



hey blue!



A PUBLICATION OF BC BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2004

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- John Berry

I want to thank the members of the association for your confidence as I assume this office. I know that this association is going to be well served by a committed and effective Board and Provincial Supervisor.

We can look forward to a successful year of baseball and umpiring in 2004. Your board is planning a great program for the year, and we are very open to suggestions to improve it. Clinics are at the center of our efforts to develop ourselves personally and the quality of umpiring generally. As we move up the level system we can take advantage of field evaluations and Provincial, National and even International tournaments.

Respect and Support

Respect and support are two words that we often take for granted. We shouldn't. They are at the very core of umpiring, or any kind of officiating.

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DAVE KENNEDY

After years of dedication and hard work, Dave Kennedy has resigned his position as editor of the Hey Blue. Dave cites personal and business pressures as the impetus for his decision. Dave's dedication to this association was in various capacities not just the Editor of Hey Blue. We thank him for his valued contribution and wish him well. In the interim, Jerry Tregaskis and Danny Huzar will assume the responsibilities of Editor and Assistant Editor. If you are interested in becoming Editor of our newsletter please call Jerry or Danny (their contact info may be found on page 2). Applicants should have computer skills that includes some experience with publishing software.

SUPER CLINIC 2004

Saturday & Sunday February 28 & 29,
2004

Douglas College

New Westminster Campus

700 Royal Avenue

New Westminster, BC

(REGISTRATION DEADLINE = FEBRUARY 15, 2004)

We need to be respected to be effective, and we cannot command respect if we do not show respect. That simple principle has to guide our general approach, and particularly our treatment of other officials.

Baseball is competitive, sometimes intensely so. That's part of its appeal. Emotions are at play. That's usually constructive, as long as it is part of an atmosphere of respect. Participants need to respect each other. Officials have to be respected, especially when defusing sensitive situations.

Respect and support start at home. If we expect support and respect from other participants, we have to show it to each other. If my partner and I

fail to respect and support each other, if we make disrespectful remarks to or especially about each other, can we really expect coaches and players to show us respect and support? It is very much in our interest that umpires be respected. If we fail to respect and support each other, we send a message that we don't believe officials need to be respected. That makes everyone's job tougher, and can have consequences on and off the field.

Umpires really are a special breed. We are the neutral arbiters in a fast-paced, competitive environment. Let's be united in showing each other the respect and support that we expect and deserve from everyone else!

Board of Directors

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Area 4 Report-Lower Mainland-West

My last report from Area 4 offers an opportunity to congratulate Don Hass for the successful completion of a prestigious international assignment. Very few umpires get the opportunity to represent our province and our country. Don's selection is a testament to his own talent and dedication to umpiring, and to the strength of our provincial program. We have also had some great feedback on the excellent job Don did in carrying out his assignment. Well done, Don!

We will offer the usual range of clinics in Area 4 this year, but some remain to be booked. I strongly urge all of our umpires to take the highest level clinic with which they are comfortable. And tell your friends. Sometimes you may have to travel to the next community to get a level two clinic. But if that is the level that you are ready for, it is really worth it. A number of level two umpires are ready to step up to the next level and attend Super Clinic. It is fast approaching, so anyone who hasn't yet registered and wants to, needs to get their form in soon. (And, of course, all our members receive copies of this impressive publication!)

We're looking forward to another great year of great baseball. Burnaby hosted the Senior Western Canadians in 2003, and is following up with the Junior Provincials in 2004. A growing program in our area, and others, is adult baseball. It is wonderful to see the sport provide a full range of participation options, with leagues at different levels and for different ages, such as over 18, over 30, and now over 45. And more baseball means more opportunities for umpires.

I hope that by the time you read this, my successor will have accepted appointment as Area 4 representative. Lower Mainland West continues to face the challenge of demographic change and all that it means for our sport. Yet the people involved are up to the challenge, and our officials are at the forefront of keeping the sport a vibrant part of the community. Thanks for everyone's cooperation during my service as your area rep, and thanks to Terry Owen for serving as Assistant Area Rep during my tenure. -John Berry

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MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to update our membership on the recent developments of the Membership Committee that was recently formed by our Board of Directors.

For starters, the purpose of the membership committee is to look into some possible reasons and find solutions to why our organization's membership has dropped to just over 1100 members (2003 figures). To this end, I circulated a random and anonymous survey to some of our more senior members looking for frank and honest answers as to what they think our organization is doing both well and poorly. We received many excellent responses and I thank those of you who participated. These responses were discussed at the Board level and the mandate to form a committee to look for solutions was made. As a Board, we now know that we can do better in certain areas, and we also know that we are succeeding at a high level in other areas. We are committed to addressing the concerns that were raised by our membership during both the Annual General Meeting, and through our survey.

To this end, the Membership Committee was formed to look for ways to encourage umpires and local minor baseball associations to be part of the BCBUA, to improve upon our already successful clinics, to heighten the production quality of our very popular newsletter 'Hey Blue', and to provide more feedback throughout the season to our umpires who are on the field in every area of the province. In the coming months the Committee will be looking for more input from our members as to what we can be doing to help the average umpire.

I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO EMAIL ME AT: sboutang@silk.net if you have any input on this topic. I will be pleased to return your email and will pass along your commentary to the Committee for their reading enjoyment. I must emphasize that we cannot be truly successful in helping people and our organization if we are not aware of the problems you are experiencing. So please do contact us and offer your thoughts. I look forward to hearing from you.

Steve Boutang

BCBUA Vice President

Membership Committee Chairman

YOU MAKE THE CALL #1

1. It is common to see a pitcher wear a jacket when he is a baserunner. Is there any rule preventing a defensive player from wearing a jacket in the field?

Answer on page 8

A REPORT ON MAIL-IN BALLOTING

Members of the BC Baseball Umpires Association welcome to 2004.

During the Annual General Meeting in November 2003 a resolution was tabled to allow the implementation of Mail in Balloting for the election of Area Representatives. There was much discussion about both the substance of the resolution and the procedure involved to bring it to the floor. Any change in the Bylaws of the Association must be done by a special resolution voted on and passed by a 75% majority of those present at the AGM. In order for a special resolution to even be considered by the AGM it must be published at least 14 days prior to the AGM. This was not done and therefore no motions or votes relating to this special resolution have any validity. The fault for this lies squarely on my shoulders as I failed to get the proper notice into the Hey Blue! As one of the authors of this special resolution it was clearly my responsibility to ensure the notice was published and I did not. I offer my apologies to all who supported it and to the membership in general.

While the resolution itself was not valid the discussion and comments were. I would like to give a brief overview of the issue for those that were not in attendance and solicit comments from any who wish it.

The theory behind this issue is that although we are a provincial organization very few members outside the Lower Mainland get to vote in the selection of our leadership. We propose that each member gets to vote for the election of their own Area Representative by the use of a Mail in Ballot. This means that each Area Representative will be elected by the members of their area **only**. For instance, the AR for the Kootenays would be elected by members who live in the Kootenays and not by members from Langley or Burnaby and vice versa. The Mail in Balloting would apply to the election of Area Representatives only. The Table Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) would still be elected at the AGM by the members present.

The logistics of this process are very simple. We use the Hey Blue! to call for nominations and send out ballots to the members. The members fill out the nominations or the ballots and mail them into a Returning Officer ("RO"), who is appointed by the Board. The RO then brings the ballots (unopened) to the AGM where they are counted by the RO under the supervision of scrutinizers from the floor and the results are announced. This method is currently in use by many Provincial and National organizations and is fair and equitable. The cost to the Association is minimal as the Hey Blue! is mailed anyways.

During the discussion several good points were raised. Some of these points were:

- How can we run the risk of one or more teenagers being elected to the BOD? • What do we do about nominations from the floor?
- Why would Lower Mainland members want to allow up country people to elect members of the BOD when they don't understand the issues?

Lets look at these points.

1. The majority of our members are under the age of 16 years so we must allow them to vote or we would not be a democratic organization. You can't expect a member to pay and not be allowed to vote. If we allow teenagers to vote then, yes, there is a chance that one will be elected. It is up to the BOD to educate our members about the duties and responsibilities of an Area Rep, if a teen still wants to run and is elected who is to say that they could not do a better job than some of our previous Area Reps? But is it likely that one would be elected?

2. In order for Mail in Balloting to have any validity (and be approved by the Registrar of the Societies Act) there can be no nominations for Area Rep from the floor. All the nominations must be in to the RO by a published cut off date so as to be included on the ballot. This has the added benefit of no more spur of the moment politicking or elections at the AGM. All nominations and elections would then be well thought out choices.

3. This comment, although it might seem inflammatory, is very nearly a direct quote of a question asked by a member at the AGM and endorsed by a member of the BOD. There are a couple of ways to answer this question. The first is to say that in a democracy no one gets to vote for a local representative other than the local voters. I cannot vote for the MP from Winnipeg nor do I want the voters from Victoria choosing my MLA. As for understanding issues, it is presumptuous to believe that I know more than you. Perhaps I just have more information about an issue than you. If that is the case, it is incumbent upon me to educate you in the issues **not remove from you the right to choose**.

This is a capsulated view of the events and issues surrounding the attempt to alter the bylaws to allow Mail in Balloting for Area Representatives. Any subjective views expressed are my own and this article will serve as notice of my intention to retable this issue at the 2004 AGM. In the issue of the Hey Blue! announcing the AGM location, time and date we will also publish the complete motion for the change of bylaws.

I hope members throughout the Province will discuss this fundamental issue amongst themselves and let us know your thoughts and opinions. Write a letter to the Hey Blue, call your Area Rep or any member of the Board and let us know what you think.

Bill MacMillan, BCBUA Area Representative, The Kootenays

Provincial Selection Committee News

This year has seen yet another change in the dress code. At the recent AGM the new Dress Code for Provincial Tournaments, for which BCBUA is responsible for assigning officials, was revised. The Provincial Dress Code now requires that the Major League style shirt be the only style used. That **umpires working at a Provincial Tournament must have the Navy Blue shirt available for use**. Gray, Black or Powder Blue shirts may be worn if all umpires on the field are wearing the same color. Gone from the dress code is the Red Shirt and the old dress style shirts. The Application Form, the Selection Guidelines and the Dress Code are found in this publication of HEY BLUE as is the deadline for submitting your request.

This year, like last year, will require that you submit an application to be considered for a Provincial Tournament. Failure to do so will be taken as an understanding that you are not interested in participating in post-season play. We are also encouraging applicants to understand that we would really prefer to have members that are able to give a 100% commitment to the Tournament for which they are applying. In other words it is most beneficial to the Supervisor of Officials if he knows that he has you available for the entire tournament, for any game and at any time.

At this time the only post-season Tournament date and location we are aware of is the BC Summer Games. This event is to be held in Abbotsford from 15 – 18 July 2004. We still do not know about BC Minor, Babe Ruth, BC Junior Association nor the BC Senior Association Tournaments.

If you have access to the BCBUA website, which is www.bcbua.ca you could try the links button on the home page and attempt to discover the information there. Once these Associations advise us we shall post the information to our website. We shall also advise the Area Reps who in turn can advise their local Umpire Associations or League Umpire –in-chiefs.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Provincials Chairman, Chuck Blaikie.

LEVEL 3 REPORT

Howdy and welcome to 2004.

Vice President Steve Boutang ran a random poll of our members last year and several important points came to light. The comments that were directed to the Level 3 program were centered on the difficulty of getting Field Evaluations and the consistency of those evaluations.

In response to this we have instituted two new evaluation forms and will have a workshop for evaluators, both current and future, to ensure everyone is on the same page. We also plan to train several new evaluators over the next couple of years to increase the availability of evaluations to our members.

The Board of Directors has decided to hold one really Super Advanced Clinic each year for the next three years and rotate them geographically. The first one will be at Douglas College in New Westminster at the end of February (see elsewhere in this Hey Blue! for more details) and in the next two years hold one in Kelowna and one in Victoria. No decision has as yet been made on the location of next years Super Clinic.

All Area Representatives have received a list of the Level 3 members in their Areas and whether or not each is due for an evaluation or Advanced Clinic this year (2004). If you haven't heard from your AR, or are unsure then give them a call and find out.

The written exams are all set and ready to go. Remember, every Level 3 needs to pass the exam each year and the deadline for completion is May 15. The deadline is in place so that the Provincials Committee has timely information to assist in the selection of umpires for the various Provincial Tournaments. Please complete the exam as soon as possible so we can avoid deadline conflicts. Don't procrastinate....get it done!!

Good luck this year and I hope to see most of you around the Diamond.

Bill Mac Millan
Level 3 Coordinator

YOU MAKE THE CALL #2

B1's line drive lands fair and bounces into foul territory. F7 is about to field the ball when a spectator picks up the ball. At the time the spectator touches the ball, B1 is between 2nd and 3rd.

a. The umpire should declare the ball dead when touched by the spectator.

b. The umpire should not declare the ball dead when touched by the spectator.

c. Under all circumstances B1 must return to 2nd.

d. B1 is awarded the base the umpire believes he would have reached.

REPORT - AREA 1-Vancouver Island South

At our recent AGM in Nov., I was reelected to be your Area Rep for another two years. I would like to thank all the members in Area 1 for your continued support. Eric Rasmussen has accepted to be my assistant once again and we look forward to serving our membership for the next two years. I have been asked to serve on the Provincials Committee for this year in which I have accepted. And as a reminder, get your applications in to me for the Provincials tournaments you wish to work this year. Tournaments will be listed in the next Hey Blue.

As we begin another ball season, preparations are being made for umpire clinics. Eric & I have tried to contact the various U.I.C.s and have come up with some clinic Dates. They are as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>CONTACT PERSON</u>
Sat. Mar 6	Duncan (Club House)	Level 1	G. Mellemstrand 743-6055
Sun. Mar.7	Victoria (Lambrick Park)	Level 1	Eric Rasmussen 592-7297
Sat. Mar.27	Nanaimo (TBA)	Level 1	Henry Cote 751-1729
Sun. Mar.28	Nanaimo (TBA)	Level 2	Henry Cote 751-1729
Sat. Apr.3	Ladysmith (TBA)	Level 1	Tim Britton Foster 245-5543
Sat. Apr 3	Victoria (Lambrick Park)	Level 2	Chet Masse 474-3582
Sun. Apr 4	Victoria (Lambrick Park)	Level 1	Eric Rasmussen 592-7297

Chet Masse, Area Rep Van. Is. South (Area 1)

REPORT - AREA 7-Okanagan South

Despite the snow and cold here, we're thinking baseball already. Plans are underway for Level 1 & 2 clinics in our zone, and everyone seems keen to get going.

Kelowna Minor has a new UIC. Patrick Yates is stepping down, to take on other tasks with KMBA, and Glenn Neufeld is assuming the UIC role. Welcome Glenn!!

Doug Weaving in Vernon, Derrick Surowski in Penticton, and Lloyd Nelson in Rutland, continue as UIC's in their associations. At present the position of UIC for Westside is open. Anyone interested?? Contact me if interested or questions, or Ron Johnston at 769-4324.

The dates for clinics in the Okanagan are as follows, (Kelowna's Level 1 and 2 clinics will be held seperately)

Penticton: Sunday March 14 Level 1/2 Contact: Derrick Surowski (250)493-6959

Kelowna: Saturday March 27 Level 1 Contact: Lloyd Nelson (250)765-7325

Saturday March 27 Level 2 Contact: Lloyd Nelson (250)765-7325

Vernon: Sunday April 4 Level 1/2 Contact: Doug Weaving (250)558-0632

Just a reminder that there will not be an Advanced Clinic in the Okanagan this year. SuperClinic at in the LMD is the only advanced clinic in the province this year. Dates are Feb 28/29; if interested you should register asap. (I'm going!!) Advanced Clinics will be held outside the LMD in 2005/2006.

See you on the diamond!! **Ralph Jolley**

REPORT - AREA 8-The Kootenays

Welcome to 2004 and I hope that everyone had a great holiday season.

Looking into 2004 in the Kootenays I see 3 major tournaments upcoming. Cranbrook will host the North Idaho American Legion District Tournament for the first time. I am sure they will do a great job. Trail has plans to host the 13 yr. Old Babe Ruth Provincials and will definitely be host to the Senior Men's Provincials in August.

There will be only one Advanced Clinic in 2004 so any Level 3s whose clinic is due or umpires with aspirations to Level 3 must attend the Super Clinic in New Westminster in February. Further details are available elsewhere in this edition of Hey Blue! If you don't know if your clinic is due, give me a call.

The Clinics in the Kootenays this year have not all been set but we do know that Cranbrook will host a Level 1-2 Clinic on April 4. Further details on the Cranbrook clinic and possible clinics in Trail, Castlegar, Grand Forks and Nakusp will be decided shortly. Please contact your local Umpire in Chief for further info.

If anyone has any question or concerns about anything (baseball related....I can't solve world hunger), my phone number and e-mail are listed in the Hey Blue! give me a shout and we will have meaningful communication (or just yak!).

See you around the Park.

Bill MacMillan, Kootenays Area Rep.

SUPER CLINIC 2004

**WHEN: Saturday & Sunday
February 28 & 29, 2004**

**WHERE: Douglas College,
New Westminster Campus**

This year we will have Ian Lamplugh returning as our 'Featured' instructor. Ian needs no introduction, as his accomplishments are well known. Ian has instructed at several of our Super Clinics, however, he has always conducted the 'Plate' session. This year Ian will be conducting the 'Bases' session. We are looking forward to his perspective in this area. He will also present a session on the strike zone utilizing video from the Major Leagues. Will Hunter will be working with Ian.

Richard Christie and Ozzie Chavarria will be conducting the 'Plate' session of the clinic. Ossie has even worked the 'other' side of the plate when he played for the Kansas City Athletics Royals in 1966 and 1967.

Rob Allan and Perry Roussy will conduct the rules session. This session has evolved from the 'jeopardy' type of session that was first introduced 2 years ago. Last year, improvements were made to the format in order to make it more workable for the type of group that we have. This year even more changes to improve its enjoyment and purpose have been made.

Ray Carter, President of Baseball Canada, and Peter Buxton of Baseball BC will be addressing our group.

All Level 4 and Level 5 umpires must attend this clinic. Howard Chapman has mandated that this will be enforced save and except if there is a death in your immediate family.


If you would like to write the Baseball Canada exam and attempt to attain your Level 4 you may do so. The Baseball Canada exam will be made available only at this clinic to those who would like to write it. If you cannot attend this clinic you cannot write the exam.

We have made arrangements with the Royal Towers for those of you from out of town. The daily room rate will be \$69.00 plus taxes of 15% = \$79.35 total. When making your reservation, simply indicate that you are with BCBUA and that a \$69.00 room rate applies. Also, indicate the number of individuals (maximum of 4) that will be using the room so that an appropriate room is reserved. Please call

them directly at 1 (800) 663-0202 to book your accommodations. Check in time is any time after 3pm and checkout time is 12noon. You will need a credit card to hold your reservation. Cancellations may be made up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled time of arrival. Do not wait until the last minute, as room availability is not guaranteed.

The registration fee is \$165.00. This includes your \$75.00 BCBUA membership fee and lunch, which will be provided on the Saturday. The Sunday session will conclude around lunchtime. The Baseball Canada fee is \$30.00. This is not included in your Registration fee of \$165.00. Level 4 or Level 5 umpires and those wishing to write the Level 4 exam must pay the additional \$30.00 for a total of \$195.00

Please Please cut out or photocopy and complete the registration card below and mail with your cheque or money order made payable to BCBUA to: c/o Danny Huzar
9 CREEKSTONE PL, PORT MOODY BC V3H4L7
If you have any further questions, please contact him at:
P:(604) 469-9860 C:(604) 644-2538
email: danhuzar@telus.net



SuperClinic 2004 Registration

(Please use UPPER CASE only)

Last Name: _____	First Name: _____
DOB <u>MM/DD/YYYY</u> _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
Address: _____	Phone: (____) - ____ - ____
City: _____	Fax: (____) - ____ - ____
Postal code: _____	Cell: (____) - ____ - ____
e-mail: _____	Work: (____) - ____ - ____
_____	DATE: <u>MM/DD/YYYY</u>
Signature _____	

REPORT - AREA 5-Lower Mainland South

It seems impossible that baseball season is fast approaching- only yesterday the World Series was on! But time marches on and we must now get in "Umpire Mode". I was re-elected to a new two year term at the AGM this year and look forward to continuing to serve the members in my area.

Unfortunately my Assistant, Keith Hartup requested to be replaced for personal reasons. Thanks, Keith for your help in the past. I will miss your valuable assistance. In view of Keith's request, I am pleased to announce that my new Assistant will be Arnie Coones. I'm sure Arnie is well known to a lot of you and I look forward to working with him.

I encourage all of the senior umpires in my area to attend **SuperClinic 2004**, and full details can be found elsewhere in this issue. Clinics arranged to date in Area 5 are:

<u>Clinic Location</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Ladner	1	Mar 6	Bobby O	946-5509
N. Surrey	2	Mar 6	Gary Johnson	583-2025
Ladner	2	Mar 13	Bobby O	946-5509
Cloverdale	2	Mar 13	Bruce Faulkner	574-1430
White Rock	1	Mar 13	Arnie Coones	535-5528
White Rock	2	Mar 20	Arnie Coones	535-5528
Newton	1&2	TBA	Graeme Mochrie	576-7981
Tsawwassen	1&2	Mar 27	Jon Phillips	943-9781

I encourage all of you to check the BCBUA website regularly for updated Clinic listings. For further information on any clinics- please call the contact person at the number provided.

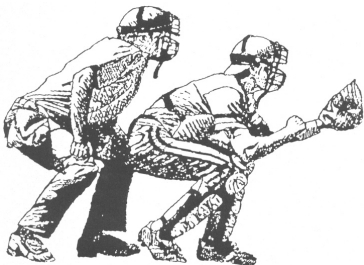
I look forward to seeing a lot of you at **SuperClinic** or at a local clinic.

Jerry Tregaskis, Area Rep 604-594-6911

BCBUA CODE OF CONDUCT

Umpires play a critical role in the sport of baseball and that role is especially important at the amateur or minor baseball level. How we, as umpires, conduct ourselves on and off the field is paramount to our being respected as officials and as individuals. As members of BCBUA we each have a responsibility to:

1. Conduct ourselves with dignity on and off the field of play and, by personal example, to inspire participants to abide by the true principles of sportsmanship and fair play.
2. Adhere to all provincial standards and directives and try to maintain a high level of physical and mental fitness.
3. Treat everyone fairly and respectfully regardless of gender, race, color, ability, or any other characteristic or factor.
4. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of our sport and our role by:
 - Refraining from public criticism of participants (including other officials), the use of profane or offensive language and the use of tobacco products on or around the field while in uniform,
 - Refraining from gambling (however minor) on any game in which we may be involved in any way,
 - Abstaining from the use of alcohol on any day on which we will be officiating or educating others,
 - Honoring any commitments and/or assignments and when unable to do so because of an emergency promptly notifying the Allocator or finding a suitable replacement.
5. Continue to regularly attend educational clinics and workshops, to study the rulebook and training manuals and challenge ourselves to ongoing improvement as students and practitioners of the game of baseball.
6. Participate in the activities and endeavors of BCBUA wherever and whenever possible and to support the advancement of BCBUA as our provincial association.



Updated Provincial Dress Code

-by Danny Huzar

At the Board of directors meeting held on November 15, 2003 the Board approved changes to our dress code. Umpires are still free to wear what they choose for regular season play (although the standard dress code is strongly recommended). This code applies to any assignments made by BCBUA. Essentially, this includes major provincial tournaments, Western Canadian championships and the Fall Classic. In the rest of this article the reference to 'logo' means the BCBUA logo or, only for umpires that hold a level 4 or level 5 rating, the Baseball Canada logo. **Numbers are not allowed on the uniform.**

SHIRTS:

- **Style:** The approved shirt style is the same as the major league style. The shirt must have the logo on the pocket (or in the case of the Baseball Canada logo just above the pocket) of the shirt. The old style powder blue dress shirts may **not** be worn.
- **Colours:** The approved colours are Navy Blue, Powder Blue, Black and Gray. Gray and Powder Blue have been added while Red has been removed from the approved list. Undershirts may be Red, Navy Blue or Black.
 - A **new rule** is that all umpires on the field **including the plate umpire** must wear the same colour shirts. To that end it is mandatory to have a Navy Blue shirt. If BCBUA assigns you to a tournament, you may expect that all umpires will have the Navy Blue shirt. The other colours are optional and may be worn only if all the umpires in your crew wear the same colour on the field.

T-SHIRTS: All umpires must wear an undershirt (t-shirt) and the entire crew must wear the same colour.

CAPS: Caps must have the embroidered logo. Navy Blue caps are to be worn with the Navy Blue or Powder Blue shirts. Black Caps are to worn with the Black shirts. The Navy Blue or Black cap may be worn with the Gray shirt.

JACKET: Navy or Black major league style jackets with the logo on the left chest may be worn with matching colour caps).

- As with the shirts, all umpires on the field must match in colour. On a cool day, it is common for the base umpires to wear jackets and the plate umpire to wear a shirt. If this occurs, colour matching is still a requisite.

BALL BAGS: Must be Navy or Gray with Navy Blue or Powder Blue shirt. Must be Black or Gray with the Black or Gray shirt. The logo is not required on the ballbag.

SHOES, BELT and Socks Must be black, however, many manufacturers are now producing base shoes with some white on them. This is allowed. Plate shoes must be black only.

The purpose of this 'Dress Code' is to ensure that we have a professional look on the field. I have heard many argue that the fans, players, and coaches want a 'good umpire' not a 'good **looking** umpire'. To that, I can only say that most participants expect an umpire not only to be 'good' but to 'look good' as well. There is no reason that we cannot try our best to be both.

2004 Provincial Dress Code - Simplified

SHIRT (Major League Style) Logo to be on left chest pocket.	Approved Colours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy Blue • Black • Gray • Powder Blue NOTE: All Umpires on the field must wear the same colours
SLACKS	GRAY dress Slacks Only
JACKET Logo to be on left chest	Major League Style (in Navy or Black) NOTE: All Umpires on the field must wear the same colours
CAP Logo to be on front	Navy Blue with Navy, Powder Blue or Gray shirts. Black with Black or Gray shirts. NOTE: All Umpires on the field must wear the same colours
BALL BAG Plain or with logo	Navy Blue with Navy, Powder Blue or Gray shirts. Black with Black or Gray NOTE: All Umpires on the field must wear the same colours
SHOES	BLACK- with some white permitted
BELT	BLACK
SOCKS	BLACK

BCBUA Guidelines for the Selection of Umpires to Provincial Tournaments

1. BCBUA is only responsible for assigning umpires for the following Provincial Tournaments, etc. in 2004
 - BC Minor – PeeWee AAA, Bantam AAA, Midget AA, Midget AAA, Premier Midget & Western Canada Championships
 - Babe Ruth – 13 yr. Old Prep, 14 yr old, 13 – 15 year old, 16 yr old and 16 – 19 year old & any Regionals in these age groups.
 - Baseball BC - Premier League Tournaments sponsored by Baseball BC and the Jim Wray Fall Classic
 - BC Summer Games
 - Junior Baseball Association of BC Provincials
 - Senior Baseball Association of BC Provincials and Western Canada ChampionshipsHowever, BCBUA members are also invited to submit applications to work the BC Minor Provincials at other levels (Specifically, Mosquito, PeeWee A and AA, Bantam A and AA) and those names will be forwarded to the UIC for the individual Tournament for his / her use.
 2. All umpires selected for Provincial and / or other Tournaments for which BCBUA is responsible / involved are required to be members in good standing in the year of the Tournament as well as in the preceding year (**for 2004 Tournaments membership in 2003 & 2004 is required**).
 3. The President of the BCBUA will appoint Supervisors / Umpire Allocators for the Tournaments in consultation with the Provincial Supervisor.
 4. All eligible BCBUA members who wish to apply for assignment to a Tournament may do so by completing an application Form and forwarding it to the Chairman of the Provincial Selection Committee **by the specified deadline**. The application form for which the Tournaments are to be assigned, as indicated above, is published in this edition of Hey Blue. Requests to apply for Tournaments may also be submitted electronically using the application form format and emailing it to the Chairman as indicated below. (Please note that application for a Tournament does not guarantee selection).
 4. After the application deadline, the Provincials Committee will make the selection of umpires based on the applications received, nominations from the BCBUA Board as well as the needs of the Tournament Hosts.
 5. Selections for the Tournaments will be made in consultation with the Area Rep. and will be substantially based on the following criteria:
 - The Provincial or National level of the umpire
 - The location of the Tournament relative to the umpire's residence
 - The willingness of the umpire to pay his / her own expenses (travel, accommodation, meals, etc.) if necessary
 - The availability of the umpire to work the full Tournament. (It is preferred that the umpire be available for the entire time)
 - The umpire's need for evaluation relative to his / her level of certification
1. Once selected, umpires will be notified by telephone or email and will be required to confirm availability and acceptance of the assignment within (3) days of notification. If such confirmation is not received, an alternate will be appointed.
 2. Should any vacancy subsequently occur the Provincials Committee shall name an alternate as they see fit.
 3. Any qualified BCBUA member is invited and encouraged to submit an application to work BCBUA-assigned Tournaments.
 4. Any member of the BCBUA Board may also submit nominations to the Provincials Committee.
 5. Further information or clarification may be obtained from any member of the Provincials Committee of by contacting the Chairman: Chuck Blaikie at 250-479-8670 or via email at jcblaikie@shaw.ca

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS MAY 31, 2004

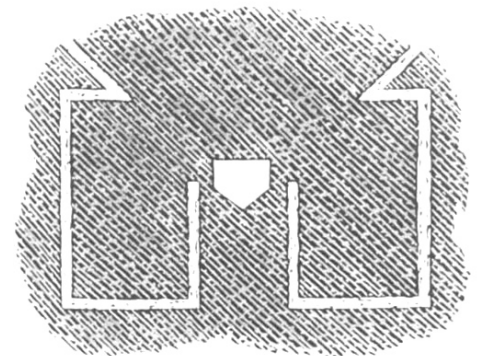
APPLICATION FORM FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE

2nd annual "John Main Classic" PeeWee Tournament

The Hyak Festival Pee Wee Tournament was a great event to showcase Pee Wee aged kids from all over the province. When that tournament ceased two years ago, BC Minor started this tournament to replace it.

In 2003 it was hosted by North Delta & Surrey. Many of you worked the tournament and it was a great success!! In 2004, it will be hosted by Port Coquitlam (Poco) and Coquitlum Moody (Town Centre), and will be held May 27-30, 2004.

Don Campbell is allocating umpires for this tournament, so if any of you are interested, we encourage you to contact Don soon, since last year the available positions disappeared quickly. Don can be reached by telephone at: (604) 944-0782 or by e-mail at: sd361@shaw.ca



APPLICATION FOR SELECTION TO A PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT



B C Baseball Umpires Association Application for Provincial Tournament

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____
ADDRESS: _____ **FAX:** _____
CITY or TOWN: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____
e-mail: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** MM/DD/YYYY

I wish to apply for assignment to the following BCBUA Supervised Tournaments and I acknowledge that:

- If travel is required, I am prepared to pay all my expenses (travel, accommodation, meals, etc.)
- I am aware of the current dress code and will comply with those requirements.
- *I am available to work any games on all days of the Tournament,*
- I will commit to fulfilling any Provincial assignment which I accept, and
- I have been a member in good standing of BCBUA in the years 2003 and 2004.

For information on Tournaments please check the appropriate links from www.bcbua.ca

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS MAY 31, 2004

CHOICE	TOURNAMENT NAME	DATES	LOCATION
1 ST			
2 ND			
3 RD			

I have read the guidelines and understand that if chosen to do a Provincial Tournament I am expected to be able to carry out the duties required of me. I have also read and understand the Provincial Dress Code and will comply with the requirements.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Mail completed form to: BCBUA Provincials Chairman 584 O'Connell Place Victoria, BC V8Z 2C4	Applications may also be submitted electronically via fax to: Chuck Blaikie (250)363-4747 Or via e-mail (using the format as indicated above) to: jcbiaikie@shaw.ca
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YOU MAKE THE CALL #3

R1 is on 1st base with no outs when B1 lifts a high fly ball to left field. R1 is tagging up when B1 passes him. The fly ball is dropped by F7, who quickly recovers and throws to F4 who is standing on 2nd when B1 then R1 slides in to 2nd.

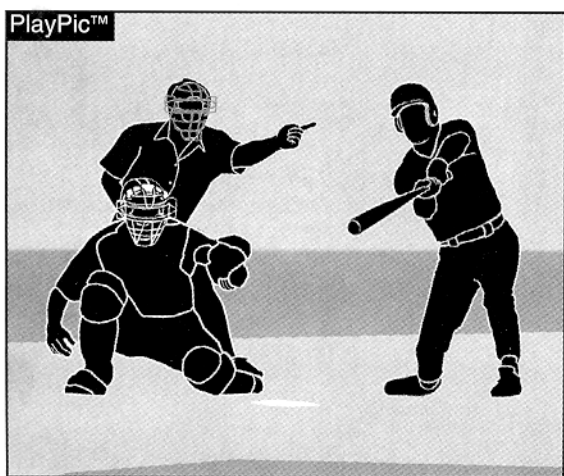
- only B1 is out for passing R1
- only R1 is out because that's a force play
- both R1 and B1 are out because B1 passed R1 and was R1 was forced out.

Swinging Strike vs. Called Strike

A supplementary signal that has gained wide acceptance involves swinging strikes on checked swings. When the batter swings and misses but does not take a full cut, as depicted in the PlayPic, many plate umpires point to the batter and add a verbal call such as, "That's a swing," or, "Yes he did," then signal a strike.

The added signal lets everyone know why a strike was called. If the pitch is a strike or if the batter completed a swing and missed, only a normal strike call is necessary.

As with any supplementary signal, check with your assigner or state association for approval.



Courtesy of Referee Magazine

MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRES

Ever wonder how major League Umpires are chosen to work Allstar games, League Championship series and the World Series? Well, courtesy of Major League Baseball, the process is detailed below.

ASSIGNMENT

All major league umpires are eligible to work any Special Event. The Office of the Commissioner shall have absolute and exclusive discretion in the assignment of umpires to work Special Events. There shall be no restriction on the number of Special Events to which an umpire may be assigned to work in any given year, provided however that an umpire shall not work back-to-back Special Event series (excluding the All-Star Game) and, an umpire shall not work consecutive World Series.

NOTIFICATION

Umpires assigned to work the Mid-Summer Classic shall be notified of their assignment not less than 30 days prior to the game. Umpires assigned to work the Division Series shall be notified of their assignment on the next to last Saturday of the regular season. Umpires assigned to work the League Championship Series shall be notified of their assignment on the last Saturday of the regular season. Umpires assigned to work the World Series shall be notified of their assignment on the day after the end of the last Division Series.

ROTATION

Six (6) umpires shall be assigned to work each Special Event. Rotation of umpiring positions on the field will be followed in any Special Event that is a series. The Office of the Commissioner shall determine the initial position of each umpire in such series.



The Meeting at the Plate

By Ralph Jolley

After a number of years umpiring, I've developed a routine at the start of my games. If I follow my routine, I'm confident that everything is done properly and I should have a good game. It starts with a proper plate meeting. I think I could almost do one with my eyes closed now (some say that's the way I officiate), but it wasn't always that way. My first year, I struggled with what to say, but with experience, I think I got it down pat. But after a couple of years of watching kids struggle with what to say and do at the plate meeting, or not have one at all, I felt there had to be a better way. I developed a "Plate Meeting" card that our new umpires could take out on the field with them. It's a discreet size, and will fit into a shirt pocket (or back pocket of pants). On the card, I provide the following for them to cue from:

Call over both coaches; introduce yourself and base ump: "my name is ___ and I'll be doing the plate. This is ___ and he'll be doing the bases."

Have the "Home" Coach go over ground rules for this field; ask if any questions or anything missed.

Remind coaches of "SLIDE OR AVOID" rule; Rule 8(4) B.C. Minor Baseball.

Review lineups, if necessary.

Advise coaches of time limits (if any); you'll advise when last inning is. Remind them to have players hustle on and off the field.

Shake hands; "HAVE A GOOD GAME."

This can certainly be changed to accommodate local concerns and rules. Using a smaller font will enable you to fit more on the card, but you should keep it readable without a magnifying glass. I instruct the new umpires to use this as a guide, not to read directly off it. I laminate the cards, so they retain their shape and stay readable. They can also be used as backing when writing on a lineup sheet.

Some kids may use this only once or twice, others depend on it for a couple of years to conduct a good plate meeting. Either way, it can help take that first step to a good plate meeting, setting the tone for a good game.

Discipline Committee Report

As the 2004 ball season is rapidly drawing near, it is timely to note that elsewhere in this issue is the application form for BCBUA allocated events this summer. As you will read, if you are interested in working these high-calibre tournaments, such as Provincials, Westerns, or Fall Classic, please submit your application by the deadline posted. And keep this in mind as well.

If you are selected to work these events, you are representing not only yourself, but the entire 1100 member BCBUA. As Discipline Committee Chairman, I received 4 complaints last year – three of which came about due to the actions of umpires who were working these BCBUA allocated events. Incidentally, all three complaints resulted in actions being taken against umpires. The end result was a new rule which has been approved by our Board of Directors.

It states that: In all BCBUA allocated events, in which there are beer gardens on site, that all working umpires be prohibited from entering these areas until the conclusion of play each day.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that tournament umpires are never put into a position where their credibility may be called into question because of their consumption of alcohol after their games.

Further, as if consuming alcohol at the park during game day is not enough, umpires are reminded that on all game days they are not to consume alcohol prior to going on the field, or between games of doubleheaders. This sounds silly, but again, I investigated a file stating just this fact.

And if you are so fortunate as to receive a selection to a BCBUA allocated tournament, you will have the benefit of a supervisor to help you with your on-field work and your off-field judgment. The point is that you must respect your supervisor's decisions, whether you agree with them or not. These supervisors are our Province's most senior and well-respected umpires. They have been entrusted to look after the best interests of the tournament umpires and those of umpires elsewhere in BC. As Discipline Committee Chairman, I find it disgusting to hear that some umpires this year did not respect their supervisor or his decisions, and did so in the public eye. I can assure you that any umpire who appears before this committee in the future will be dealt with severely if it is found that they have acted in an unbecoming manner with their fellow officials or supervisors.

To be selected to officiate in a Provincial or Western Canadian Championship should be considered an honour. The umpires who get a chance to work these events must be able to act above reproach at all times. You are representing all of us when you accept a selection to these events.

And if you have any hesitations as to whether you can uphold your end of the deal, DON'T BOTHER APPLYING!!! It will save a lot of headache for us all.

Steve Boutang

BCBUA Vice President

Discipline Committee Chairman

EVALUATORS AND SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP

-by **Bill MacMillan**

President John Berry and the Board of Directors (BOD) wish to announce the formation of a new committee tasked to improve our tournament supervision and evaluations. This committee, chaired by Jerry Tregaskis, called the Supervisors and Evaluators Committee has been asked to identify the ongoing problems in these two areas and come up with some solutions.

The Education Committee, chaired by Ralph Jolley, was already in the process of addressing some of these difficulties but due to the heavy workload could not focus enough energy on these specific problems so the S & E Committee will pick up where the Education Committee left off.

One of the primary problems with Evaluations has been their availability, which was very limited. Why? Because evaluations were seldom done other than at selected Provincial tournaments and usually not without some pushing and prodding. The other major problems we discovered were in the consistency of evaluations and in the evaluators themselves.

As far as Tournament Supervisors are concerned there has never been much direction, at the Provincial level, for Tournament Supervisors and the result of this is no two tournaments are run the same and simple problems become crises from lack of coherent solutions.

The S & E Committee will hold a two hour workshop following Super Clinic to introduce several measures that we feel will help to alleviate some of these problems.

We will present new evaluation forms, instructions on the completion of these forms and the administrative instructions to ensure these forms get to where they can be entered into the files and not lost for all time. We will also unveil the new training program for Evaluators. This program will give us some consistency in our evaluations and, hopefully, increase the number of evaluators available.

We will also present the new Guidelines



National Championships 2004

Pee Wee:

August 25-30, 2004 Summerside, PEI

Bantam Boys:

August 25-30, 2004 Windsor, ON

Canada Cup:

August 18-23, 2004 Thunder Bay, ON

Midget:

August 25-30, 2004 St. Albert, AB

Junior:

August 25-30, 2004 Trois Rivières, QC

Senior:

August 25-30, 2004 Moncton, NB

Howard Chapman would like to hear from any umpires who are currently Level 4 or Level 5 and who are interested in working any of the above championships. Obviously you must be regularly working games at the level you request, and just applying does not guarantee that you will be chosen, however, those who do not wish to work, or those who are unavailable on those dates, need not contact Howard.

He can be reached at:

Phone: 604-205-0444

Cell: 604-783-9015

DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2004

for Supervisors recently passed by the BOD. These guidelines are intended to take the guess work out of supervising a tournament and to provide some solutions to problems before they can escalate. Who can come to this workshop? We

have invited all the current Evaluators and Supervisors and some others who have been identified as prospective Evaluators and Supervisors but any one who wishes is more than welcome to attend. This is open to any member of the BCBUA and there is no cost to attendees. We will use the same classroom as the Super Clinic and the workshop will commence after lunch on Sunday, Feb. 29.

It must be noted that simple attendance at this workshop will not qualify anyone to be a Supervisor or Evaluator. This workshop is simply to introduce the new systems and training programs intended to solve these very specific problems.

We hope that everyone at Super Clinic will stay for this workshop and any one else interested will come. The more people who understand a program, the better it works.

See You There!



PRO IMAGE OFFICIALS SUPPLY INC.

ORDER FORM 2004 MAIL OR FAX TO: 6663 Stoney Crescent, Delta, BC V4E 1L1
FAX: 604-594-6991

CLOTHING	COLOR	SIZE	PRICE	# Ordered	TOTAL
ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	(Circle)	(Circle)	LOGO-Add \$5.00 & Size	
MLS	Major League Shirt-made from the same polyester material as MLB shirts. No more ironing- just hang to dry.	NAVY GRAY BLACK	M - XL 2XL-3XL	\$50.00 \$57.00	
MLJ	MLB Jacket-MLB replica made of water-resistant Microfibre. Over the shoulder slash. 3/4 zipper & Storm Collar	NAVY or BLACK	M - XL 2XL-3XL	\$80.00 \$88.00	
MLJL	MLB Light Jacket-replica made of water-resistant Microfibre. Over the shoulder slash. Knit Collar	NAVY or BLACK	M - XL 2XL-3XL	\$70.00 \$77.00	
903T	McDavid Mock Neck- Intera™Fabric-the moisture transport system that keeps umpires comfortable. Try it!	NAVY RED BLACK	M - XL 2XL-3XL	\$30.00 \$35.00	
815CT	McDavid Tights- Ankle length compression tights-the greatest things to wear to prevent chafing & keep you cool!	BLACK ONLY	M - XL 2XL-3XL	\$55.00 \$60.00	
TS	T-shirt- Always wear a t-shirt under your field shirt. 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Keeps you cool and looking sharp.	NAVY RED BLACK	M - XL 2XL-3XL	\$13.00 \$16.00	
506-495-970	NEW ERA CAPS- 100% Wool Umpire Caps. PLATE (4-stitch) COMBO (6-stitch) FIELD (8-stitch)	NAVY or BLACK	6 3/4 - 7 3/4 ADJ	LOGO \$28.00 PLAIN \$23.00	
PI-P-C-F	IMPORT CAPS- Poly/Wool Umpire Blend Caps. PLATE (4-stitch) COMBO (6-stitch) FIELD (8-stitch)	NAVY or BLACK	6 3/4 - 7 3/4 ADJ	LOGO \$19.00 PLAIN \$15.00	
FBS	Fecheimer Base Slacks- Official supplier to Major League Baseball. The Best!	HEATHER GRAY ONLY	28 - 42 44-54	\$85.00 \$95.00	
FPS	Fecheimer Plate Slacks- Wider legs and larger crotch to accommodate leg guards and cup.	HEATHER GRAY ONLY	28 - 42 44-54	\$90.00 \$100.00	
FCS	Fecheimer Combo Slacks- slightly more room in the legs and the crotch than the "base" model	HEATHER GRAY ONLY	28 - 42 44-54	\$95.00 \$105.00	

MASKS

WVM/BL	WestVest 3019X 10"Dyna-Lite Face Mask with the new Soft Amara® Suede padding to match frame. BLACK ONLY.			\$125.00	
MIZ	Mizuno-UMPC-9 Micro lightweight hollow frame with leather pads. Available in Black, Navy and Royal (with matching pads).			\$90.00	
LMWX	Rawlings-LMWX Ultralightweight hollow wire frame available in Black only with tan Leather pads for comfort. BLACK ONLY.			\$75.00	
TRM	Trump Ultralightweight hollow wire frame available in Black only, with Leather pads for comfort. An excellent starter mask. BLACK ONLY.			\$75.00	

CHEST PROTECTORS

DCPUX	Diamond DCP-UX • Extra-thick high density foam covered with vinyl. • Velcro fasteners. • 6 break front for better fit.			\$85.00	
Pro-9 CP	Pro-Nine • Cool, breathable, washable Mesh fabric • Low rebound foam • 4-way adjustable back harness • 2.2 pounds • Identical to Honig's Pro-Elite			\$100.00	
GD-CP	Gerry Davis 3290 • lightweight high impact closed cell foam panels • multi-break front for better fit. Excellent Protector!			\$130.00	
I-3000	ITECH 3000 • Pro level protection. • Molded Chest Plate for impact dispersal • Vented Chest & foam for air circulation • Adjustable, hinged shoulders • An excellent protector!			\$145.00	
WV-3217	WestVest 3217 • Pro level protection. • Velcro padding for easy cleaning • Excellent collar bone protection • Extra shoulder plate and remov. bicep protectors			\$225.00	

LEG GUARDS

DLG-UXD	Diamond DLG-UXD Pro • High-impact plastic. • Double knee cap. • Floating shin plates with side leg & ankle protection. • Instep plate.	15" - 16"		\$75.00	
TR-LG	Honig's K-30 Elite • Extended Leg Guard • closed -cell foam padding. • Floating shin plate. • 5 straps-plastic fasteners	15" - 19" in 1"		\$85.00	
Pro-9 LG	Pro-Nine • Cool, breathable, washable liner • removable thigh guard • removable foot guard. • Adjustable knee cap • Excellent ankle protection	15" - 18"		\$110.00	

OTHER

Be descriptive					
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Ship To: Please Print Clearly	FAX Or Mail Completed Form To: PRO IMAGE OFFICIALS SUPPLY INC. 6663 Stoney Cres. Delta, BC V4E 1L1 PHONE: 604-594-6911 FAX: 604-594-6991	Order Total:	
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Phone Fax	Card Number:	TOTAL:	
e-mail: (we will confirm shipment by e-mail if you wish)		0000 / 0000 / 0000 / 0000	EXP. DATE: MM / YY
We do not sell any personal contact information	SIGNATURE (Must be signed)		

Answers to You MAKE THE CALL

1. Pro rules do not address issue, but generally only pitchers running the bases wear jackets. NCAA rules specify that players may wear jackets under their uniform tops if they are the same colour as the team's under-shirts.
2. a & d Pro Rule 3.16
3. a. Pro Rule 2.00 Force Play 7.08h.
4. c & d Pro Rule 7.08b & 7.09L

**SuperClinic 2004
Saturday & Sunday
February 28 & 29
Douglas College,
New Westminster
Campus
Be Sure to Attend!**

YOU MAKE THE CALL #4

R3 with one out. B1 checks his swing but chops the ball about 15 feet down 1st base line. F1 moves toward the ball but stops in fair territory. B1 bumps F1 before the ball bounces foul.

- a. That's interference on B1.
- b. That's obstruction on F1.
- c. That's inadvertent contact and nothing should be called.
- d. When F1 stopped, he gave up his priority status to field the ball and is not protected under the interference rule.



B C Baseball Umpires Association

Write in Application for membership

(enclose your cheque for \$50 Level 2 & under, \$75 Level 3 & above)

Address Change - EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOVE: MM/DD/YYYY

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____
ADDRESS: _____ **FAX:** _____
CITY or TOWN: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____
e-mail: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** MM/DD/YYYY

Cut out and mail or Fax this form to :

B C Baseball Umpires Association, 9 Creekstone Place, Port Moody, B.C. V3H 4L7

PHONE: 604-469-9860 FAX: 604-469-1919 E-MAIL: bcbua@yahoo.com

ARE YOU MOVING?

Every mailing of Hey Blue! Results in a number of copies being returned by the Post Office marked "MOVED". We are sure that most people who move notify the Post Office of their change of address and that the next issue of Hey Blue! gets forwarded to them but they will continue to go to the old address unless you let us know your new address. If we have a returned copy of Hey Blue! we will remove your address from our mailing list until we get an updated address. We do retain your name on the Membership list but once you are deleted from our mailing list you will not receive any further issues of Hey Blue! until we are advised of your new address. If you have recently moved or are planning to do so in the next few months, please complete the form below and mail it to us as soon as possible. If you know the date that you will be moving we will update our files for that date. **Thank You!!!**

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