time it comes up
EXCEPTION - if this player leaving brings the number of batters to 8 batters, his spot in the order would become an automatic OUT next time it comes up. If this player leaving brings the number of batters to 7, the team forfeits the game.

2.17-5. What if a player doesn't want to hit (or team doesn't want to bat EVERYONE, but still wants to bat more than 9)?

- a- It must be indicated before the game who is hitting and who isn't (EXCEPTION: late arriving players, see 2b above)
- b- If someone that wasn't in the batting lineup wants to hit later in the game, he would have to sub into one of the existing batting slots (see 2b above).