



Hey Blue!



The Voice of BC Umpires

FALL 2005

BC Baseball Umpires Association

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An Apology to our Members

As many of you have noticed (and mentioned to your Executive), the Summer Edition of *Hey Blue!* was never published. Dave Kennedy, the previous editor of *Hey Blue!* was unable to complete the issue and get it to press due to business commitments. As an Executive, we sincerely apologize for this omission and will do our best to see that it does not happen again!

Dave has subsequently had to step down from his position and as Area Director for Lower Mainland West and your Executive has appointed Rob Grey of West Vancouver, to complete his term. Thank you Rob for stepping in to the breach!

Dave's resignation leaves the position of Editor of *Hey Blue!* open again. While Danny Huzar and Jerry Tregaskis have agreed to put this issue out, we are actively looking for a new editor.

We would ask that any of our members who are interested in doing this please contact any of the Executive and express your interest. We are very anxious to fill the position as another issue will have to go out in early January which will provide info on SuperClinic and the other clinics, as well as convey the matters dealt with at the AGM.

The Executive may consider a small honorarium for the new editor, in recognition for the substantial amount of work involved in producing *Hey Blue!*

Notice of Annual General Meeting

November 13, 2005

Douglas College

700 Royal Avenue

New Westminster

Time: 12:00 Noon in Room 2201

Door Prize: 2 tickets to a Giants game
- donated by Dave Kennedy

There are many important matters to be discussed and decided at this meeting and details of these are found elsewhere in this issue. Some of these matters are critical to the future of your Association. Additionally, half of your Executive is up for election at this meeting, so it is critical that your voice be heard. We encourage all members to attend and take part in deciding the future course of your Association!

BE SURE TO ATTEND

SuperClinic 2006

Vancouver Island
Date & Location
To be announced
Check www.bcbua.ca

YOU MAKE THE CALL #1

1. B1's attempted bunt results in a foul ball that only goes as high as the batters shoulders. F2 dives and catches the ball. Is B1 out? How high does a foul ball have to fly in order for the defense to catch it for an out?

Answer on back page

President's Report

- John Berry

We've had another good season! We started with an exciting SuperClinic in Kelowna, well attended by umpires from elsewhere in the province as well as the interior. Our level 1 and 2 clinics continue to evolve to meet the needs of our members, with more sessions being offered on weeknights. A number of umpires have received field evaluations for level 3 and level 4.

We have had more opportunities than ever for umpires to participate in high-level tournaments. This year, we sent 11 umpires to National tournaments, held in different locations across Canada. That means most of our nationally-rated umpires had a chance to work a National this year. Provincials, Westerns, and a number of other tournaments also provide wonderful opportunities for members to improve and showcase their games.

Junior umpires are especially encouraged to work on their game and to move on to higher levels of umpiring, and higher levels of certification. Young umpires can look forward to meeting the requirements for Level 3 certification once they are ready. Check with your umpire in chief or area representative for advice on what you need to do to advance your game.

We're pleased to congratulate the annual Junior Umpire of the Year in each of our BCBUA areas. An award was made to a junior umpire in each of our BCBUA areas in 2004, and I want to thank the area representatives and especially the award sponsor, Pro Image, for making that happen. Area reps will be putting forward names for the 2005 awards; UICs and allocators may direct suggestions to their area representative.

Earlier this year, Baseball BC issued a Task Force report that proposes major changes to the way baseball is organized in BC. Your Association board has reviewed the proposals and has some significant concerns, as do a number of other baseball organizations. I hope that we can all work towards a resolution that will bring all baseball organizations in BC together under a strong, collaborative umbrella.

We're continuing our efforts to develop and maintain constructive relations with leagues and associations. They are our partners and supporters -- let's remember that, treat them with the respect we expect to receive on and off the field, and especially file any reports promptly. Prompt and complete reporting of any ejections is essential if leagues are to establish and maintain good discipline processes.

I'm delighted that you are finally seeing this issue of "Hey Blue". I want to thank Jerry Tregaskis and Danny Huzar for once again stepping so capably into the breach. And I would like to say thanks, too, to Rob Grey, who has agreed to step back into the role of Area Representative for area 4 on our board.

Finally, remember the AGM! It is your chance to be more informed, ask questions, raise concerns, get to know your board and other members, vote for directors and on motions, and generally participate in the governance of your association.

Board of Directors

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National Championship Sites - 2006

**BASEBALL
CANADA**

Baseball Canada has announced host cities for four of its six

National Championships for 2006 as follows:

- Pee Wee Victoria, BC
- Bantam Boys TBA - tentatively Alberta
- Bantam Girls TBA - tentatively Alberta
- Midget Summerside, PEI
- Junior Guelph, ON
- Senior Trois Rivieres QE

Proposed Bylaw Changes

- Danny Huzar

Over the years some of the changes made to the bylaws have affected other sections of the bylaws and have created conflict or confusion. The following changes are intended to remedy these anomalies:

Motion: To alter current bylaw 30(2) to read as follows:

(2) A director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next following annual general meeting of the Society, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.

Motion: To alter current bylaw 36(1) to read as follows:

(1) The directors may meet together at the places they think fit, or by teleconference call, to dispatch business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings, as they see fit.

Motion: To alter current bylaw 38(1) to read as follows:

(1) The directors may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of the member or members as they think fit.

Motion: To alter current bylaw 39 to read as follows:

The president will appoint a committee chairman. The committee chairman may appoint additional members as he sees fit.

Motion: To alter current bylaw 42 to read as follows:

A director who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the Society a waiver of notice, which may be by email, letter, telegram or cable, of any meeting of the directors and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,

(a) no notice of meeting of directors shall be sent to that director; and

(b) any and all meetings of the directors of the Society, notice of which has not been given to that director shall, if a quorum of the directors is present, be valid and effective.

Motion: To alter current bylaw 51 to read as follows:

In the absence of the secretary from a meeting, the directors shall appoint another person to act as recording secretary at the meeting.

Motion: To alter current bylaw 65 to read as follows:

A notice may be given to a member, either personally, by email or by mail to him at his registered address.

Motion: To alter current bylaw Part 12 Heading to read as follows:

Bylaws

Motion: to delete current bylaw 52(2).

LEVEL 3 REPORT

2005 was a year of change and innovation for the BCBUA Level 3 program. We changed our written exam system and began a formal training program for Level 3 evaluators.

This year we instituted the Advanced Exam concept in BC. This means that when you write a Level 3 exam you are writing for the next year not the current year. This eliminates that bit of the year between the end of December and the time you write your exam as a period of no qualification. The 2005 exam was actually both the 2005 and 2006 Level 3 exams because when you institute a program such as this you need to have 1 year when you are writing for both the current year and the next year. The exam that will be written in the spring of 2006 will be applied to the 2007 calendar year. No more deadlines on these exams!!

For the 2005 exam we applied a deadline of May 15. Any exams received after May 15 applied to 2006 only while exams received on or before May 15 applied to both 2005 and 2006.

I received 86 exams in total of which only 5 were late and apply only to 2006. The marks were very good this year with only 19 not scoring enough for a pass and a great number of 100% marks. The 100% marks tell me that an increasing number of organizations are getting together to write this exam and discuss the questions. This is great because the exam itself is a teaching tool and by discussing these questions the umpires are also learning.

The second innovation implemented this year is a formal process for training evaluators that involves mentoring and practice. The goal of this program is to increase the availability of and hopefully standardize the on field evaluations for both Level 3 and training. As you can imagine this project will take some time simply because the availability of appropriate opportunities for mentoring are limited. Our members must always be aware that the responsibility for initiating the evaluation process is always going to be on the individual member.

While we haven't received all of the Provincial and National evaluations for 2005 I can tell you that we did 16 promotional evaluations and many educational evaluations (we don't record these) outside of the Provincial and National tournament framework. This shows an increase from previous years so we are making progress.

If you are interested in becoming an evaluator please contact your Area Rep or Jerry Tregaskis (coordinator of the Evaluator Training Program). We (the BOD) feel that to remain static is to fall behind so if you have any suggestions on how to improve or clarify the Level 3 Program of the BCBUA please contact me or any member of the BOD.

Bill Mac Millan, Level 3 Coordinator

REPORT - AREA 1 Vancouver Island South

No Report

-Chet Masse, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 2 Vancouver Island North

This was an exciting year for Area 2. We started with 6 people from the Comox Valley attending Super Clinic in Westbank and a super time was had by all that attended. The Comox Valley Baseball Umpire's Association sponsored 4 of their members to attend. Jake Plante, Gordon Conway, Ed Berkenstock and Adam Berkenstock received an all expense paid Super Clinic weekend, while the association helped with costs for Ed Lafleur and me. Through membership dues Comox Valley always sends at least 2 umpires to each clinic, members are chosen through nomination and their ability to attend. All 4 say they learned a great deal from the instructors and received valuable tips during the sessions from the other umpires.

For the first time, Area 2 is proud to announce joint winners of the Pro Image Junior Umpire of the Year. For 2005 the co-winners were Adam Berkenstock and Russ Toneff. Adam received his recognition at Super Clinic, while Russ could not attend but was awarded his achievement at his local clinic in front of his peers.

The North Island held 3 level 1 and 2 umpire clinics in Campbell River, Courtenay and Parksville. We did suffer a very slight decrease in membership but Parksville had a significant increase in membership, congratulations to Rod Bailey for a job well done. Campbell River also had an increase in attendance, thanks to Ron Garneau and Yaman Simpson for hosting a great clinic.

Parksville Baseball Association had the honour of hosting the Pee Wee Girls National Championship and according to all reports, everything went very smoothly and the umpiring was very good with the Gold Medal game between Quebec and BC, Ron Breault was the home plate umpire with Brandon Bailey and Dustin Adams on the bases.

Comox Valley hosted the Midget AA Provincials, Ed Berkenstock was the working supervisor and did an outstanding job and even hosted a dinner, at his expense for all the umpires and BC Minor Rep (Cathy Sumner) at his home with the help of his wife Penny and children Adam and Shelby. The umpires for the tournament were Jake Plante, Robin Houlgrave, Glenn Sebelius, Yaman Simpson, Chuck Bertrand, Ed Berkenstock, Eric Toneff, Nick Moore and David Miles.

I would like to mention 2 umpires in particular who have shown amazing growth over the past couple of years, Allen Buchannon, who in 2004 was our Junior Umpire of the Year and went on to umpire in the BC Summer Games and this year has made the move to Midget Premier. And

Ed Berkenstock, whose contributions not only to the local association have been tremendous but also as Assistant Area Rep. has brought some great contributions to our BCBUA Board of Directors. Without Ed, there is no doubt this area would not run as smoothly as it has over the past few years. I am especially looking forward to working with Ed as well as Chet Masse and Eric Rasmussen from Area 1 in hosting the 2006 Super Clinic in Nanaimo. The dates have not been finalized but they will be announced very soon and we hope to host a very memorable Super Clinic for all members of BCBUA. We look forward to seeing you all in Nanaimo.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of BCBUA who have called and sent cards during my recent illness and recovery. As some of you know I suffered a severe fractured skull in a game in Parksville during the 2004 May long Weekend Tournament. Although I have lost about 70% percent of the hearing in my right ear, all is going well and I want to say thanks for your support.

Eric Toneff, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 3 Lower Mainland-East

It is now October 2005, with another season come and gone. It has been quite a summer. The weather was beautiful, with very few games rained out. I have had the wonderful experience of watching many young umpires out on the field, doing a great job. While I would like to see more umpires in the proper uniform, just seeing them out on the field working their games was a treat.

It is time to put the equipment to rest, pack up the gear until next season. The only piece of equipment that needs to be kept out is the rule book. The winter is the best season to read up on the rules, keeping the mind sharp and ready. So don't lock up those rule books... Please!!!

The Lower Mainland - East comprises of many communities; Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Mission, Abbotsford and as far as Chilliwack. We have had great clinics in all of our communities and it is our hope that the format which was implemented by Danny Huzar will continue. It was a great success in Maple Ridge last year, with great turn-outs. We hope to have a repeat performance next spring and hopefully spread the concept of a clinic spread over 6 nights as the norm for the training of umpires in the future.

I was a bit disappointed this year at having to scramble for umpires for the Fall Classic. This is an event which showcases many young ball players in our province, and also gives our younger umpires an opportunity of stepping up and working in the Premier Baseball League. Having said that, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful work our young umpires

did for the Fall Classic 2005. Those who worked the Fall Classic this year proved to me that there are many wonderful and able umpires coming up in the system. Thank you to all who worked these games. Anyone who would like to step up next year and participate in the Fall Classic, please contact your Area Representative or look for information on the BCBUA website.

Have a great rest, stay healthy, and remember to register at a clinic near you in the spring.

Eddy Lang, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 4 Lower Mainland-West

-No report Received.

Rob Grey, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 5 Lower Mainland-South

The season has just about ended! The clinic season was very successful for our area, which saw 6 clinics held, many of them in the new, multi-night format, resulting in 267 members.

This season saw Area 5 hosting the Pee Wee AAA Provincials (Surrey Canadian) as well as the prestigious John Maine Pee Wee Tournament (North Delta & Newton). In addition, we hosted the Fall Classic in North Delta, White Rock and Langley. A very successful season!!

I was very disappointed that more umpires did not apply to work in the Fall Classic, and furthermore, a large number of umpires we contacted, did not wish to work at all; even though several needed evaluations to maintain their Level 3.

The Fall Classic is the perfect opportunity to be evaluated for your level 3 and is a great showcase for young talent to be identified, both players and umpires. Next year, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and come out and learn from working with other umpires from around the province. It is very much like working in a Provincial and is a great opportunity to meet umpires from other areas.

I hope you all had a good season and I encourage you all to attend the AGM at Douglas College on November 13. I strongly encourage you to attend as there are some very critical amendments to our Constitution & Bylaws being proposed which could have a substantial effect on how your Association is run in the future.

In addition, I am up for re-election this year and I would appreciate your support in my re-election bid.

Jerry Tregaskis, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 6 -Thompson-Okanagan

-No report Received.

Area Director Position-vacant

REPORT - AREA 7 -Okanagan South

-No report Received.

Ralph Jolley, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 8 -The Kootenays

2005 was not a banner year for Baseball Umpires in the Kootenays. We had a steep downturn in the number of umpires that attended clinics, both Level 1-2 and Level 3 this year. Our membership was way down and this means we have to be more aggressive in recruiting for next year. The onus falls on all the BCBUA members in the Kootenays but mostly on the Area Rep (me). We must do a better job or we may find ourselves on the outside looking in as far as BCBUA policy making is concerned.

You will notice that there are a couple of proposals in the Hey Blue! for bylaw changes that will profoundly impact on how Area Reps are selected and by whom. It is to the benefit of all members to take an active role in the governance of the Association so make every effort to get out to the AGM (details elsewhere in this Hey Blue!) and let your opinions be known!

The Kootenays hosted 2 major tournaments in 2005 at the level of 12 year olds or younger. Cranbrook hosted the Cal Ripken 12 year old Provincials and Trail hosted the Cal Ripken Regionals for 10 and under. I participated in both tournaments and there were only positive comments from organizers and participants. To all those that worked these 2 tournaments....WELL DONE !

Trail Youth Baseball is considering applying for the Babe Ruth 13 year old, 14 year old and 13-15 year old Provincials in 2006 and combining them all into 1 tournament schedule. As we are aware the attendance for these individual tournaments over the last few years has been dismal and this may be a way to at least allow the hosts to run a real tournament. Something to keep in mind as this will require more umpires than we currently have locally.

Talk to your friends and get them interested in becoming umpires for 2006 and I will see you at the AGM.

Bill Mac Millan, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 9 Northern BC

First of all, in February, five umpires from the zone furthest away from the clinic attended the Super Clinic in Kelowna. The clinic was very well attended, the instructors were excellent and the host city made us feel very welcome. We commend the entire organizing committee for putting together a clinic that made it well worth our while to travel that far.

Level 2 clinics were held in Quesnel and Prince George. The Quesnel clinic used the new format of 8 hours over four days – one evening per week. 10 umpires attended in Quesnel. Although the clinic did not increase our numbers the learning was certainly better retained as the number of topics covered each evening was far less than what would have to be covered in the typical one day clinic. A very disappointing turn-out in Prince George – only 6. While three umpires had already taken the level 3 clinic in Kelowna, the number of new and returning umpires in this city continues to decline. For the first time in recent memory, Terrace did not host a clinic. The declining economy, population and no baseball at all certainly all contributed. Apparently, with the opening of a new mill in Terrace and expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert, this situation may change in 2006.

I would like to congratulate the following umpires for traveling from the zone to various tournaments in the Province this past year:

Revelstoke:

Paul Hamblin

Jerry Van Casselle

Adolph Jede

Kelowna: AA and AAA Midget -

Andre Jean

Kamloops: AAA Midget Provincial –

Andre Jean worked the championship game behind the plate

Vancouver: AAA Pee Wee Provincial

Andre again worked the championship game behind the plate

The highly anticipated opening of the new Senior Men's baseball stadium in Prince George will certainly give all of us the chance to umpire ball on a great field and host first-class tournaments in 2006. For the first time in years, a Quesnel team was organized to compete in the Prince George Men's league. Hopefully this is the beginning of a new men's league and the rebirth of Senior Baseball in Quesnel.

We have a very serious problem in trying to generate more interest in baseball generally and umpiring specifically in the entire North. Currently this zone has the lowest number of carded umpires in the zone. However, if baseball returns in

Terrace and interlocking Senior ball with Prince George, numbers should again go up.

See you at the upcoming AGMat Douglas College, New Westminster Nov. 13/05 at 12:00 noon.

Adolph Jede, Area Director



Andre Jean at the end of a game

Little League Umpires Report

This year was a very successful one for both umpires and our leagues on the field. In early March we hosted our Annual Umpire Super clinic in Surrey. This is an Intermediate Level Clinic, we have an average of 50 students to this event annually. We are looking into a joint Clinic in 2006 with BCBUA.

A member from Langley attended the week long Umpire School in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. This cost is paid 100% from the proceeds of the Super clinic.

We had several teams from the lower mainland do very well, the 11/12 year old all-stars from Whalley advanced to the World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The 13/14 year old all-stars from White-Rock advanced to the semi-finals in the Canadians in Nova Scotia. The 16-18 year old all-star team from Fraser Valley advanced to the semi-final round in the Canadians in Regina.

We also had some excellent performances from our umpires. Barry Danton from Langley and Arnie Coones from White Rock worked the Big League 16-18 year old Nationals in Regina, Sask. They both performed well and represented us well.

My special thanks to all of those umpires who volunteered their services for all the post season tournaments.

Troy Carmont, PUC

MAIL IN BALLOTING-Some Comments

-Bill MacMillan

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 to send out ballots to the members. The members fill out the nominations or the ballots and mail them into a Returning Officer(RO) (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 scrutiners 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.



Jeremy Bresler works the Plate at Fall Classic 2005

BE SURE TO ATTEND
SuperClinic
2006
Vancouver Island
Date & Location
To be announced
Check www.bcbua.ca

Proposed Bylaw Change - MAIL IN BALLOTING

Notice of a proposal to change our bylaws will be presented at the AGN as follows:

Remove section 25 which says:

- 25.(1) A member in good standing at a meeting of members is entitled to 1 vote.
- (2) Voting is by show of hands.
- (3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

And replace it with:

- 25.1 A member in good standing is entitled to one vote.
 - (a) A member must be present at the meeting to vote on all business except the election of Area Representatives as set out below.
 - (b) For the election of Area Representatives only, each member may vote using a mail-in ballot.
- 25.2 A Returning Officer (RO) for the election of Directors shall be appointed by the BCBUA Board of Directors
 - (a) A mail in ballot shall be received by the appointed RO by the announced closing date for voting by mail, if the vote is to be counted.
 - (b) The procedure for mail-in voting shall be:
 - i) Appoint RO and notify membership of appointment.
 - ii) Nominator (must be a member) shall send accepted nominations for the positions available to the RO by the announced date.
 - iii) RO advises membership of all nominees and provides each member with an appropriate ballot.
 - iv) Members shall send each ballot, individually sealed, and pursuant to instructions provided by the RO to the RO by the announced date.
 - v) RO collects and stores all mail-in ballots and delivers them, unopened, to the meeting.
 - vi) RO opens and counts mail-in ballots at the meeting (under the supervision of scrutinizers appointed by the membership), and announces the results.
- 25.3 Members may vote in the election of Directors for the positions of:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Area Representative (from their own Area only)
 - (a) Members may not vote for Area Representatives from Areas other than that area in which the member resides.
- 25.4
 - (a) Voting at the meeting shall be by a show of hands except for election of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer which shall be by secret ballot.
 - (b) Voting for the election of Area representatives shall be by mail in ballot only.
- 25.5 Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- 25.6 Ballots not presented in the manner outlined are deemed to be spoiled ballots and shall not be counted.
- 25.7 Mail in balloting shall take place as follows:
 - (a) for Area Representatives from (set out areas) in 2007 and every second year thereafter; and
 - (b) for Area Representatives from (set out areas) in 2008 and every second year thereafter.



Gold Medal Plate Meeting at the Midget AAA Provincials 2005



Arnie Coones at Pee Wee Provincials 2005

BCBUA Bylaws as they are at Present

SOCIETY ACT

Bylaws of BC BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

(Amended to April 10, 2005)

Part 1 - Interpretation

1. (1) In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires,
 - (a) "Directors" means the directors of the Society for the time being;
 - (b) "Society Act" means the Society Act of the Province of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it;
 - (c) "Registered address" of a member means his address as recorded in the register of members;(2) The definitions in the Society Act on the date these bylaws become effective apply to these bylaws.
2. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa; and words importing a male person include a female person and a corporation.

Part 2 - Membership

3. The members of the Society are the applicants for incorporation of the Society, and those persons who subsequently have become members, in accordance with these bylaws and, in either case, have not ceased to be members.
4. Any person who submits the current membership fee to the Society shall be a member.
5. Every member shall uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws.
6. The amount of the first annual membership dues shall be determined by the directors and after that the annual membership dues shall be determined at the annual general meeting of the Society.
7. (1) A person shall cease to be a member of the Society
 - (a) by delivering or mailing his resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Society;
 - (b) on his death or in the case of a corporation on dissolution;
 - (c) on being expelled, or
 - (d) on having been a member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months.
8. (1) A member may be expelled by a special resolution of the members passed at a general meeting.
 - (2) The notice of special resolution for expulsion shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed expulsion.
 - (3) The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.
9. All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his current annual membership fee (due no later than May 31) or other subscription or debt due and owing by him to the Society and he is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid. Such a member shall not be eligible to officiate in Provincial and higher tournaments.
10. The provincial supervisor shall be a member of the Society.
11. A member may be disciplined by the officers for any breach of the bylaws or for behaviour which discredits the Society.
12. (1) Honourary Life Membership may be bestowed upon any current or past member or Director of the Society for distinguished service or provided exemplary services to the Society and its membership over a period of at least five (5) years.
 - (2) Nominations for Honourary Life Membership may be made by any member of the Society and such nomination shall be submitted, in writing, along with the reasons for the nomination to the Registered Office of the Society.
 - (3) Upon receipt of any nomination for Honourary Life Membership the nomination and supporting documentation shall be reviewed and considered by the Directors of the Society. Approval of the nomination will be vested with the Directors and shall require a seventy-five (75%) acceptance vote of the Directors.
 - (4) Honourary Life Members shall have full voting privileges at all general meetings of the Society.

Part 3 - Meeting of Members

13. General meetings of the Society shall be held at the time and place, in accordance with the Society Act, that the directors decide.
14. Every general meeting, other than an annual general meeting, is an extraordinary general meeting.
15. The directors may, whenever they think fit, convene an extraordinary general meeting.
16. (1) Notice of a general meeting shall specify the place, day and hour of meeting, and, in case of special business, the general nature of that business.
 - (2) The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by, any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceedings at that meeting.
17. The first annual general meeting of the Society shall be held not more than 15 months after the date of incorporation and after that an annual general meeting shall be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the holding the last preceding annual general meeting. The date, location, and time of the annual general meeting shall be set by the President.

Part 4 - Proceedings at General Meetings

18. Special business is
 - (a) all business at an extraordinary general meeting except the adoption of rules of order, and
 - (b) all business that is transacted at an annual general meeting, except

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BCBUA Bylaws as they are at present

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- (i) the adoption of rules of order;
 - (ii) the consideration of the financial statements;
 - (iii) the report of the directors;
 - (iv) the report of auditors, if any;
 - (v) the election of directors,
 - (vi) the appointment of the auditor, if required, and
 - (vii) the other business that, under these bylaws, ought to be transacted at an annual general meeting, or business which is brought under consideration by the report of the directors issued with the notice convening the meeting.
19. (1) No business, other than the election of a chairman and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, shall be conducted at a general meeting at a time when a quorum is not present.
- (2) If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress shall be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.
- (3) A quorum is 3 members present or a greater number that the members may determine at a general meeting.
20. If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be terminated; but in any other case, it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the members present constitute a quorum.
21. Subject to bylaw 20, the president of the Society, the vice-president, or in the absence of both, one of the other directors present, shall preside as chairman of a general meeting.
22. If at a general meeting
- (a) there is no president, vice-president, or other director present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting; or
 - (b) the president and all the other directors present are unwilling to act as chairman, the members present shall choose one of their number to be chairman.
23. (1) A general meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (2) When a meeting is adjourned for 10 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in this bylaw, it is not necessary to give notice of adjournment or of the business to be transacted as an adjourned general meeting.
24. (1) No resolution proposed at a meeting need be seconded and the chairman of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
- (2) In case of an equality of votes, the chairman shall not have a casting or second vote in addition to the vote to which he may be entitled as a member and the proposed resolution shall not pass.
25. (1) A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote.
- (2) Voting is by show of hands.
- (3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.
26. A corporate member may vote by its authorized representative, who is entitled to speak and vote, and in all other respects exercise the rights of a member, and that representative shall be reckoned as a member for all purposes with respect to a meeting of the Society.

Part 5 - Directors and Officers

27. (1) The directors may exercise all such powers and do all the acts and things that the Society may exercise and do, and which are not by these bylaws or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the Society in general meeting, but subject, nevertheless to:
- (a) all laws affected the Society;
 - (b) these bylaws; and
 - (c) rules, not being inconsistent with these bylaws, which are made from time to time by the Society in general meeting.
- (2) No rule, made by the Society in general meeting invalidates a prior act of the directors that would have been valid if that rule had not been made.
28. (1) The directors of the Society shall consist of:
- immediate past president
 - president
 - vice-president
 - secretary
 - treasurer
 - first director
 - area representatives (9).
- (2) The number of directors shall be 12 or a greater number determined from time to time at a general meeting.

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BCBUA Bylaws as they are at present

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29. (1) The immediate past president shall remain as a Director of the society until there is a new past president.
 - (2) The president, treasurer and first director shall be elected in odd numbered years.
 - (3) The vice-president and secretary shall be elected in even numbered years.
 - (4) Subject to bylaw 29(7) and 29(8), each area representative shall be elected in even numbered years.
 - (5) Separate elections shall be held for each office to be filled.
 - (6) An election may be by acclamation, otherwise it shall be by ballot.
 - (7) If no successor is elected, the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office.
 - (8) At the Annual General Meeting held in 1998, 4 of the 9 Area Representatives, as determined by the officers, will be elected for a term of one year. These 5 Area Representatives will be elected in subsequent odd numbered years.
 - (9) At the Annual General Meeting in 1998 the other four area representatives, not included in bylaw 29(8), will be elected for a term of two years. These four area representatives will be elected in subsequent even numbered years.
30. (1) The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint a member as a director to fill a vacancy in the directors.
 - (2) Subject to 29(7), a director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next following annual general meeting of the Society, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.
31. (1) If a director resigns his office or otherwise ceased to hold office, the remaining directors shall appoint a member to take the place of the former director.
 - (2) No act or proceeding of the directors is invalid only by reason of there being less than the prescribed number of directors in office.
32. The members may by special resolution remove a director before the expiration of his term of office, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.
33. No officer shall be remunerated for being or acting as a officer but he shall be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by him while engaged in the affairs of the Society.
34. The officers of the Society shall comprise the directors, and the provincial supervisor.
35. The directors may, by resolution made in accordance with Part 6, remove an officer.

Part 6 - Proceedings of Directors

36. (1) The directors may meet together at the places they think fit to dispatch business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings, as they see fit.
 - (2) The directors may from time to time fix the quorum necessary to transact business, and unless so fixed, the quorum shall be a majority of the directors then in office.
 - (3) The president shall be chairman of all meetings of the directors, but if at a meeting the president is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the vice president shall act as chairman; but if neither is present, the directors present may choose one of their number to be chairman at that meeting.
 - (4) A director may at any time, and the secretary, on the request of a director, shall, convene a meeting of the directors.
37. The provincial supervisor may attend all meetings of directors, but may not vote.
38. (1) The directors may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of the director or directors as they think fit.
 - (2) A committee so formed in the exercise of the powers so delegated shall conform to any rules imposed on it by the directors, and shall report every act or thing done in exercise of those powers to the earliest meeting of the directors to be held next after it has been done.
39. A committee shall elect a chairman of its meeting; but if no chairman is elected, or if at a meeting the chairman is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the directors present who are members of the committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.
40. The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper.
41. For a first meeting of directors held immediately following the appointment or election of a director or directors at an annual or other general meeting of members, or for a meeting of the directors at which a director is appointed to fill a vacancy in the directors, it is not necessary to give notice of the meeting to the newly elected or appointed director or directors for the meeting to be constituted, if a quorum of the directors is present.
42. A director who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the Society a waiver of notice, which may be by letter, telegram or cable, of any meeting of the directors and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,
 - (a) no notice of meeting of directors shall be sent to that director; and
 - (b) any and all meetings of the directors of the Society, notice of which has not been given to that director shall, if a quorum of the directors is present, be valid and effective.
43. (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the directors and committee of directors shall be decided by a majority of votes.
 - (2) In case of an equality of votes, the president shall have a second or casting vote.
44. No resolution proposed at a meeting of directors or committee of directors need be seconded and the chairman of a meeting may move or propose resolution.
45. A resolution in writing, signed by all directors and placed with the minutes of the directors, is as valid and effective as if regularly passed at a meeting of directors.

Part 7 - Duties of Officers

46. (1) The president shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the directors.
 - (2) The president is the chief executive officer of the Society and shall supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties, including the co-ordination and function of all committees.
47. The vice-president shall carry out the duties of the president during his absence.

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48. The secretary shall
 - (a) conduct the correspondence of the Society;
 - (b) issue notice of meetings of the Society and directors;
 - (c) keep minutes of all meetings of the Society and directors;
 - (d) have custody of all records and documents of the Society except those required to be kept by the treasurer;
 - (e) have custody of the common seal of the Society; and
 - (f) maintain the register of members.
49. The treasurer shall
 - (a) keep such financial records, including books of account, necessary to comply with the Society Act; and
 - (b) render financial statements to the directors, members and others when required.
50. (1) The officers of secretary and treasure may be held by one person who shall be known as the secretary-treasurer.
(2) When a secretary-treasurer holds office, the total number of directors shall not be less than 11 or the greater number that may have been determined pursuant to bylaw 28(2).
51. In the absence of the secretary from a meeting, the directors shall appoint another person to act as secretary at the meeting.
52. (1) The provincial supervisor shall be appointed by B.C. Amateur Baseball Association (BCABA). He shall act as a liaison between the Society and BCABA.
(2) The provincial supervisor, together with the directors, may recommend for election a maximum of nine members to act as representatives of the members in each geographical area established by the officers. Each area representative must reside in his area. Each representative will act as a liaison between the provincial supervisor and the Society president in matters affecting that representative's area. A director may not be an area representative.

Part 8 - Seal

53. The directors may provide a common seal for the Society and may destroy a seal and substitute a new seal in its place.
54. The common seal shall be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the directors and then only in the presence of the persons prescribed in the resolution, or if no persons are prescribed, in the presence of the president and secretary and president and secretary-treasurer.

Part 9 - Borrowing

55. In order to carry out the purposes of the Society, the directors may, on behalf of and in the name of the Society, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in the manner they decide, and, in particular but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, by the issue of debentures.
56. No debenture shall be issued without the sanction of a special resolution.
57. The members may by special resolution restrict the borrowing powers of the directors, but a restriction imposed expires at the next annual general meeting.

Part 10 - Auditor

58. This part applies only where the Society is required or has resolved to have an auditor.
59. The first auditor shall be appointed by the directors who shall also fill all vacancies occurring in the office of auditor.
60. At each annual general meeting, the Society shall appoint an auditor to hold office until he is re-elected or his successor is elected at the next annual general meeting.
61. An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution.
62. An auditor shall be promptly informed in writing of appointment or removal.
63. No director and no employee of the Society shall be auditor.
64. The auditor may attend general meetings.

Part 11 - Notice to Members

65. A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail to him at his registered address.
66. A notice sent by mail shall be deemed to have been given on the second day following that on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given it is sufficient to prove that the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle.
67. (1) Notice of a general meeting shall be given to
 - (a) every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and
 - (b) the auditor, if Part 10 applies.
(2) No other person is entitled to receive a notice of general meeting.

Part 12 - Proxy Voting

68. On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to and, upon his request, the Society shall give him, without charge, copy of the constitution and bylaws of the Society.
69. These bylaws shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

- by Danny Huzar

I have recently proposed some changes to our bylaws. The proposed changes are printed on the opposite page. At first glance it may not be clear what I am trying to achieve. I want to ensure that the changes that I will ask the members at the AGM to consider are properly understood. I understand that there is opposition to these changes; however, change is rarely embraced when first proposed. If, after taking the time to understand the changes, you oppose them please come to the AGM and vote against them. If you support them, please come to the AGM and vote for them. In any event, if this does nothing but bring out more members to the AGM then in itself it would be a good thing.

Let us address substance. The primary focus is to separate bureaucracy and governance. Currently we combine the two despite the fact that our current bylaws specifically prohibit this. (please see the last sentence of 52(2) of our current bylaws.) There are other changes to the bylaws that I have suggested as pure housekeeping items. Some anomalies have crept in over the years with all of the piecemeal changes that have been made and should be corrected. They are self evident.

The proposed model:

- **Governance:** The voting Directors will be elected by the membership. The number of directors from each Area will be dependent on the number of members from that Area (1 for every 75 members). In order to ease this change I am proposing that for the 2006 and 2007 years the minimum number of members required to allow for an Area Director is 50. Starting in 2008 it will revert to 75. If an existing Area falls short of the required number of members to have at least 1 Area Director it will be combined with another Area so that the members will be represented in that way and any member from the combined Area may run for the available position(s). We also have 1 Area that has repeatedly failed to produce anyone willing to step up to the plate and do the job. I believe that these members would be better served by attaching the Area to one that has willing candidates but insufficient members.
- **Bureaucracy:** The Area Representatives will be appointed by the Board or if preferred they may be elected by the members in the Area. I think that Board appointment must be an option so that we may appoint an Area Representative in areas that currently have no members. The North is quite an expanse and it is difficult for 1 person to do the Job. I have recently spoken to an individual in Dawson Creek that may be convinced to build up our membership there. There are currently no members there to vote for him so we would need to simply appoint the individual.
- Of course, if an individual was willing to do both jobs there should be no impediment for him to do so.
- The third change would be to have the Directors elect among themselves the Table Officers. This would have the advantage of ensuring that a majority of the board is willing and able to work with them.
- The final significant change would be that elections are held each year for each position. This will mitigate the problem of those who fight for a job in the heat of the moment at the AGM and then let the membership down by not doing it. We would have the opportunity to make that change annually by a vote and not by appointment.

See you at the AGM.

Charlie Williams, Former MLB Umpire, Dies in Chicago

by: Rick Roder

Charlie Williams, a Major League umpire from 1982 to 2001, died of complications from diabetes September 10 at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. He was 61.

In 1993 Williams became the first black umpire to work the plate in a World Series game, and it was a memorable one—not only for Williams. Game Four of the Series between the Phillies and Blue Jays at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia lasted four hours and fourteen minutes, the longest game in the history of the Fall Classic. Toronto won 15-14, marking two other World Series records; most runs scored by both teams (29) and most runs scored by a losing team.

Williams was born in Denver and raised in California. He played baseball and football at Poly High School and Long Beach City College. While attending California State University in Los Angeles he tried his hand at officiating baseball, basketball, and football. He worked his first baseball game with former professional umpire Joe Reed, who encouraged him to continue umpiring.

In 1974 Williams was working at a Proctor and Gamble plant when a friend asked him to attend umpire school and offered to help pay for it. Williams agreed. He often had to change clothes for school in his car after working the night shift. He finished first in his class at the Bill Kinnamon/Joe Linsalata umpire school in Mission Hills, California, and was the number one rated rookie umpire in 1975 when he began his professional career in the California League.

Williams worked his first MLB game after only a few minor league seasons and signed a full time National League contract in 1982. He worked the All Star Game only three years later. Williams also worked the 1995 All Star Game and the National League Championship Series in 1989 (Giants/Cubs) and 1997 (Marlins/Braves). He retired to his Chicago-area home in 2001 due to health problems.

Courtesy of World Umpires Association



Proposed Bylaw Changes

This is necessary to implement the changes proposed by Danny Huzar.

Motion: Delete current bylaws 28 and 29 and insert the following and renumber the remaining bylaws accordingly.

28. (1) Commencing with the 2006 annual general meeting the directors of the Society shall hold office until the end of the next annual general meeting.

(2) The number of directors from each area shall be determined by the number of members in the area as at September 30 (or as at the date of the election if held prior to September 30) of the year of the elections as per the following schedule:

Number of members in the Area	Maximum number of directors
Less than 75	0
75 or more but less than 150	1
150 or more but less than 225	2
225 or more but less than 300	3
300 or more but less than 375	4
375 or more but less than 450	5
450 or more but less than 525	6
525 or more but less than 600	7
600 or more but less than 675	8
675 or more but less than 750	9
750 or more but less than 825	10
825 or more but less than 900	11
900 or more but less than 975	12
975 or more but less than 1050	13
1050 or more but less than 1125	14
1125 or more but less than 1200	15

In the years 2006 and 2007 the minimum number of members needed to allow a Director to hold office from the area will be 50 as opposed to the 75 stated above.

(3) An individual must be resident in an area in order to run for one of its directors positions,

(4) A member may run for office by indicating his desire to do so at an Annual General Meeting or by providing a written intent to do so to an officer of the society prior to the Annual General Meeting. Electronic mail will be an acceptable form of notification. Separate elections shall be held for each office to be filled. An election may be by acclamation otherwise it shall be by ballot. If no successor is elected, the board may appoint a member to the position.

(5) The directors will convene a meeting of directors immediately following the annual general meeting. The chair of the meeting will be determined by asking each director in alphabetical order of surname to do so (starting with the letter a). The first to accept shall chair the directors meeting. The directors will elect by secret ballot the executive directors of the society from their numbers. The four executive director positions are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. This meeting shall be open to the general membership. The general membership shall not have a voice in this meeting. Should any executive director cease holding such office at any time other than at an annual general meeting, the directors shall convene a meeting and elect a director to that position.

(6) For the purposes of this section, the initial areas will be as follows:

- Vancouver Island – South
- Vancouver Island – North
- Lower Mainland
- Thompson Okanagan
- Okanagan – South
- Kootenays
- Northern BC

(7) When this amendment takes effect the boundaries will be as historically established. The 3 areas comprising the Lower Mainland will be treated as one area. However, the directors may subsequently alter any existing boundaries including the creation of new areas and merging existing areas.

BE SURE TO ATTEND

SuperClinic 2006

Vancouver Island Date & Location To be announced

Check www.bcbua.ca

Like any activity, baseball umpiring has evolved with time. Each new season brings with it new equipment, new publications, and new advances, which hopefully make our lives as umpires easier. As an umpire who has been away from baseball for about ten years, I thought it might be interesting to talk about some of the resources that weren't available when I started umpiring fifteen years ago, but are now available to help you get better at your job.

As a returning umpire, one of the first things I noticed was the sheer volume of information that is now available to help an umpire do their job better. It wasn't that long ago that all a new official had access to were the rulebooks as provided by the local league. As we all know, the rulebook isn't exactly the most user friendly document, which made figuring out concepts like obstruction, interference, and the infield fly rule very challenging. We now have access to three excellent Umpire Manuals by Richard Christie and Jerry Tregaskis, which cover everything anyone would ever want to know about umpiring baseball. The first publication is a brief pamphlet for youth umpires, while the second and third manuals cover two-man mechanics, and three- and four-man mechanics, respectively, as well as rules interpretation and various other topics of interest to the intermediate and advanced umpire. Whether you're a rookie umpire or an experienced one, you will definitely learn something new from Richard and Jerry's manuals. Another excellent publication that I can wholeheartedly recommend is Chris Jaksa and Rick Roder's "The Official Rules of Professional Baseball: A Comprehensive Reorganization & Interpretation". Jaksa and Roder were both professional umpires and taught at the Joe Brinkman Umpire School in the 1980's who noticed how poorly the rulebook was organized and tried to reorganize the rules to make more sense. This book takes all of the rules of baseball (including the variations that exist in the United States for high school and college leagues) and reorganizes them in a way that is logical. The book is broken into sections made up of chapters, which organizes all the rules for a particular topic. For example, the section titled "The Pitcher," includes a chapters on the windup and stretch, proscriptions (what a pitcher can and cannot do), balks, and substitutions. One of the best features is the comprehensive index, which allows for quick access to any major rule or topic.

There has also been a tremendous evolution in the type of protective equipment available to umpires. The equipment available to me as a starting umpire was limited to that available at the local

sporting goods store, which might have an umpire chest protector in stock. Often these were the soft protectors made by Rawlings, which were hot, uncomfortable, and didn't offer a lot of protection if you had the misfortune of actually getting hit with a foul ball. The equipment available today is substantially better, with synthetic fabrics, hard, protective plastic and lightweight metals common in much of the equipment today. One particular development of note is the rise in popularity of the "hockey-style" umpire helmet. If you watch much in the way of professional baseball, you will have noticed many catchers, as well as umpires, have switched to hockey-style masks. These masks offer a number of significant features, such as the obvious improvement in protection over a traditional face mask, but also better visibility. Many umpires also comment that they are able to speak more clearly with their helmet than they could with a face mask. This is because the helmet sits lower on the chin than the mask, making it easier to move your jaw. Some umpires aren't sold on the helmets, but I personally think they are worth trying, if for no other reason than the enhanced protection they offer. Diamond, Rawlings, Wilson, and All-Star all manufacture masks of varying styles and quality, so if you're in the market for a helmet, you should be able to find one fits your head, and your budget. Of course, everyone wants to know which one the professionals use and I can tell you that up until this year, the All-Star MVP2000 was the helmet provided to Major League Baseball's umpires. The MVP2000 is constructed from Kevlar and Titanium, and carries a price tag of around CDN\$500, if you can find one. The vendors I spoke with don't typically carry it as a stock item, but if you have some money burning a hole in your ball bag, they can special order it.

Another item that has made a big difference in umpiring has been the Internet. Like most other activities, the Internet has made it possible to access a tremendous amount of information on a given subject. Baseball umpiring is no different, and there are a number of sites that are dedicated to the topic. Covering all the Internet resources available to the umpire would take several articles, but a few in particular are worth mentioning briefly. The BC Baseball Umpires Association has its own website at www.bcbua.ca. There is a lot of good information available on the particulars of umpiring in BC. From dress code to the mechanics for the two-man system, this site is a required bookmark for all BC umpires. Of course, **Pro Image Officials Supply** is our Canadian source for all of your umpiring equipment and supply needs. Pro Image is run by one

of our BCBUA Directors, Jerry Tregaskis, and his products are of a very high quality. If you're looking for new gear or uniforms, Pro Image is definitely worth your consideration. Their website is www.pro-image.ca. One of the best umpiring-only websites is the website of the Amateur Baseball Umpire's Association. The ABUA is an American organization that represents the interests of amateur baseball umpires, but they have some very active web forums, as well as original content and links to articles about umpiring. Their website is at www.umpire.org and is definitely worth a look. **Officiating.Com** is another website worth looking at Officiating.Com is dedicated to providing information on officiating in all sports, not just baseball. Much of their content is only available if you subscribe, but there is an amount of content available for free. One of the best aspects of the site is their web forum, which has a very active baseball section, with umpires from around the world discussing a range of topics. The forums can be accessed without signing up for the subscription part of the site, so head on over to www.officiating.com and take a look.

The changes in equipment and educational resources over the last decade have been truly remarkable. On its own, the Internet has made it much easier to obtain information about umpiring that was simply impossible to do before. Developments in new equipment have made it safer and easier to work behind the plate.

Publications like those by Christie & Tregaskis, as well as Jaksa & Roder have made it easier for new and experienced umpires to get answers to questions without giving themselves a headache from reading the rulebook. We've come a long way in a short time, and hopefully, there is more cool stuff to come in the future.

As the new staff writer for Hey Blue!, I'm interested in hearing your ideas for articles. Future articles may include book reviews, equipment reviews, information on trying for the professional baseball ranks, as well as anything else I can think of. If you have any comments on this article, or ideas for future articles, send them to heybluestaff@shaw.ca.

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Umpiring

- Ian Lamplugh

Official Baseball Rule 9.02(a) states: "Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach, or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions."

Well, obviously this does NOT happen, and this is a rule that is not strictly enforced. In fact, arguments are an accepted part of baseball. And while certain rules call for ejection automatically, those situations which do not, must be handled and judged on a case by case basis. Although no two situations are exactly the same, there are some basic fundamentals that umpires try to observe during any confrontation.

The umpire must remain poised, calm, controlled, and unemotional while trying to calm down the people involved. The umpire needs to be firm and strong during a situation, while trying not to issue a warning too soon. And this is not easy to do as the umpire must decide "how much" to listen to. The umpire must not issue a warning too quickly - this is not the way to gain and command respect - and yet he must not "take too much", for this will make him look weak and afraid. The umpire must walk the tight rope and find the middle ground, that place where is hard, but fair.

My first MLB Supervisor was Paul Runge - he was an extremely well-respected National League umpire for 30 years before becoming chief of the NL umpire staff. He once told me that handling a conflict on the baseball field with a player, coach, or manager should be no different than dealing with a disagreement with one's wife or girlfriend. By this he basically meant that as an umpire you need to watch what you say - do not say anything to on-field personnel that if they said it to you as an umpire, would lead to their ejection; do not use profanity; watch HOW you say things (For example, try to avoid issuing ultimatums. Also, say the correct thing as an umpire - for example, an umpire should not say, "I think" because he should know and be 100% sure.); and of course, umpires should avoid needing to have the last word in an argument.

Umpires also need to try to resolve situations as quickly as possible and get the game restarted as soon as they can. Usually, the longer the situation drags out, the greater the possibility that someone will be ejected!

And as we saw this past month, ejections will happen. They are a by-product of competitive individuals in a competitive environment. However from

an umpire's standpoint, if the umpire warns the individual to stop a behavior or action, and that individual does not comply and is ejected, it is not unfair to think that this person actually ejected themselves because they were told what not to do, yet they did it.

I was once asked if an umpire should "take more heat" because he made an incorrect call. From an umpire's viewpoint, the question does not make sense - the umpire made the call that he made because he believed it to be the correct call! And remember the same fundamentals apply to every situation, they never change. Only the situation, the individuals involved, and the intensity will change.

I think people also have an idea that if a situation develops that the umpire will then continue to be angry with the individual involved for a long time afterwards - that he holds some kind of grudge. This is not true. Maybe at the time of the confrontation the umpire is mad, but once the situation is finished, it is forgotten about. Because the very next pitch another situation could arise! The umpire has to refocus and concentrate because what just happened is over, and he must be ready for his next call.

During my career I have mishandled situations, and also could have done things differently in a lot of other circumstances. Every situation is a learning experience. Umpiring - ball or strike, safe or out, fair or foul - is very difficult, and when a situation develops the job does not get any easier. It is not easy to be firm, fair, and courteous while also knowing when to answer back or at what point to be more assertive.

"Now that's enough!"



Bruce Faulkner works the plate at Pee Wee Provincials 2005

REAL BASEBALL PLAYERS USE WOODEN BATS!

YOU MAKE THE CALL #2

From the windup position, F1 begins to bring his hands up, as if to begin his windup, then steps back off the rubber with his pivot foot. He then throws to third in an attempt to pick off R3. Legal play? or Balk?

Answer on back page

YOU MAKE THE CALL #3

R1 and R2 are both on base with 1 out and are running when B4 hits a pop-up in the direction of F3 who is straddling the foul line. The ball is over fair territory when he catches it. R1 is unable to get back to first because F3's leg in fair territory is blocking the base. Is this obstruction? May F3 touch the bag or R1 for a double play?

Answer on back page



Assignments to National Championships 2005

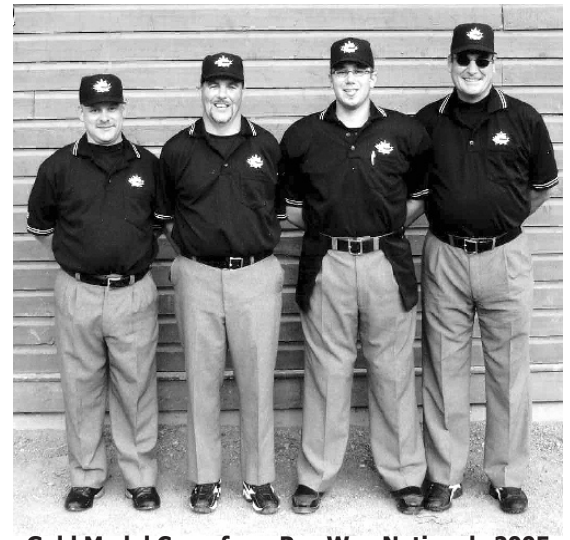
**BASEBALL
CANADA**

The following BC Umpires were selected to work in National Championships in 2005. Congratulations to you all!

- Peewee** **Summerside, PEI** **August 24-29, 2005**
Jerry Tregaskis, North Delta
- Bantam** **Windsor, Ont** **August 24-29, 2005**
Rob Grey, West Vancouver
- Canada Cup** **Medicine Hat, Alta** **August 18-22, 2005**
Steve Boutang, Cranbrook
Will Hunter, Castlegar
- Midget** **Trois-Rivières, Qué** **August 24-29, 2005**
Danny Huzar, Port Moody
- Junior** **Saskatoon, Sask** **August 24-29, 2005**
Chet Masse, Victoria
- Senior** **Kamloops, BC** **August 24-29, 2005**
Mark Bodwell, Surrey - Brian Cargnelli, Merritt
Rob Allan, Maple Ridge - Don Hass, Richmond
- Canada Games** **Regina, Sask** **August 7-14, 2005**
Ossie Chavarria, Burnaby



**Jerry Tregaskis
in Gold Medal Game
Peewee Nationals 2005**



**Gold Medal Crew from Pee Wee Nationals 2005
(left to right)
L. Aube (NB) 3B, D. Margetts (ON) 2B,
P.Lamoreaux (QE) P, J. Tregaskis (BC) 1B**

BE SURE TO ATTEND
SuperClinic 2006
Vancouver Island Date & Location
To be announced
Check www.bcbua.ca

2005 National Senior Men's crew - Kamloops



PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Peewee AAA

Supervisors

Tregaskis, Jerry DELTA
Williams, Ted PORT MOODY

Umpires

Coones, Arnie WHITE ROCK
Faulkner, Bruce SURREY
Jean, Andre TERRACE
Kinstlers, Jack SURREY
McCowan, Archie SURREY
Train, Jim WHITE ROCK

Bantam AAA

Supervisor

Rasmussen, Eric VICTORIA

Umpires

Campbel, Alan VICTORIA
Grey, Rob WEST VANCOUVER
Martin, Matthew VICTORIA
Moir, Al VICTORIA
Ovanin, Thomas VICTORIA
Perkins, Mark SAANICHTON
Tulloch, Al BRENTWOOD BAY
Weaving, Doug VERNON
Wrean, Andrew VICTORIA

Babe Ruth 15

Working Supervisor

Raymond, Lorne PENTICTON

Umpires

Dyer, Bill ENDERBY
Gordon, Jamie PENTICTON
Gronowski, Robert PENTICTON
Haley, Bruce SUMMERLAND
Jolley, Ralph WESTBANK
Nelson, Lloyd KELOWNA
Surowski, Derrick PENTICTON

Midget AA

Working Supervisor

Berkenstock, Ed COURTENAY

Umpires

Bertrand, Chuck SEHEL
Houlgrave, Robin COMOX
Miles, David COMOX
Moore, Nick COURTENAY
Plante, Jake COMOX
Sebelius, Glenn DUNCAN
Simpson, Yaman CAMPBELL RIVER
Toneff, Eric COURTENAY

Midget AAA

Working Supervisor

Cargnelli, Brian MERRITT

Umpires

Brommeland, Lance PRINCE GEORGE
Connelly, Chris KAMLOOPS
Jean, Andre TERRACE
Kloster, Rob KAMLOOPS
Lowndes, Matt KAMLOOPS
Williams, Ted PORT MOODY

Junior

Working Supervisor

Masse, Chet VICTORIA

Umpires

Boutang, Steve CRANBROOK
Bodwell, H. Mark SURREY
Carmont, Troy SURREY
Hunter, Will CASTLEGAR
Kroschinsky, Dave PENTICTON

Senior

Working Supervisor

Chapman, Howard BURNABY

Umpires

Allan, Robert MAPLE RIDGE
Bodwell, H. Mark SURREY
Cargnelli, Brian MERRITT
Chavarria, Ossie BURNABY
Hass, Don RICHMOND

Fall Classic

Working Supervisors

Christie, Richard WHITE ROCK
Huzar, Danny PORT MOODY
Lang, Eddy PORT MOODY
Tregaskis, Jerry DELTA

Umpires

Addison, Chris VANCOUVER
Berry, John BURNABY
Bisskey, David SURREY
Bresler, Jeremy VANCOUVER
Brock, Andrew BURNABY
Brock, Tom BURNABY
Clifton, Gary SURREY
Coones, Arnie WHITE ROCK
Crowther, Jon NORTH VANCOUVER
Faulkner, Bruce SURREY
Maerov, Les VANCOUVER
McCowan, Archie SURREY
Olszowiec, Robert DELTA
Arne Pederson SURREY
Raison, Ken SURREY
Train, Jim WHITE ROCK

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO WERE SELECTED TO WORK
PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2005!**



Matt Lowndes - Andre Jean - Rob Grey

**Photos
from the
2005
Midget AAA
Provincials**



Brian Cargnelli- Chris Connelly - Lance Brommeland

2004 BCBUA AWARD WINNERS

Each year, BCBUA makes awards to deserving individuals who have contributed in some recognizable way to the betterment of your Association. In addition, Pro Image (our Official supplier), recognizes a young umpire (under age 16) in each of the 9 zones in our Province and presents them with a certificate and an embroidered ballbag. The following were the award winners for 2004 (the awards are always made in the following year)

AWARD

Doug Hudlin Distinguished Service Award
 George Conelly Builders Award
 Ian Lamplugh Award
 Most Improved Umpire
 Unsung Hero
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 1
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 2
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 2
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 3
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 4
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 5
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 6
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 7
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 8
 Junior Umpire of the Year - Area 9

RECIPIENT

Richard Christie
 Andre Jean
 Rob Grey
 Brian Cargnelli
 Bill Murray
 Matthew Martin
 Adam Berkenstock
 Russell Toneff
 Kyle Lukacs
 Derek Duncan
 Aidan Sank
 Bryn Johnson
 Steffen Mazur
 Michael Pereversoff
 Iain Wallis

AREA

White Rock
 Terrace
 West Vancouver
 Merritt
 Maple Ridge
 Victoria
 Courtenay
 Courtenay
 Maple Ridge
 Sechelt
 Surrey
 Kamloops
 Kelowna
 Castlegar
 Quesnel



Above: Mark Bodwell conducting the rules session at Super Clinic 2005. It was structured along the same lines as the TV game show 'Jeopardy'.

This idea was brought to us by Richard Christie several years ago and it continues to be a perennial favourite. Based on the feedback forms that the attendees submitted, it was an overwhelming success. This session was rated the number 1 session at the clinic.

Every year we make improvements and we anticipate that the 2006 version will be even better.

**Danny Huzar -
 Super Clinic Coordinator**

Congratulations to all the winners for a job well done!!



Michael Pereversoff (left), receives the Junior Umpire of the year award from UIC Matt Gallo of Castlegar



Bobby O waits for the pitch at Fall Classic 2005

ANSWERS TO YOU MAKE THE CALL

1. B1 is out. The rules do not define how high a foul ball must go and any ball that does not qualify as a "foul tip" is either a fair or a foul ball. **Pro 2.0**
2. It is a balk! **Pro 8.01a**
3. Under Pro rules, a fielder with the ball or the primary fielder who is attempting to play the ball, can never be guilty of obstruction. F3 may touch either the bag or R1 to complete the double play. **Pro 2.0-Obstruction.**

BE SURE TO ATTEND

SuperClinic 2006

Vancouver Island

Date & Location

To be announced

(Likely Nanaimo or Parksville)

Check www.bcbua.ca



B C Baseball Umpires Association

Write in Application for membership

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

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CITY or TOWN: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

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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

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