



## Baseball PEI Annual General Meeting 2025

**Submitted by:** *Darrel Kirev, Director of 11U Baseball*

The 2025 season was a busy and competitive one for the 11U divisions. Overall, the leagues ran well, but there are still some areas we need to address, especially around consistency in rules, understanding of development priorities, and maintaining respect toward officials.

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### 11U “AAA” Division

The seven-team league ran smoothly this year. The Western Zone having strong registration in 2024, entered a second team for the first time, and strong numbers again enabled Stratford to field two teams at this level.

The top four teams were very competitive, with the two Eastern teams finishing first and second in the regular season standings. However, the **Mid-Isle Mustangs** came through when it mattered most—**winning the Provincials** and finishing **second at the Atlantics**.

The **Western Association’s AAA team** struggled early but showed major improvement as the season went on. They won four of their last six games, with both losses coming against the first-place **Eastern Express Smith**.

🏆 *Congratulations to the Mid-Isle Mustangs on winning the Provincials and for their strong showing at the Atlantic Championships.*

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### 11U “AA” Division


This division had eight teams, and I was able to get out to see several games. It was a **very competitive and enjoyable league**, with the **5th place Stratford A’s** ultimately winning the **Provincial Championship**—a great example of how wide-open this division was.

However, there are a few key issues that need attention moving forward. We continue to see challenges with the **non-confrontational rule**, as some coaches still push boundaries—arguing calls or trying to influence umpires. We also had confusion around the **differences between league and provincial rules**, which led to frustration for some teams. To address this, I recommend a **mandatory pre-tournament meeting** next year to ensure all teams understand the Provincial rules in advance.



### Rules requiring clarification and consistency:

1. **10-Run Mercy Rule** – Applied after 4 innings at Provincials, but after 5 innings in league play to ensure longer games for teams traveling from farther distances.
2. **Open Innings / Time Limits** – Provincials and Atlantics play the last two innings open with no time limit; league play allows one open inning with a two-hour limit.
3. **New Atlantic Rule (11U AA Only)** – The runner from 3rd could not score on a passed ball or wild pitch. We were unaware of this change and need clarification before next season.
4. **Tie-Breaking Rules** – League standings use “runs against per game” since “runs against per inning” is impractical to track consistently.

 *Congratulations to the Stratford A's on their Provincial win and for representing their association with pride.*

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### 11U “AA Minor” Division

This division continues to grow steadily—now in its fourth year. It started with 4 teams in year one and has expanded each season, reaching **12 teams in 2025**. Many of the players are elite 8- and 9-year-olds who might otherwise play 9U but are ready for more challenge and development.

The league was very competitive, with one exception—**Kensington**, who went undefeated through both the regular season and Provincials. They were a clear standout team this year.

 *Congratulations to Kensington on an undefeated season and Provincial Championship.*

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### 11U “A” Division

This division took a new approach in 2025, with a focus on **player development over standings and competition**. Standings were not kept, as some coaches had become overly focused on winning rather than developing their players.

Because this division's rules differ significantly from the other 11U levels, and due to past complaints about umpires not knowing those rules, we decided **not to use registered officials**. Instead, Baseball PEI produced a **short video course** on 11U “A” rules. Teams were asked to identify two volunteer umpires each and ensure they watched the training video before the season began.



There were **23 teams**, down three from last season—but that aligns with the increase in 11U Minor teams. Each team played a 14-game schedule, and we held **two end-of-season Jamborees** to celebrate development.

That said, we continue to face serious challenges in this division. Some coaches still struggle to prioritize development over winning. We continue to receive reports of **poor sportsmanship, coaches berating volunteer umpires, and hostility between teams**. This is not acceptable, and it undermines the work we're doing at every other level to make baseball more positive and inclusive.

We need to find a better way to communicate the purpose of this division—to help coaches understand that the **focus is on teaching, teamwork, and respect**, not standings or arguing calls. Some coaches seem to believe it's their job to point out every missed call, which is not the culture we want in this program.

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## In Conclusion

The 11U divisions remain one of our most vibrant and important parts of Baseball PEI, but also one of our most challenging. Participation continues to grow, and the level of play is improving each year. However, **behavioral expectations and coach education must improve** to ensure this remains a positive experience for all participants—especially our young umpires and players.

Going forward, I recommend:

- More consistent **coach education** on development vs. competition.
- Clearer **communication of rules and expectations** at all levels.
- Reinforcement of the **non-confrontational rule** to protect officials.

I want to thank all associations, volunteers, and officials who worked hard to make this season successful. We have a strong foundation, but we must continue to lead by example in teaching respect, teamwork, and perspective at the 11U level.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Darrel Kirev**  
*Director of 11U- Baseball PEI*