

**Minutes of Department of New Hampshire
Baseball Committee Meeting of
October 29, 2023, at Sweeney Post 2**

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

Assistant Umpire-in-Chief Gary Noyes was officially welcomed to the committee after being unanimously approved by the committee by an earlier online vote.

Committee members in attendance were Chairman Rick Harvey, Vice Chair Jim Blake (remotely), Brian LeVeille (Sweeney), Gary Wayman, Pete St. Pierre, Craig Walfield (Rochester), Dan Griswold (Lebanon), Steve Hernandez, John Bly (Concord), Keith Bowen (Hudson), UIC Steve Drescher, and Assistant UIC Gary Noyes.

Post representatives in attendance were Mike Henzley-Merrimack, Chris Tutt-Londonderry, John Ryan-Salem, Dave Rouleau-Dover, Bob Capson, Isaac Miller, John Panaro, and Dan Stowers-Derry, Stephanie Tardiff and Justin Coutu-Sweeney, Tim Lunn-Nashua, Matt Gladu-Portsmouth, Cam Calato-Newmarket, Rich Beard-Keene, DJ Johnson-Berlin, Jeb Stratton-Plymouth, Dennis Zateclea-Concord.

It was moved by Brian LeVeille and seconded by John Bly that the minutes of the last meeting on March 12, 2023, be approved. The motion was passed.

Showcase 2024 will be held at Holman Stadium on Tuesday, July 16. The 2023 event went over very well with the coaches attending and all of the evaluations were completed except for the game itself (due to rain).

Senior Program 2024 will run from June 10-July 13. Steve Drescher will chair the tournament which will run from July 19-23 (plus rain dates) at Holman Stadium. Police presence must be available to help at the gate due to the gross misbehaviors of several Concord coaches and players during the 2023 tournament. Districts and game schedule formats will be updated once we know which teams will be in---for instance, the Dover Senior team is returning and Derry is out for the 2024 season.

Junior Program 2024 will run from June 10-July 20. Hudson will re-enter the program in 2024. We are looking for an Assistant Tournament Director to help run this year's event at Gill Stadium from July 26-30 (plus rain dates). This person will take over the directorship in 2025.

Prep Program 2024 will run from June 10-July 27. Sweeney will be joining in District A and Londonderry will move to District B. We are looking for a tournament host and location. Salem has been approached to host in 2024. Dover/Rochester also have shown interest in hosting together.

Senior Regional Tournament 2024 Sweeney Post 2 will host from August 7-12 at Gill Stadium. Chairman Brian LeVeille gave an update. It will be "all hands on deck" from the Baseball Committee in support of Brian and his group from Sweeney.

Suspension Issues:

Concord Post 21 Senior Team The Baseball Committee previously voted to suspend the head coach and his entire coaching staff permanently due to gross misbehaviors during and after the 2022 and 2023 senior tournaments. The Committee unanimously voted to allow the team to return in 2024 if the Post Commander assumes full responsibility for the team, assigns a team manager with full authority to run the team, appoints a new coaching staff, and deals with suitable punishment for any returning players. John Bly, new team manager, will keep us informed of the team's progress.

Derry Post 9 Under Head Coach George Welch, this program forfeited 5 games during each of the last 2 years (junior in 2022 and senior in 2023). Post leadership plans on meeting with Coach Welch face-to-face to discuss the future of the senior team. The Baseball Committee unanimously voted to allow Derry to run a junior team in 2024 and bring back its senior team in '25 if it shows it has enough players to support 2 teams.

Newmarket Post 67 Junior Team The Post Commander had a prior discussion with Chairman Rick Harvey concerning the lack of paperwork from the '23 team. They forfeited 3 games and did not pay the umpires assigned to those games. The Post has since made restitution for those fees. The Baseball Committee unanimously voted to allow the team to play in '24 if it appoints a new coaching staff and submits complete paperwork and original birth certificates for all players.

State Tournament Help We need many more volunteers to help manage the many tasks involved in running 3 tournaments back-to-back over a 3-week plus period.

Chairman Rick Harvey Discussion Rick previously rescinded his resignation and agreed to remain as the Chairman while running just the Senior Tournament after 2024. Starting with the 2025 season, we are seeking Tournament Directors for the Junior and Prep Programs or permanent junior and prep hosts for these tournaments. Otherwise, tournament games for these levels will be held at the home fields of the higher-seeded teams until the final day of the tournaments.

Background Checks and Awareness Training Both are to be done every year (through Protect Youth Sports only) by all volunteers who have player contact, not just coaches. Steve Hernandez added that it's likely that this will be expanded to include 18 and 19 year-old players. The Chairman will provide information on this issue when it becomes available.

Insurance and Fees Nothing new to report.

Umpire Update Fees will remain the same for 2024. We will be recommending 2 umpires from NH to work at the 2024 Senior Regional.

Gamechanger We will be firmly implementing its mandatory use by all teams starting with the '24 season. All teams are to report their GC team name to the Chairman by May 15. **Going forward, the "Home Team Gamechanger" will be the official record for each game, especially for pitch counts.**

Legion Patch Reminder All coaches jackets and player shirts must have a patch. Crossed bat baseball patches are still allowed.

College Prospect Camps Several New England colleges are running these camps including Keene State, UMass Lowell, and Stonehill among others. We will be encouraging our players and their parents to seriously consider attending one or more of these. This is a very efficient, accurate, and economical way for interested players to be evaluated for their college potential.

Dual Rostered Players The Baseball Committee voted to return to the old rule and allow just 3 players to be dual-rostered in a program.

Comments on Rules and Regulations:

New Cut List Rule will go into effect. Names of players cut will be sent to our Chairman and then be made available to our programs so they may be evaluated for playing on another eligible team.

Bat Rule Change - American Legion Bat Rule 1-B has been adopted by the committee. Teams no longer will have to use wood bats exclusively, but will have a choice of using BBCORE wood, metal, and other options.

Prep Rule Changes: Pitch count rule will remain the same as at other levels with a 105-pitch limit. There is no more DH or EH. Teams have a choice to bat a regular lineup of 9 batters or bat all players in attendance for that game. Other regular season rules will remain in effect.

NH Legion Web Page has been greatly simplified with many links to the most commonly accessed areas. **Forms** are listed together for simple access by players and parents. **All forms, especially Form 2, must be completed on both sides where required and signed by the player and a parent. Enrollment of the player's school from grades 10 through 12 and post-grad if available must be included.** A link to this information is on the webpage for every school in New Hampshire.

It was moved by Steve Hernandez and seconded by John Bly that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was passed at 11:46.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Blake, Vice Chairman