

# NORTH DUFFERIN BASEBALL LEAGUE

## MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016, 8:30 P.M.

---

Special Meeting of the League Executive at the Office of Scott Anderson, Lisle, Ont.

### Attendance:

Executive: President Chris Esson, Secretary Scott Anderson, Treasurer Dan Gowan.

Absent: Past President Jesse McIntyre, Vice President Tyler Linger.

President Chris Esson called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

## 1. NEW BUSINESS

### (a) Letter from Mansfield Cubs Baseball Club dated June 7, 2016

The League Executive received and considered a letter dated June 7, 2016 from the Mansfield Cubs Baseball Club regarding the Mansfield Cubs at Aurora Jays game on May 17, 2016 and the Mansfield Cubs at Alliston Athletics game on June 5, 2016.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Gowan, THAT at the game on May 17, 2016 between the Aurora Jays and Mansfield Cubs the lights at the Aurora diamond did not activate, at no fault of the Aurora Jays, AND THAT the game started at the scheduled start time of 7:30 p.m., AND THAT the game was called due to darkness in the fourth inning not reaching regulation status, AND FURTHER THAT the game be replayed in its entirety at Aurora, SECONDED by President Esson, CARRIED.

It was MOVED by Secretary Anderson, THAT the June 5, 2016 game between the Alliston Athletics and Mansfield Cubs was cancelled prior to the game and after the customary two hour timeframe due to inclement weather causing poor field conditions and not a scheduling conflict, AND THAT the Alliston Athletics informed the Mansfield Cubs of the cancellation due to poor field conditions as soon as practicable, AND FURTHER THAT the game be rescheduled at Alliston, SECONDED by Treasurer Gowan, CARRIED.

It was MOVED by President Esson, THAT the Secretary be directed to prepare and send a letter to the Mansfield Cubs Baseball Club informing of the Executive decision, SECONDED by Treasurer Gowan, CARRIED.

## 2. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Secretary Anderson, THAT the Meeting be adjourned at 9:43 p.m., SECONDED by President Esson, CARRIED.

June 7, 2016

North Dufferin Baseball League Executive;

Re:

- Aurora vs. Mansfield, May 17, 2016
- Alliston vs. Mansfield June 5, 2016

The following is a letter from the Mansfield Cubs asking for clarification from the NDBL executive as well as giving context to circumstances that led games not being played or cancelled without following "regular baseball procedure to games not completed" (Article 12, NDBL By-Laws, 2016).

The Mansfield Cubs respect the Executive and the time each individual gives to serving the league, as well as the fact that "The Constitution and By-laws of the League are general guidelines and cannot specifically cover each situation that arises" (A.46). With this in mind, the Cubs feel that these games require special consideration when objectively deciding on the outcome.

Please find below;

- General Questions
- Notes and Questions on Aurora vs. Mansfield
- Notes and Questions on Allstion vs. Mansfield
- Referenced NDBL By-laws 2016

### **General Questions;**

1. What is the definition of "regular baseball procedures" as written in Article 13?
2. What is the outcome if a home team does not comply with Articles 29 and/or 30?

### **Aurora vs. Mansfield, May 17, 2016, 7:30pm**

#### **- Notes;**

- Mansfield and Aurora started the game on time, with plenty of players
  - o There was no discussion of "malfunctioning lights" prior to the game
  - o Plenty of sunshine during warm-up and start of game
  - No other lights had turned on for nearby ball parks (at start of game)
- In the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning Ian Rettie from Aurora approached the coaches of Mansfield and explained;
  - o Aurora Jays were unsure that the lights will come on
  - o They already had an issue with "malfunctioning lights" for previous diamond times
  - o They have called the technician to come look at the panel for this game, and should arrive soon
  - o That he was sorry, but nothing more they could do

## Aurora vs. Mansfield, continued;

- In the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, lights at nearby diamonds turned on, and the technician arrived to look at the panel for the lights
- In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning the home plate umpire called the game to darkness
  - o The lights never had access to power, they did not “malfunction”
  - o This was known to be a problem by the Aurora Jays well before Mansfield players made time to travel to a Tuesday night game in Aurora
  - o Completely different situation than a rain-out

### Questions;

1. Article 12 states that a “home team shall notify the opposing team and the Statistician at least two hours before game time of a cancellation due to inclement weather.”
  - Is it reasonable for a visiting team to expect some sort of similar notification from the home team that “malfunctioning lights” are probable? Especially when the home team has prior knowledge and experience with this problem?
2. Does Article 13 apply to this situation?
  - Were regular baseball procedures followed?
  - Although the home team wasn’t late to start the game, they were early to end it, very similar.
    - i. It was the negligent for Aurora to allow the game to be scheduled with lights, with previous knowledge of problems
    - ii. Somewhat reasonable to speculate that Aurora deliberately went ahead with game as scheduled to try to get 5 innings in before it became too dark to avoid rescheduling in advance and following the proper protocol in Article 14:
      - Teams wishing to **cancel scheduled games for reasons other than inclement weather must do so at least fourteen days in advance of the scheduled game date and must be agreeable to the opposing team.** A new game date shall be decided before cancellation of original game date. The League Statistician shall be notified of the cancellation and the new date for the game. In the event of notification of less than fourteen days, League Executive approval shall be required.
3. Teams are in the NDBL to play baseball, and it is not the intention of the Mansfield Cubs to limit games played, but a forfeit does seem somewhat reasonable in this situation.
  - However a reasonable compromise could be the interpretation of Article 44, and apply it to this situation;
    - i. **ARTICLE 44:** If no umpires are present to umpire a game, **the game shall be rescheduled at the visiting teams park, with the original home team covering the cost of umpires, baseballs, and the diamond. The original home team shall remain the home team at the visitors park.**

## **Alliston vs. Mansfield, June 5, 2016, 8:00pm**

### **- Notes;**

- This was a rescheduled game that was postponed earlier in the year due to inclement weather
- Mansfield had a game earlier in the day with Ivy.
  - o Cubs met at restaurant very close to Alliston ball diamond at 6pm
  - o Watching the weather radar and getting updates from someone West of Alliston, the team was confident that the approaching rain, wouldn't last long and the game would have a good chance at being played
- Around 6:30-7:00, a brief, hard rain came and left
  - o During this time a representative called the Cubs to say the game was cancelled due to inclement weather
    - The Cubs were told it was cancelled, with no discussion
  - Not within 2 hour time frame in Article 12;
    - **"The home team shall notify the opposing team and the Statistician at least two hours before game time of the cancellation due to inclement weather."**
- By 7:15pm the weather was clear, but Alliston asserted the ball field was not in good shape, and that it would not be safe to play
  - o Alliston refused to show up at the diamond
- At 7:30pm, the majority of the Mansfield Cubs arrived at the Alliston ball diamond to find two organized slo-pitch teams playing a scheduled game
  - o The slo-pitch game went until 7:40pm,
  - The teams confirmed that they had the diamond booked until at least 7:30
  - o Diamond was a little wet, but no puddles and the sun was shining
  - With little preparation the playing surface would have been fine for a NDBL game
  - Mansfield did use the field for a brief practice, including pitching off the mound
- **Game was not played due to a scheduling conflict, not inclement weather**
- Umpires were instructed by E-mail at 7:00pm from an Alliston representative that the game was cancelled due to weather
  - o The umpire for the game did not make the call to postpone the game

### **Question(s);**

- Were the proper procedures followed by the home team, when attempting to postpone a game due to inclement weather, it is realized that improper scheduling was the reason for the a game not being completed? Specifically Articles 12, 13, 14, 29, 30 + 44.

## **NORTH DUFFERIN BASEBALL LEAGUE - BY-LAWS 2016**

### **ARTICLE 12:**

**The home team shall notify the opposing team and the Statistician at least two hours before game time of the cancellation due to inclement weather.**

### **ARTICLE 13:**

All League games, including playoffs, shall be seven innings in length, **with regular baseball procedure applying to games not completed.** A fifteen minute grace shall be allowed after the scheduled starting time for lateness. If a team is unable to field a team after the fifteen minutes, the **home plate umpire shall award the game to the opposing team.** As penalty, **the team forfeiting** shall present \$100.00 to the opposing team and \$100.00 to the League, and shall not play another scheduled game until notified by a member of the Executive. The home team shall notify the Statistician immediately of the forfeit.

### **ARTICLE 14:**

Teams wishing to **cancel scheduled games for reasons other than inclement weather must do so at least fourteen days in advance of the scheduled game date and must be agreeable to the opposing team.** A new game date shall be decided before cancellation of original game date. The League Statistician shall be notified of the cancellation and the new date for the game. In the event of notification of less than fourteen days, League Executive approval shall be required.

### **ARTICLE 29:**

Home teams shall supply bases and a properly laid out and lined diamond for each home game. The batter's boxes shall be lined out to the approval of the home plate umpire.

### **ARTICLE 30:**

The home team must supply three new game baseballs for each game. These balls must meet the approval of the home plate umpire and the Ontario Baseball Association.

### **ARTICLE 44:**

**If no umpires are present to umpire a game, the game shall be rescheduled at the visiting teams park, with the original home team covering the cost of umpires, baseballs, and the diamond. The original home team shall remain the home team at the visitors park.**

### **ARTICLE 46:**

**The Constitution and By-laws of the League are intended as a general guideline and cannot specifically cover each situation that arises.** Therefore, the President in regular or special meetings with a quorum of the **Executive shall have the authority to interpret and decide to the best of their judgement, with regard to all these circumstances or any specific case, any matters pertaining to any and all clauses contained herein and that their decisions shall be final.**