

The 2022 NCBL Annual (Virtual) Winter Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Zoom Meeting ID: 839 1438 4777

Teams Absent (4): Kingston Ponies, Blue Jays, Orioles, Barons

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 11:05am.

2. Umpire Elections – The Umpire-in-Chief, Assignor, and both Deputy Umpire-in-Chief positions were up for re-election. The reigning UIC & Assignor Mark Keeping was the only candidate willing to stand for those positions, while Neil Phadnis and Daniel Miner were the only 2 candidates for the vacant Deputy UIC spots. All 3 were elected by acclamation.

Umpire-in-Chief: Mark Keeping

Umpire Assignor: Mark Keeping

Deputy Umpire-in-Chief: Neil Phadnis

Deputy Umpire-in-Chief: Daniel Miner

3. Proposed COVID Strategy – Commissioner Beelen discussed the plan moving forward as it relates to the temporary rules we had in place in 2021.

- The league will more-or-less be back to normal
- The league will return to a 24-game schedule in Tiers 1-3, and a 20-game schedule in Tier 4
- The league will return to a standard playoff format (not every team will qualify)
- The league will follow any provincial guidelines still in place on May 1 (and beyond)
- The league will return to a 9-person batting order (no more “Everybody Bats” option)

4. Team Intentions for 2022 – To get a general idea of what the season is going to look like (# of teams + tier breakdown), Commissioner Beelen asked each team to give their “unofficial” status for the 2022 season. Of note:

- Marc Sports (T1), and the Expos (T2), have folded
- The Dukes are unsure about their future in the league
- The Black Sox, Braves, Misfits, and Reapers, all showed possible interest in moving to Tier 3
- The Capitals will likely make a pitch to drop to Tier 4

(the Tier structure will become official at the Spring Meeting in March)

5. New Team Applications in 2022 – Commissioner Beelen brought up whether the league should skip the “new team application” process this year or not, citing a lack of space in the league as the main concern. The teams voted not to expand, and we will revisit the applications next year when things are more settled.

(moved by Commissioner Beelen, no opposition, carried)

6. Schedule of Events until Opening Day – Commissioner Beelen discussed the schedule of events between now and Opening Day.

- February 27: opening of insurance registrations with effective date of April 1, 2022.
- March 27: NCBL Spring Meeting (in-person)
 - full elections, except umpires
 - financial statements for 2021, and budget for 2022
 - team presentations to request different tier assignment
 - by-law change proposals
- April 1: deadline for submitting scheduling preferences for teams
- May 1: NCBL Kick-Off meeting (in-person)
 - first payment due
 - additional by-law change proposals (if necessary)
 - baseball/line-up card pickup
- May 1: fields open
- May 8: season starts

7. Financial Summaries for 2021 – NCBL Treasurer Craig Cornell discussed, in great length and detail, the status of the league’s finances. 2021 was a good money year, thanks in part to the league not doing some of the things we usually do in a “normal” season. Treasurer Cornell projects teams will pay south of \$5,000 in league fees this year, and should have more exact figures at the Spring Meeting.

8. By-Law Amendment: Reimburse Teams that are Victims of Forfeits – Mike Whittaker (Red Sox) proposed reimbursing teams that are victims of forfeits, by reallocating some of the fine money teams that forfeit a game already pay to the league. Voting on this amendment was tabled until the Spring Meeting, so interested parties have time to work out some of the technical and logistical concerns that were raised during the discussion period.

*(voting on this by-law amendment **tabled** until the Spring Meeting)*

9. Other Business: Nationals in Halifax – Gary Duke (Braumeisters) noted that the “Old-Timers” Nationals are in Halifax this year (August Long Weekend), with divisions of 33+, 43+, 50+, and 57+ (aka the Braumeister division). If any teams are interested in participating, you can contact Gary for more information.

10. Next Meeting – The 2022 Annual Spring Meeting, assumed to be in-person, is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 27, 2022.

11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at exactly 11:44am.