



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Ranking System

Introduction

Baseball NL has a long commitment to hosting provincial events for local associations. Over the past few years, we have seen exciting growth in the number of teams participating in these events. Unfortunately, this has led to the new problem of assorting teams so that all teams have a positive and competitive experience at Provincials. Geography can cause issues when it comes to playing enough competition to know what division to register for.

Purpose

Baseball NL has mandated the Minor Committee to come up with solutions to help teams rank themselves into divisions. The committee has sought information from other provincial baseball organizations as well as other PSO's to help shape our guidelines. While tiered systems are popular for some sports, they can cause difficulty when it comes to pitch count and the number of games feasible to play over a weekend. The minor committee is committed to looking at a multitude of systems in 2026 and beyond. In the interim, ranking systems can help mitigate the issues with past options.

Rationale

Ranking systems are very popular in other sports, for example provincial hockey tournaments, most other provincial baseball programs, etc. The purpose of this system is to place like skilled teams together. It's not only to ensure teams play in a high enough division, it's to ensure that teams are moved down a division if necessary.

The BNL Minor Committee is acutely aware that this may lead to several issues including tournament host changes and ensuring teams are playing enough ranking games. However, this is not uncommon to other sports and it is worked through operationally.

Recommendations for 2026

1. BNL should rank associations for the following events: 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U and 18U. 18U will be ranked using previous years rankings and any additional game scores if provided.
2. Associations will need to fill out an "Association Grading Form" by July 3rd, 2026 to indicate how many teams they think they will have in each division and which level they should play in for 2026.
3. BNL will send out an early grading report based on association self-grading by July 6th.

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4. BNL will design an information form for all teams in these divisions. This form will include roster information, as well as results from all games played so far that season. The Head Coach or Association Delegate will need to submit this document for coed teams (11U, 13U and 15U) by July 26th and for girls teams (12U, 14U and 16U) by Aug 3rd. This will allow time for multiple girls tournaments to occur before the rankings.
5. The Minor Committee plus any additional association delegates needed to represent all associations, in consultation with the Executive Director will rank all teams in the aforementioned divisions and release the coed ranking report by July 28th.
6. The Minor Committee, the Chair of the Female Committee, plus any additional association delegates needed to represent all associations, in consultation with the Executive Director will rank all teams in the aforementioned divisions and release the female ranking report by Aug 4th.
7. In the event of any disagreement, a team may elect to appeal the decision. 18U teams must appeal by July 15th. Coed Teams (11U, 13U and 15U) must appeal by July 30th. Female teams (12U, 14U and 16U) must appeal by Aug 6th. The team must outline the reason for the appeal and provide \$100 to BNL to make the appeal official. This will be returned to the team in the event of a successful appeal.
8. All tournament hosts/participants for 18U tournaments will be official by July 16th. All tournament hosts/participants for coed tournaments (11U, 13U and 15U) will be official by July 31st. All tournament hosts/participants for female tournaments (12U, 14U and 16U) will be official by August 7th.
9. In the event that a team does not play any games or does not submit an info form, BNL can use any relevant information and historical scores to place them where they deem the team will fit the best.
10. BNL will endeavor to ensure that all Provincials have 4-5 teams based on grading report. In the event that a division has over 5 teams, BNL will separate that division into 2 tiers based on the grading report (where possible).
11. In the event that AAA and AA divisions are separated into multiple tiers, the Tier 1 winner will represent NL at Atlantics.
12. Associations will have the ability to enter 4 teams max for any age division. Associations are only permitted to have one team per provincial event unless an exceptional circumstance is approved by the Baseball NL Exec.
13. Review outcomes of this system to make recommendations for 2027.

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