

HEY BLUE! ONLINE

British Columbia Baseball Umpires Association

In this issue:

- Safesport Policies
- Eager Beaver goes undercover!
- National and Western Assignments announced
- Gear Heads
- Boatloads of photos



IT'S A RECORD!

BCBUA registration levels have finally returned to pre-covid levels! For the 2024 season BCBUA recorded over 1750 paid memberships, which is the largest total of members in the near 50 year history of the operation.

The previous record of 1611 was shattered!

President Sean Sullivan indicated that baseball registration in the province as a whole is rising, but said that the many Safe Sport policies and Non-confrontation policies are probably the bigger reason umpires are being retained more frequently, hence the growing membership base.

“Umpiring is more fun for young people when they don’t have adults questioning them constantly or yelling at them about their calls on the field. If they have more fun, they are more likely to return year after year.”

To make sure your profile and exam history is up to date, check out that information at [“bcbua.ca”](http://bcbua.ca)



From the Oval Office – President’s Report

Welcome fellow umpires to a banner season already!

Registration continues to climb. It is believed to be at an all time high. We currently have 1760 registered members. This is great news.

Provincial Breakdown by Age:

9 - 13	904
14 - 15	387
16 - 18	147
19 - 29	66
30 - 39	38
40 - 49	77
50 - 59	61
60+	80
Total	1,760

The biggest concern with the above is the low number of adult umpires. We only have 318 adult umpires (19+). The BCBUA and our partner associations need to continue to try and recruit and retain adult umpires.

Criminal Record checks are coming in. Compliance to this new initiative has been positive. To date we have 322 adult umpires that require a criminal record check and only 42 are non-compliant to date. We have notified those that are non-compliant and have asked allocators not to use them until they at least initiate the criminal record check process.

Provincial playdowns and championships were advertised. The BCBUA had a tremendous response and have set crews for our partners wishing to contract with us. Baseball BC, PBL, Kamloops Minor Baseball all have signed contracts in place. Our focus continues to be to use as many capable local umpires as possible to ensure Tournament Hosts aren’t faced with a huge bill. Recently Kamloops, Cloverdale, Duncan, and Tsawwassen have contracted BCBUA for umpire services for their Provincials.

The BCBUA has recorded 97 ejection/incident reports for the 2024 season. This continues to be an area of importance for the BCBUA. Umpire abuse, intimidation, and bullying remains an issue. Good work has been done; however it is an area we can continue to improve at. Some very disappointing incidents have occurred this season. The breakdown by partner is:

2024 Ejection Breakdown

BC Minor	54 (16 total at 9U, 11U & 13U)
PBL	23
Best of the West	8
CCBC	9
South Island Baseball League	1
LMBA	2

The BCBUA would like to establish committees at Baseball BC to review game fees and the Provincials Contract. We feel it is largely outdated and requires valuable partner input.

The BCBUA is beginning work to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. The BCBUA was formed in late 1974 and its first full year of operations was 1975.

Sincerely,
Sean Sullivan
President BCBUA



Now that’s a real head scratcher, right Sully?

HEY BLUE! ONLINE

Safesport Updates

GET YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK!

A reminder to all adult BCBUA umpires...

You MUST get your Criminal Record check completed. We will continue to follow up with those who have not completed this task. There will be a point in time whereby we will stop assigning you if you have not completed this check. This is a Safe Sport Policy that is MANDATORY for all adult umpires

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that all sport participants in Canada - from playground to podium - can participate and flourish in sport environments free from harassment, abuse, discrimination, and other forms of maltreatment. The Government of Canada has adopted a universal code of conduct to prevent and address maltreatment in sport.

"Never let the fear of Striking out get in your way!"

-Babe Ruth

To be considered for funding a sport needs to have adopted the code of conduct and prepared policies for the protection of their members. Baseball Canada falls under this umbrella and it extends down through Baseball BC and to the BCBUA.

"They throw the ball, I hit it. They hit the ball, I catch it."

- Willie Mays

The BCBUA Board of Directors are committed to preventing umpire abuse and maltreatment in sport. Safe Sport policies are for all Canadian sport agencies and programs. The BCBUA relies on insurance coverage, program support and funding from Baseball BC. For this to continue we needed to introduce these policies to get certified. I am pleased to announce that Baseball BC has certified the BCBUA as compliant, ensuring our insurance, funding and support continue.

"It's a round ball, and a round bat, and you got to hit it square!"

-Pete Rose

Your BCBUA Board of Directors, with the assistance of Baseball BC, has created twenty-one (21) new policies that comply with Sport Canada and will be adopted for the 2024 season. You need to familiarize yourself with these policies. We will be including these in future clinics and training opportunities to ensure our new members, returning umpires, clinicians and the board of directors understand the policies and apply them.

We have posted them to the BCBUA website.



HEY BLUE! ONLINE

Air Quality/Severe Weather Policy

As we move into summer, we wanted to provide a summary of the applicable air quality, heat, and severe weather policies. The complete policies can be found here:

<https://www.bcbua.ca/safe-sport>

Regional Allocators and UIC's should liaise with Baseball BC's individual members when conditions exist that may require regional or provincial shutdowns. This will help alleviate assigning umpires to games that have little to no chance of being played.

For example, if the temperature throughout the province was forecasted to be in the high 30s or into the 40s, this is something that can generally be seen days out, and our allocators should initiate discussions with partner

leagues about what actions may be taken.

Umpire Specific (UIC)

The primary responsibility of UICs is to generate discussions within associations about what adaptations will be taken when air quality or heat is a regional issue.

For example, that might be the UIC of X Association facing significant air quality issues, ensuring the association is talking about what action to take when air quality is at AQHI 8.

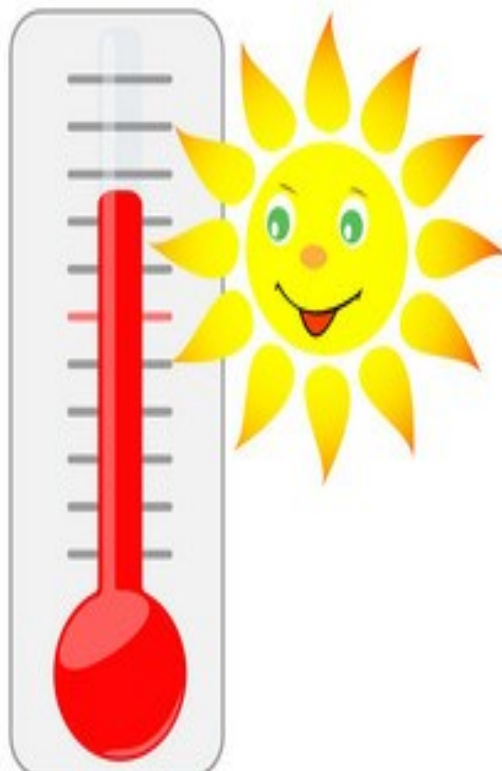
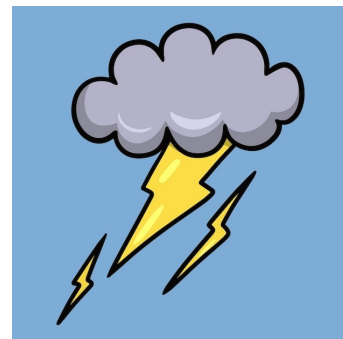
Umpire Specific (Individual Umpire) –

Individual umpires need to first ensure their own personal safety. When umpires cannot safely start or continue a game due to heat or air quality, they should go home.

Severe weather is a responsibility of individual umpires. While it can be forecasted, umpires have the responsibility to implement this policy at the field, if the need arises.

Individual umpires are not responsible for adaptations related to heat and air quality. They should, however, postpone a game when air quality reaches AQHI 10 or when the temperature reaches 40°C.

Be safe out there, as BC is predicated to have many forest fires once again, coupled with high temperatures. "They throw the ball, I hit it. They hit the ball, I catch it."



HEY BLUE! ONLINE

THE BCBUA IS TURNING 50!

It's hard to believe, but the BCBUA is celebrating the 50th anniversary this fall.

In September of 1974, a group of umpires got together with the BC Amateur Baseball Association and agreed to form a new umpire association to start operations in January 1975.

Doug Hudlin was elected as the first President, and the BCABA appointed Howard Chapman to be the Provincial Supervisor.

This fall there will be a big birthday bash! Stay tuned for updates!

From Spud Island....

By Steve Boutang

Hello from Spud Island, better known to everyone as PEI!

We have hit the 2 year mark here of an as-yet undetermined period of time. I guess if we haven't determined an end date, that probably means things are going pretty good.

The contrast of red soil and green pastures is upon us here. Lobsters are being landed daily by the thousands. Golf courses are in mid season condition. Tourist season kicks into high gear as we speak as the Island comes to life to welcome people to the Land of Anne. It's really an amazing place to be in summer.

We have had many visitors here—umpires and family. We are happy they darkened our doorstep.

But each spring I get this feeling of longing for our home and friends in BC, and attending the National clinic and Umpire Academy in Kamloops.

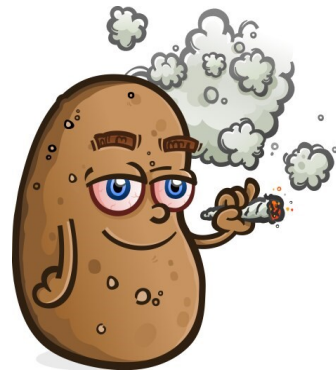
Alas, I have spies.... People I check in with regularly to keep up on the progress of some of our brightest young stars. And of course I check in on the old coots who's star has dimmed, but who are the greatest contributors to our umpire family and program. It's really quite a program we have. This year we added 10 new National umpires, and trained 8 more in the making at our Umpire Academy.

I don't want to sound arrogant, but It's the best program in the country. And it's because of our leadership and our family who look after each other, train each other, mentor each other, and work for the betterment of each other. We have this amazing group of people who continue the work we all started together in 2010.

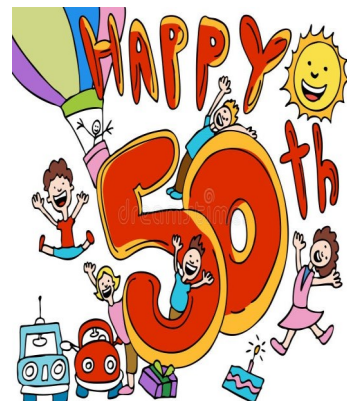
We can't even tell you how happy we are that the program has improved since we left. That says a lot about all you people who continue to work for the family.

Thank you. We are proud of you all.

Ps—Come visit sometime. First Lobster is on us!



HeyBlue! Online will also publish a special retrospect of the association with a timeline of some of the most important dates in the history of the association. We will also reveal the list of 50 of the most influential contributors to our association over the past decade! You won't want to miss it!



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE

Photos from this year's BCBUA Umpire Academy courtesy of John Pentland



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE

Photos of this year's National Umpire Clinic are courtesy of John Pentland



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



June 2024

HEY BLUE! ONLINE



TICKETS PUNCHED!

BCBUA Supervisor of Umpires Blaise Laveay announced the unprecedented addition of 10 new members to the Baseball Canada National Umpire Program at the annual National Umpires clinic in Kamloops.

Laveay welcomed the following umpires:

Peter Wall

Daniel Law

Max Langley

Bryce Dobbs-Cox

Michael Burwell

Margaret Jean Willis

Corey Waters

Brad Jones

Louis Wight

Jordan Laidlaw



Most of these umpires came through the BCBUA Umpire Academy Program, a testament to how one single weekend can propel an umpire to greater heights when they work hard. The addition of these 10 newly minted National umpires brings BC's total complement to over 50 National umpires.

Several of these umpires were also assigned to their first National Championships this summer!

Congratulations to all the new National umpires and keep working hard at your game!

National Clinic and Umpire Academy make annual pilgrimage to Kamloops

Since 2010 Kamloops has been the site of the National Umpire Clinic and more recently the BCBUA Umpire Academy. And 2024 was no different.

Over 60 umpires participated in National clinic this year, an all time high. Another 8 students took part at Umpire Academy the previous week.

That's loads of organizing work and instructing for your BCBUA High Performance Committee led by Supervisor Blaise Laveay.

BC welcomed old friends Corrie Davis and Rob Allan from Alberta, and Ron Shewchuk and Brian Hodgson from Manitoba to supplement the BCBUA Instructor/Supervisors. They were a great addition as usual, which is why we are so fortunate to have them back year after year.

And no gathering would be complete without the evening family meal at Sorriso's Italian Deli in Kamloops. If you're ever looking for a great meal at a reasonable price, stop by and see Renato Ulliani and tell him that the BCBUA sent you!



High Performance Assignments

BASEBALL CANADA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

13U - Woodstock ON- Aug 22-25

Seth Wall
Josiah Hansen
Max Langley
John Pentland—Supervisor

15U - Laval PQ - Aug 22-25

Mathias Smith
Marco Kwok

16U Girls - Saskatoon SK - Aug 22-25

Samantha Chapman
Vanessa Fairborn

18U - St John Nfld - Aug 15-18

Kenny Colosie
Ethan McNamara

Canada Cup - Ft MacMurray AB - Aug 7-11

Craig Burt
Trevor Sharpe
Troy Carmont—Supervisor

22U - Dartmouth NS - Aug 1-4

Tyler Hoffman

Womens - Quebec City PQ - Aug 15-18

Thomas Brock
Cory Waters

Sr Mens - Tecumseh ON - Aug 22-25

Scott Eckardt
Matt Lowndes
Joe Mallinson

WESTERN CANADA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sr Westerns - White Rock BC - Aug 16-18

Phil Bourgeois
Corey Klein
Mike Green
Shawn Bird
Gord McFarlane
Peter Wall

18U aaa Westerns - Chilliwack BC - Aug 16-18

Mark Penner
Mark Luknowsky
Daniel Law
Louis Wight
Mike Burwell
Bryce Dobbs Cox

OTHER HIGH LEVEL EVENTS

Blue Jays Showcase - Toronto ON - September

Mark Penner

Grand Forks International Tournament - June 25-July 1

Steve Boutang—Umpire in Chief
Blaise Laveay
Scott Eckardt
Matt Lowndes
Sean Sullivan
Joe Mallinson
Matthias Smith
Shawn Bird



GEARHEADS –

For Those Who Can't Get Enough

By Brad Jones and Will Chambers

As the BCBUA starts its first season under our Safe Sport policies, your local gearhead has teamed up with registered nurse and BCBUA member, Will Chambers to look at what we can stock up to create umpire first aid kits for our bags.

Our goal in this edition of Gearheads is to construct and create two types of first aid kits: one for a single game at the local field and the second for a double-header, series or tournament on the road.

If you are doing mostly games at the local park, a small case or small bag will work to store a kit that can fit into a pocket in your equipment bags. Here are items that would be beneficial for this scenario:

- Instant ICE PACKS

-“crackable”. Always have several of these for those zingers when the catcher misses the ball or on those foul balls!!

- Tylenol (325mg – 500mg) - tablets.

- When the heat is on - you will be amazed at how this will decrease body core temp

-Also, help you be more alert

on those long, hot days.

- Allergy Medication - Reactine or similar.

-When that grass is fresh cut, it really helps reduce that brain fog from allergies you may not know you have.

- Assorted Band-aid box. All sizes are best.

- Rectangular Band aids (various sizes)

- Knuckle bandages

- Finger-tip bandages

- Lastly, any medication that you administer if you notice symptoms of an existing condition.



Conversely, if your schedule takes you out of town for a full day or a weekend, you may want to buy a metal or canvas case to store the following first aid supplies:

Gearheads continued....

A Full medical kit that can be purchased at Costco, outdoors stores or pharmacies. A good foundational medical kit is the Ultralight/ Watertight Medical Kit - .7 from Adventure Medical Kits.

You may be quite remote – so have:

- lots of band aids
 - Rectangular band aids (various sizes)
 - Band aid strips (6 cm)
 - Knuckle and finger-tip band aids
 - butterfly band aids
- a sling or similar in the case of a large injury like fractured arm.
- Elastic bandages (2 and 4 inches)
 - When used correctly, can be used for sprains or strains and Bleeding control
 - 4 x 4 and 2 x 2 dressings
 - Self- cling gauze rolls
 - this will help control bleeding with lots of pressure applied.
- Scissors and gloves
- Instant ICE PACKS
- Crackable or ensure someone at tournament has ziplock bags and lots of ice on hand. UIC and coordinators should be letting tournament organizers know that Umpire team will need these items on hand.
- Tylenol 325mg to 500mg tablets as above.
- Advil 200mg-400mg for anti-inflammatory effect
- gets that swelling down sooner and can provide pain relief if you get a “ZINGER” from a wayward baseball.
- Benadryl
- if you are stung by a bee/wasp or similar - this will reduce your serious symptoms until you can get proper medical care.
- IF YOU ARE KNOWN to have these allergies - bring EPI PEN of your own!!
- Aleve
- For anti-inflammatory effect, you only need to take one dose if you are hit with a ball or similar
- It can also be used for pain management
- Supplies, medication or items that you can access to deal with symptoms of an existing condition that help manage the symptoms until you get back within your daily parameters or until help can arrive.



Being prepared with a functional and beneficial first aid kit is part of our overall commitment as umpires to ourselves and each other's health and well being.

Another part is being aware of the BCBUA's Safe Sport policies

(<https://bcbua.ca/safe-sport>), including the policies on heat, air quality and concussions.

However, be aware that only trained professionals should be administering first aid and the best thing you can do is, when appropriately needed, get trained first responders to the site as quickly as possible.

Also, if you have an existing condition, make sure you have the necessary medication or treatment with you in case of an emergency.

If you are noticing symptoms, make sure someone is getting first responders and explain, if you can, what is going on so they can explain it if you cannot.

HEY BLUE! ONLINE

Eager Beaver makes undercover appearance!



SHENANIGANS IN KAMLOOPS

IN THE SPRING OF 2024

Book 15 in the L3C Trilogy

Hello everybody, this is Eager Beaver reporting from my lonely writers garret having just returned from an undercover assignment in Kamloops.

I had heard, through confidential informants, that there were strange goings on in Kamloops in the spring and so I resolved to investigate. My informants suggested that there was some kind of cult activity over a couple of different weekends but how could I get inside to find out the dirty low down and expose these whack-jobs!

After almost 4 minutes of gruelling research I lit upon a way. It was not without some risk but I felt it would work. I disguised myself as an old-know-it-all and went off to see what I could see.

When I arrived in Kamloops for the 1st weekend conclave I discovered there was a definite hierarchy in place. There were Big Thinkers (BTs), Pushy Guys (Pgs) and Old-Know-It-Alls (OKIAs). All of these people were lording it over the young initiates. For some reason they were called “umps”...go figger.

Apparently the purpose of this conclave was to indoctrinate the “umps” in the proper way of doing stuff. Once the serious business of the conclave began the BTs and PGs made the “umps” run around the field yelling and gesturing some arcane incantations until the BTs and PGs were satisfied they had sufficiently brainwashed these poor young “umps” then they turned them over to the OKIAs to reinforce the message.

Over the next 3 days the poor “umps” had to herd cats and the OKIAs criticized and mentored them until they were satisfied that the brainwashing had permanently adhered to the “umps” tiny brains. It seemed to satisfy the BTs and PGs sufficiently to send them on their way in the confidence that they would spread the message in.

At first, I thought that was the end of it but they did it all 2 weeks later only on a bigger scale. There were BTs and PGs and OKIAs from all of western Canada pushing their radical message to many more and much older “umps”.

After spending a total of 8 days in these 2 conclaves I realized that my suspicions were correct. This was indeed, a CULT and the message they were preaching was EXCELLENCE and TEAMWORK, two radical concepts in this day and age.

From my neutered viewpoint I can affirm that all of those BTs, PGs and OKIAs were entirely successful and all of the “umps” from both conclaves actions and attitudes greatly improved as they embraced the brainwashing and then they were turned loose on an unsuspecting public to wreak their havoc!

I escaped without incident and I believe that I have successfully avoided contamination by being neither excellent or a team player, THANK GOD!

This is Eager Beaver signing off ‘til the next time.

HEY BLUE! ONLINE

In Memoriam



Manny Alexiou passed away in late December 2023 at the age of 63. He was a long time member of the BCBUA family, an avid umpire, and an allocator for various local associations in the Lower Mainland.

He was known for his famous headband as much as for his easy going and affable personality.

He will be missed on and off the baseball field. The BCBUA offers our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

