

Chebucto Minor Baseball History

Chebucto Minor Baseball was founded in 1951 and prior to 1976, baseball was offered as Little League, as opposed to Minor baseball. During this time, there were no age divisions, as kids from 7 – 12 played, forming 3, 4 or 5 teams and played amongst themselves at Larry O'Connell Field. There was no interlocking play and no rep teams.

In 1976, the City of Halifax re-organized "minor baseball" and there was one organization: *Halifax Minor Baseball*. The city at that time used to distribute funds which came to the divisions in the form of equipment. There were six divisions (or "associations" as we would say today) covering various parts of the city: Chebucto, Conrose, Central (essentially downtown), Fairview, Needham (north end) and Rockingham. There were three age groups: Novice, Mosquito & Beaver (later renamed Pee Wee.) At some point, Fairview and Rockingham combined to become Halifax West and Needham became inactive.

By the late 1980's the "associations" were becoming more independent. Halifax Minor still provided the allotment of equipment and assigned each association a part of the city for tag day. It also ran the "A" rep teams, although it tended to be Halifax West that provided the coaching staff, as Halifax West was the biggest organization and the powerhouse during this time. Central was in decline and although somewhat active, they never came to Halifax Minor meetings and never played interlock with the other three clubs.

With the demise of Needham and Central, Chebucto's catchments area included the inner city and the north end. As well as the west end, it included Spryfield and all the way to Prospect. In the late 1990's Jollimore was created as well as Prospect, essentially reducing Chebucto to the Peninsula except for the south end.

By 1993, Central for all intense and purposes was gone and Halifax Minor was no longer an umbrella organization essentially because the city no longer provided funding. Halifax Minor then became the Bantam Midget organization and then changed their name to Halifax Central MBA and began offering Midget and Junior programs.

Up to 1999, Chebucto had only offered part-time rep programs with a group of all-star players chosen from house league teams to form the rep team. In 2001, Chebucto began offering a full time mosquito rep team playing in the Provincial League offered by Baseball NS. In 2002 they introduced, a full time rep program and also maintained the Mosquito program, both of which played in what is now called the Bluenose League.

In 2004, due to increased interest, Chebucto began offering a bantam program. This proved beneficial in some ways, by meeting a need, but it also became more difficult to offer a bantam AAA program, as some players went to Halifax Central to play bantam, while other players remained with Chebucto.

The President of Chebucto, Ron MacNeil and Bob Hayter of Halifax Central, along with Bill MacAvoy, Pat Murphy and Burt McCann met to discuss the situation and came up with a plan that would allow Chebucto to offer the bantam programs, while Halifax Central would offer Midget and above. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two associations and would be in place for five years, after which it would then be reviewed by the association's respective presidents.

Currently Chebucto baseball is called Halifax Chebucto Minor Baseball and during the past seven years has grown from 137 members to over 280 members.