



Hey Blue!

The Voice of BC Umpires



SPRING 2007

BC Baseball Umpires Association
6663 Stoney Crescent
Delta, BC V4E 1L1
e-mail: bcbua@yahoo.com
WEBSITE
www.bcbua.ca

Editor:
Jerry Tregaskis
P: (604) 594-6911 F: 604-594-6991
e-mail: trig@dccnet.com
Assistant Editor:
Danny Huzar
e-mail: danhuzar@telus.net

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- John Berry

The off-season is a great time to reflect on our successes in 2006 and build our plans for an even better 2007. That's what your Association has been doing. We have a lot in front of us for another exciting year in baseball.

Umpire education and development is the core of what we do, and we are moving forward on many fronts. SuperClinic; Caravan; training for evaluators and supervisors; evaluating umpires; improving clinics and making them more flexible and available; identifying, mentoring and developing umpires for higher levels; working to maximize opportunities at national, provincial and other tournaments -- these are all areas where BCBUA intends to build in 2007. We want to work with the leagues and associations, and attract and retain more umpires.

We want to make sure this Association serves its members well. Our board has increased the number of Assistant Area Representatives where that is appropriate. They and our Area Representatives and any of our board are all people who welcome input and suggestion. Your local umpire-in-chief is also an important person who can help with questions and forward suggestions to this Association.

I want to thank our Island members, and especially Eric Rasmussen, for hosting our AGM in Victoria in December. The meeting included the presentation of a number of awards, and I was really pleased to see two of our young umpires of the year there to receive their awards.

We've had a few changes to the board this year. I want to thank the retiring members for their service, and their contributions, and I am pleased that some of them plan to remain active. Renewal is good for an association, and this year is no exception with some strong new members joining our board. I'm confident that they will join with a hard-working returning crew, and together give umpiring and our sport the committed volunteer leadership that is so central to our success.

Finally, I want to confirm that Howard Chapman plans to step down as Provincial Supervisor of Umpires in 2008. (We will have more to say later about Howard's unparalleled service to umpiring and to baseball -- in BC, in Canada and internationally.) Howard has been good enough to give us lead time to prepare a transition. Your board is looking at a process for naming a successor and starting a transition in the 2007 season. While the position is formally an appointment of Baseball BC, we are proposing and expect to agree on an approach that is an active partnership with BCBUA.

All the best for a wonderful 2007!

"BCBUA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of British Columbia through its Direct Access Program for gaming funding."

WOMEN'S UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Baseball Canada, in recent years has worked hard to establish women's baseball in Canada, with very good success. BCBUA is also working on bringing more women into umpiring. BCBUA would like to attract more women umpires, since all National Championships for women will no longer accept male umpires and there are National Championships for 3 levels of women's baseball. Last year we sent Leisha Blais (Penticton) to Grande Prairie and this year we will be sending Lisa Browne Rooke (North Delta) to Quebec City.

We need the help of every member to attract and encourage more female umpires, so please use your best efforts to support this project.

Lisa Browne-Rooke has been appointed Chair of the new "Women's Umpire Development committee. Please contact Lisa with ideas, suggestions and prospects.

BC Baseball Umpires Board of Directors

TABLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

John Berry
Tel:(604)299-2532 Fax:(604)666-7235
e-mail: theberrys@shaw.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT

Danny Huzar
Tel:(604)469-9860 Fax:(604)469-1919
e-mail: danhuzar@telus.net

SECRETARY

Jerry Tregaskis
Tel: (604)594-6911 Fax: (604)594-6991
e-mail: trig@dccnet.com

TREASURER

Richard Christie
Tel:(604)535-9835 Fax:(604)535-9853
e-mail: chrstrl@telus.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Chuck Blaikie
Tel:(250)479-8670 Fax: None
e-mail: jcblaikie@shaw.ca

PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR

Howard Chapman
Tel:(604)205-0044
e-mail: None

AREA DIRECTORS

AREA 1 - Vancouver Island South

Eric Rasmussen
Tel:(250)592-7297 Fax: None
e-mail: ericrasmussen@telus.net

Chet Masse
Tel:(250)474-3582 Fax:(250)474-3592
e-mail: cbmasse@island.net
Fabian Poulin
Tel:(250)751-8608 Fax:(250)751-0363
e-mail: fjpoulin@shaw.ca

AREA 2 - Vancouver Island North

Ed Berkenstock
Tel:(250)338-0519 Fax:(250)334-1535
e-mail: edandpenny@shaw.ca

Louis Gravel
Tel:(250)338-4032 Fax: None
e-mail: goalie_3535@hotmail.com

AREA 3 - Lower Mainland East

Eddy Lang
Tel:(604)936-2484
e-mail: elang@vsb.bc.ca

Robert Allan
Tel:(604)630-5723 Fax: None
e-mail: rob.allan@canada.com

AREA 4 - Lower Mainland West

Chuck Bertrand
Tel:(604)885-2987 Fax: None
e-mail: cabertra@telus.net

Don Hass
Tel:(604)241-1350 Fax: None
e-mail: thedonald@shaw.ca
Terry Owen
Tel: (604)980-4775 Fax: None
e-mail: teowen@shaw.ca

AREA 5 - Lower Mainland South

Troy Carmont
Tel: (604)574-7150 Fax: (604)635-3329
email: tc@everythingfinancial.com

Lisa Brown-Rooke
Tel: (604)592-0909 Fax:
e-mail: lbrownrooke@telus.net
Arnie Coones
Tel: (604)535-5528 Fax: (604)535-5419
e-mail: arnieedwin@shaw.ca
Bobby Olszowiec
Tel: (604)946-5509 Fax: (604)946-2930
e-mail: bobbo@dccnet.com

AREA 6 - Thompson Okanagan

Brian Cargnelli
Tel: (250)378-6448 Fax: None
e-mail: bcargnel@telus.net

Chris Connelly
Tel: (250)376-7801 Fax: None
e-mail: conz_23@hotmail.com

AREA 7 - South Okanagan

Vacant at present

Vacant at present

AREA 8 - The Kootenays

Steve Boutang
Tel: (250)426-2972 Fax: None
e-mail: sboutang@shaw.ca

Bill MacMillan
Tel:(250)368-9892 Fax:(250)364-0567
e-mail: wpmac@shaw.ca

AREA 9 - Northern BC

Lance Brommeland
Tel: (250)563-2688 Fax: (250)561-9155
e-mail: lbrommeland@telus.net

Andre Jean
Tel:(250)798-2417 Fax:(250)798-2417
e-mail: a_jean@telus.net

YOU MAKE THE CALL #1

Runners on 1st & 3rd, pitcher balks, but delivers the pitch, which hits the batter. The umpire calls "time" and awards the batter 1st base. Is this correct?

Answer on page 12

BE SURE TO ATTEND

**SuperClinic
2007**

Douglas College
New Westminster
February 24 & 25, 2007
Guest Instructor:

Dick Runchey

See page 4 for details on Dick
Check www.bcbua.ca
For updates on the clinic

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

-Danny Huzar

My tenure as Secretary ended at the AGM that was held on December 3, 2006 in Victoria. I fully intended to take a break away from the governance of our association, however, several individuals convinced me to try a different position. The maxim, that a change is as good as a vacation, was the impetus that they used to encourage me to do so. However, the tremendous support and encouragement that came from members from throughout the various areas of the province clearly helped me make that decision. As such, I ran for the position of Vice President and succeeded in obtaining it. I thank all of those who supported me.

Will this change the direction of our association? Hardly! As a Board, we have set a course over the past few years that has proven to be effective and sustainable. We certainly are always on the lookout for ways to improve what we are doing and ways to do even more. If any of you have any suggestions please contact me, or any other board member.

Our association has many goals. One of those is to make our members the very best umpires that we all are capable of being. That will enhance the umpiring experience for all of us and hopefully encourage us to continue umpiring. It will also improve the appreciation of the game for the other participants. In the past 3 years, we have made significant improvements in the structure of clinics. Now, we are focusing on developing instructors in each and every area of the province. The instructors clinic (called Caravan) in 2007 will have participants from the Island, the North, the Kootenays, the Okanagan and the Lower Mainland. We have also increased the number and quality of our evaluators.

We hope to conquer the divides that keep some associations from joining us. We would like to see each and every umpire in the province join our association and participate in its strength, by both drawing from it and adding to it. This synergy is very real; I have witnessed it and experienced it. We need the participation and support of each and every member in order to expand it. Please encourage all the umpires that you know to join us.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a great year both in umpiring and all aspects of your personal lives as well.

SuperClinic 2007

SuperClinic

February 24 +25. 2007

Douglas College, New Westminster

As mentioned in the Education Committee report, the focus on Education in this province will become much different than in years past. This philosophy continues to the SuperClinic program. In 2003 our board made a decision to rotate SuperClinic around the province while putting a moratorium on holding Advanced level 3 clinics elsewhere. We have completed this rotation and while it was a success, it was also a failure. While we increased the number of participants at SuperClinic and brought in some really big name instructors, we failed to produce timely high level education to all of our level 3 members who were not able to attend the clinic in their region. Even when the clinic was in their region, it sometimes caused a great deal of expense to be incurred to travel there.

As a result, the Education committee has outlined plans to hold more than 1 SuperClinic each year in various areas of the province so long as we can financially sustain it. i.e...we need to have the numbers to support it. As well, Advanced clinics (the same as SuperClinic, but without the big name guest instructors) will be made available again to regions whose numbers justify it. In other words, we are trying to make Advanced level education available to more umpires around the province.

For this year's SuperClinic, we must make some minor changes. The changes are partly necessitated by the fact that we received less grant money than in previous years. As a result, we are not able to bring in a Major League Baseball umpire (like Jim Joyce in 2006) whose appearance fee is not agreeable with our budget. Further, MLB umpires are required to report to Spring Training in mid February. Our dates were not flexible in order to secure the popular Douglas College New Westminster location that we have had so many successful ventures at before. However, the clinic instruction will not suffer. It will probably improve actually. We have secured the services of Richard (Dick) Runchey. Dick is a highly regarded Supervisor for the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) and has supervised World Championships for many years around the globe. He has umpired in the Big Leagues briefly in the early 80's, and worked in the Olympics. He is an instructor and supervisor of umpires at the NCAA Division 1 level. I can say that while you may not recognize Dick's name as you would a Jim Joyce, the quality of his resume and experiences speaks volumes about his ability as an instructor of baseball umpiring. Several of our Nationally rated umpires have come across Dick at various International tournaments and have spoken very highly about his down to earth style.

We will also be attempting to secure the services of a Baseball Canada supervisor to assist the many high quality provincial instructors who will be on hand this year.

Finally, the clinic content will be improved. The clinic is still open to anyone who wants to attend. The content of the sessions will be tailored to the skill level of the umpire more than ever. New sessions will be added, sessions will be shorter, and the old favorites will be tweaked to make them even more enjoyable.

The clinic cost and the rest of the particulars have not been finalized, but I encourage you to plan on attending. Check our website regularly for updates. It is sure to be a rewarding experience.

Steve Boutang – SuperClinic Committee

SECRETARY'S REPORT

-Jerry Tregaskis

From the earliest days, your Association has prided itself on being a truly "Provincial" organization providing equal access to programs, materials and education to all areas of the Province. Unfortunately, by some, it is perceived as a Lower Mainland controlled organization. From my nearly 20 years on the Executive, I can assure all members this is not fact!

At November 30, 2006, we had 1,152 members distributed among the areas as follows:

Area	Members	%	# votes on board
1. Van Isle-South	213	18.5	2
2. Van Isle-North	83	7.2	1
3. LM - East	212	18.4	2
4. LM - West	105	9.1	2
5. LM - South	262	22.7	3
6. Thompson OK	56	4.8	1
7. South OK	118	10.2	1
8. The Kootenays	51	4.4	1
9. Northern BC	52	4.5	1
TOTALS	1152	100%	14



SuperClinic 2007 - Update

-Steve Boutang

Superclinic is just around the corner. If registration is not already full, I urge all umpires, particularly senior umpires, to make every effort to attend. Our provinces top instructors will be on hand to supplement the outstanding guest instructor list that includes: Dick Runchey, Bryce Paton, and Ian Lamplugh. The cost is \$165 and this will include all clinic materials, a shirt, lunch on Saturday, and your level 3 membership dues. We are also working hard on having a social or group dinner on Saturday night, which will also be included in the clinic cost.

You can read more about our top-notch instructors at our website, www.bcbua.ca Also on our website is the downloadable registration form. Alternately, you can contact Rob Allan at rob.allan@canada.com to register.

While Superclinic is designed to appeal to our experienced adult umpires, we also welcome and want experienced youth umpires to take part in this great event. It is a great way to rub shoulders with our provinces senior umpires and is an excellent learning experience that I recommend to everyone.

Participants will notice many small changes to this year's clinic. Sessions will be shorter in order to keep people fresh. More breaks will be incorporated. Different sessions have been developed. Each umpire will get 2 sessions in the cage with our guest instructor Dick Runchey. Your sessions in the cage will be recorded for future reference, so long as you bring a video tape to your session. Participants will be given an opportunity to select their own sessions on Sunday. Several options will be presented, all of which will be interesting to some segment of the masses. And the National exam and Provincial level 3 exam can also be written on site.

This year's clinic should be one of our best ever. Our guest instructors are of an educational quality that we have not seen before. And this is the goal of Superclinic – to provide a superior quality of education for our members. I hope you will agree.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 2007-2008

-John Berry

The Following is a listing of the Committee Chairmen as appointed by the President. The Chairmen are responsible for appointing their own committee members as they see fit to get the job done. Committee members must be members in good standing with BCBUA. If you have an interest in serving on any of these committees, please contact the Chairman and express your interest.

- **Awards** -- Steve Boutang
- **Bylaw Review** -- Lance Brommeland
- **Caravan 2007** -- Danny Huzar
- **Contract Coordination** -- Danny Huzar
- **Discipline** -- Danny Huzar
- **Education** -- Steve Boutang
- **Ejection Review** -- Eric Rasmussen
- **Finance** -- Richard Christie
- **Hey Blue** -- Jerry Tregaskis
- **Level 3** -- Bill MacMillan
- **Library** -- Jerry Tregaskis
- **Provincials** -- Troy Carmont
- **Supervisors/Evaluators** -- Jerry Tregaskis
- **Supplies** -- Jerry Tregaskis
- **SuperClinic 2007** -- Steve Boutang
- **Technical Director** -- Richard Christie
- **Website** -- Brian Cargnelli
- **Women's Umpire Development**
--Lisa Browne-Rooke

REPORT - AREA 1 Vancouver Island South

Sorry - no Report due to flooding of my office.

Eric Rasmussen - Area Director

REPORT - AREA 2 Vancouver Island North

I hope this finds everyone recovering from a great holiday season.

At the annual general meeting that was held on Dec 3rd/06 in Victoria, I was reinstated as Area 2 Vancouver Island North Rep by acclamation. I am looking forward to a positive and rewarding two year term.

I would like to congratulate Colin Wright from Parksville who won the Pro Image Supply Jr. Umpire of the year award for 2006. Congratulations Colin on a job well done.

Super Clinic this year will be held on February 24th and 25th in New Westminster. It will be a great learning experience again this year and I encourage all of you dedicated umpires to register early, as space is limited.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at your local clinics in the spring and will be contacting your associations to set the dates in early February. Encourage your friends and family that might be interested in an umpiring position to come out to the clinics. We would especially like to see more female and senior umpires. If you know anyone who might be interested I would be happy to answer any questions if they wish to call.

On behalf of Louis, Eric, and Myself, we would like to wish you all a positive and exciting 2007 season. See you in a park near you!

Ed Berkenstock - Area Director

SuperClinic Guest Instructor-Dick Runchey

Amateur Baseball Umpires' Association Dick Runchey, ABUA's first president and a member of its 2002 class of Hall of Fame inductees, became the majority shareholder in ABUA May 1, 2004, and will assume the position of chairman of the board.

"This is a dream come true," said Runchey, a member of the International Baseball Federation umpire subcommittee. "I knew when we formed ABUA in 1998 that I wanted to become the majority owner at some point. The timing is perfect for me to do this right now and I couldn't be happier."

For over 30 years, Runchey worked his way up through the professional and amateur ranks and built a very impressive resume. It took him only nine years from the time he attended the Al Somers Umpire School in 1973 to work his first College World Series game. As a rookie CWS umpire in 1982, Runch was awarded the first of four championship-game plate assignments (more than any other umpire in the modern era). In addition to the 1982 CWS, he also worked the prestigious event in 1983, 1990, 1994 and 1998. Dick worked 19 NCAA Division I Regionals from 1980-1998, and 12 Big Ten and three Mid-American Conference Tournaments.

Dick's plum international assignment was the 1992 Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona. The Plymouth, MI, native also worked the 1998 World Championships in Italy and the 1997 Pan American Games in Indianapolis.

Off the field, Dick has given of himself to countless ABUA and NCAA initiatives. In addition to his service as ABUA's president for its first three years (1998-2000), he was an NCAA Baseball Regional Umpire Evaluator and committee member for nine years. Considered one of the best clinicians in the country, Dick is one of the ABUA's top teachers at camps and clinics around the country.

REPORT - AREA 4 Lower Mainland-West

I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Chuck Bertrand and I am the new Area 4 Director. I am the Umpire-in-Chief for the Sunshine Coast, which covers Gibsons Minor Baseball Association and Central Baseball League (Sechelt & area). I have been involved in organized ball for 50+ years and have been umpiring for 27 years.

Becoming the Area 4 Representative was not initially my idea, but upon being asked, I accepted this opportunity. I realize that the majority of you do not know me. I will state up front that with such a large area we may never get to meet except through e-mail, "Hey Blue", and possibly at Provincials.

Don Hass has accepted to remain on as an Assistant Area Rep and I will be calling upon him and a number of other individuals to provide insight for their regions.

In accepting this position I was given no job description nor is there a specific record of all the associations and umpire-in-chiefs throughout Area 4. I am hoping in the next month to clarify this. I am not into micro-managing, as I realize the majority of associations in my area successfully manage themselves, as Gibsons/CBL has done for many years.

From talking with other board members, I am under the impression that my task is to assist the umpire-in-chiefs and associations in maintaining umpire clinics. I am also certified to instruct Level 1 and 2 clinics, but should note that from the beginning of April on, I am very involved with ball on the Sunshine Coast and, particularly, in mentoring young umpires. As Director of Area 4, I am also your voice on the BCBUA Board of Directors. I also enjoy having a good discussion over the rules of baseball and their interpretation. To this end, if you wish to contact me please feel free to do so. Phone: 604-885-2987. E-Mail: cabetra@telus.net.

Chuck Bertrand - Area Director

REPORT - AREA 3 Lower Mainland-East

No report received by press time

-Eddy Lang - Area Director



REPORT - AREA 5 Lower Mainland-South

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to all of you!! I am happy to say I have taken over for Jerry as Area Director, it will be difficult to replace Jerry and I thank him for all his hard work over the past six years in our Area. I will do my best to carry on his good work.

2006 was a very busy year and we had several successful tournaments and clinics in our area. I also want to congratulate those Umpires who were selected to Umpire at the different Provincial and National Tournaments from our Area.

I would encourage all associations to book your clinics with me as soon as possible as it does get difficult to make the time as we get into the spring time. Kudos's to Bruce Faulkner from Cloverdale who has already booked his Clinic for 2007.

We have several level 2 Umpires who need to be evaluated to obtain their level 3 status, please contact myself to see if you qualify, we have an urgent need for level 3 Umpires in the Province. I will do whatever I can to help those interested to obtain this level 3 rating.

I would also encourage as many of you as possible to attend the Super clinic in February at Douglas College, I know you will not be disappointed with the quality of the Instruction. I would challenge all members in my Area to have the highest attendance of any Area at Super clinic 2007.

I am pleased to announce that Arnie Coones, Lisa Brown, and Bobby Olsowiec will be assisting me and I will rely heavily on these people to help with education, training and anything else I can delegate to them.

All the best for 2007, enjoy the rest of the off-season!!

Troy Carmont-Area Director

REPORT - AREA 6 -Thompson-Okanagan

Best of the season for everyone in the beautiful Thompson Okanagan. I know that it's hard to think about baseball and the long hot days of summer with all this snow on the ground (I am writing this on Dec. 30 and there's about a foot of snow here in Merritt), but baseball season is truly just around the corner. If you are looking for a really rewarding clinic experience this year, then look no further than the annual BCBUA Superclinic. Some of this province's top instructors including yours truly will be teaching alongside Dick Runchey and Bryce Paton. You'll get to attend several classroom sessions that range from game management to advancing your umpiring career. And if these sessions are not enough for you, you'll be able to spend some quality time working on your strike zone with one of the world's best

plate mechanic instructors in Dick Runchey and advance your understanding of the 2 or 3 man systems that we use here in Canada both in the classroom with me and on the field with Bryce Paton a Master Course conductor for Baseball Canada.

Now with all of this education you have to be looking for somewhere to turn these new skills loose. Well once again I have the answer. Kamloops is hosting several large early season tournaments this year and if you are interested in coming to work a few games get in touch with me ASAP. We are always on the lookout for new talent. And to top it all off, you'll get some valuable feedback from your local area rep, that's me for those that don't know. You may even get a chance to work a college game or two if time allows.

I would also like to congratulate Chris Connelly as the my new assistant area rep. By the time this edition of Hey Blue comes out, Chris will have completed the National Caravan that trains instructors in the methods of Baseball Canada. This caravan is a grueling 4 day event that allows the students to explore and create new clinic materials that they can then take back to their respective areas. I know that his new skills will be put to the test this spring as he will be instructing at numerous clinics. Matt Lowndes will continue to work with us in his role as assistant area rep, but his schedule with hockey and school does not allow him to spend the time needed for this position full time. The fact is though Matt is still my go to guy here in this zone and one of our most experienced young officials. So if you have any questions any one of the three of us are more than capable of answering them. Without these two young men, this zone would be far from the hot bed of umpiring in this province.

Finally, if you want to book a date for a level 1-2 clinic make sure to contact me ASAP. I will be conducting several clinics in other areas again this year due to a shortage of instructors in those areas (Okanagan for example). Once again, Chris Connelly and Matt Lowndes are both experienced instructors and they are more than capable of running your level 1-2 clinics, but please get any requests into me directly so that I can coordinate the clinics. If you are interested, we can also try and set up several week night clinics that run for 2 hours a night for 8 weeks instead of the traditional day long session. These are relatively new to the BCBUA, but veterans of this area know that I have been offering these types of innovative clinics for over 15 years. Remember that you need a minimum of 15 people to run a level 1-2 clinic. See the BCBUA web site for further details. If you can not get these numbers yourself, consider combining with another area close to your town. Case in point could be Revelstoke and Salmon Arm.

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and wish everyone a great Baseball Season for 2007.

Brian Cargnelli - Area Director

REPORT - AREA 8 -The Kootenays

Howdy everyone in the Kootenays. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year.

There were some significant happenings at the BOD and the AGM in December that will directly affect everyone in the Kootenays.

The first one is that we finally, after 4 years of trying, got the Mail in Balloting initiative to a vote. Unfortunately a large contingent of members from the Lower Mainland made the trip over to the Island specifically to vote against this measure and the motion did not receive the required 75% of the votes and was defeated. It still amazes me that these folks think that they have more right to elect the Representatives from the Interior and the North rather than those who live there and for some reason are terrified of the concept of locally elected Representatives. Ah well....that is democracy and kudos to those members that did make the effort to come vote, that is what it is all about. The President has told me that he will give it to the constitutional committee to review and perhaps present some sort of hybrid plan in the future.

The second significant happening was the change in Area Representative for the Kootenays. Due to broken promises and dubious ethics and some last minute politicking Steve Boutang was not reelected as the Vice President. I felt that his presence on the board was essential for the health of this Association so I stepped aside to let Steve become the Area Representative for the Kootenays. I think that a fresh injection of ideas is always a healthy thing and before you all throw yourselves from the bridge out of despair... I am not going anywhere. I will continue to function as the Assistant Area Rep and the Level 3 Coordinator. Between Steve and me it will be business as usual or, hopefully, better.

There will likely be a perception that these two significant events were prompted by geography, that is the competition between the members from the Lower Mainland and those from the Interior (beyond Hope as it were). In the case of the Mail in Balloting proposal that, of course, is entirely correct and that is the nature of a Provincial Association.

The circumstances surrounding the BOD meeting and the elections at the AGM, however, have nothing to do with geography and everything to do with strong personalities and differing opinions. The Board of Directors may, at times, seem like a dysfunctional family but eventually things seem to get done and everyone "sucks it up" for the good of the Association.

Continued next column

We currently have no confirmed clinics in the Kootenays however we are planning to run them in Cranbrook, Castlegar, Trail and hopefully Nelson and Grand Forks. Dates and locations will be determined and announced through your local UICs.

Good luck to everyone, thank you for all your support and help in the past and I look forward to the future of baseball in the beautiful Kootenays.

Bill MacMillan, AAR - The Kootenays

REPORT - AREA 9 Northern BC

With the new year comes a new baseball season, and a new area representative. But first, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Adolph Jede for his years of service in representing the area. If you haven't already heard, Adolph was married this past summer and has relocated to Calgary. All the very best in the future, Adolph.

Now the introduction. My name is Lance Brommeland, I am based out of Prince George and I have been umpiring for about 10 years. I am looking forward to working with our members to maintain and grow the association throughout our area of the province. Many thanks to Andre Jean for agreeing to stay on as AAR for another year.

A level 1-2 clinic is planned for early April here in Prince George, likely using the new multi-night format. We also hope to provide a clinic in the south dependant on interest, more to follow on both as things firm up. A reminder that the Super Clinic in February is fast approaching, I encourage each member to attend if possible. Please be sure to drop me a line if you are interested in car pooling or sharing accommodations.

Congratulations to both Terry Shaw in receiving the BCBUA's "Most Improved" provincial award and to Michael Feduck for receiving the area's "Junior Umpire" award for 2006.

Best of luck in 2007,

Lance Brommeland - Area Director

YOU MAKE THE CALL #2

With R1 on 1st, B3 rips a line drive to the left field corner. As F7 waits for the carom off the wall, the ball bounces up, hitting the foul pole and rebounding to F7 who throws to F6, who in turn throws to F2 to retire R1 at home. On the throw, B3 advances to third base. Your choices are:

- R1 is out.
- R1 is awarded home.
- R1 is awarded 3rd.
- B3 remains at 3rd.
- B3 is returned to 2nd.

Answer on page 12



Little League Umpires Report

Fellow Umpires, Happy New Year.

My name is Roger Shaw and I am the newly appointed Provincial Umpire Consultant for Little League in B.C. I am also the District Umpire Consultant for District 5 on the North Shore.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Troy Carmont for his many years in this position. His will be a hard act to follow.

We are looking forward to another exciting season this year. The big change is the introduction of a pitch count program for all levels.

We are always looking for new umpires. If any of you know of anyone looking to spend a couple of hours 2 or 3 times a week getting heckled have them contact their local league. Or get them to attend the Super Clinic advertised in this newsletter. Also, many league hold their own clinics that may be enough to get one started.

See you on the field

Roger Shaw, PUC Little League B.C.

Answers to Test your Canadian Baseball Knowledge

From page 9

- 1877
- 1893
- Bobby Wine (1970)
- Doug Ault, Bob Bailor and Jerry Garvin
- 1978
- Infielders Bill Madlock and Vic Harris.
- Al Cicotte.
- Dennis Menke.
- Ross Grimsley (1978).
- Don Drysdale (the scoreless string covered 58 2/3 innings).

BE SURE TO ATTEND

**SuperClinic
2007**

**Douglas College
New Westminster
February 24 & 25, 2007**

**Guest Instructor:
Dick Runchey
See page 4 for details on
Dick**

**Check www.bcbua.ca
For updates on the clinic**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

-Steve Boutang, Chairman

I hope that this report finds you all well after the Christmas Holidays and that you are all becoming eager to get back onto the field.

A couple of things to update you on regarding the Education Committee. Clinic planning is well underway as we hope to begin delivering an improved Education package to all umpires this spring. Caravan will have concluded by the time this issue is in your hands. Our association will boast 10 newly trained and Baseball Canada certified instructors. This will be in addition to the many top-notch instructors our province already has. In the coming years we hope to train more instructors that ideally will improve the quality of education you all receive at various clinics. As for the clinics themselves, we have a new level 3 manual which will be issued this year. Thanks to Jerry Tregaskis for much hard work in this regard. Umpire in Chiefs throughout the province will continue to receive updates and Ongoing Training Packages, as they did last year, in the hopes that umpires will receive continued training as the season goes on.

An Advanced Level 2 clinic is being developed for this spring. It is hoped that whenever numbers justify, this can be offered to adult level 2 umpires as an alternative to attending the combined level 1-2 clinics with the distractions that often occur in those environments.

We are also pleased to be able to offer our exams online again at our website. For level 3 umpires, you must submit your exam each year in order to remain qualified as a level 3 umpire. This is important for the Provincial selection process. If you are brand new to the program, then you must submit your level 3 exam at some point in 2007. I am also pleased to say that our Board of Directors approved a change to the level 3 process which basically allows umpires to obtain their level 3 credentials at any time, rather than being forced to do so in an 18 month time period.

And our Board also approved monies to be spent on an initiative to encourage members to submit their level 3 exams in a timely fashion. **A random draw will be held in spring for members who submit a passing exam by a certain deadline.** A small prize will be awarded.

The Education Committee continues work on developing an Advanced clinic in the Interior this winter. Interest levels will dictate whether this can happen or not, naturally.

I again urge patience with everyone as we work towards a better education program for all umpires. You may not see the differences in measurable quantities, however you are sure to see an improved product as time goes on.

Supervisors

-Jerry Tregaskis, Chairman

In response to requests from the Area Directors, and in view of the way Provincial Championships are now being assigned to all areas of the Province, there is a need for the training of more supervisors in all areas. We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Workshop for Supervisors & Evaluators on February 25 in conjunction with the SuperClinic. The workshop will take 1 1/2 - 2 hours and will follow the conclusion of SuperClinic. The workshop is by invitation only and will include all current Supervisors and Evaluators plus new candidates identified by the Area Directors. If you are interested and feel you have the personality and qualifications to become a Supervisor or Evaluator, please contact your Area Director or myself as soon as possible. The deadline for applicants will be February 4/07.

I have written a new Supervisor's Handbook this year and each invited attendee will receive a copy. The Workshop will include:

- Qualities of a Supervisor.
- The Supervisor's Role.
- Philosophy of Supervision.
- Specifics of Supervising a tournament.
- Completing Evaluation forms (both long & short forms).
- Communications with umpires being evaluated.
- Reporting to BCBUA.

It takes much more than being a good umpire to become a Supervisor & Evaluator. Many do not have the interpersonal skills or organizational abilities to do it successfully, but if you feel you have the "Right Stuff", please contact your Area Director or myself before February 4 to be included in the workshop. No "drop-ins" will be accepted. Lunch will be supplied, but unfortunately, we do not have any funds available, to assist with travel or accommodation expenses.

LIBRARY

-Jerry Tregaskis, Chairman

The last issue of *Hey Blue!* contained a detailed listing of the materials available from our library. Since then we have added many new items and an updated listing can be found on the BCBUA website. We now have one of the most complete libraries of recreational and instructional libraries of books, VHS tapes and DVD's in North America and it is all available to our members at no cost, except for postage.

We encourage all members to take advantage of this valuable resource to further their interest and improve their skills in baseball officiating. Ordering is easy and can be done on-line from our website.

Don't be reluctant to use this resource!

Membership

-Steve Boutang, Chairman

I am pleased to say that our members at the AGM in Victoria approved several measures to increase value in your membership in BCBUA.

Level 3 dues will be \$65 annually, a reduction of \$10. This measure was proposed as a means to increase level 3 membership numbers, to bring BC in line with other provinces, and to better reflect the costs associated with offering the level 3 membership package to our members on an annual basis. Our association's coffers are in much better condition than they were when the level 3 dues were increased some years ago, and it is only fair that we reduce those dues now.

Our association also welcomes a new category of membership. It is called the Inactive Member category. This is something I am particularly proud of. Our association has been delinquent in allowing former umpires to disappear into thin air after their on-field days have passed. I thought this was wrong. These umpires, some of whom have served many years on our board of directors, have much value to us as supervisors, evaluators, or future committee members among other things. Often an umpire who didn't want to be on the field any longer just disappeared. They saw no reason to spend the \$50 on a membership for basically nothing in return. And rightly so, to be truthful.

The Inactive Member will now pay \$25 annually and will receive: *Hey Blue!*, voting privileges at meetings, full membership privileges, retention of Supervisor/Evaluator status if previously earned, and insurance in case they are forced to umpire in an emergency.

We have many former umpires in this province who I apologize to on behalf of our board for failing to recognize you properly for your past contributions. I hope that the Inactive Membership will be an avenue for you to continue to be a part of this organization.

If anyone feels that they wish to be an Inactive Member they must apply through their Area Director stating that they no longer wish to umpire and the board will approve their request in this fashion.

Finally, the committee is looking at streamlining the guidelines for future submissions of Life Membership. This requires a vote by members at next year's AGM and you will hear more about that in future editions. Life Membership is our association's highest honour and the proper respect needs to be placed on electing worthy members to this distinction.

Knotty Problems Can Happen at the Highest Level

Umpires like to say that odd happenings only happen on the local high school or neighborhood field. The plays that cause knotty problems" just don't happen at the more advanced levels of baseball. These plays, all from the 2006 Major League Baseball season, should prove that plays outside the ordinary can occur at every level.

Play 1: Atlanta's Brian McCann opened the action with a line drive single to center field. With a 2-2 count on Brian Jordan, Mets' pitcher Jose Lima was called for a non-stop" balk by second-base umpire Sam Holbrook. However, Lima delivered the pitch and Jordan apparently grounded into a 6-4-3 double play. Much to the veteran right-handed pitcher's chagrin, the twin killing was nullified and McCann was awarded second base on the balk. Jordan eventually struck out, but McCann eventually scored when John Smoltz hit a nubber in front of the plate on a botched squeeze play. Mets' catcher Paul Lo Duca grabbed the ball with his bare hand and lunged at McCann. Plate umpire Angel Hernandez ruled 10 Duca missed the tag on McCann and called McCann safe. Lo Duca furiously spiked the ball into the ground and was immediately ejected by Hernandez. During the ensuing argument and discussion, Smoltz advanced to second. That advance was negated, causing Atlanta Manager Bobby Cox to argue (unsuccessfully) that Smoltz should not be returned to first. Cox not only lost the argument but was also ejected.

Ruling 1: While pro rules say the stop must be complete, In all codes the pitcher may not have simultaneous hand-and-leg movement at the required "stop" in the set position. Lo Duca was ejected by Hernandez for his actions. Regarding Smoltz's advance to second, all codes agree that an umpire may not call "time" during playing action. However, the umpiring crew of Hernandez, Hunter Wendelstedt at first Holbrook and Randy Marsh at third, considered play had ceased before Smoltz advanced to second (pro 5.10h, 8.05m, 9.01d).

Play 2: The Mets visited Toronto for an inter league game in June. New York starter Orlando Hernandez gave up his sixth run of the game with two outs in the second inning when Vernon Wells homered. The first pitch to Troy Glaus was up and in, and Glaus took exception. Hernandez became angered when the umpires issued a warning to both benches. After discussing the warning with the umpires, Mets Manager Willie Randolph went to the mound to calm his agitated hurler. Apparently Randolph did not remember that pitching coach Rick Peterson had already visited Hernandez on the mound earlier that inning.

Ruling 2: Umpiring crew chief John Hirschbeck correctly explained that because of the second trip by bench personnel to the same pitcher in the same inning, Hernandez was automatically removed from the game. Though it was not Randolph's intention to remove Hernandez from the game, he was forced by pro rules to summon a relief pitcher from the bullpen.

Play 3: The 12-inning match-up in mid-July between St. Louis and Houston saw a pitcher brought on to pinch hit, without the best possible result. Pitcher Roy Oswalt came off the bench to hit. For reliever Chad Qualls and lined a double down the left field line. As Oswalt passed first base, first-base coach Jose Cruz moved closer to the base, drawing attention to Oswalt with his unusual body language. With Oswalt standing on second, St. Louis' Albert Pujols called for the ball and appealed that Oswalt missed first base.

Ruling 3: First-base umpire Bob Davidson, who was positioned on the foul line on the outfield-side of first, upheld the appeal and called Oswalt out (pro 7.10).

Play 4: Toronto led the New York Yankees, 4-2, going into the top of the sixth inning. With Johnny Damon on third and Derek Jeter on first, Jorge Posada came up to hit, As Ted Lilly started his stretch, Jeter broke for second and Lilly was called for a balk on his throw to first base, With Jeter nearly at second, first baseman Lyle Overbay fired home to catcher Bengie Molina, whose tag on Damon was too late.

Ruling 4: Yankee broadcaster Ken Singleton incorrectly said Lilly was charged with a balk because Lilly didn't stop his movement in the set position before throwing to first. Lilly's balk was that he swung his entire free foot behind the back edge of the pitcher's plate before throwing to first base. Once a pitcher swings his entire stride foot behind the back edge of the rubber, the pitcher's only options are to step and throw to second base, step and feint to second base or pitch to the batter. The pitcher cannot legally throw to 1st or 3rd in that situation. The ball is not dead immediately in pro on a balk. In pro the ball would become dead when the first baseman catches the pitcher's throw. Therefore, Overbay's throw to Molina occurred during a dead ball.

UMPIRES IN MLB PLAYOFFS FOR THE RECORD

Of the 36 MLB umpires who worked the divisional and league championship series, only Marty Foster and Larry Vanover worked the postseason for the first time. On the other hand, Jerry Crawford, the crew chief for the ALCS, was the most experienced umpire selected for the postseason, having just completed his 30th season in the major leagues. For Crawford, it was his 19th different year to work in the postseason. He also was the plate umpire for the 2006 All-Star Game in Pittsburgh.

LEVEL 3 REPORT

-Bill MacMillan, Coordinator

Happy New Year everyone. I have just a little report for this issue but we came up with some significant changes to the Level 3 package at the BOD and the AGM in December.

The biggest change is that the fees for Level 3 are going to be \$65.00 per year starting in 2007. This is a decrease of \$10.00 and hopefully this will entice a few more folks to take their Level 3. The other item is, I think, the most significant in that it directly impacts a Level 3 umpires ability to improve themselves through study. Jerry Tregaskis, the keeper of our library, has waived all shipping costs for Level 3 umpires anytime they wish to check out a book or video from the library. We perhaps have the most extensive and useful baseball library anywhere in Western Canada and it would behoove you to use it as much as you can.

At print time the Super Clinic is the only confirmed Advanced Clinic for 2007 however we would like to hold one in the interior someplace. This would depend on how much feedback, either I or Brian Cargnelli or Steve Boutang get in the upcoming weeks. If there is a need for one, we will be happy to put one on. Let us know as soon as possible what your feelings and desires are in this regard.

I will close with a plea for those who have part of their Level 3 requirements to make an effort to complete them and for any who are thinking about it to come onboard and get them as it will open up many doors for you.

Good luck in 2007 and I hope to see you on a diamond somewhere.

YOU MAKE THE CALL #3

R1 on 1st, the pitched attempts a pick-off. Before the throw arrives, F3 drops to one knee to block r1's attempted return to first. F3 then tags R1 out. Your choices:

- The ball should remain alive.
- The ball should be declared dead for obstruction.
- R1 is out.
- R1 is awarded 1st base.
- R1 is awarded 2nd base.

Answer on page 12

Some Words from Marty Springstead

(Retired Major League Umpire)

Editor's note: The following article appeared in "Bullpen" an official publication of Babe Ruth League Inc., was written by Marty Springstead, retired Major League Umpire, and appeared in the March 1988 issue of "Hit & Run" a publication of Baseball Canada. Ed.

It always aggravates me when I hear an umpire say "This game doesn't mean anything" or "Let's get our money and get this thing over with" or "I sure hate to work a game at that place" or "I hate that coach". Take a moment and think of each of those statements and I'll bet you or some of your partners have said one of them at some time. To me, each one is a negative thought. A negative thought before you even begin your game. Think about this: every game means something to each participant, that is, something different, but important to each one. They practice hard and give up a lot of time to prepare for that game - the one you said doesn't mean anything. Umpiring itself gives you enough things to think about. Instead of those negative thoughts, think of positive things that will help you and above all, make you a better umpire. Don't compete with your partners. Start doing things that will make you stand out, and make the teams and coaches glad to see you, and above all, respect you. You ask, 'How do I gain that respect?' You obtain it by just being fair to everyone concerned and by not being a politician and worrying if you're making everyone happy. I was a professional baseball umpire for 26 years and, if anything, I prided myself on being fair. I am positive if you asked any player I ever came in contact with, he would tell you the same thing. Inside my umpiring bag I had this sign painted, and I read it everyday: "The surest way to failure is to try to please everyone." Take a moment and ask yourself these questions: Have I really looked at my physical capabilities? Have I reviewed the rules? Have I checked my uniforms and equipment? Have I tried to improve my mechanics? (We all could use help and improvement in that area). Have I made any effort at all to improve myself for the '88 season, or am I going to just go through this year like I always have and just get by? Well, if that's your attitude, do the profession, the schools and yourself a great service and retire.

Test your Canadian Baseball Knowledge

QUESTIONS:

1. In what year were the first organized baseball leagues formed in Canada?
2. In what year was the original Canadian Amateur Baseball Association formed?
3. Who was the first Expo to hit an inside the park home run, and in which year did he do it.
4. In 1977, their 1st season, the Toronto Blue Jays placed 3 men in the Topps Major League Rookie All Star Team. Name them.
5. In what year was the Canadian National Youth Team formed?
6. Who did the Texas Rangers give up in order to obtain Fergy Jenkins from the Cubs in 1973. (Clue. 2 players).
7. Who was the pitcher who threw an 11 inning no hitter for Toronto against Montreal in the International League in 1960.
8. Which former Toronto Blue Jays Coach played with Toronto in the International League in 1962, hit 20 home runs with the Milwaukee Braves in 1964 and played with 3 other National League teams.
9. Who was the first Expo to win 20 games in a season? In which year did he do it?
10. Name the former Montreal Royal who threw 6 shutouts in a row in the National League in 1968.

ANSWERS on page 6

LEVEL 3, 4 & 5 UMPIRES 2006

LEVEL	Surname	FirstName	City
Level 5	Allan	Robert	MAPLE RIDGE
	Bodwell	H. Mark	SURREY
	Carmont	Troy	SURREY
	Chapman	Howard	BURNABY
	Chavarria	Ossie	BURNABY
	Christie	Richard	WHITE ROCK
	Hass	Don	RICHMOND
	Masse	Chet	VICTORIA
	Murphy	Bill	VICTORIA
Level 4	Tregaskis	Jerry	DELTA
	Addison	Chris	VANCOUVER
	Bisskey	David	SURREY
	Boutang	Steve	CRANBROOK
	Cargnelli	Brian	MERRITT
	Hunter	Will	CASTLEGAR
	Huzar	Danny	PORT MOODY
	O'Rourke	Fred	VANCOUVER
	Poulin	Fabian	NANAIMO
Level 3	Rasmussen	Eric	VICTORIA
	Bailey	David	DELTA
	Bailey	Stephen	DELTA
	Berkenstock	Ed	COURTENAY
	Berry	John	BURNABY
	Bertrand	Chuck	SEHELT
	Blais	Leisha	PENTICTON
	Brewer	David	FRUITVALE
	Brommeland	Lance	PRINCE GEORGE
	Brouwer	Bert	MAPLE RIDGE
	Connelly	Chris	KAMLOOPS
	Coones	Arnie	WHITE ROCK
	Danton	Barry	LANGLEY
	Eckardt	Scott	VICTORIA
	Gordon	Robert	RADIUM HOT SPRING
	Grey	Rob	WEST VANCOUVER
	Gronowski	Robert	PENTICTON
	Gunnlaugson	Bradley	VANCOUVER
	Haley	Bruce	SUMMERLAND
	Hardiman	Sean	PRINCE GEORGE
	Jean	Andre	KITIMAT
	Jede	Adolph	QUESNEL
	Jolley	Ralph	WESTBANK
	Keegan	William	SURREY
	Kloster	Rob	KAMLOOPS
	Kroschinsky	Dave	PENTICTON
	Lang	Eddy	PORT MOODY
Lowndes	Matt	KAMLOOPS	
MacMillan	Bill	TRAIL	
Maerov	Les	VANCOUVER	
Mazur	Steffen	KELOWNA	
Moir	Al	VICTORIA	
Munn	Bob	SURREY	
Olszowiec	Robert	DELTA	
Ovanin	Thomas	VICTORIA	
Pederson	Arne	SURREY	
Perkins	Mark	SAANICHTON	
Raison	Ken	SURREY	
Robinson	Norman	KELOWNA	
Steele	Bruce	WHITE ROCK	
Toneff	Eric	COURTENAY	
Train	Jim	WHITE ROCK	
Tulloch	Al	BRENTWOOD BAY	
Weaving	Doug	VERNON	
Williams	Ted	PORT MOODY	
Wright	Adrien	MAPLE RIDGE	

Rules Refresher

-Answers below

You say you know the rules. Let's try these few questions and see how prepared you really are:

1. There are runners at second and third with none out when the batter hits the ball toward the hole between third and short. The third baseman cuts in front of the shortstop and just as he fields the ball, the runner knocks over the shortstop, who was by now in the baseline. The third baseman drops the ball and all the runners reach the bases they were going to safely. Question: Is the runner guilty of any interference, and if not, why?

2. A runner is attempting to score from second base on a single and while rounding third the runner slips on the wet grass. The batter runner reaches first base and starts for second, but then changes his mind and starts back to first, which draws a throw from the outfielder. The third base coach helps the runner up and he returns safely to third. Question: Is there any interference on this play, and if so, why?

3. The pitcher is the hitter with runners on second and third with two outs and the offensive manager calls for a double steal. The catcher jumps in front of the plate and interferes with the batter's swing, but he does succeed in tagging the runner before he reaches the plate. Question: How would you handle this situation?

4. The pitcher is standing on the pitcher's rubber and is taking his sign from the catcher when the runner on third takes off for home. The pitcher immediately runs off the mound and tags the runner just before he reaches the plate. Question: What would you rule on this play and why?

5. The batter hits a triple and on his way to third base he accidentally runs into the umpire who somehow got too far into the baseline. The runner falls and is tagged out by the defensive team. Question: How would you rule and why?

Rules Refresher

- ANSWERS

1. No, the runner is not guilty of any interference. When two fielders or more are attempting to field a batted ball, only the one who is actually fielding the ball (in this case the third baseman) is entitled to the interference rule. The runner's contact with the shortstop had nothing to do with interference in this particular case. (Official Baseball Rule 7:09L)

2. Yes, this is interference and it must be called when a base coach physically assists a runner to return or advance to a base. (Official Baseball Rule 7.091)

LOWER MAINLAND BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note: The Lower Mainland Baseball Association is a very large association and as a result, a large user of umpires. I felt it was time that we, as an Umpires Association, became more aware of the LMBA and it's workings, and I have asked it's President and Umpire In Chief to write an article for us. While I recognize this will be of limited interest to those of you outside the Lower Mainland at present, I fully expect that we will see teams spring up around the province in the near future and play interlocking games and tournaments with the Lower Mainland teams. There has been unprecedented growth in this segment of baseball throughout North America and I suspect it will soon find it's way into all areas of our province. Hopefully the following article will give all BCBUA members some insight into the workings of this Association. If any of you are visiting the lower mainland this summer, contact Al Lexier and I'm sure he can arrange a game or two for you while you are here. It is very enjoyable baseball to work with very few arguments and a lot of good fellowship. These players are involved for the joy of the game, the exercise and the fellowship, and are not focussed on "winning".Ed.

The Lower Mainland Baseball Association (LMBA) is an amateur baseball organization established to provide recreational baseball for adult players throughout the Lower Mainland. 2007 will mark the LMBA's 14th season of operation and interest in our league continues to grow. This year we anticipate having over 400 players on twenty eight teams representing twelve different communities.

The LMBA was organized by a number of interested individuals to provide adults with the opportunity to play baseball on a recreational basis. Patterned after similar leagues in the United States, the LMBA offers the recreational player an opportunity to participate in an organized and fairly run league. It is not designed to compete with existing senior or youth baseball organizations. Modified playing rules and team organization allows us to offer baseball to players of all ages, whether experienced or new to the game. The LMBA is organized into three divisions. 18+ Division (16 teams) and 30+ Division (6 teams) and 45+ Wood Bat Division (6 teams). The LMBA is British Columbia's largest adult baseball league and we are one of the biggest groups in Canada.

The LMBA has a policy of no drugs, alcohol, or smoking and all teams entering the league must post performance bonds. The LMBA, its teams, players, umpires, and Executive are insured under the umbrella of Baseball B.C. We also carry an ICBC policy due to the amount of travel involved in our schedule.

Over the years, we have worked at developing our own pool of umpires and have involved a large number of officials, many of whom umpire in other leagues. Our rates are competitive and the LMBA Executive does everything possible to establish a positive playing atmosphere for players, spectators, and umpires. We appreciate their efforts on the field and many officials have offered helpful observations and positive suggestions regarding our organization.

As our league is recreational in organization – teams play only once a week – we have a few different rules reflecting this factor. Games are nine innings (however, there is a time limit of 2:40), and teams are responsible for ensuring minimum playing time. Run limits prevent games getting out of hand. Other than that – real baseball – organization may be recreational, but level of play is competitive.

Our league could not operate without umpires – through their efforts, support, and constructive input we are a much better organization. We would encourage all umpires, whether experienced or rookie to consider our league. Al Lexier has served as our Umpire - In - Chief for the past several years and has established a very fine umpire pool. An open invitation is extended to everyone in the umpire community to join us for a worthwhile experience.

Contacts : Al Lexier (Umpire-in-Chief) (604) 275 - 1989 lexier@shaw.ca

Dan Taylor (Commissioner) (604) 512 – 7911 lmba@telus.net

LMBA Website – www.baseball.bc.ca/lmba

Address: 7950 Joffre Avenue – Burnaby – British Columbia – V5J 3L1 – (604)

3. You must call the runner safe because the catcher's interference caused a balk to be called on the pitcher, which entitles each runner to advance a base. The batter is awarded first base because the catcher's interference. (Official Baseball Rule 7:07)

4. When the pitcher ran forward from the rubber he committed a balk because he did not first step back off the rubber with his pivot foot.

Any time the pitcher steps backward off the rubber, he then becomes, an infielder. (Official Baseball Rules - 8:05a)

5. The batter-runner is out when tagged. When a base-runner collides with an umpire no interference should be called and the ball remains in play. (Official Baseball Rule 2:00 Interference - C)



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7 3/8	3	0	0	4
7 1/2	1	0	0	2
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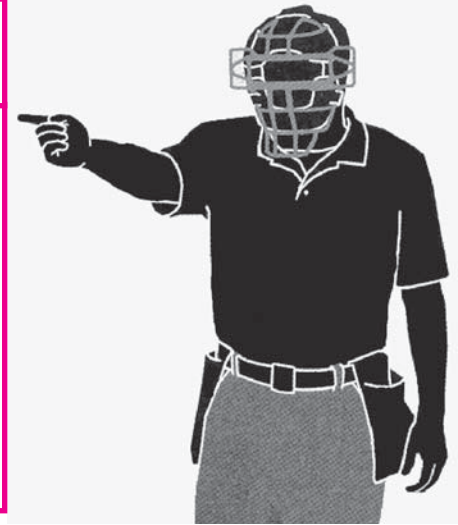
1. **NO.** The ball would become dead when it struck the batter. Since awarding the batter 1st base would not force R3 home, the balk must be enforced, awarding each runner one base with the batter remaining at the plate.

(pro 8.05-penalty)

2. **c & e (pro 7.05f)**

3. **b & e (pro 7.06a)**

4. **b & d (pro 7.10d)**



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 we have recently moved or are planning to do so in the next few months, please complete the form to the right 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.

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