

Baseball NL

Female Baseball Committee Report

2024

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Introduction

The following report highlights the BNL Female program for 2024.

The purpose of the report is to provide high-level details on the key areas for Female Baseball in Newfoundland and Labrador including highlights, areas for improvement and recommendations.

Comments, questions and feedback on format, content, etc. are encouraged and appreciated.

Please contact BNL Female Baseball Co-Chairs Mark Healy or Sue Skiffington.

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Registration

The below table highlights the Female registration numbers since 2015.

Association	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
St. John's	65	73	91	122	135	147	179	217	198	175
Mount Pearl	30	32	33	25	26	32	45	55	68	81
Paradise	24	26	32	73	62	52	116	153	169	148
CBS	15	19	26	31	21	14	11	13	19	33
CBN	23	18	24	23	---	4	11	11	19	18
Gander	7	15	18	12	7	9	7	5	19	46
GFW	71	76	66	62	27	35	49	64	74	91
Deer Lake	---	---	---	22	---	---	---	---	---	—
Pasadena	35	33	37	45	24	41	40	35	80	82
Corner Brook	66	74	102	97	72	94	120	104	88	64
BSG	---	---	38	72	68	62	64	67	80	56
Stephenville	4	---	8	11	---	1	---	---	---	—
Labrador	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	51	18
Totals	**342**	**364**	**473**	**595**	**442**	**491**	**649**	**725**	**864**	**812**

- *2024*
  - *Down 52 registrations overall*
  - *~20% of overall BNL population*

Events

Girls events continue to grow across the province.

CBS - Girls Baseball Day
Gander - Female Baseball Clinic
St. John's - Bring a Friend Day
Mt. Pearl – Girls Baseball Day
Pasadena - Girls Baseball Day
Corner Brook - Girls Baseball Day

Note: Some funding, prizes, and other supports were made available for events. Please contact the Executive Director and Female Committee Chair to discuss future events.

Invitational Tournaments

The below invitational tournaments were held with Female Divisions.

Event	Divisions	Dates
Honda Hickman Classic	12U, 14U, 16U, 21U	July 26 - 28
Mike Buist Classic	12U, 14U, 16U	July 12 - 14
Mary Tavenor	12U, 14U, 16U	July 5 - 7
Heather Healey Classic	12U, 14U, 16U	Aug 2 - 4

Notes:

- Some funding, prizes, and other supports were made available for events. Please contact the Executive Director and Female Committee Chair to discuss future events.
- The 21U Women provincial team participated in the 15U division of the Mary Tavenor.

Provincial Tournaments

The following female provincial tournaments were held in 2024.

12U - AA/A

Date	Host	Teams	Champions	Runner-Ups
Aug 30 – Sep 1	Corner Brook	Bay St. George Corner Brook Mt. Pearl Pasadena Paradise St. John's	AA - Paradise	St. John's
	CBS	CBS Paradise Pasadena St. John's GFW Gander	A - Paradise	St. John's

14U – AA/A

Date	Host	Teams	Champion	Runner-Up
Aug 23 - 25	Paradise	Corner Brook Paradise Mt. Pearl St. John's	AA – Mt. Pearl	Corner Brook
	Pasadena	BSG Corner Brook Pasadena Gander Paradise St. John's	A – GFW	Pasadena

16U – AA

Date	Host	Teams	Champion	Runner-Up
Aug 19 – 21	St. John's	Corner Brook GFW Gander Paradise Mt. Pearl St. John's	Corner Brook	Mt. Pearl

21U

Date	Host	Teams	Champion	Runner-Up
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**** There was no 21U provincial event, a showcase event was held at the Honda Hickman Classic*

NL Summer Games

Female Baseball was part of the 2024 NL Summer Games.

Date	Host	Teams	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Aug 14 – 17	Bay Roberts	Indigenous Western Central Avalon Mt. Pearl South St. John's North	Mt. Pearl South	St. John's North	Central

Atlantic Tournaments

The NL Girls Baseball 14U program participated in the 14U Atlantics- held in Charlottetown, PEI on September 6 – 8.

Team Black	4W – 1L	1st place (Gold)
Team Burgundy	3W – 2L	3rd Place (Bronze)

The NL Girls Baseball Female Canada Games Training Pool participated in the 16U Atlantic Cup which was hosted in Sussex, NB as a pre Canada Games event.

Team NL won the event with a 3W and 2L record defeating Nova Scotia in the final.

National Tournaments

NL Girls participated in the 16U Girls and 21U Women National Championships.

The 16U Girls were hosted in Saskatoon, SK on August 22 – 25.
Team NL 1W – 4L 7th Place

Note: Team NL participated in Pool A.

The 21U Women's were hosted in Summerside, PEI on Aug 8 – 11.
Team NL 2W – 2L 6th place

Operations and Planning

The following areas are key components of the NL Girls Baseball program.

Female Committee

A provincial Female Committee was established in 2020. Below is a list of the Female Committee members for 2024.

Name	Association	Role
Mark Healy	St. John's	BNL Female Co-Chair BNL HP Co-Chair
Sue Skiffington	Mt. Pearl	BNL Female Co-Chair
Jill Haynes	St. John's	Committee Member
Angela Rodgers	St. John's	Committee Member
Tony McGrath	Mt. Pearl	Committee Member
Sharon Durdle	Paradise	Committee Member
Greg Whelan	Pasadena	Committee Member

Female Champions

Continued to promote, recruit, and identify "Female Champions" in each association / region.

Women in Baseball Network

The purpose of this group is to allow for networking and idea sharing between women who are involved or would like to become more involved with baseball in our Province. Baseball NL recognizes the fact that there are more barriers to women and gender diverse people in accessing this information and are hoping to bridge this gap by providing an inclusive learning environment. The group will discuss and explore a wide range of topics and presentations including administration, scorekeeping, rules, coaching, umpiring, etc. This group is open to women and people who identify as gender diverse.

Survey

Developed an annual survey to foster engagement, participation and ideas. The first survey was sent out in October 2020. A survey will be circulated to associations post agm in 2024.

Rules

Continued to review rules and rule modifications to ensure BNL is aligned with Baseball Canada and Baseball Atlantic while trying to ensure we do what is best for our athletes and province.

Sponsorship and Funding

Sponsorship and Funding are key areas that provide opportunities for the Female Baseball program.

Sponsorship

Tiller Engineering continued as the Title Sponsor for Female Baseball in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Marie's Mini Mart came on board as a major sponsor.

Funding

Identified and recommended funding opportunities for female athletes and coaches.

- Athlete / Coach Travel subsidies
- Tournament Hosting
- Baseball Canada programs
- Other programs
- Equipment

Grassroots

Continued to work to grow the game at the grassroots level.

- Grow 12U age group across the province
- Social Media promotion and advertising
- Female Divisions for school tournaments
- Female Divisions in invitational tournaments
- Encourage / Add Female Champion in each association
- Encourage / Add more female coaches
- Encourage / Add more female officials
- Planning (Executive, Champions, Coaches, etc.)

Centers and associations need to ensure some level of short and long-term planning for their female programs as numbers are not as consistent as traditional male numbers and many female champions follow their own kids through the various stages and age groups.

High Performance

Continued to develop and enhance the NL Girls High Performance Program, which included incorporating female Teams in the new overall BNL High Performance Program which was launched in October 2021.

The 14U program hosted a provincial training camp in Pasadena.

The 16U program hosted a provincial training camp in Grand Falls Windsor.

Additional details and information will be provided in the Baseball NL HP committee report.

Summary

In summary, 2024 was a very successful year with many highlights:

- Promotion of Female Baseball at the 2025 Canada Games
- Kristyn Coley - chair of the Baseball Canada Women and Girls Committee
- Michelle Healy - Baseball Canada Championship committee
- Jaida Lee - part of the Women's National Team and participated in the World Cup.
- Team NL 16U participated in Pool A at the 16U National Championship
- Team NL Black won the Gold medal at the 14U Atlantic Championship
- Team NL Burgundy won the Bronze Medal at the 14U Atlantic Championship
- Team NL Canada Games Training Pool won the 16U Atlantic Cup
- Women in Baseball NL Network
- Female Provincial Tournaments in 12U, 14U, 16U
- High Performance Fall/Winter Indoor training in Western and Eastern regions

Some other highlights that stood out personally for me as Female Baseball Co-Chair included:

- Honda Hickman Classic in Grand Falls Windsor
- BNL Developmental Teams Invitational tournament
- 21U Provincial team participating in the Mary Tavenor Tournament
- 21U Provincial team participating in the One Year Out Canada Games event
- 14U All Female Coaches at the 14U Atlantics

There were some challenges noted within the 12U division with manipulation of the rules and the competitive nature of several associations.

We are experiencing an issue with girls graduating 16U and not having a place to play locally and provincially.

Some other opportunities for review and continuous improvement include:

- Continuous rule review (Provincially, Atlantic and National)
- Tournament Formats, Rankings, Placements
- Tournament dates and scheduling
- Grassroots development in existing and new regions

Recommendations

- **BNL:** Continue to invest and update NL Girls Baseball Social Media Platforms:
  - Website www.nlgirlsbaseball.com
  - Twitter www.twitter.com/nlgirlsbaseball
  - Instagram www.instagram.com/nlgirlsbaseball
- **BNL:** Maintain "Female Committee" Structure
- **BNL:** Work to identify a "Female Champion" in each association.
- **BNL:** Work to identify additional sponsorship opportunities for Female Baseball
- **BNL:** Provide funding opportunities for Female Baseball Athletes/Coaches/Managers
  - Hosting grant for Invitational, Provincial, Atlantic, and National Tournaments
  - Grant and scholarship opportunities for Female players
  - Funding for coaches/managers development
- **BNL:** Continue to host pre-provincial rule sessions.
- **BNL:** Female + Minor Committee: continue the ranking system
- **Female Committee:** Continue to support the Women in Baseball Network
- **Female Committee:** Plan to meet more regularly throughout the year
- **Female Committee:** In Conjunction with the High Performance Committee focus on opportunities for the older athletes (17+) in the province
- **General:** Associations should ensure coaches are prepared and aware of applicable division rules when participating in tournaments.
- **General:** Associations should try to follow BNL provincial rules when hosting invitational tournaments (where possible)

Closing

It has been my pleasure to continue to serve in the capacity of BNL Female Baseball Co-Chair. Thank You to Executive Director Ryan Garland and the Baseball NL Executive for their trust in me and their support of the Female Baseball committee.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my co-chair Sue Skiffington, as well as the other committee chairs Kristyn Coley (Minor) and Greg Williams (Coaching) that support the female committee and the NL Girls Baseball community.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Bob Morgan to the NL Girls Baseball community. Bob has been a leader and major contributor to the female program for over a decade, however his efforts in 2024 were truly amazing.

We have a strong community and I believe there has been great progress and many achievements over the past few years with tremendous opportunities ahead for Female Baseball in the province and across the country.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the Female Baseball community, and especially being part of the 2025 Canada Games where Female Baseball will make its debut.

Yours in Baseball,



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Mark Healy
Female Baseball Co-Chair, BNL
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