

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ANNUELLE 2024 Sunday February 23, 2025 Dimanche le 23 fevrier, 2025 Fredericton, NB

# AGENDA / ORDRE DU JOUR

Welcome/Bienvenue,

- 1. Presentation of credentials for delegates / Présentation des qualifications des délégués
- Reading and approval of the minutes from the 2023 AGM / Lecture et adoption du process verbal de l'AGA 2023
- 3. Business arising from the minutes / suivi du process verbal
- 4. President's Report / Rapport du Président
- 5. Executive Director's Report / Rapport du Directrice Exécutive
- 6. Financial Report / Rapport Financier
- 7. NCCP report / rapport PNCE
- 8. NB Baseball Umpire's Association Report / Rapport de l'Association des Arbitres de Baseball au NB
- 9. Committee and Zone Reports/ Rapport des comités et zones
- 10. Correspondence
- 11. Notice of Motions / Avis de Propositions
- 12. Unfinished Business / Suivi des affaires continues
- 13. Election of officers / Elections des members de l'exécutif
- 14. New Business / Affaires Nouvelles
- 15. Adjournment / Levée de l'assemblée



**1.** Presentation of credentials for delegates / Présentation des qualifications des délégués In person :

Online :

2. Reading and approval of the minutes from the 2023 AGM / Lecture et adoption du process verbal de l'AGA 2023

Please see linked document for <u>2023 AGM minutes</u>.

#### 3. Business arising from the minutes / suivi du process verbal

#### 4. President's Report / Rapport du Président

For Baseball NB, 2024 would be another year of change. I personally was honoured to officially be elected as the President of Baseball NB. Additionally, in the spring meetings we added new Board Members for Zones 1, 2 & 7 with Brent Nelson, Charles Theriault and Donald Cormier respectively. Charles replaced Daniel Roussel who was elected to a VP role. Amanda Morine was added to the Board as the Treasurer. Most recently, the Executive appointed Matt Mitchell as Interim-VP and Todd Price Interim-Zone 4. On behalf of the entire Board, I welcome all to the BNB Board. With that, I'd like to thank all board members for their dedication to baseball. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, and I thank you for the honour and privilege to work with everyone. I look forward to continuing our work in 2025 and beyond!

With the additions however, we must unfortunately part with Board members who moved on and with gratitude thank them for their service provided to Baseball for many years. In Zone 2, Marc Dube and Director at Large Garda Huber. Additionally, to President and VP Mark Noel who was a tremendous asset to Baseball NB for many years with a wealth of knowledge and passion for the game. Finally, a huge thank you and fond farewell to long-time VP Ed Jeffery and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 HOF and Awards Banquet who also resigned in the fall of 2024. The award received says all that needs said for Ed's dedication and commitment to baseball. We wish all the best in their continued endeavours and look forward to seeing them at a baseball field near soon. The honour to work with all, was ours!

The 2024 season and year was a very busy one for our staff. Unfortunately, we did not receive our usual Canada Summer Student Grant, thus were limited to one Summer Student. Ally Stymiest returned to assist with training to our Associations throughout the province with various clinics. Brittany Hunter continued as our ED and Zach O'Hara returned for a sixth year taking on the Jays Care RBI Program as well as other regular operating duties in conjunction with Brittany. On behalf of the Board, we thank them for their service, knowledge and expertise in making 2024 a successful season albeit challenging at times as it was another busy year. Amidst all of BNB's change, Baseball Canada set forth to reorganizing as the membership approved new Bylaws at the Baseball Canada Convention in Nova Scotia in



November. Thus begins the search for a new Independent Board which will be supported by a unique Provincial Committee consisting of the Provincial Presidents acting as an Advisory Committee.

We ushered in the 2024 season in May as 33 associations hit the field for team selections, practices and games as well as our Provincial Team selections in Miramichi, Moncton and Sussex. We thank those communities for hosting our programs. As we hit the fields, we also hit new levels for participants as registrations exceeded the 6,000 threshold, a milestone, as Baseball has continued to grow and thrive in our province. That milestone is a result of many volunteers in our member associations for which we thank you for your efforts and look forward to continuing to work alongside to promote and grow this terrific sport even further.

Once again, we were able to successfully stage Provincial Championships in August & September, hosting 20 events in 9 different areas over 4 weekends. To the association hosts, we thank them for hosting and running quality events. Congratulations to all teams who perceived with championships as well as everyone competing at every level to make each championship event exciting and successful. The playing season was completed when Fredericton hosted Baseball Atlantic Championships for 13U and 15U 'AA'. The events were very well attended by fans as Team NF took the 13U title and Team NS the 15U title. Once again, thanks to Fredericton who were tremendous hosts of a very successful event.

In 2024 our High Performance Teams and programs were very successful as we added to our programs with a 15U Development Team. The HP Program also made changes as it partnered with Rapids Baseball and LaunchPad Sports for training our athletes throughout the season as well as in then having 3 programs visit Husson College to participate in a Showcase as well as play 3 exhibition games versus US teams. The 13U Team NB again attended the National Championships in Woodstock, ON. This team represented the province extremely well as they lost to Quebec in the semi-final then narrowly lost to Ontario in the 7<sup>th</sup> place game as the team faced 3 of the 4 medal finalists in its round-robin games. Once again, our 15U & 17U Provincial Teams represented our province well with strong showings at the Ray Carter Cup in Laval and the Canada Cup in Fort McMurray. The 15U team finished a respectable 2-4 as they lost both games on day 1 by a single run but showed resilience in rebounding with a 2-2 record to finish. The 17U team also finished a respectable 2-4 with each of the 4 losses being very good games. Our Female 14U and 16U Provincial teams represented well at their Atlantic Championships in Summerside, PE and Saskatoon, SK with the 16U team having had it's most competitive showing yet again.

Baseball NB was also very well represented at National events by the Fredericton 18U 'AAA' Royals and the Charlottetown Islanders. The Islanders finished out of the medal round as they dropped a heartbreaker to Ontario in a walk-off 1 run loss to end their run. The 18U Fredericton Royals finish 7<sup>th</sup> in St. John's, NL as they were faced with the daunting task of competing in Pool A.

Baseball NB hosted its final event, the Fall Forum, at the Delta Marriot Fredericton in November. This event provided the Board, Associations and members an opportunity to discuss the season past, it's pros and cons, while beginning plans for the 2025 season. The Board also began the process of completing



new Bylaws and Operation Manuals that subsequently were approved in January for membership's approval at the February AGM.

The season concluded with the Annual Hall of Fame Induction and Awards ceremony as we once again celebrated our past and future in the process. Congratulations to all award winners on a terrific 2024 season and to our newest Inductees to the Hall of Fame, Mike Skidd and the 1942 North Shore Regiment Baseball.

In looking forward, we have a tremendously dedicated group of individuals on our Executive and Board of Directors whom all desire to make baseball in NB the best sport it can possibly be for our members, participants and fans alike. Baseball NB has several important projects that we will be tackling in 2025 with the goal of putting Baseball NB in a position to operate efficiently and effectively for our members for years to come. First, we will complete a new Strategic Plan in accordance with that recently adopted by Baseball Canada for the period of 2025-2030. We plan to continue to educate all of our members on Safe Sport to ensure that Baseball is a SAFE place for everyone. Finally, we will continue to strive to improve our services, championships and most importantly the experiences for all.

With that, I bid a fond farewell to 2024 and welcome in 2025, a year our Board will once again strive to make this the best season yet for Baseball in our Province.

I wish all the best of luck in the upcoming season, encourage all to enjoy this wonderful sport and remember to always treat the game, including its players, parents and officials, with the "respect" it deserves.

See you at the Diamonds in 2025!

Timothy O'Hara CA, CPA, President

# 5. Executive Director's Report / Rapport du Directrice Exécutive

One word to sum up 2024 for Baseball NB is growth – seen not only in participation numbers but also in transitions in governance, operations, and partnerships.

Baseball NB experienced another record-breaking year with over 6,000 registered participants across the province! We are thrilled to report growth and development in the following areas during the 2024 season:

- 33 minor baseball associations
- 700 female participants
- 8 teams for 12U females
- 15 Intermediate teams
- 4 teams in our NB Junior Baseball League
- 5 teams competing in the NB Senior Baseball League
- New high performance 15U Male development program
- 244 participants in the RBI Program



- 29 NCCP clinics offered
- 261 total coaches attended NCCP Clinics
- 5 new committees implemented
- 121 teams participating in provincial tournaments
- 7 teams attending National Championships, including 4 provincial teams
- 10 teams attending Atlantic Championships, with three teams medaling

Baseball NB was very well represented in 2024 at each National and Atlantic Championship we attended. The competition was tough, but our teams played well resulting in some extremely close games. We would like to extend a big congratulations to the following teams coming home with medals:

11U AA Baseball Atlantic Championship Gold – Moncton Cubs 15U AA Baseball Atlantic Championship Silver – Riverview A's

15U AAA Baseball Atlantic Championship Gold – Fredericton Royals

We had three busy but incredibly successful weekends of baseball during provincials. Eight associations stepped up and took on the task of hosting this year as we moved back to multisite tournaments. Additionally, for the second year in a row, we held a 12U Girl's tournament with 4 teams participating. As noted, numbers in the 12U league have been growing so we are hopeful to see this continue to increase. Without our Minor Baseball Associations, leagues, coaches, and volunteers stepping up and championing baseball in their communities our success, growth and development would not be possible. Thank you for all you do to help us keep baseball thriving in New Brunswick!

Baseball NB would like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to our continued partners – Government of New Brunswick, Baseball Canada, Jays Care Foundation, Canadian Sport Institute Atlantic, Rawlings, Under Armour Canada and the Delta Fredericton & Moncton. We would also like to express our thanks to a few new partners – the Crowne Plaza, LaunchPad Sports, TRL Solutions, and Rapids Baseball Academy. Our partners involvement with our association makes it possible for us to run many of our programs and assists in the growth and development of our participants, coaches, umpires and volunteers.

I would be remiss if I did not send out a huge thank you to the Baseball NB Board of Directors. This group works incredibly hard year-round to ensure each season is better than the last. I would also like to recognize a couple of board members who have stepped away in 2024 to pursue other initiatives. Thank you to Garda Huber, Amanda Morine, Marc Dube and long-standing board member, Ed Jeffrey, for your many years of service with Baseball NB. You will all be missed around the board table and we wish you all the best. And finally, last but not least, special thanks go out, Zach O'Hara. Zach continues to be an instrumental part of Baseball NB and our success. I look forward to having Zach as a full-time employee in 2025!

We have grown a great deal in 2024 and have a lot in store for 2025. This season is shaping up to be one for the books!

Brittany Hunter Executive Director



# 6. Financial Report / Rapport Financier

To be presented at the AGM and posted on the Baseball NB website.

7. NCCP report / rapport PNCE



2024 NCCP PROGRAM REPORT



2024 was a busy year for the National Coaching Certification Program. Clinics were conducted both virtually and in person. Thank you to Brittany and Zach who were on call between April- June to ensure things went well for our facilitators and participants.

#### **NEW COACHES**

There was a considerable increase of new coaches in 2024. In 2023, 147 coaches in New Brunswick registered with the NCCP Program in New Brunswick. In 2024, we saw this number grow to 261 coaches. This shows a great effort by all associations to get coaches trained for their respective levels. Baseball New Brunswick thanks all the associations for their support and hard work to promote coaching development in the province.

#### NCCP CLINICS

There were twenty-nine (29) clinics conducted between April and July. 12 of those clinics were in person. The increase in both clinics and coaches participating in clinics courses is encouraging.

# **CERTIFIED COACHES**

In total we had sixteen (16) portfolios and evaluations completed. This is double the number from last year which is great to see. We encourage coaches to complete their portfolios, games and practice evaluations when they can and not wait until they are going to a National or Atlantic. Baseball Canada has also accepted several coaches into their "Women in Coaching Program". Additionally, our Canada Games Coaches have worked incredibly hard over the past 2 years to gain their Competition Development Level Trained and Certified status'. Thank you.

#### LEARNING FACILITATORS

This past year our facilitators who attended training in 2023, continued to work towards their evaluation and facilitator training. They will continue to work towards this this year, to increase our capacity to train coaches in NB in the future. I want to thank our current facilitators Gerry Leblanc and Mike Keating for all of their experience, knowledge and help.

I look forward to working with all the associations within BNB, in the 2025 season.

Mark Lobban NCCP Coordinator



# 8. NB Baseball Umpire's Association Report / Rapport de l'Association des Arbitres de Baseball au NB

**Umpire Numbers** 

Level	Number of Umpires	Previous Year	% increase (decrease)
Level 1	250	223	
Level 2	33	23	
Level 3	24	19	
Level 4	8	8	
Level 5	6	6	

# **Umpire Fees**

Level	Registration/Certification Costs
Level 1	\$40
Level 2	\$75
Level 3	\$125
Level 4	\$200
Level 5	\$200

#### **Umpire Compensation**

Level or Task	\$ Range Per Game or Event	
11U	P\$35 B\$30	
13U	P\$45 B\$35	
150	P\$50 B\$40	
18U	AA P\$55 B\$45 AAA P\$60 B\$50	
22U	P\$65 B\$55 B\$55	
Senior	\$75 \$B\$60 B\$60	
Course Conductor		
Evaluator	\$50	
Other (please specifiy)		
Provincial Mileage Rate per kilometer	\$0.45	

#### **Course Conductors**

Level	Number of Certified Course Conductors
Course Conductors	4
Senior Course Conductors	1
Master Course Conductors	1

#### SWOT Analysis

Strengths/Successes

- 1. Our online Clinics
- 2. Our on-field Level 3-5 day
- 3. Continuing efforts of our Mentorship work

#### Weaknesses/Setbacks



- 1. Still have some struggling points with our mentorship just due to the amount of baseball played and umpires/mentors available
- 2. Even though we implanted a non-confrontation policy it is still a weakness due to lack of experienced umpires to work with young umpires.
- 3. Overall Lack of level 3 umpires to help work with younger umpires.

Opportunities/Needs/Support Required

1. We have a lot of the same issues as others with lack of Umpires and some of the new materials put out by the grassroots committee have helped greatly. Looking forward to the new material. Lots of support like this is great and the continued support is needed.

Mike Doucette NBBUA President

#### 9. Committee and Zone Reports/ Rapport des comités et zones

#### **Directors of Operations Report**

This was my first year as the Director of Operations for Baseball NB. Serving as many years as a commissioner help me transition in this role. Lots of things involve questions about rules and procedures of the constitution and by-laws. Big thanks for Brittany as an ED to double check with me on many topics so we have the same answer for the same problems in any part of NB. I assist in many provincials this year and it was a good experience to help for those tournaments. Being there for the elimination tournament was a big plus for many questions that arise in those tournaments and being able to set the things right away was a big bonus.

Yours in Baseball, Daniel Roussel Directors of Operations

#### High Performance Committee

The 2024 season for our High performance teams started in January with our winter workouts which ran up to our final selection weekends in May.

Once teams were formed, they prepared for their Nationals and Atlantic tournaments with weekly practices and tournaments.

Some new additions to the program in 2024 -

In late June, Chris Morris, Head coach from Husson University travelled to Saint John to host workouts, a coach's clinic and a showcase. This was organized by our new partner Rapids Baseball Academy and received positive reviews from coaches and players.

In a new partnership with Launchpad in Fredericton, our 14U, 15U and 17U teams were able to spend part of their workouts at their indoor location nearby Thompson Field. This is a great way to maximize the players reps to get the most of their limited time together. I expect that this partnership will continue into the 2025 season.



In mid July our 17U/15U and 14U boys teams travelled to Bangor, to visit Husson University and take part in games against Maine based teams. This was again in partnership with Rapids and Husson University. During the Showcase portion of the week, players were able to show their skills in front of multiple NCAA coaches, increasing their exposure with the hopes of providing opportunities for those looking to continue to play baseball at the college level after their youth baseball career ends. Plans are already well underway to do this trip again in 2025.

Our teams then competed at the following National and Atlantic Championships

- 17U Canada Cup in Fort McMurray, AB (August 7-11)
- 16U Girls Saskatoon, SK (August 22-25)
- 15U Ray Carter Cup, Laval, QC (August 22 25)
- 13U Nationals, Woodstock, ON (August 22 25)
- 14U Girls Charlottetown, PE (September 6-8)

The committee requested and received our 2025 coach applications in late August and selected our 2025 coaching staff in early September.

ID camps for our Winter rosters were held over 3 weekends in late September and early October.

Our year wrapped up with a Debrief meeting with committee members and coaches on October 6th in Fredericton. It was a great session where ideas were shared, and the committee received feedback and input from the coaches.

2025 Winter clinics are underway with an eye towards our 2025 season. We will pilot a centralized final selection weekend in Fredericton this year with all teams doing final selections in one city.

I look forward to a strong year ahead for our 2025 High Performance teams.

Matt Mitchell High Performance Committee chair

> Diversity Committee Unavailable

# Championship Committee Unavailable

#### **Governance Committee**

I would like to thank all the members of the governance committee for their involvement this year. A big thanks to Sport Law who have gone through our constitution and by-laws and suggest some edits that the committee went through. More discussion has been done, and we had 3 documents to go throw at the AGM such as BNB Operation Manuals (Minor and Adult), BNB By-laws, Zone and minor association boundary maps. Those documents will guide BNB in the future years.

Yours in baseball,



Daniel Roussel Governance Committee Chair

# **2024 Zone 1 Report** Unavailable

#### **2024 Zone 2 Report** Unavailable

# 2024 Zone 3 Report

I would like to thank all of the Associations in Zone 3 for their support of minor baseball as well as River Valley and Fredericton Minor Baseball in working with the Capital City Intermediate League. Young players continue into older players and we cannot forget the need to highlight all of the baseball opportunities available to our youth as they grow in the game. Working together strengthens the game and the community of baseball.

Baseball in the Zone saw growth this past season with some associations seeing increased registration as well as new and/or expanded programming. The energy of the players on the field is undeniable and a big thank you to the coaches and those working behind the scenes to help make it a great experience.

It seems that the scheduling and availability of umpires greatly improved this past season as multiple Associations have commented on it. A special thank you to Kyle Woodworth for managing this task again this year.

I would encourage all Associations to continue working with their municipalities to ensure that the playing surfaces for all age groups are safe and of a quality that demonstrates caring for the game, players and parents. This can only benefit the game as it provides a clear image and message to the users of the space that they matter.

The Fredericton area is seeing growth in baseball through the success of two newer facilities; the indoor baseball facilities at Fredericton High School and the growing relationship with Launchpad, an indoor hitting facility with expert coaching. As well, Western Valley is trying new initiatives this year including winter ball that is well attended.

We have had some change in leadership within the Zone as there are now two new Presidents (River Valley and Fredericton) and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely, Andrew Meek Zone 3 Commissioner

# 2024 - Zone 4 Report

2024 was another strong year for baseball in Zone 4. With much better weather this year compared to last, scheduling and inevitable rescheduling was much less of a struggle in 2024.

We had very strong registration numbers once again with over 1600 players across 7 Associations.



Congratulations to the following Provincial winners from the zone, 11U Minor Tier 3 – Sussex Royals 13U AA - Hampton Braves 18U AA Tier 1 - Hampton Braves

The Saint John Jr Alpines competed at the 22U Nationals in Dartmouth, NS. They had a strong showing with a 4-3 record, losing in the bronze medal game to Manitoba.

Umpire availability remains a struggle at the older age groups, 15U and up. The new initiatives to help reduce confrontation at lower levels should pay off longer term in order to help us retain umpires as they get more experienced. This will take years to develop but is certainly a step in the right direction.

See you at the fields in 2025,

Matt Mitchell Zone 4 Commissioner

#### 2024 Zone 5 Report

Zone 5 had another great year. Registrations continue to increase each year with well over 1500 kids playing at all levels.

Zone 5 continues to host tournaments at all competitive levels with over 60 teams participating from all over the Maritimes.

Overall, another successful season for zone 5 that works extremely well together and continues to grow and promote baseball at all levels.

Robert Black Zone 5 Commissioner

#### 2024 Zone 6 Report

Zone 6 had a successful season, with good registrations at all levels, from Rally Cap Junior to Senior baseball being played in the Miramichi region. It is great to see interest growing in baseball across the region. Miramichi Minor baseball had 377+ players and over 50 coaches register from Rally Cap to 18U, and Chatham Head also had players register at some levels. 2024 also saw a new group form in Rogersville and register under Miramichi, and the Napan association start back up, with a team at 13U, and a second team from North Kent under their umbrella. At least one other group in the area ran a youth baseball program outside the BNB programming so it would be good to look at ways to bring them under the BNB umbrella. Female baseball in the region continues to grow and will undoubtedly be a highlight in this report for years to come!

There was also continuing discussion with BNB as to the potential for more cooperation between/amalgamation of programs in the region and indeed between Miramichi and Chatham Head representatives. In working to continue to grow baseball in the area, associations have added to their programming and/or adjusted their programming, eg: there were some adjustments necessary to allow



for players to play recreationally at levels either above or below their age levels in order to make successful programming available to all. Recreational baseball in the region is ensuring that many players get to enjoy the sport.

Baseball at the competitive levels also continues to be strong, with a number of players finding a spot on the Canada Games or 15U rosters, and a number of teams bringing home tournament wins, provincial banners or attending Atlantics. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the City of Miramichi for providing very generous funding for three provincial championship tournaments.

Heidi Ryder Zone 6 Commissioner

# Rapport de Baseball NB Zone 7

Nouveau commissaire donc un certain apprentissage. Tenté d'être à l'écoute de toutes les associations et gérer les problèmes.

Donner l'information pertinente aux questions posées. Il y a quatre associations dans la zone 7. Toutes les associations ont participées aux ligues et championnat provinciaux reportant quelques bannières. Il semble y avoir eu un manque de communication avec une des associations alors qu'il n'était pas clair qu'elle était enregistrée à BNB.

En résumé, Donald Cormier, Commissaire Zone 7



# **Notice of Motions**

# Avis de propositions

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Baseball New Brunswick hereby adopts the proposed new by-laws as presented, effective immediately upon approval of the membership.

A full copy of the proposed new by-laws is linked on the <u>website with the AGM Announcement</u> for your review.

\*All approved Motions will be formally translated following their approval at the Annual General Meeting.

\*Toutes les motions approuvées seront officiellement traduites après leur approbation à l'assemblée générale annuelle.

Unfinished Business Suivi des affaires continus

Notes:



# Election of Officers Elections des members de l'executif

Baseball NB Vice President – 2 year term

Nominations: Matt Mitchell

> New Business Affaires nouvelles

Notes: