



BNSUD POSITIONING FOR 2021

There have been many questions regarding the planned umpire positioning for the start of the 2021 season. The Board of Directors of BNSUD has unanimously agreed upon remaining with the positioning we used in the 2020 season. There will be some tweaks to the positioning, and this will be covered off, hopefully, in our in-person sessions that all umpires are expected to attend.

As a Board, we wanted to make sure the rationale behind the decision was provided to our BNSUD Members as well as to anyone else within the Baseball Nova Scotia Community.

The major points around our rationale are:

- 1) Social Distancing – when in proper positioning behind home plate, the plate umpire is not social distanced from the catcher.
- 2) Nervousness – we have had many of our members express their nervousness of going back behind the plate until the vaccine is fully rolled out.
- 3) Consistency – we need to be able to have a consistent system that all umpires can learn and follow.
- 4) Liability – we want to do everything we can to protect our younger officials who may not have the chance for a vaccine. 80% of the overall membership of BNS and BNSUD is under the age of 18.
- 5) Pressure – we do not want any BNSUD member to feel pressured to be put into a situation where they would not be able to be social distanced from others.
- 6) Lack of Officials – there are definite concerns regarding a lack of officials for the 2021 season if we didn't make this change. This would affect the overall baseball in the Province.

We understand that many will not agree with this position but as the Board of Directors of BNSUD, we need to concentrate first on making sure our members are able to participate and that we can provide the necessary services for all the teams, players and associations affiliated with Baseball Nova Scotia. With this plan, we feel it puts us in a much better place to be able to do that.

Thanks

BNSUD Board of Directors

