

**Minutes of Department of New Hampshire  
Baseball Committee  
Meeting of November 7, 2021 – Hudson Post 48**

Chairman Rick Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence in memory of late and long-time committee member Jim Dupont took place.

In attendance were Department Commander Bill Roy, Baseball Chairman Rick Harvey, and committee members Steve Hernandez, Wayne Perra, Brian LeVeille, Pete St. Pierre, Keith Bowen and Jim Blake (remotely). Others present were Tim Lunn of Nashua, Joe Dee of Laconia, Mike Henzley of Merrimack, Rich Beard and Kevin Thatcher from Keene, Duane Johnson and Rick Mercier from Berlin, and Tim Dodge of Londonderry.

Wayne Perra made a motion and Steve Hernandez seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 7. The motion was approved.

**Legion Baseball Showcase:** Chairman Harvey reviewed the past year's event which was attended by 15 Division 3 college coaches. He made the case that it's well worth doing as New England is becoming a D3 "hotbed" and provides a vital service to the level of players that we have in NH. D1 caliber players are already committed by their junior years and frequently while they are sophomores. Potential D2 candidates are "hit-or-miss." This 2022 legion showcase is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, at Gill Stadium.

**Senior Program:** The incredibly rainy 2021 season was reviewed along with the very successful tournament at Holman Stadium chaired by Frank Ulcickas. The committee approved his request for the Friends of Southern NH Youth Sports to host the tournament in 2022, 2023, and 2024 along with option for 2025. So, this year's event will run at Holman from July 22 through 26 with rain dates on July 27-28.

This year's regular season schedule will once again have 17-18 games per team and will start on Monday, June 13, and end on Saturday, July 16. Postponed games are to be made up on the next available mutual open date. This rule will be strictly enforced.

**Junior Program:** The also incredibly rainy, but two-week longer 2021 season was reviewed along with the also very successful tournament at Gill Stadium. With this program growing by three teams to sixteen, (teams from Bedford, Plymouth and Portsmouth are returning in 2022) each team's 2022 schedule will consist of 17 games within its 8-team division---will play every other team twice with 3 extra games set by a draw. Enforcement of the makeup rule also will apply here.

The season will start on Monday, June 13, and end on Saturday, July 23. The tournament will run from July 29 through August 2 with rain dates on August 3-4. We're still working on having the entire event at Gill Stadium. The junior regional tournament will run from August 5-7 and will be hosted by either Massachusetts or Connecticut.

**Prep Program:** The past season was reviewed long with the tournament at Gill Stadium. We're looking at the same six teams returning with an expanded regular season running from Wednesday June 1 through Wednesday August 3. The single-elimination tournament will then run from August 8 through 11 at Gill Stadium.

**Marketing:** We're looking for a volunteer to take on increasing media coverage of our regular season and tournaments along with expanding our use of our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**Waiver Form 76's:** Stricter enforcement of our waiver rules will take place. A parent must take the lead in contacting the coach who would be impacted by losing a player. Coaches have the right to refuse any and all waiver requests.

**Potential 12 Year-Old Program:** This will be looked at for 2023 and beyond and could involve Cal Ripken and Little League district teams joining our program after their district regular seasons are over. The idea is to play both their league tournament schedule and a legion schedule simultaneously and in the end play for a legion state championship too.

**Background Checks and Awareness Training:** Annually, all volunteers must pass an annual background check along with updated awareness training from Protect Youth Sports. An email will be sent out to further explain both processes.

**Coaches Pullovers:** Use either a screened-on patch or a real one on all such pullovers in addition to all uniform tops. This is a national rule which our program should be abiding by.

**Pitching Rules:** These were reviewed, and the importance of keeping accurate pitch counts during the regular season was discussed.

**Potential National Rule Changes:** We reviewed several recommended rule changes by the National Baseball Committee. While not approved yet, we expect to hear more within the next few weeks.

**Team Registration:** An email will be sent out by our Chairman with regards to how teams should proceed with the registration process in 2022. This email will explain a process to help alleviate the anxiety of getting our teams registered nationally earlier in the year.

**Email List:** From information gained while doing background checks from PYS, we will be able to extract a new email list of all our volunteers so everyone will be part of our program emails throughout the year. In the past, our Chairman created this list by hand and because of the workload involved only included team administrators, head coaches and maybe an assistant coach.

**Other Business:** While no votes were taken, there was wide-ranging discussion on a variety of topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Blake, Vice Chairman