

# The 2023 NCBL Annual Spring Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 26, 2023  
Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

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## ***Teams Absent (1): Irish***

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**1. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at exactly 12:05pm.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the 2023 NCBL Annual Winter Meeting on Sunday, February 19, 2023, were approved without change.

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

**3. New Team Application: Nepean Padres** – The Nepean Padres were the only team who completed the application process and made an in-person pitch to join the NCBL. They were voted in the league without restriction.

(moved by Bombers, seconded by Rockets, **carried**)

**4. Team Proposals for the 2023 Season** – There were 2 pitches from teams who did not want to automatically switch Tiers, and 1 pitch from a team who did want to switch Tiers.

- The Pirates pitch to stay in Tier 1 was successful.
- The Blue Jays pitch to stay in Tier 2 was successful.
- The Reapers pitch to move up to Tier 2 was successful.

**5. 2023 Playoff Structure** – The league discussed and agreed to continue implementing an “*everyone but 1 team makes the playoffs up-to a maximum of 8 teams*” playoff structure.

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

**6. The Official 2023 Tier/Playoff Layout** –

|    | <u><b>Tier 1</b></u>              | <u><b>Tier 2</b></u>              | <u><b>Tier 3</b></u>              | <u><b>Tier 4</b></u>               |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1  | Athletics                         | Black Sox                         | Barons                            | Bandits                            |
| 2  | Battalion                         | Blue Jays                         | Capitals                          | Braumeisters                       |
| 3  | Brewers                           | Braves                            | Latinos                           | Bombers                            |
| 4  | Cubs                              | Heat                              | Lumberjacks                       | Coyotes                            |
| 5  | Giants                            | Misfits                           | Padres                            | Irish                              |
| 6  | Pirates                           | Outlaws                           | Rockets                           | Knights                            |
| 7  | Ravens                            | Reapers                           | Sweat Sox                         | Los Vampiros                       |
| 8  |                                   | Red Sox                           |                                   | Lynx                               |
| 9  |                                   |                                   |                                   | Mavericks                          |
| 10 |                                   |                                   |                                   | Team Korea                         |
|    | <i>6 of 7 teams make playoffs</i> | <i>7 of 8 teams make playoffs</i> | <i>6 of 7 teams make playoffs</i> | <i>8 of 10 teams make playoffs</i> |

**7. 2022 Financial Statements** – NCBL Commissioner Bill Beelen explained the Income Statement and Balance Sheet that were included in the meeting handout so perfectly, that there were no follow-up questions or concerns.

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

**8. An Umpire General Update** – Deputy Umpire-in-Chief Neal Phadnis spoke on behalf of the umpires, reiterating the call from the Winter Meeting for anyone (players) interested in umpiring a few games this year to reach out to Mark Keeping or himself for more information. Deputy Phadnis also spoke about “umpire supervision”, and the hope that the umpires will have the resources (financial, human) in place this year to execute this kind of training/development.

**9a. 2023 Budget Discussion: League Fees** – Commissioner Beelen talked about the 2023 budget, and estimated that without any significant changes, team fees would be about \$5,600 this year. The Commissioner suggested that if teams were looking to pay less, one way to do it would be to reduce the amount of regular season games (from 24 to 22 in Tiers 1-3, and 20 to 18 in Tier 4). There was zero interest in this suggestion.

**9b. 2023 Budget Discussion: No Practice Schedule** – Since teams were not willing to sacrifice actual games to save a few dollars, it was proposed that the league get rid of the outdoor practice times that happen between the city opening the fields and opening day. The regular season would still start at the usual time.

(moved by Athletics, seconded by Bombers, **carried**)

*\*teams can still request practice times through the league, but it would be at their own expense (\$145 for 2 hours). If interested, reach out to Commissioner Beelen ASAP to book a time.*

**10. By-Law Amendment: Extra Hitter (EH) Rule in Tier 2** – A proposal was made to implement the EH rule currently used in Tiers 3 and 4, to Tier 2. The vote was split 4-4, so the motion was defeated.

(moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Reapers, **defeated**)

**11a. By-Law Amendment: a 20-run Mercy Rule** – A proposal was made to implement an additional mercy rule of 20 runs after 3 innings in **all** tiers.

(moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Black Sox, **defeated**)

**11b. By-Law Amendment: a 20-run Mercy Rule** – A proposal was made to implement an additional mercy rule of 20 runs after 3 innings in **only** Tier 2

(moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Black Sox, **defeated**)

**12. By-Law Amendment: Leaving the Field After an Ejection** – A proposal was made to modify several By-Laws as it relates to where a player can/cannot go following an ejection, and what they can/cannot do. Previously, an ejected player had to leave the playing field, players bench, or spectators-area immediately or face a 1-game suspension penalty. Now, a player must still leave the playing field and players bench, but they can remain in the spectator’s area if they’re on their “best behaviour”, or risk a 3-game suspension. See [APPENDIX A](#) for the full details.

(moved by Black Sox, seconded by Operations Committee Member Phadnis, **carried**)

**13. By-Law Amendment: Swearing at Umpires for Extended Duration** – A proposal was made to modify By-Law 6.9(f) and increase the suspension length for “*swearing at umpires for an extended duration post-ejection*” from 2 to 3 games.

(moved by Black Sox, seconded by Barons, **carried**)

By-Law 6.9(f) will now carry the following suspensions:

- 1 game if there is swearing/insults after the ejection (of short duration)
- **3 games** if there are repeated swearing/insults after the ejection (of extended duration)
- 5 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).

**14. By-Law Amendment: Fighting** – A proposal was made to modify By-Laws 6.9(k), 6.9(l), and 6.9(m), and increase the suspension lengths for fighting, instigating, and persisting, from 1 game for each infraction to 5, 7, and 10 games respectfully.

(moved by Black Sox, seconded by Operations Committee Member Phadnis, **carried**)

Note: Only one of the following By-Laws will apply per person per incident (they are not cumulative):

- By-Law 6.9(k) will now read: **5 games** – fighting
- By-Law 6.9(l) will now read: **7 games** – instigating a fight
- By-Law 6.9(m) will now read: **10 games** – persisting in a fight

As a result of these updated By-Laws, By-Law 6.9(j) that stated: “*a person who starts and persists in a fight shall receive a minimum 3 game suspension*”, will now read: “*a person who starts and persists in a fight shall receive a minimum **10** game suspension*”

**15. Other Business: Tier 3 President** – Now that the Winchester Heat have moved up to Tier 2, the league is looking for someone to take over for Colleen Embury as Tier 3 President. Please reach out to Commissioner Beelen for more information.

**16. Other Business: Scheduling Preferences** – Commissioner Beelen will be sending out the annual scheduling preferences email in the next day or two, please make sure you fill it out accurately, and promptly, so he can get to work on the schedule. New this year is an option to play early weekend games at Lower Kinsmen.

**17. Next Meeting** – The 2023 Annual Kick-Off Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2023.

**18. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at exactly 1:17pm.

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**Action Items (1):** To avoid any confusion in the future, the league will post a deadline for new team applications either on the website or in the constitution.

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# APPENDIX A

## Where an Ejected Player Can/Cannot Go - What an Ejected Player Can/Cannot Do

By-Law 6.6 will be re-written as follows:

By-Law 6.6(a): An ejected player is required to immediately leave the playing field, promptly pack up their equipment, and exit the bench area.

By-Law 6.6(b): The ejected player is permitted to sit in the stands or be in proximity to the field, not on the players bench or behind it or in proximity to it, to watch the remainder of the game. The player must refrain from any interaction with the umpires, the opposing team, and their team for the purposes of coaching or, directly or indirectly, criticizing the umpires, or taunting or interacting with the opposing team for the duration of the game.

By-Law 6.6(c): When a player is ejected, the representatives of both teams playing the game and both umpires officiating the game shall report the incident to the Operations Committee e-mail and fill out the incident report in the League website game summary/report, providing the player's name, reason for ejection and the circumstances applying to the incident. NOTE: Beginning in 2005, a player may be ejected from a game even after the play of the game has ended. This is treated as a 7th inning ejection. Examples include during cleanup or post game handshakes. . (By-Law amended at the 2005 Spring and Kick-off League meetings).

By-Law 6.9(o) will be modified as follows:

By-Law 6.9(o): 1 game - failing to leave the playing field or players bench immediately following ejection

By-Law 6.9(r) will be added as follows:

By-Law 6.9(r): 3 games - any violation of By-Law 6.6(b) by an ejected player