

**Minutes of Department of New Hampshire
Baseball Committee Meeting of
November 3, 2024, at Hudson Post 48**

Chairman Rick Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:33 and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in honor of the late Frank Ulcickas who passed away recently. Frank was a great friend and contributor to our program for several decades and more recently made Holman Stadium and Nashua the annual home of our senior state tournament.

Committee members in attendance were Chairman Rick Harvey, Vice Chair Jim Blake (remotely), Steve Hernandez, Dave Rouleau, Dan Griswold, Wayne Perra, Pete St. Pierre, Keith Bowen and Gary Noyes.

Others in attendance were: Bob Dionne - National Executive Committeeman – Jutras Post #43, Bill Roy - PDC and former National Vice Commander-Sweeney Post #2, John Ryan-Commander/Baseball GM - Post #63 Salem, and Chris Tutt Sr. - Post #27 Londonderry, Mike Henzley – Merrimack Post #98 and Mario Amaral – Derry Post #9

Minutes of the last meeting on March 3 were reviewed. Jim Blake moved to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Dan Griswold, and the motion was passed.

Chairman Rick Harvey reviewed all of the issues involving the misbehavior of the Berlin Post 36 junior team after winning the Junior Regional Tournament in Maine. Adjudication and accountability took place at a meeting of all parties on Sunday, September 29, at Sweeney Post #2. Berlin will continue to have a Legion baseball program, but its GM has been suspended for 1 year with probation for a second year, the coaching staff who attended the Regional may continue to coach but will be on probation for 2 years, and 6 of its players who attended the Regional may play in 2025. However, its remaining 6 players who were in attendance at the Regional have been suspended for 1 year after declining to write an accountability paper to our Chairman. In addition, Post 36 leadership must exercise control and responsibility for its baseball program.

New Teams for 2025: It was moved by Wayne Perra, seconded by Dan Griswold, and approved that the following teams be added to our program:

- Senior Program: Conway Post #46, Weare Post #65, Londonderry Post #27, Dover Post #8 and Merrimack Post #98.
- Junior Program: Hudson Post #48, Merrimack Post #98, and Dover Post #8.
- Prep Program: Merrimack Post #98.

Conway was not approved to add a Junior team. Initial district alignments were reviewed for the Senior and Junior Programs. All 11 teams in the Prep Program will now be combined into 1 Division.

Showcase Update: will be held on Tuesday, July 22, at Holman Stadium, Nashua, using the same format as last year. Looking for more help running this.

Senior Program: 16 teams this year with 2 Districts of 8 teams each. We have more time this season which will run from June 9-July 19. Tournament will be again be chaired by UIC Steve Drescher and will run from July 25-29 (plus 2 rain dates) at Holman Stadium.

Junior Program: 14 teams this year. Season will run from June 9-July 26. Tournament will run from August 1-5 (plus 2 rain dates). Gill Stadium has been reserved. The Baseball Committee is scheduled to run the tournament but we are looking for a host Post to run it this year and in future years. This issue has also been addressed in another portion of our minutes. FYI, NH will be hosting the junior regionals in 2026.

Prep Program: 11 teams in 1 Division this year. Matt Gladu and Booma Post 6 did a great job hosting last year's tournament. We have no tournament date or site as of yet. We are looking for a host to run it this year and future years.

Tournament Help: Chairman Harvey referred to his previously issued memo regarding the need for others to host and run the prep and junior tournaments going forward. He and the committee would assist (discussion with potential hosts) but simply cannot continue to run all 3 tournaments every summer.

Background Checks and Awareness Training must be completed every year by all volunteers, coaches, managers, and players 18 years of age or older. Many completed their checks and training late last year. They must be done in a more timely basis.

Insurance and Fees: no updates yet.

Umpire Update: Gary Noyes made 2 proposals:

- Increase umpire fee from \$25 to \$35 for when they have shown up at the ballpark and a game has already been cancelled due to weather.
- Institute a 3-umpire system for Senior games during the regular season. Each umpire would receive \$75 for a total cost of \$225 per game, a \$45 increase from the current cost of having 2 umpires.

Pete St. Pierre moved, Dan Griswold seconded, and both proposals were approved.

Rules and Regulations: National is in the process of approving the use of MLB's ghost runner rule starting after the 9th inning has been played. We will discuss after it has been passed.

Gamechanger: we will continue to mandate its use.

Team Building Calendar: It was moved by Steve Hernandez, seconded by Dan Griswold, and approved that:

- All Tryouts (for all programs) must be completed by June 1.
- All 76's and 77's will be accepted by the Chairman between June 2 and 5.
- All paperwork be submitted to the proper designee by June 22.

Scheduling Meeting: we discussed bringing this back to allow everyone to complete their schedules face-to-face at our next spring meeting on April 6, 2025. It will be mandatory thatg one person attend form each program that has the authority to schedule games.

Tournament Lineup Changes: as the official scorers for all tournament games, we must be notified by umpires/coaches of all lineup, pitching, and defensive changes. Most, but not all, have been cooperative.

Team Code of Conduct: This would explain Legion rules and guidelines to players, coaches, and parents. Chairman Harvey will compile a proposed code for us to discuss at the spring meeting. This has been very successfully used by the NH Cal Ripken program among others.

Junior Rosters: It was moved by Steve Hernandez, seconded by Dan Griswold, and approved that when no senior team is involved in the same program (hosted by the same Post), a junior program may have no more than 4 17 year-olds on its roster. This is to make the regular season and tournament much more fair to all teams in our junior program.

New Business:

- Our Social Media Director, Julia Lavigne, has graduated with her master's degree, and has been asked to return if she would like. She has done a fantastic job as our initial Social Media Director, creating everything from scratch. Her efforts the last 2 years have been very well received and so much appreciated by our program.
- PDC Bill Roy announced that the legendary PDC George West, the Godfather of Legion baseball in NH, has recently passed away.
- The MIAA has announced that AAU coaches may no longer coach in private high schools and school choice schools in Massachusetts.
- Coach Walter Beede is a valuable resource for players and parents in evaluating travel and college baseball opportunities. There is a huge amount of misinformation out there that he is well-versed in explaining and correcting. With much more change coming down in the near future involving the NCAA, transfer portals, NIL deals, and eligibility, we may bring him in to talk with people in our program.
- We ask all teams to be cautious when scheduling doubleheaders late in the season.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Blake, Vice Chairman