The 2024 NCBL Annual Spring Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

Teams Absent (0): none

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1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at exactly 1:03pm.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - The minutes of the 2024 NCBL Annual Winter Meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2024, were approved without change.

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

3a. New Team Application: Campus Conspiracy - Campus Conspiracy were 1 of 4 teams to complete the NCBL's New Team Application process, and they made an in-person pitch to join the NCBL. No team put forth a motion to accept their request to join the league, so their bid was **denied**.

3b. New Team Application: Gatineau Hawks - The Gatineau Hawks were 1 of 4 teams to complete the NCBL's New Team Application process, and they made an in-person pitch to join the NCBL. No team put forth a motion to accept their request to join the league, so their bid was **denied**.

3c. New Team Application: Bytown Bats - The Bytown Bats were 1 of 4 teams to complete the NCBL's New Team Application process, and they made an in-person pitch to join the NCBL. They were voted into the league without restriction, and will play in Tier 3.

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

3d. New Team Application: Ottawa Gladiators - The Ottawa Gladiators were 1 of 4 teams to complete the NCBL's New Team Application process, and they made an in-person pitch to join the NCBL. They were voted into the league without restriction, and will play in Tier 4.

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

4. Team Proposals for the 2024 Season - There were 5 pitches from teams who did not want to automatically switch tiers, 2 pitches from teams who did want to switch tiers, and 1 team that automatically moved tiers without resistance.

- The Cubs pitch to stay in Tier 1 was successful.
- The Heat's pitch to stay in Tier 2 was successful.
- The Braves pitch to stay in Tier 2 was successful.
- The Lumberjacks pitch to stay in Tier 3 was successful.
- The Los Vampiros pitch to stay in Tier 4 was successful.
- The Los Latinos pitch to move up to Tier 2 was successful.
- The Coyotes pitch to move up to Tier 3 was successful.
- The Capitals moved down to Tier 4 automatically.

5. 2024 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 Umpire-in-Chief Keeping, **carried**)*

6. The Official 2024 Tier/Playoff Layout - The NCBL will consist of 34 teams, 28 of which will play in the postseason.

	Tier 1	**Tier 2**	**Tier 3**	**Tier 4**
1	Athletics	Black Sox	Barons	Bandits
2	Battalion	Blue Jays	Bats	Bombers
3	Brewers	Braves	Coyotes	Braumeisters
4	Cubs	Heat	Lumberjacks	Capitals
5	Giants	Los Latinos	Padres	Gladiators
6	Pirates	Misfits	Rockets	Irish
7	Ravens	Outlaws	Sweat Sox	Knights
8		Reapers		Los Vampiros
9		Red Sox		Lynx
10				Mavericks
11				Team Korea
	6 of 7 teams make playoffs	*8 of 9 teams make playoffs*	*6 of 7 teams make playoffs*	*8 of 11 teams make playoffs*

7. 2023 Financial Statements - NCBL Treasurer Craig Cornell 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 Rockets, **carried**)*

8. Election of NCBL Officer Positions - All “non-umpire” positions were up for re-election. All incumbents were willing to stand for another term, except for Gregorio Cobas (Tier 3 President) who vacated the position when his Tier 3 team moved up to Tier 2.

- Bill Beelen was acclaimed as NCBL Commissioner
- Craig Cornell was acclaimed as NCBL Treasurer
- Cory Bond was acclaimed as NCBL Secretary
- Joe Beelen was acclaimed as NCBL Registrar
- Rob Lay was acclaimed as Tier 1 President
- Brian Samuel was acclaimed as Tier 2 President
- John Mendonca was acclaimed as Tier 4 President
- Brett Stott was acclaimed as OPS Committee Member
- Ben Milinkovich was acclaimed as OPS Committee Member
- Louis Gadbois was acclaimed as OPS Committee Member
- Stu Hayes was the only candidate for the now vacant Tier 3 President position, and was acclaimed without opposition

9. An Umpire General Update - Umpire-in-Chief Mark Keeping spoke on behalf of the umpires, reiterating the call from the Winter Meeting for anyone (players) interested in umpiring a few games this year, especially since we've just added 2 new teams, to reach out for more information. UIC Keeping then proposed increasing both the umpire rates of pay (from $135 per game to $160 per game, likely split $90-$70 between the plate and base umpires) and the umpire assignor fee (from $5.25 to $7.25 per game). The league approved these new rates.

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

10a. 2024 Budget Discussion: League Fees - Treasurer Cornell talked about the 2024 budget, and estimated that based on the increase in baseball costs, general field and umpire rates, and the possibility of everyone playing a game at the Stadium this year, fees could increase by approximately $500 per team compared to last year. Treasurer Cornell explained that the current surplus can absorb some of these new increases, but he'll need some time to work out the exact details and will email the proposed budget sometime before the Kick-Off Meeting.

10b. 2024 Budget Discussion: Stadium Proposal - Commissioner Beelen proposed, and the league approved, having every team play 1 game at the Stadium this year, at a cost of $200 extra per team. This money would be credited to a team if they are rained-out and it can't be rescheduled there.

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

12. Constitution/By-Law Amendments - Tabled until the 2024 Kick-Off Meeting.

13. Other Business - Multi-Team Exemptions - Cameron MacDonald (coaching Team Korea, playing for the Bytown Bats) requested approval to be involved with more than one NCBL team.

*(moved by Team Korea, seconded by Bandits, **carried**)*

14. Next Meeting - The 2024 Annual Kick-Off Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2024.

15. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at exactly 3:04pm.

Action Items Tabled for the 2024 Kick-Off Meeting:

1. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: Adding Extra Hitter Rule to Tier 2 (Blue Jays)
2. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: Adding Extra Hitter Rule to Tier 3 (Padres)
3. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: Everybody bats in Tier 4 playoffs (Bombers)
4. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: Creating a penalty for playing with an illegal player (Registar)
5. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: Increasing the penalty re: missing/late umpire ratings (Registrar)
6. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: No playoff eligibility exceptions (Registrar)
7. Constitution and By-Law Amendment: Multiple suggestions from OPS COM
8. Discussion of mandatory/optional umpire ratings in the playoffs

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