



## Baseball Ontario Office of the President

### BASEBALL ONTARIO PASSES NEW EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

February 3, 2021

The Baseball Ontario Board of Management recently passed a landmark policy to promote a positive environment for everyone in the organization. Baseball Ontario believes that all people deserve to participate in sport; regardless of race, colour, ancestry, gender, orientation, or disability. We look forward to working with organizations over the coming months to build a strategic implementation plan that will foster the culture of inclusion that we look to build in Ontario.

Highlights of the policy are listed below, for full policy details, please visit our website at [www.baseballontario.com](http://www.baseballontario.com)

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE POLICY

##### **Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation**

Players may compete on any team that corresponds with either their gender assigned at birth, or their gender identity. Baseball Ontario promotes the inclusion of all members of the LGBTQ+ community in our sport and condemns discrimination based on gender identity or orientation.

##### **Racial Discrimination**

Baseball Ontario condemns discrimination in all its forms and will work with our teams and organizations to promote a safe, equitable, fair, and responsible environment for all participants.

To that end, Baseball Ontario has prohibited the use of racially insensitive mascots, imagery, team names, and iconography for all teams and Local Associations across the province. We are committed to the elimination of these harmful mascots and will work with local teams and Associations on implementing a rebrand for those affected in a responsible manner.

Additionally, the use of language or actions that denigrate or could reasonably be perceived to denigrate a person or group of people based on race, colour, sexual orientation, gender, or disability will not be tolerated at any level.

##### **Responsibility**

Baseball Ontario will consider Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion when setting future policies and when reviewing existing policies. We will consider Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion when making hiring decisions, conducting staff reviews, and making appointments to committees. The executive will seek out and actively pursue education opportunities to further promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in all our programming and throughout our sport.

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President

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#### ABOUT BASEBALL ONTARIO

Founded in 1918, Baseball Ontario is the Provincial Sport Organization governing the sport of baseball in Ontario. The object of Baseball Ontario is to foster and improve baseball at all levels in the province while promoting and protecting the mutual interests of its members.