

Hey Blue! Online



Banner Year for BCBUA

For the first time in its 43 year history, the BCBUA sent 21 umpires to National Championships. This led the country for the first time. And 4 of our umpires were awarded the Gold Medal Plate assignment, also a first.

Provincial Supervisor Steve Boutang commented that it shows a lot of progress has been made in our organization.

“It’s a great sign that our program has been going

about business in the right way. To have 4 of our umpires recognized for their work in this fashion is truly a positive statement”

Many of the other umpires who attended Nationals were also chosen to umpire the Bronze medal or semi Final games on the plate, which is another positive sign that our program is training fine officials.

“It was not that long ago that our province was considered a weak sister of the National program. Rarely did we ever get an umpire selected to work a key game at the end of the week, but now our umpires are proving to be some of the top officials in the country. I’m proud of how we’ve developed in the last

handful of years.” says Boutang, who has been in charge of the Province’s umpire program since 2009 when he and Troy Carmont took over from Richard Christie.

Boutang was elected as the sole Supervisor in 2011 and has ran unopposed each year since then. He was recently elected by the BCBUA Board for his 3rd successive term, again unopposed.

The BCBUA has approximately 1500 members in 2017 which has been a steady increase year over year for the last 5 years. There are nearly 50 umpires in the National program at this time, the third most in Canada.



Sean Sullivan gives a “Thumbs Up” to 2017

BCBUA AGM DATE SET!

The BCBUA Annual

General Meeting will be held in Richmond on :

November 4 at 1:00pm
at the Holiday Inn,
10720 Cambie St.,
Richmond.

Election of officers, and a bylaw review are up for voting this year. In addition, our annual awards will be presented along with the various committee reports.

Please come out and meet your fellow umpires.

AGM

Nov.4

1:00pm

Richmond

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Baseball Canada Umpire of the Week—Jason Zhou

The BCBUA would like to congratulate Richmond native Jason Zhou for being selected by the BCBUA as our nominee for the Baseball Canada Umpire of the week for June 4-11.

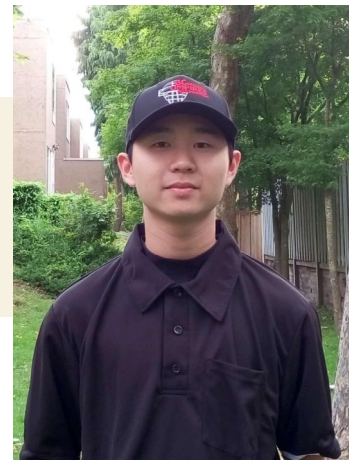
Jason had an outstanding John Main tournament in Richmond in May to earn the honour.

Jason is working on his level 3 status and

has been umpiring for several years in Richmond.

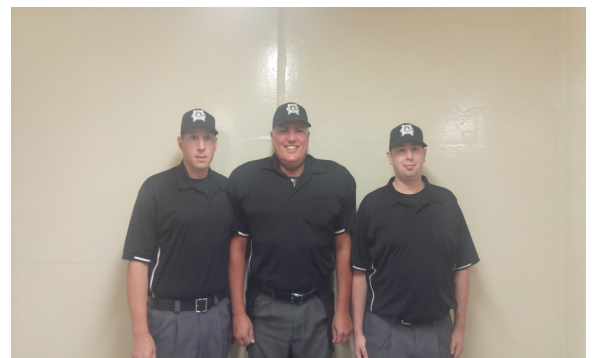
The full write up on Jason can be found on the Baseball Canada website. You can find other interesting information in the umpire section as well.

Congratulations Jason!



West Coast League Finals in Victoria

The Corvallis Knights beat out the Victoria Harbourcats 2 games to 1 in the finals of the West Coast League summer collegiate baseball league championships in August. 3 BCBUA umpires worked game one of the finals in Victoria. Sean Sullivan did home plate while Phil Bourgeois and Scott Edckardt manned the bases. In total, 22 BCBUA umpires worked in the WCL during the 2017 season in Kelowna or Victoria.



Burnaby wins Sr. Men's Nationals in Victoria



“Him, Him, Him, and I will umpire.... You and You will play”

Burnaby defeated New Brunswick at the National Sr Men's Championships in Victoria in August. The gold medal crew consisted of Plate Umpire Ron Shewchuk of Manitoba, Brian Hodgson (3b), Matt Tyler (2b), and Rene Provencher (1b). BC Umpires Matt Lowndes (Bronze Medal Plate) Scott Eckardt (Semi Final Plate) Joe Mallinson (Bronze Medal Bases), Nick Moore (Bronze Medal Bases)

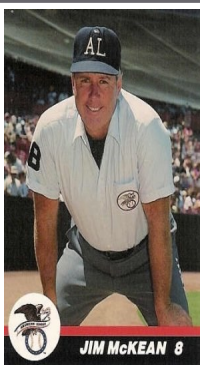
and Darcy Rysz (Semi Final Bases) all performed extremely well during this championship. For Rysz, he completed a person goal... he played in the National mens Championships as a player and has now participated as an umpire as well. A rare feat indeed! Victoria again hosts the National Championships in 2018 at Royal Athletic Park. This year's tournament, won by Burnaby, featured lower main-

Ron Shewchuk's opening and closing statements at the plate meeting for the National championship.

land umpire Shawn Schaefer as part of the Gold Medal winning club as a player.

SCHEURWATER PASSES LAMPLUGH

Regina's Stu Scheurwater worked the majority of the Major League Season as a call up umpire giving him 253 games worked in the Big Leagues to date. By exceeding 200 games, he passes Victoria's Ian Lamplugh for 2nd most games worked in the Big Leagues by a Canadian umpire. Only 3300 more to go before he passes Montreal's Jim McKean who worked over 3500 games in the Majors between 1974-2001.





Steve Boutang as part of Canada Games Umpire Crew in Winnipeg



Victoria's Jared Roberts on top of the play at the plate at WCL Harbourcats game



Phil Bourgeois working the Gold Medal Plate at Midget Nationals



Sean Sullivan catching an ear full during a WCL Harbourcats game

AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS FOR SUMMER 2017

Area 1—South Island
By Scott Eckardt
Area 1 Director

It was another busy year of baseball on South Vancouver Island. There were 184 registered umpires from Sidney to Ladysmith and all points in between. This was our first year with the restructured boundaries moving Nanaimo from Area 1 to Area 2. In Area 1 we were able to run 5 clinics hosted by Duncan Minor Baseball and the Greater Victoria Baseball Association where we trained 125 students at levels 1 and 2. In 2018 we will be again hosting an advanced clinic at a location on the island that is to be determined. We are also hoping to get back to the Westshore in 2018 to train some more level 1 umpires. There is a significant need for more umpires in Area 1 especially at the Bantam level and above so please keep your eyes on the website in February and March of 2018 for clinic dates and times and pass this on to anyone you know that might be interested in being on the baseball field and earning some money over the spring and summer months.

Over the course of the season over 1000 games were played in Greater Victoria at the Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Senior level. There was also an opportunity for a lot of our young umpires to gain experience at the Tadpole and Mosquito level throughout the South Island. Duncan also played host to the new Mid Island Premier Baseball League club which has 3 teams at the Bantam, and Midget levels. This provided some of the umpires in the area an opportunity to move up to the next level.

Area 1 hosted two provincial tournaments this year. The Bantam AA championship was played at Carnarvon Park July 27-20 and was supervised by Eric Rasmussen. Congratulations to the umpires that were selected to work the tournament, Mark Jarrett, Carol Ogborne, Cory Waters, Bob Jansch, Mike Neal, Shawn Sharpe, Jason Vance, Monty Biggs, Neil Lundin and Jonathan Brereton. The JrPBL championship was hosted by the Victoria Eagles at Lambrick Park and was supervised by Chet Masse. Congratulations to those umpires selected to work this tournament, Evan Keenlyside, Jared Roberts, Kyle Yee, Al Tulloch and Jon Hollett all members of Area 1. The application to work provincials is posted each May and I encourage all members to apply.

This year Area 1 sent two umpires to work national championships. Jon Hollett was selected to work the Pee Wee Western National in Spruce Grove, Alberta. Jon had a very successful tournament and was selected to work 2nd base in the gold medal game. Scott Eckardt was selected to umpire at the Canadian Senior Baseball championships hosted at Royal Athletic Park in Victoria, BC where he was selected to work one of the semi final games behind the plate. Congratulations to both umpires on their accomplishments.

Finally, I want to thank all Area 1 umpires for all the hard work they put in this year on the field and wish everyone a good winter. Hope to see you all back on the field in 2018.

Area 2 – North Island
By Brad Jones
Area 2 Director

This past year has been a great learning experience as I finish my first year as Area 2's representative.

Area 2 supports more than 120 members from Nanaimo to Campbell River and their hard work and commitment to learning has been heartening to me in my new role.

From 12 to 72, the desire of our members in the North Island to develop their abilities on and off the field demonstrates the commitment and opportunity for our area for mentoring and education initiatives in the coming years.

Part of this optimism comes from the service and leadership of a core group of level 2 and 3 umpires that support the development and retention of umpires in area 2.

Special acknowledgement should be given to the hard work of Craig Bernes in Comox Valley, Jason Vance in Nanaimo, Will Chambers in Parksville and Franca Russo in Campbell River as well as all the senior level 2 and 3 umpires who mentored the younger umpires throughout the year and at the BC Baseball's Pee Wee AA and the Mosquito AAA Provincials in Campbell River.

Also, congratulations to area umpires David Wood, Erik Eriksson, Ron Freeman, along with Bernes and Vance who earned their assignments for the Bantam AAA Provincial in Parksville. The opportunity to work three-umpire system throughout the tournament will benefit them and the area in the future.

Final kudos go to the level one umpires of the North Island, whose eagerness to learn the rules and make the calls brings a smile to me and others who are promoting umpire development in our area.

From seeing these new umpires coming to monthly practices in their full uniform to others asking inquiring questions in their level 1 clinic, these young umpires' energy sparks the feeling of learning of all of us.

Thus, this first year has shown me that we can grow and develop together when we build trust and community with other members. This learning community is what we need to take risks with trying new ideas.



Will Chambers and David Wood clowning around at Pee wee AA Provincials



Brad Jones with Paul Hartley and three level ones, Karole Lucero-Diego, Max Jeffery, and Keenan Kellow

Area 3—Lower Mainland East

By Gary Webber

Area 3 Director

Hello everyone, Hope you had a good year. Area 3 Lower mainland east had a great year! There were a total of 239 Umpires registered in Area 3 this year, down about 35 from last year.

Everything started well with 10 successful Level 1 and Level 2 Clinics. We had a total of 85 level 1 umpires take clinics and a total of 106 level 2 take clinics. This was down a little from last year but everyone had a great time and learned a lot. We had 264 Area 3 umpires take the on-line exam tests and had 157 Pass. We can do a better job at the testing, but glad to see it is getting done.

This year under the guidance of the Provisional Supervisor we started a new program that had Level 4 umpires do 5 mentorships each at Local Associations and that went well. Thanks to all that helped out .

Again this year I want to thank Rhonda Pauls and Gord McFarlane for all their great work on the Mentorship program. Umpiring in BC is getting better and better because of all the hard work.

During the year, Area 3 had 21 Tournament in the 7 Associations with all Umpires gaining experience from top to bottom for all umpires rate ball being played.

Area 3 hosted 6 Provincial Championships where 31 Area 3 umpires provided their skills to make all very successful.

We had 6 umpires receive National assignments: Shawn Bird, Shawn Schaefer and Gary Webber from Maple Ridge. Rhonda Pauls and Steve Boutang from Abbotsford, and one International assignment—Rob Allan from Maple Ridge. All in all, a great year.



Bantam AAA Provincials crew: Jason Zhou, Greg Harrison, Terry O’Krafka

AREA 4—Lower Mainland West

By Michael Yamaguchi

Area 4 Director

2017 was another great year in Area 4. We saw tremendous growth in our membership - from 166 members in 2016 to 247 members in 2017. This was largely due to the addition of North Shore Baseball Association to BC Baseball. For clinics, between Level 1 and Level 2, we held a total of eight clinics in Area 4. Of note, we were able to hold a clinic in Powell River for the first time since 2014, as well as a clinic in Gibsons for the first time since 2013.

Area 4 hosted numerous provincial tournaments. Congratulations to the following umpires who worked gold medal games:

BC Baseball 13U AA John Main Classic – Richmond

Final – Nolan Marr (plate), Luke Yam (first), and Ethan Wong (third)

BC Baseball 13U A West Provincials – Burnaby

Final – Mark Goddard (plate), Sean Ikeda (first), and Jacob Daniel (third)

BC Baseball 15U AAA Provincials – Richmond

Final – Ethan Wong (plate), Lane Yakemchuk (first), and Dave Wong (third)

BC Baseball 11U A Provincials – Richmond

Final – Joshwa Abraham (plate) and Nick Thiessen (bases)

Baseball BC 15U AA Provincials – Burnaby

Final – Jerry Tregaskis (plate), Andre Jean (first), and Preston Lee (third)

Baseball BC 13U AA Provincials – Richmond

Final – Lane Yakemchuk (plate), Gary Webber (first), and Marco Kwok (third)

I was able to spend a great deal of time at the BC Baseball 11U A Provincials. For many of the umpires, it was their first opportunity working a provincial tournament, and most of them had less than two years of experience. This applied to both umpires who worked the gold medal final, Joshwa Abraham and Nick Thiessen. Both had impressive tournaments, and definitely weren't alone! All in all, it was truly rewarding to work with a dedicated group of young umpires with loads of potential.

Moving along, I'd like to congratulate the following umpires who received national assignments this year:

Phil Bourgeois – 18U Nationals – London, ON

Brendan Lim – 13U Atlantic Nationals – Moncton, NB

Joe Mallinson – Senior Nationals – Victoria, BC

Phil Bourgeois was selected to work the gold medal plate at the 18U Nationals. Those of us that know Phil weren't surprised by his final assignment given his on-field ability and dedication to umpiring. Congrats, Phil!

That pretty much summarizes the highlights in 2017. Have a great offseason, everyone, and we'll see you in 2018!

Area 5 Report – Brad Woof Area Director

NO REPORT WAS SUBMITTED

BCBUA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday November 4, 1:00pm, Holiday Inn, 10720 Cambie St, Richmond

12:00-1:00pm Social and Registration. Join us for snacks and socialization!

Area 6 Thompson Okanagan

By Mark Wright

Area 6 Director

It was another good year umpire wise in the Thompson-North Okanagan. Overall we had 78 members which is on par with last year. We hosted level 1 and 2 clinics in Kamloops and Salmon Arm which were well attended. We also were able to host a level 1 clinic in Revelstoke for the first time in many years which is very exciting and hopefully something that will continue to grow and become an annual event.

This year we were able to provide mentorship by our experienced umpires to our younger up and coming in Kamloops. Hopefully in the coming years we can grow and expand to other towns in Area 6. A special thank you goes out to Sean Weatherill, Connor Watt, Matt Hicketts and Chris Connelly for their hard work in the mentorship department.

Events wise Kamloops hosted five Western Canadian Championships on the same weekend in August. This was staffed by many umpires from Area 6 who performed very well.

A special congratulations goes out to Matt Hicketts of Kamloops for attending the 13U Nationals Championships in Repentigny Quebec, his first national assignment. He was selected for the Gold Medal Plate Assignment.

Congratulations also goes out to Colton Lybeck of Salmon Arm who do to varying circumstances was never properly honoured for being selected as the 2016 Jr. Umpire of the Year for 2016.

Overall there is much success umpire-wise to be celebrated in the Thompson-North Okanagan and there is much to build on in the coming years.



Mark Penner, Austin Johansen and Chuck Croll at Pee wee AA Westerns in Kamloops

Area 7 Okanagan South

By Darcy Rysz

Area 7 Director

The 2017 season had approximately the same 15% increase in members over last year as did 2016. Out of the total of 176 members, 99 attended one of the five Level 1 clinics and 56 attended one of the four Level 2 clinics. An additional 6 members attended the National Level Clinic in Kamloops which is a new record for this area as is that 4 of those also participated in a National Championship in 2017. Blaise Laveay and Kevin Burk attended their first National while Bruce Kristinson and Darcy Rysz attended their third.

One provincial tournament was held in this area which was the BC Baseball 18UAAA in Kelowna. That tournament was staffed by the four umpires mentioned above in addition to Kyle Anderson, Chuck Abney and an eager beaver from Trail.

Finally, the 15th annual Valley of Champions tournament held mid-July provides a chance for umpires from up and down the valley to work summer ball while meeting fellow umpires from other areas. Over 60 umpires in all participated with some from as far away as the Lower Mainland. In case you are interested in participating at next years' tournament, contact area rep Darcy Rysz.



Kelowna's Blaise Laveay, in his first National at Summerside PEI

Area 8 Kootenays

By Bill MacMillan

Area 8 Director

As the 2017 baseball season draws to a close in the parts of the province that have winter and we get ready for hockey season I felt it was important to inform you of what transpired in the Kootenays this year.

We started the season with a very successful series of clinics in Cranbrook, Castlegar, Nelson and Trail. Because our clinics are small compared to others we don't have enough of both Level 1 or Level 2 umpires to run separate clinics for each level so we combine the two for a full day clinic in each town or several evening sessions to make up the time. This comes with some challenges implementing the new style of courses but we muddle through and produce some quality umpires at both levels.

There were several local tournaments which involved some of the senior umpires in our area working with some of the younger ones and I think everyone benefited from these experiences. We hope to continue this in the coming years only on a bigger scale. In this way we can increase the number of returning young umpires in every town.

I look forward to working with all of the executives, UICs and umpires in the Kootenays to make baseball a more FUN game for us all.

See you in 2018



BCBUA legend Bill MacMillan of Trail, in his final National Championship game in Summerside PEI. Bill claims to have “guessed correctly” on the play. (What impeccable timing Bill!)

Area 9 Northern BC

By Matt Lowndes

Area 9 Director

(Editor's note – Congratulations to Matt Lowndes on his recent marriage to April Burnip, July in Terrace.)

A high priority for PGYBA this year was to increase our eligible umpire list. With BCBUA's support we were able to grow our numbers from 25 in 2016 to 55 carded umpires for 2017. It was a significant effort to support so many new and young umpires (39 umpires 13yrs or younger) however a mentorship program utilizing experienced adult umpires helped ease some of the growing pains and should position us well for having a strong experienced umpire staff down the road. We will again be recruiting new umpires for 2018 but a big priority for this spring will be to support more umpires in completing their level 2 and 3 certifications.

Prince George hosted the Men's Provincials this year, and despite only having 4 teams, it proved to be competitive baseball. Prince George also hosted the Men's Westerns a few weeks later. There is again talk of hosting a World Baseball Challenge in Prince George in 2018. Stay tuned.



Bantam AAA Provincials crew: Wes Fung, Aidan Lunney, Lane Yakemchuk

From the Oval Office

By BCBUA President Sean Sullivan

2017 has been a banner year for BC Umpires. We saw increases in registration across the province, tremendous interest with over 100 applications to umpire a Provincial Championships, unprecedented representation at National championships, and one international assignment with Rob Allen doing the World 18U in Thunder Bay.

We have expanded our Grass Roots program by challenging our senior umpires to attend at least five (5) Mosquito or Pee Wee games and provide guidance to our up and coming umpires. This was a resounding success with partner associations commenting on the improved quality of umpiring.

We continue to focus our efforts on strengthening our umpires training programs. We have standardized our Level system to align with Baseball Canada.



Chemainus Umpire Jon Hollett on the move during a West Coast League Game

We have increased our number of Caravan trained instructors to ensure quality clinics are achieved. We have remained strong in continuing with our Umpire Academy, National Program and High Level Clinics. We continue to offer Advanced Clinics and had a very successful Super Clinic this past year, that sold out in short order.

Having said all those positives, we unfortunately have seen some disturbing incidents with coaches, player or parent behaviour. We have strived to ensure those are dealt with as soon as possible and continue to work with our partner associations on improving rules to ensure these behaviours are addressed and not tolerated.

The AGM is fast approaching and will be held in Richmond, BC. Check the BCBUA website for the most up to date information. We look forward to seeing you back on the field in 2018!



Rob Allan (plate umpire) at the recent WBSC U18 World Championships in Thunder Bay



Sr Men's Nationals in Victoria featured BC Umpires Matt Lowndes, Scott Eckardt, Darcy Rysz, Nick Moore, Joe Mallinson and Lead Supervisor Steve Boutang



Sean Weatherill and Connor Watt mentoring umpire Margaret-Jean Willis in Kamloops



Sr Men's Westerns Gold Medal Crew in Prince George... Corey Klein, Rhonda Pauls, Matt Lowndes, Rick Antoniak



Kelly Hunter prepares to call a pitch in Kelowna



Canada Day at the Grand Forks International with umpires Rob Allan, Blaise Laveay, Steve Boutang (cc) and plate umpire Scott Eckardt



Canada Day at the Grand Forks International with crew #2 – Rhonda Pauls, plate umpire Phil Bourgeois, Scott Eckardt, and Joe Mallinson (cc).



Kyle Anderson, Matt Hicketts, and Mark Wright at the Midget AAA Westerns in Kamloops



Will Chambers, Brad Jones, and David Wood

At the Pee wee AA and Mosquito AA Provincials in Campbell River.

From the Chief's Desk

By Steve Boutang – Provincial Supervisor of Umpires

As I reflect on the season of 2017 I cannot help but to be so unbelievably proud of our National program. It has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that 4 of our umpires worked the Gold Medal Game at the National Championships, but it has everything to do with the credibility our umpires have and our program has on the National stage these days.

BC always had good umpires, but BC as a province never really participated in Baseball Canada the way we probably should have.

But we do now. And its paying off.

We have a strong group of veteran National umpires, and a fantastic up and coming group of relatively new National umpires. We have leaders in our group, we have mentors in our group, and we have givers in our group. All of that is so important. Our National umpires are at the forefront of this province through their leadership. Either as individuals, local UIC's, Area Reps, or just serving as a great example in their own associations.

Without leaders, all of whom are so giving of their own time and knowledge, we are nothing as an association. We would flounder without this kind of stewardship. Instead we flourish. We have tremendous mentorship programs in the individual associations, and as a province. Our umpires work minor baseball games with youth umpires and help them in their first years on the field. We have great leaders who make policy on our elected board, people with leadership and knowledge and who work with and for each other.

It's so wonderful to see and be part of. I really applaud all of you. It's so different than it used to be in this province, and I am proud to be the supervisor of this group. People want to be leaders, and people want to volunteer for the betterment of our association. Congratulations, and thank you, to all of you.

In Memoriam...

Keith Hepburn 1942-2017

Longtime Richmond umpire Keith Hepburn passed away due to heart failure in September.

KEITH WAS A LONG TIME UMPIRE IN RICHMOND MINOR BASEBALL AND HE UMPIRED HUNDREDS OF GAMES IN THE LMBA. KEITH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SENIOR UMPIRES TO BECOME A REGULAR UMPIRE IN THE LMBA.

Some comments by local baseball personalities on the life and career of Keith.

"I was fortunate enough to have worked with Keith on three or four occasions and he took umpiring seriously and was a quality umpire and an even better person". – BCBUA President Sean Sullivan

"Keith was an umpire partner with the late Al Lexier for many, many years. They umpired my Richmond games back when I was coaching. Keith loved the plate, and Al couldn't handle the plate physically, so they often did double dips with Keith doing both plates. They both did a lot with young Richmond umpires for many years. Keith really did take things seriously -- mechanics, positioning and especially rules. He mainly did Richmond youth and LMBA games, lately did games at Central Park with Vancouver Recreational (formerly called Asian) and Korean leagues". – Baseball BC President John Berry

"I've known Keith for many years, first from my catching days (there were many, many, many Hepburn and Lexier games!), then later as an umpiring colleague.

I first got a chance to umpire with Keith the year after my playing days ended, and it was pretty cool umpiring with someone that did many of my own games growing up. He was never one of those "listen to me, kid" senior umpires with an ego when I worked with him. Rather, he was super easy going, and always supportive.

He wasn't involved in too many arguments from what I remember, especially with Richmond teams, because few coaches or players wanted to argue with such a good guy. And he definitely took his craft seriously as many have mentioned here already.

Keith stopped umpiring in Richmond a couple years ago. Still occasionally umpired in the Asian leagues as John mentioned, but he spent much more time watching his grandson's ball games in recent years. And his grandson just started umpiring recently too". – Richmond UIC Mike Yamaguchi

IN RECENT YEARS, KEITH HAD CUT BACK ON HIS ASSIGNMENTS BUT CONTINUED TO WORK GAMES IN THE VANCOUVER RECREATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE AND K-LEAGUE. HE WAS A GENTLEMAN BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD. OUR SINCEREST CONDOLENCES TO KEITH'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

2017 Provincials Committee Report

By Rick Antoniak—Provincials Chair

The BCBUA Provincials Committee was responsible for allocating 24 tournaments this season including eight in the Interior, three on the Island, and thirteen in the Lower Mainland. Nineteen of these tournaments were Provincial Championships and Qualifiers, six were Western Canadian Championships. We had 121 applications to work those tournaments and were able to offer 105 different umpires assignments.

The BCBUA Provincials Committee consists of the President, the Provincial Supervisor, and the Chair. Once the various organizations (Baseball BC, BC (Minor) Baseball, PBL, and Senior) establish their tournaments for the season, the President consults with the Provincial Supervisor and selects the Supervisors for each tournament. Then the Provincials Committee goes to work. Applications are solicited on-line, targeting a June 15 deadline. After gathering as many applications as possible, we draw up an initial assignment list for each tournament and communicate with the tournament supervisor. At this point we may need to do more recruiting to work the tournaments in a particular area, or we may need to work with the host and send some travelling umpires. Each tournament list becomes a work in progress as umpire availability is factored in and alternates are added. Some changes could be made right up to the tournament itself.

Everything is considered when assignments are made: we try to spread the work around as much as possible and to put each qualified umpire in the best position to be successful. We also want to do the best job we can for the teams in the tournament while at the same time helping the hosts keep an eye on costs.

Provincial and Western Championship tournaments are a great opportunity for all umpires to work with and be mentored by some of the province's most experienced umpires. They can be a good way to give back to your local associations or a fun way to travel to a different town and work with some people you don't always see during the season. They can be hard work and rewarding. Think about setting aside some time in 2018 to participate and watch for the 2018 list next May.

Congratulations to anyone who received an assignment! Thanks for your work and the work of the supervisors that helped the tournaments this season be successful.



Bantam AAA Gold Medal Crew: Lane Yakemchuk, Ethan Wong, David Wong

Our History

BCBUA
 Phil Bourgeois—Secretary
 Phone: 604-315-2397
 Email: secretary@bcbua.ca

Growing Great Umpires!



The first planning meeting was held at the Newton Inn in Surrey. At that time there was nothing around it but empty fields. Baseball BC helped to organize the meeting, and George Connelly chaired the meeting. Those present were

Howard Chapman, Doug Hudlin, Chuck Blaikie, Bill Murphy, Richard Christie, Leo Burns, Jamie Mould, Ed Janzten and Al Lewis. The first official meeting of the newly formed BC Baseball Umpires Association (BCBUA) was held in January of 1975 (Ed notes: the association was actually formed in November of 1974). Doug Hudlin was elected as the first president, and Howard Chapman was appointed by Baseball BC to be the supervisor of officials for the province. The original membership fees were set at \$5.00, and the clinic cost was \$7.50 per person. The \$5.00 was our operating money and the \$7.50 went to Baseball BC. We used to average about 500 people attending clinics every year, and our membership was about 150-200. In 1981 we arranged with the then president of Baseball BC, Al Elliott, to combine the clinic and membership fees into one, with the total cost being \$10. Yes, a lot has changed over the years!

Advanced Clinic 2018—Kamloops

There will be an Advanced Level 3 clinic held in Kamloops on April 7-8 weekend in conjunction with the National Umpire clinic. Check with Area Rep Mark Wright later this winter for the cost and registration details.

We'll be doing some field work, drills, class sessions, rules discussions, and have some special plans for evening entertainment as part of the festivities.

As a reminder, in order to maintain or obtain your level 3 status, you must attend a level 3 clinic once every 3 years, write and pass your level 3 exam EVERY year, and be field rated on plate and base at pee-wee AAA or higher at least once every 3 years.

As an incentive to being a level 3, Rates of pay are higher for level 3 umpires who work at Provincial Championships.

So work hard to get your level 3 and keep up your requirements! Speak to Level 3 co-ordinator Bill MacMillan for more!



Vancouver's Joe Mallinson in perfect position for the play