



2020 AGM REPORT

October 17th, 2020

Baseball Nova Scotia
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1. Message from the President – Andrew Downs

Following a successful 2019 season, which had many highlights, including Baseball Nova Scotia just narrowly missing out on repeating as the Baseball Canada Province of the year (we finished second), the 2020 season was shaping up to be another busy and successful one – it was, but for a very different reason – a global pandemic and the Novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

These past few months have affected the lives of people around the globe. Our points of reference have changed overnight. We were forced to modify instantly our habits and discover a new norm for work, school, sport and living.

We learned social distancing, developed home/work routines, became experts in the use of Zoom technology. We are repeatedly washing our hands, and people wear masks to protect themselves, family members, peers and strangers.

Our sport wasn't spared the challenges faced with COVID-19.

Through this collective experience, we're all discovering a new strength. The local / community baseball associations and desire to get back on the field was as strong, if not stronger than ever.

Today, I would like to acknowledge the strength in our provincial baseball community. To the volunteers, association leaders, coaches, umpires, players, parents and fans, thank-you. Thank you for working tirelessly, harnessing all your energy and skills to be innovative, supportive and proactive to provide a safe environment to get back to playing the game we all love.

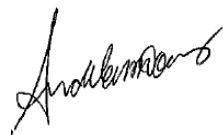
To the Baseball Nova Scotia staff, Executive Members and members of the Board of Directors, thank you for all your hard work, time, passion during this difficult season.

To the various committees tasked with the development of the BNS Return to Play plan, without your great work, we wouldn't have been in a position to "pitch" our case to Dr. Strang and his team to allow us to get back on the field.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous support received from Sport Nova Scotia's Chief Executive Officer Jamie Ferguson and his staff. CEO Ferguson, worked hard to keep us up to date with funding opportunities, being the conduit between us and the Nova Scotia government departments and his invaluable advice.

A special thank you to outgoing VP- Finance Holly Lapierre and Secretary Chris Solariski for you hard work, dedication and leadership for your time on the Baseball Nova Scotia Executive.

Have a great off season and look forward to a much better 2021 season of baseball.



Andrew Downs
President, Baseball Nova Scotia

2. Finance

2.1 Income Statement

Baseball Nova Scotia Income Statement

Actual 2020-04-01 to 2020-09-30

REVENUE

REVENUE

Membership Fees	37,570.00	
Provincial Championship Fees	0.00	
Bluenose League Fees	0.00	
REGISTRATION TOTAL		37,570.00
NCCP Clinic Registration		2,700.00
Participation Funding Grant	20,000.00	
Core Funding Grant	50,000.00	
Excellence Funding Grant	17,500.00	
Federal Emergency Wage Subsidy	34,205.87	
S4S Funding PSO	2,500.02	
S4S Emergency Grant	4,940.78	
Provincial Coach Grant	13,141.05	
TOTAL PROVINCIAL GRANTS		142,287.72
Student Employment Grant		0.00
Rally Cap Hats		816.00
Awards Banquet		0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		0.00
Interest Revenue		2.91
TOTAL REVENUE		183,376.63
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EXPENSE

PAYROLL

Payroll	61,326.97	
MERC Expense	4,497.84	
RRSP Expense	2,407.48	
Group Ins. & MMC Expense	1,260.64	
Payroll Expense	16.80	
TOTAL PAYROLL		69,509.73

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE

Interest and Bank Charges		142.33
Merchant Fees		133.86
Baseball Canada Membership	0.00	
Baseball Atlantic Membership	0.00	
Sport Nova Scotia Membership	345.00	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		345.00
Office Travel	837.10	
Baseball Canada Meetings - Staff	0.00	
Professional Development	0.00	
Homewood Health	86.94	
Rent & Storage	1,722.12	
Cell Phones	1,081.75	
Printing	0.00	
Office Equipment	0.00	
Parking	0.00	
Network & Internet	1,332.03	
Office Phone/Fax	157.97	
Office Supplies	295.99	
Mailing & Shipping	0.00	
Licences and Fees	0.00	
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE		5,513.90
Provincial Medals	0.00	
Provincial Banners	0.00	
Provincial Hosting Stipends	0.00	
Provincial BNS Line	0.00	
TOTAL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS		0.00
Board Meetings	0.00	
Baseball Canada Meetings - Board	0.00	
Regional Meetings	0.00	
Standing Committee Expense	0.00	
TOTAL BOARD EXPENSE		0.00
Nationals Hosting Stipend		0.00
Atlantics Hosting Stipend		0.00
Awards Banquet		0.00
NCCP Facilitator	1,800.00	
NCCP Materials	0.00	
NCCP Facility Rental	0.00	
TOTAL NCCP CLINIC EXPENSE		1,800.00
Insurance		6,191.00
17U Provincial Team	0.00	
15U Provincial Team	0.00	
16U Girls Provincial Team	0.00	
21U Girls Provincial Team	0.00	

13U Provincial Team	0.00	
14U Girls Provincial Team	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL PROVINCIAL TEAM EXPENSE		0.00
Rally Cap	0.00	
My First Pitch	0.00	
Challenger	0.00	
Girls Grassroots	0.00	
Winterball	0.00	
Recreational Baseball	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS		0.00
Rally Cap Hats		4,003.65
Umpires Rulebooks		545.26
Umpires Development		0.00
Website & Database		1,312.50
Atlantic Travel Stipend	0.00	
National Travel Stipend	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL CLUB TRAVEL EXPENSE		0.00
Provincial Coach NCCP & PD	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL COACH DEVELOPMENT		0.00
Bluenose League Fields	0.00	
Bluenose League Medals	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL BLUENOSE LEAGUE EXPENSE		0.00
Marketing Initiative		0.00
KidSport Donation		0.00
Legal Fees		1,766.69
Miscellaneous Expense		<u>1,735.89</u>
TOTAL GENERAL & ADMIN EXPENSE		<u>23,490.08</u>
 TOTAL EXPENSE		 <u>92,999.81</u>
 NET INCOME		 <u><u>90,376.82</u></u>

2.2 Balance Sheet**Baseball Nova Scotia****Balance Sheet As at 2020-09-30****ASSET****ASSETS**

Investment GIC	58,599.26
Scotiabank Operating	211,484.97
Payroll Bank	4,159.74
Accounts Receivable	<u>9,630.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>283,873.97</u>

TOTAL ASSET	<u>283,873.97</u>
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LIABILITY**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable	1,355.85
Payroll Payable	3,653.20
Scotiabank Visa	445.88
Deferred Revenue	<u>2,499.98</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>7,954.91</u>

LONG TERM LIABILITY

CEBA Loan	<u>40,000.00</u>
TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES	<u>40,000.00</u>

TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>47,954.91</u>
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EQUITY**EQUITY**

Retained Earnings	145,542.24
Current Earnings	<u>90,376.82</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>235,919.06</u>

TOTAL EQUITY	<u>235,919.06</u>
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>283,873.97</u>
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3. Officials – Supervisor of Umpires, Blaine Gallant

TRAINING / EVALUATION

In 2020, we had some challenges with regards to running clinics. We made the decision not to add any new umpires to our membership due to the number of changes required with the COVID changes. We ran 5 online ZOOM sessions that allowed us to have 218 registered officials for 2020. This was around 38% of our membership from 2019. This created challenges but in most areas of the Province, we were able to have at least one umpire officiate most games.

In the off season, we will be looking at ways to utilize the online training component to enhance our inperson clinics. We will be developing the plan in the next few months.

The focus for the next three years is to increase the number of instructors and supervisors at the provincial level through the Baseball Canada Supervisor Program. We currently have five certified course conductors, three at the Senior level who can run National level clinics and supervise at national events.

We are planning another Course Conductor Caravan in 2021 for the Maritime provinces and are in the process of identifying umpires within BNSUD to attend the Caravan. We continued to work at improving our evaluation program.

PROVINCIAL PROGRAM

In 2020 we added some younger members to our Board. We are also added a new role as the lead for Female Umpiring. We will be working to develop a strategy on Female umpiring in NS and will utilize the connections that we have developed across the country to build this strategy.

2020 Registration Breakdown						
Region	level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Overall
Bedford/Sackville	35	12	9	0	0	56
Cape Breton	6	3	1	0	1	11
Dartmouth	8	3	6	5	0	22
Fundy	11	11	1	2	1	26
Halifax	27	6	3	3	0	39
Hammonds Plains	9	5	1	1	0	16
Highland	5	7	2	0	0	14
South Shore	8	5	0	1	0	14
South West	5	3	2	0	0	10
Valley	2	4	4	0	0	10
Total	116	59	29	12	2	218

NATIONAL PROGRAM

Overall, we had 15 active umpires in the province at Level 4. As noted above in the training section, we are actively increasing the number of certified course conductors.

BNS / BNSUD PARTNERSHIP

Beginning in 2016, BNS and BNSUD entered into a partnership to assist BNSUD to recruit new umpires, to improve training and to enhance the overall development of our umpires. Moving forward, we are planning to use this amount strictly toward umpire development both at all levels of umpiring.

Blaine Gallant
Supervisor of Umpires

4. Girls Baseball – VP of Girls Baseball, Mike Crawford

2020 Off Season

- The 2020 off-season started with our first Female Umpire (Skylar Blanchette) selected to attend the MLB Umpire Development camp in Florida, and the selection of a new 16U Coaching Staff (welcome back Jenna Jackson & Jill Stymest as returning assistant coaches).
- The off-season also brought a new training program for BNS High Performance teams with CSCA, focusing on strength & conditioning, mental performance, and providing guidance on nutrition. 16U players from the 2019 season participated in weekly sessions and customized workouts. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the sessions took place via weekly Zoom web-based calls.
- In spite of the cancellation of National, Atlantic & Provincial Championships, and the cancellation of spring indoor training sessions, when the government allowed a return to training, the tryout process for the 2020 16U team drew over 40 players. Once the team was selected, indoor training sessions & outdoor practices began in June.

2020 Season

- With the cancellation of the 2020 Bluenose League, a delayed opening of the season until August, and reduced programming in many communities, we saw a 67% drop in overall registration, particularly in the rec programs.
- The BNS 16U team participated in a modified season, playing games with 15U AA teams from associations mostly in and around HRM. Later in the season (mid Aug), the team was split into 2 teams to maintain competitive development and allow our players to play against the appropriate level of competition (AA & AAA).
- This year also saw a three team “female only” 14U league. The league played in the HRM with the Young Sluggers program, but has expressed a desire to expand across the province over the next few years.
- And although the 2020 Atlantic Championships were cancelled and there was no 14U team selected, in September we held three 14U ID camps to maintain an interest in the program and identify potential players for the 2021 team. The clinics were run by current and former 16U players, and over 30 players attended from across the province.

2021 Plans

- Assuming no further restrictions due to Covid-19, we intend to continue with an off-season training program delivered to our High Performance athletes through the CSCA.
- Plans are already being made to provide off-season spring camps / clinics for 12U & 14U aged players.
- We would also like to work closely with Young Sluggers to build off the success of their 14U league this summer in the HRM, with the intention of expanding the league and allowing more players to participate from outside the metro area.
- And BNS intends to have 14U, 16U & 21U teams again in 2021, with all preparing to compete in their respective National or Atlantic championships.

Mike Crawford
VP of Female Baseball

5. High Performance

2020 we were able to offer 3 High Performance teams, 17U, 15U and 16U girls. All 3 programs were able to select a core team and train majority in smaller groups to follow provincial guidelines. Once guidelines were lifted, all 3 programs were able to complete in an shortened season in leagues that were created during this time. Our TD Cory Boutilier spending a lot of his time helping out all 3 programs attending all evaluations and team practices. Running as the head Evaluator and assisting in running practices, position specific training and assistant coaching during games. Cory had attended roughly 70 tryouts, practices and games during the 2020 season.

2020/2021 17U Core team began tryouts in August, totaling 7 tryouts (Bridgewater, Kentville, Sydney, Truro, 3 HRM) with 93 total athletes trying out. Core team of 40 will train / tryout until November when final team is selected.

Sports Science

In 2020, 2 of our High Performance teams successfully completed 12 weeks of their sports science programs through the CSCA and 3 programs will be set up for the 2020/2021 season.

Cory Boutilier
Technical Director

6. Coaching

2020 saw less growth and participation in the National Coaching Certification Program than back in 2019. Due to Covid-19, we were limited to online deliveries for coaches. Two of our LFs had completed online delivery training from Baseball Canada before conducting deliveries. We offered ½ price on all clinics that were offered in 2020, previous years we offered Initiation and Teaching & Learning free and full price for other courses. Provincially, our momentum from 2018 & 2019 was hindered. This year we successfully completed 8 online deliveries totaling 93 coaches attending and 23 new coaches registered on NCCP.

Cory Boutilier
Technical Director

8. Regional Reports

9.1 Cape Breton

First, I would like to thank all of the organizations, coaches, volunteers, umpires, parents and kids not only in Cape Breton but around the whole province, who all tried their best to make this a successful and safe summer. 2020 was definitely a different season than we are used to and I pray next season we can get back to normal. In CB only a couple of areas offered 8u, most were worried about keeping the young kids apart. With Bluenose not going and the CB 11u League shut down 11u was played in a few regions and games were put together by the coaches. The 13u CB League had 7 teams and was won by the Sydney Minor Blue Jays. The 15u CB League had 4 teams 2 of which were from CB and was won by Strait Area Sting. Newly formed Northeastern 18u league had 7 teams 3 of which was from CB and was won by Lake Echo Lakers. The 18u CB Expos won the 3rd Annual Joneil Hanna Event. The Sydney Sooners ran a very competitive 4 team men's exhibition league and RABA had the 3 teams from Isle Madame get a couple of exhibition games in. Many areas shut down operations for the summer and all Little League was shut down also. The rules that were put in place all became normal and the only one that affected any of the games was the time limit. CB again had some boys and girls picked to play on the NS Provincial teams. Sydney Mines was awarded money from the Blue Jays for work done on the Nicole Meany baseball field. There is talk of the Dominion Hawks starting up operation again and they are also in the process of building a field of dreams hopefully completed in the next year or 2. It has been my pleasure representing CB again. Finally I'd like to thank all of the board members and executive at BNS without all of the work you put in over the last year this season would not have been possible.

Brad Stevens
Regional Director Cape Breton

9.2 Northern

With the COVID shortened version of a season it went mostly ok. Several teams (Approx 20) participated playing exhibition games. Some teams getting 15+ games. The adjustments to the game because of COVID caused complaints related to the time limits. Some teams just didn't like it when the game got called after the time limit when no games were scheduled after theirs.

Umpire numbers were down and again the cause was 2020 COVID 19.

Hopefully 2021 will allow us to play ball the way it should be played.

Chris Hatchard
Regional Director Northern

9.3 Southern

The 2020 season was unique and I hope we never have another one like it. Although I didn't get to touch base with every association in the region, the general consensus was that registration numbers were down for most associations. Some offered a full program from age 4 through 18U and some opted out of the T-ball or 9U programs. But it was good to see that most all association offered some sort of programming. Hopefully this will help boost numbers for 2021. My apologies to the associations I did not hear from this past season. I hope to hear from you in 2021. Take care and stay safe until spring.

Chris Zinck
Regional Director Southern

9.4 Metro North

It would be remiss not to mention the overwhelming gratitude and support that has been expressed by the associations for the continued communications and efforts put forth by the staff of BNS which allowed for a shortened 2020 baseball season. The BNS 'Return to Play 2020' plan provided a clear outline of the expectations to be followed for a safe baseball experience. Additional thanks go out to all volunteers at the associations that were able to organize and initiate a quick start to their baseball season once approval was received from the provincial government.

Associations, coaches, and instructors need to be recognized and applauded for their spectacular efforts to salvage some sort of a baseball curriculum in irregular times. The creative approaches taken this past summer by the many age divisions for player development and the proven results may change the way associations plan future activities regarding development.

The start of the 2020 season was limited to practices so compliance with COVID-19 restrictions could be adhered to. Many coaches experimented with creative ideas to develop individual skills while maintaining interest without competitive game play. The extra practice sessions overwhelmingly resulted in progressive player improvements at all levels, especially for the recreational players. Several associations are now considering changes to the 2021 season for recreational players which could include three weeks of development provided by skilled instructors at the start of the season.

The use of whiffle balls this year has created a buzz for fun and excitement in many of the players. Coaches found many ways to incorporate whiffle balls into all aspects of the game and the new approach had players engaged and excited. A whiffle ball league became a welcomed new normal in Hammonds Plains where 192 players resulted in 38 teams playing in 5 different age groups. This experimental play will most likely result in a separate whiffle ball league next year and this concept is being promoted to Baseball Canada for future consideration.

Many competitive team practices were more inclusive this year as players ranging from A-AAA took the field together as a core group and experienced the same drills from experienced coaches instead of being divided into their appropriate skill level groups. This inclusion contributed to everyone being challenged by the high-level drills, especially the A and AA teams.

Once competitive games commenced, between 8 and 25 games were experienced by recreational and competitive teams. Playing for development and fun versus trying to secure provincial titles provided for a relaxed atmosphere at most games. While there were no championship titles awarded this year, we can be thankful that player skills improved and everyone who participated is a winner.

There was no on field Challenger Baseball for our region this year however the Jays Care Foundation continued to support the community by providing Adaptive Home Baseball Kits for help kids enrolled in Challenger Baseball so they could stay active at home this summer and fill programming gaps for the families of kids living with disabilities. The Jays Care Foundation also conducted a Virtual Jamboree with some 500 participants across the country.

Membership in all associations is down, ranging from a 60-75% decrease in registered participants. For some associations, the loss of revenues in 2020 may have long term impacts on operational budgets as they try to recover financially.

Again, thank you to everyone who volunteered your time to make the 2020 season a positive experience for the kids and parents involved.

Bill Laurette
Regional Director Metro North

9.5 Metro South

It was a challenging summer of baseball in the region this year. Overall numbers were down this year due to COVIC-19 but interest still remained very high. Once we did get back on the field both players and parents were excited to have something positive to look forward to. Once games were allowed in August everyone was excited to get back to playing against competition. It took some adjustment and getting used to the changes to game but in all everyone was incredibly happy to be playing. All in all it turned out to be a very good and full summer/fall of ball with most teams getting in a full schedule of games. The only thing that was missing were tournaments and Provincials.

A huge shoutout and thank you must go out to Kevin Murphy who was a key player in getting baseball back on the field and getting the time limit increased to two hours. This is not to minimize all the time, hard work, and effort put in by so many people to get through this challenging year. Let us hope 2021 is back to “normal”.

Brian Secord
Regional Director Metro South

9. 2020 COVID Response Timeline

Date	Event
March 13 th	Based on advice from Sport Nova Scotia and the Provincial Government, BNS advises members to exercise caution when participating in organized activities. Cancellations not necessary.
March 15 th	All BNS in person activities suspended until April 5 th
March 16 th	BNS Board Meeting
March 20 th	BNSUD cancels all in person clinics up to May 3 rd
March 31 st	BNS Board Meeting
April 1 st	BNS extends suspension of all in person activities to May 4 th . An updated Calendar of Events is also communicated to membership.
April 7 th	The April 18 th Baseball Nova Scotia AGM date is canceled, with a new date and location TBD
April 9 th	BNS Board Meeting
April 23 rd	BNS Board Meeting
April 24 th	BNS extends suspension of in person activities to June 1 st . BNS encourages members to stay off fields and to adhere to Public Health rules. A contingency plan is also announced to be in development.
April 29 th	BNSUD further suspends all in person activities to June 1 st . Virtual Semi-AGM announced for May 31 st
April 30 th	BNS releases a COVID-19 Contingency Plan. Included in the plan are tentative adjustments to the Calendar of Events, Bluenose League, Provincial Championships, Atlantic Championships, development programs (Recreational, Rally Cap, Challenger, etc.), coach education, official training, and high-performance programs.
May 7 th	BNS Board Meeting
May 19 th	BNS's Return to Play Committee meets virtually to review document to be submitted to the Provincial Government. The Return to Play plan is necessary for the sport to return in 2020.
May 21 st	BNS Board Meeting
May 28 th	BNS further suspends in person activities to June 15 th . Return to Play proposal submitted to Provincial Government for review, with an updated expected in the coming days.
May 29 th	Public Health announces sports programming can return with many restrictions in place. June 15 th start date maintained while Return to Play plan is reviewed.
June 4 th	BNS Board Meeting
June 8 th	Phase 1 of the Return to Play plan announced to come into effect June 15 th
June 15 th	Community training and practices commence
June 18 th	Public Health announces sports groups can gather in groups of 50 with social distancing in place, allowing for larger training groups.
June 18 th	BNS Board Meeting
June 19 th	BNSUD commences online registration, as well as adjustments to 2020 operations
June 25 th	BNS releases an update to the Return to Play. Baseball did not get approved to return to competition as social distancing could not be guaranteed. Final decision on the Bluenose League extended from June 26 th to July 3 rd .

July 3 rd	Bluenose League and Provincial Championships canceled due to no further easing of Public Health guidelines
July 6 th	BNS Board Meeting
July 12 th	BNS Board Meeting
July 17 th	BNS Meeting with Public Health
July 20 th	Update provided to membership on meetings held with Public Health. Update on baseball expected in coming days.
July 24 th	Public Health announce 'sports where contact is passing or infrequent are permitted to return to competition'. Baseball games are officially permitted to resume, pending a Return to Play review.
July 28 th	BNS releases updated Return to Competition protocols and an approved start date of July 31 st .
July 31 st	Competition commences across the province

10. 2020 Registration Numbers

	Male	Female	Totals
Players	3127	286	3413
Coaches	574	62	636
Umpires	204	13	217
Total Members	3905	361	4266