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Baseball PEI Annual General Meeting 2026

Prince Edward Island Baseball Umpires Association (PEIBUA) Report

Submitted by: Jon Schut, President, PEIBUA

2026 Season Overview

The 2026 season was another successful year for umpiring in Prince Edward Island, with significant growth in registration, continued development of officials at all levels, and progress in creating safer, more respectful environments for our umpires.

Umpire Registration and Retention

PEIBUA registered approximately 181–182 umpires who attended a certification clinic in 2026, representing a significant increase over the previous season. Final registration numbers are being reconciled.

Our umpire retention rate was approximately **70%**, reflecting the continued importance of mentorship, development opportunities, and positive experiences in keeping officials involved in the game.

Grassroots umpires continue to represent the foundation of our program, accounting for approximately **85% of registered officials**.

Umpire Development and Advancement

We continued to see positive progress in the development of higher-level officials.

- Three umpires advanced into the National Umpire Program.
- Several officials successfully completed on-field evaluations and advanced to Level 3, with final numbers still being confirmed.
- While there was no increase in the number of Level 5 officials, progress continues toward future advancement at that level.
- Seven PEI umpires received assignments to National Championships.
- One PEI umpire officiated at an international tournament.
- Two umpires received national supervision assignments.



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These opportunities reflect the strength of our developing officials and the recognition of PEI umpires at the national and international levels.

Mentorship and Retention

Mentorship remains a cornerstone of our umpire development program. Providing newer officials with on-field support, feedback, and encouragement helps build confidence and creates positive experiences that contribute to long-term retention.

Continued investment in mentorship and development pathways is particularly important as we work to move more officials from grassroots levels into higher levels of competition.

Respectful Environments for Officials

Ensuring a safe and respectful environment for umpires, particularly our youngest officials, remains a priority.

The continued enforcement of the **Non-Confrontation Rule** has been an important part of protecting officials and reinforcing expectations for appropriate conduct.

The introduction of the **Green Armband Initiative** in 2026 was another positive step. While still developing, the initiative had an encouraging first season and provides an additional opportunity to promote awareness and respect for young umpires.

Continued education, policy enforcement, and support from associations, coaches, players, and spectators will be essential to the success of these initiatives.

Looking Ahead to 2027

Our priorities will be to continue growing and retaining our grassroots umpire base, strengthen mentorship opportunities, and provide clear pathways for officials to advance to higher levels.

We will also continue working with Baseball PEI and local associations to reinforce respectful conduct and ensure that officials feel supported and valued throughout their development.

Summary

The 2026 season demonstrated encouraging growth in umpire participation and advancement, with strong representation at national and international competitions. Our continued commitment



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to mentorship, development, and respectful playing environments will be essential to maintaining that progress.

Thank you to Baseball PEI, our umpire development team, local associations, and all officials for their commitment throughout the season.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Schut
President, Prince Edward Island Baseball Umpires Association

