



Baseball PEI Annual General Meeting 2025

Director's Report – Female Development

Submitted by: *Rayanne Frizzell, Director of Female Development*

The 2025 season continued to build on the success of 2024, with strong participation and growing enthusiasm for girls' baseball across Prince Edward Island. This year saw **375 female players registered**, representing a slight **1.5% decrease** from 2024. However, with no 19U team fielded in 2025 (approximately 10 players), overall participation would have reflected a **1% increase** over last year.

Female Player Registration by Birth Year

Birth Year	2025	2024	2023	2022
2007+	-	10	17	11
2008	2	2	2	3
2009	7	10	15	10
2010	2	3	8	4
2011	10	12	14	6
2012	7	14	10	7
2013	9	17	21	18
2014	12	26	33	24
2015	15	22	21	30
2016	20	27	34	41
2017	32	53	57	45
2018	44	60	49	17
2019	71	66	33	13
2020	76	62*	11	2
2021	50	—	—	—
2022	18	—	—	—
Total	375	381	326	231

*2020 data show all registrants born 2020 and younger for this year only.



Grassroots Participation and Team Development

Following registration, Baseball PEI explored the possibility of fielding **all-girls teams** at the **11U or 13U levels**. Despite strong individual interest, there were not enough players concentrated within any one association to make this viable. Efforts to combine associations also proved difficult, as player commitments varied.

Our largest growth continues to occur at the **youngest age groups**, which highlights the importance of developing **long-term retention strategies** to keep these athletes engaged as they progress through the system.

14U Girls Program

The **14U Female Provincial Team** competed at the **Atlantic 14U Championship** in Hammonds Plains, NS. The team was led by **Karli Snow, Layla O'Brien, Ella Gallant, and Rhonda Pauls**, marking a milestone for PEI as the **first all-female coaching staff** to represent the province at any level.

Despite limited preparation time, the team came together quickly and performed exceptionally well, finishing just shy of the podium after **a close loss in the bronze medal game**. With **nearly the entire roster eligible to return in 2026**, the future for this group looks extremely bright.

16U Girls Program

The **16U Girls Team** participated in a **half season in the 15U AA league**, gaining valuable game experience against strong competition. We extend sincere thanks to the **coaches and players in that league** for their respect and encouragement toward our female athletes.

The team hosted the **Atlantic Cup in Charlottetown** and also traveled to **Trois-Rivières, Quebec** for a tournament, capping off an active year with participation at the **Canada Games** — the first-year female baseball was included. Team PEI finished 10th overall, but the experience was unforgettable for players and staff alike.

Through challenging Newfoundland weather that included **rain, wind, and even snow**, the players represented PEI with heart and resilience. A special thank-you goes out to **coaches Bobby Hughes, Nat Croken, and Ella Gallant**, along with all parents and players, for their commitment throughout a demanding but rewarding season. Notably, **two-thirds of the roster will be eligible to return next year**, ensuring continuity and future strength.



19U Program

Unfortunately, Baseball PEI was **unable to field a 19U team** this season. Baseball Canada's adjustment of the national tournament age from **21U to 19U** impacted roster eligibility, and with many players already fully committed to the Canada Games program, fielding a joint team with New Brunswick proved unfeasible.

Proactive steps are already being taken to **rebuild the 19U roster for 2026**, with the goal of ensuring representation at that level in the next competition cycle.

Summary

While 2025 presented some challenges, it was another **positive year of advancement for female baseball** on PEI. The continued growth of younger age groups, the success of the 14U and 16U programs, and the commitment of coaches and volunteers all signal exciting potential for the future.

There is **tremendous enthusiasm and opportunity** in our communities, and with the ongoing support of our member associations, Baseball PEI is well-positioned to keep expanding opportunities for girls and women in baseball.

We look forward to connecting with players, coaches, and associations over the winter to plan an even stronger 2026 season.

Respectfully submitted,

Rayanne Frizzell

Director of Female Development, Baseball PEI

At-A-Glance Summary

Participation & Growth Overview

- 🧑 **Total Female Players: 375**
 - 📉 *Down 1.5% from 2024* but would reflect a **1% increase** if 19U roster (10 players) were active.
 - 🌱 Strongest growth continues in **younger age groups (2018–2021 births)**
 - 🎯 **Goal for 2026:** Increase Retention and transition of players into older age categories
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Team Highlights

14U Female Team

- 🏆 Competed at the **Atlantic 14U Championship** in Hammonds Plains, NS
- 👩 *First all-female coaching staff* in PEI history (Karli Snow, Layla O'Brien, Ella Gallant, Rhonda Pauls)
- 🥉 Lost in the bronze medal game
- 🔁 Majority of roster eligible to return in 2026

16U Female Team

- ⚾ Competed in the **15U AA League (half season)** for development
- 🏠 Hosted **Atlantic Cup** in Charlottetown
- ✈ Traveled to **Trois-Rivières, QC** for tournament play
- 🍁 Represented PEI at the **Canada Games (first-ever women's baseball)**
- 💪 Finished 10th overall; $\frac{2}{3}$ of roster eligible to return in 2026

19U Program

- 🚫 No team fielded in 2025 due to Baseball Canada's new age change (21U → 19U)
- 🔧 Planning underway to re-establish team participation for 2026

Key Insights

- 📈 **Rapid growth at entry levels** – critical focus on retention for long-term sustainability
 - 🤝 **Associations encouraged** to collaborate on forming all-girls teams in 11U/13U divisions
 - 👤 Continued emphasis on mentorship: older players coaching and leading younger athletes
 - 🏆 Historic milestones reached with **female coaches and Canada Games representation**
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