

**Minutes of the Department of New Hampshire  
Baseball Committee Meeting of April 12, 2026  
at Hudson Post 48**

Chairman Rick Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the previous meeting on November 1, 2025, were reviewed and accepted.

**Committee in Attendance:** Rick Harvey, Dan Griswold, John Bly, Jim Blake, Steve Drescher, Gary Noyes, Wayne Perra, Keith Bowen (Post 48), Steve Hernandez, Dave Rouleau (Post 8), Pete St. Pierre and Jordan Wentworth

**Department Members:** Kathie Trantham Post #81, Tom Elwood Post #2

**Team Representatives Attendance:** Matt Hamilton Post #21, Rich Beard Post #4, Mike Topf Post #54, Craig Walfield Post #7, Mat Gladu Post #6, Chris Tutt Post #27, Joe Dee Post #1, Joe O'Dell Post #98, John Ryan, Peter Allain Post #63, Nick Sullivan, Dylan Sullivan, Jeff Hastings Post 2.

**Strange Email Involving Berlin:** With reference to an email we all received from an unknown sender chastising GM DJ Johnson and his former Junior team in Berlin (no team in 2025 and '26), Chairman Harvey reviewed actions he took last fall (with continuing follow-up at this time) to find out more about what happened with some of DJ's Berlin Rec. Department employees (who also were former Berlin Jr. coaches) and one or more young boys participating in various activities at the rec center.

Even though none of this had anything to do with our program, the communication did include a NH Journal Blog that referenced the Berlin Jr. team's infamous celebration after winning the 2024 Jr. Regionals in Maine. A certain blow-up appendage was trotted around during the celebration. We strongly sanctioned DJ, the coaching staff, and the team soon thereafter.

**Program Updates:**

The 2026 regular season will run from June 15 until July 24 at the Senior and Junior levels while the Prep program will go from June 8 until July 24.

- The 2026 Senior Tournament will once again be at Holman Stadium in Nashua and will run from July 24-28 with 2 rain dates available thereafter.
- Both the Junior and Prep Tournaments will have their best 2 out of 3 finals on the same days---August 3-5 at Gill Stadium with the Prep games at 4PM and the Junior games at 7PM. Preceding that, the first 2 rounds of each tournament will be held at the participating teams' home fields. There will be just 2 days off between rounds.
- The Committee will host the 2026 Junior Regional at Gill Stadium from August 7-9. Eight teams (including two from NH) will play in a single-elimination format.

**Background Checks and Awareness Training:** Steve Hernandez reviewed issues that have occurred and ways to make things easier to complete as it will likely take up to five days for teams to be approved.

**Insurance and Fees:**

May 15 remains the deadline for all teams to buy insurance and pay required fees.

**Umpires:**

Steve Drescher and Gary Noyes reviewed the updated fees that we approved last fall. They are designed to encourage more high-quality umpires to work our games. Three umpires will work in all Senior games, all Junior Regional Tournament games, and all final round games at the Junior and Prep Tournaments.

The committee voted to place a 3-year hold on these per game fees:

- \$75 Prep (2 umpires each game) ---\$140 for a doubleheader
- \$85 Junior (2 umpires each game) ---\$160 for a doubleheader
- \$90 Senior (3-man crews) ---\$170 for a doubleheader

**NH Rules and Regulations:** Chairman Harvey reviewed new changes for 2026 and a handout detailing new American Legion Baseball rules.

**Gamechanger:** Regular season GC use was very successful for the most part. But tournament use was sketchy due to inconsistent Wi Fi access at both Holman and Gill. John Bly plans on using GC on his iPad using his Verizon access at all tournament games.

**Dates for Tryouts, Forms, and Other Paperwork:**

- All Prep tryouts shall be completed by June 1, and all Junior and Senior tryouts shall be done by June 8.
- All Forms 76 and 77 shall be completed and accepted between June 6 and 10. Waiver rules will be strictly enforced by the Chairman. He will not accept any 76's that he has not approved.
- All remaining paperwork is due by June 22.

**Team Code of Conduct:** Turn in the signature page by May 15, the same deadline as with insurance and fees.

**Lineup Changes During Tournaments:** we may use headsets to help improve communications between umpires, our scoring table, and the public address announcer.

**MLB's Extra Inning Rule:** We have approved the use of a ghost runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base to start in the 10th inning of all regular season and tournament games in all 3 divisions. The runner chosen will be the last out of the previous inning.

**Rule Changes Approved at the National Executive Committee's Spring Meeting:**

Chairman Harvey reviewed the handout detailing these changes.

**Chairman Harvey's Retirement:** His final day will be August 31. If the new chairman has not been appointed by the Department Commander by then, he will be available to book the fields for our 2027 tournaments and prepare the new '27 budget. He also will be available to the new chairman by phone thereafter. But his decision to retire is final, and the date is locked in.

**New Business:** A lengthy discussion took place regarding dual participation rules and our department (state) tournaments. After talking with the National Baseball Office, it is absolutely required that our tournaments must comply with all national tournament rules and policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Blake, Vice Chairman