The 2024 NCBL Annual Kick-Off Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 28, 2024
Nepean Sportsplex - Hall F

Teams Absent (1): Cubs

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1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 12:35pm.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - The minutes of the NCBL Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2024 were approved without change

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

3. Financials - 2024 Proposed Budget Approval - The 2024 proposed budget was included in the information package handout, with fees per team in Tiers 1-3 being $5,775, and $4,900 in Tier 4. Commissioner Beelen noted that we will be rolling out a new type of baseball into the league this year, and if this new ball gets positive reviews, a complete switch to that ball next year could save the league approximately $5,000.

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

4. Schedules - The 2024 schedule is complete, with each team's individual schedule included in the information package handout. This year, the Commissioner was able to:

- avoid scheduling any games on Saturdays
- avoid scheduling any games at McCarthy
- avoid scheduling any team more than 5 times at Southgate
- schedule every team at least once at the Stadium, unless they paid extra for more

5. Procedures and Protocols for the Season - The updated document with instructions for how to open the gates and/or turn on the lights at all the fields, what to do when there's a rainout, and general pre-game, in-game, and post-game procedures, has already been emailed to the team representatives, and will be posted on the NCBL site soon. Registrar Beelen made a special note of the score reporting procedure, and how **both** teams must text, tweet, or email the final score to him by midnight.

6. By-Law Revisions: Modifying the Everybody Bats Rule- The Tier 4 teams voted to rename the "Everybody Bats Rule" the "More Batters Rule", while also modifying the rule to make it less confusing for all parties involved. The rule is updated as follows:

> *Teams no longer have to indicate if they are using the rule or not.*
>
> *DEFENSIVELY: all players, whether there to start the game or not, can come in and out of the game with no limits. This would include pitchers, the only restriction for pitchers, is they can not re-enter as a pitcher in the same inning they were pulled. For example, they can pitch in the 1st, go on bench in the 2nd, re-enter as pitcher in the 3rd. DEFENSIVE positions will have NO effect on Batting Order. The umpire and/or the other team does not need to be notified of defensive changes as this will apply to both teams in all games.*

OFFENSIVELY: Teams can bat however many they want but all players in the batting order must be present to start the game. The length of the batting order stays the same for the whole game. For example, a team has 12 players at the game, but they put 11 in the batting order with 1 player not hitting. If they want to have the 1 player not in the lineup to have a plate appearance later in the game, they would have to remove one of the original 11 from the batting lineup. (THIS HAS NO EFFECT ON DEFENSE)

If a player shows up late, to have them get a plate appearance, they would have to replace one of the existing batters in the lineup.

*(moved by Registrar Beelen, seconded by Bombers, **carried**)*

7. By-Law Revisions: Adopting the More Batters Rule in the Tier 4 Playoffs - The Tier 4 teams voted to allow the use of the "More Batters Rule" in the playoffs, so that the same set of rules applies all season long.

*(moved by Bombers, seconded by Registrar Beelen, **carried**)*

8. By-Law Revisions: Modifying the Tier 3 Extra Hitter Rule - The Tier 3 teams voted to modify the EH Rule so that the EH position, if used, can no longer be collapsed. The EH will not be allowed to enter the game to pitch or play defense, unless there is an injury or ejection.

*(moved by Registrar Beelen, seconded by Lumberjacks, **carried**)*

9. By-Law Revisions: Adopting the Extra Hitter Rule in the Tier 3 Playoffs - Currently, the EH Rule can only be used during the Tier 3 regular season. To remain consistent throughout the season, a proposal was made to allow the use of the EH Rule in the Tier 3 playoffs. This proposal was denied.

*(moved by Padres, seconded by Barons, **denied**)*

10. By-Law Revisions: Adopting the Extra Hitter Rule in Tier 2 - Currently, the EH Rule can only be used in Tier 3. A proposal was made to allow the use of the EH Rule in Tier 2, specifically the regular season. This proposal was denied.

*(moved by Blue Jays, seconded by Misfits, **denied**)*

11. By-Law Revisions: Penalty for Playing an Illegal Player - The league voted to implement a fine of $100 per infraction (per player per game) for the use of a player who has not signed the necessary waivers.

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

12. By-Law Revisions: Increasing the Penalty for Missing/Late Umpire Ratings - The league voted to increase the fine from $10 per game to $25 per game for any umpire rating that isn't submitted within the 10-day grace period.

*(moved by Registrar Beelen, seconded by Black Sox, **carried**)*

13. By-Law Revisions: Eliminating Playoff Exceptions - The league voted to no longer allow any playoff exceptions. The only way to be eligible to play in the playoffs is to play the required number of games in the regular season.

*(moved by Registrar Beelen, seconded by Red Sox, **carried**)*

14. By-Law Revisions: Optional Umpire Ratings in the Playoffs - Registrar Beelen announced that he does indeed have the technology, and it will be in place this year, to have teams rate the umpires during the playoffs. This is entirely optional, and there will be no fines for any team that chooses not to participate.

15. By-Law Revisions: Making the Expedited Disciplinary Committee Official - The league voted to officially add the Expedited Disciplinary Committee to the Constitution. A By-Law 1.1 (i) will be added, and will read as follows:

> *(i) The Expedited Disciplinary Committee - The Operations Committee may elect to expedite the player disciplinary process for level 2 suspensions that are routine in nature. In this case, the Operations Committee members will act as an impromptu Disciplinary Committee and may apply suspensions that are no longer than 3 games pursuant to By-Laws 6.9 and 6.12. Once the Operations Committee makes their decision it must be ratified by the tier presidents excluding the president for the tier in which the incident occurred. Every player/manager has the right to a Player Disciplinary Committee and may elect upon receiving the decision of the Expedited Disciplinary Committee that he would prefer the matter be handled by a Player Disciplinary Committee. In this case, the ruling of the Expedited Disciplinary Committee is null, and void and the decision of the Player Disciplinary Committee will be final. For further clarification, appeals under By-Law 1.4 are still permitted.*

*(moved by OPS Committee Member Giles, seconded by Barons, **carried**)*

16. By-Law Revisions: Modifying/Clarifying By-Law 6.9 - The league voted to modify By-Law 6.9 by adding the newly official Expedicted Disciplinary Committee, clarifying that the number of games you can be suspended for is nowthe **recommended** penalty (and not a minimum or maximum), and clarifying when a player or manager must serve their suspension. By-Law 6.9 will now read:

> *By-Law 6.9 - Ejections and/or conduct, on or off the playing field, before, during or after the ejections, for the following reasons shall require the Commissioner refer all Level 2 ejections/suspension to the Operations Committee for the purposes of establishing a Player's Discipline Committee or Expedited Disciplinary Committee.*
>
> *League Level Ejections and **Recommended** Suspensions*
>
> *All suspensions must be served in the next scheduled game(s) immediately following the decision to suspend the player/manager has been made. (ie. A two game suspension is levied in game 5 of the regular season, the player/manager must serve his suspension in games 6 and 7.)*

*(moved by OPS Committee Member Giles, seconded by Barons, **carried**)*

17. By-Law Revisions: Clarifying By-Law 6.12 (f) - The league voted to modify By-Law 6.12 (f) to change the word “years” to “seasons”. By-Law 6.12 (f) will now read:

> *(f) All Red/Yellow Teams/Players will return to a clean record after 3 seasons of no incidents (ejections or suspensions). For further clarification, this 3 season period begins the season after the incident occurred.*

*(moved by OPS Committee Member Giles, seconded by Lynx, **carried**)*

18. By-Law Revisions: Adding a 4th Member to the Operations Committee - The league voted to add a 4th member to the Operations Committee, preferably from Tier 4 so that each Tier is represented. Adam Lowry (Bandits) was the only one to volunteer for this newly created position.

*(moved by Bandits, seconded by Battalion, **carried**)*

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

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

20. Other Business - Umpire Procedures Update - Umpire-in-Chief Keeping first gave out his new cell phone number, then noted that the increase in NCBL umpire pay approved at the Winter Meeting is already helping recruitment efforts for the coming season. UIC Keeping then proposed allowing umpires who play in the league to umpire games in their own tier in emergency situations only.

(moved by Umpire-in-Chief Keeping, seconded by Bandits, ***carried****)*

21. Distribution of Baseballs and Lineup Cards - The teams paid their league fees with installment cheques *(or an e-Transfer)* in exchange for baseballs and lineup cards. The Commissioner noted that not all baseballs are currently available, but they will be personally delivered to each team before they're needed.

22. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at exactly 1:40pm.