

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 2012

Editors: Brian Cargnelli  
(bcargnel@telus.net) & Steve  
Boutang (sboutang@shaw.ca)



BRITISH COLUMBIA BASEBALL UMPIRE'S ASSOCIATION

# Hey Blue! Online

## New Scholarship Available to Umpires!

Beginning in fall of 2012, a new umpire scholarship will be available through the BCBUA. Details on how to apply will be made available through the website and local area reps and clinicians in spring. Further details surrounding the amount of the scholarship and qualifying programs will be forthcoming. In short, the scholarship will effectively remove the financial burden often experienced by individuals who wish to attend Professional Umpire School or Training Camps. The scholarship will be very substantial according to board

members aware of the details.

Provincial Supervisor Steve Boutang approached the board and made the proposal following the passing of his father Ron, a former BCBUA member himself, on November 6. The late Ron Boutang Willed several thousand dollars to the cause. BCBUA has agreed to provide some funding to the scholarship, Baseball BC has contributed several thousand dollars to the initiative, and several local organizations have also contributed. The Okanagan Umpires Association donated nearly

\$500 alone. There have since been private donations from members of the baseball community and friends of the family alike.

This all amounts to a tidy sum, which a special committee will look at to ensure the most effective use of the funds is established, and to develop the protocols on how to apply for the award.

This is an exciting development opportunity for our association and our top umpires who would not normally be able to attend such high level training.

## Berry Elected to record 5<sup>th</sup> term!



John Berry, of Burnaby BC, was elected to his 5<sup>th</sup> successive term as BCBUA President at the Annual General Meeting in Kamloops in November. Berry, a civil servant, becomes the first person in BCBUA's long history to be elected to 5

successive terms as President. He was first elected by acclamation in 2003 in New Westminster when he ran unopposed to the retiring Chuck Blaikie.

As has been the case for the past number of years, Berry was acclaimed.

The longest serving President prior to Berry had been Victoria's Bill Murphy who served 7 years as President in the early to late 90's.

## Calendar of Events

March 29-April 1 – National Umpires Clinic – Kamloops, BC  
May - Canadian College Baseball Championships – Kamloops, BC  
May 24-27 – John Main Peewee Tournament – Delta, BC  
August 23-August 27 – National Men's Championships – Prince George, BC  
August 29-September 3 – Grand Forks International – Grand Forks, BC

### Provincials:

Senior – August 3-6 – Prince George, BC

BC Minor Junior - TBA

Midget AAA – Aug 2 – 6 – Chilliwack, BC

Midget AA – Aug 2 – 6 – Prince George, BC (Date subject to change!)

Bantam AAA – Aug 2 - 6 - Richmond, BC

PeeWee AAA Provincial Championship – Aug 9 – 13 – Richmond, BC

*Check the BCBUA Website for Provincials Expression of Interest*

## INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AGAIN AT THE FOREFRONT!

The BCBUA is again partnering with Baseball Canada to provide top notch instructor training through the Baseball Canada Caravan, tentatively slated for Vancouver in October 2012. BC will host Alberta for the 4 day training seminar which was last hosted in BC in 2007. At least 6 and as many as 10 of BC's currently certified provincial instructors will be given an opportunity to elevate themselves to National Umpire Certification Program Instructors.

In preparation for Caravan, BCBUA has hosted two important provincial level 1-2 Instructor workshops this winter. Nanaimo and Surrey hosted the 2 day events which certified 26 first time instructors to the program. In order to progress to the Caravan program, an individual must have been certified within province first. Some of the top graduates from this winter's training may be given an opportunity to attend Caravan in fall.

## LEVEL 1-2 CLINICS SCHEDULED...

Local BCBUA Level 1 and level 2 clinics are currently being booked and delivered in your local association. Check the BCBUA website for a clinic near you! Contact your Area Reps for additional clinic site information.

## CONTENT CHANGES:

As a new year is upon us, we also have a few minor changes in our course curriculum. As decided a few years ago, level 1 and level 2 clinics are now split into separate entities. This provides better and more individualized training to level 1 umpires and level 2 umpires. If you are unsure what clinic to attend, contact your local Umpire in Chief for guidance. As a rule, you cannot attend a level 1 clinic for more than 2 years, and if you are over age 16 you must start as a level 2. Level 1 clinics are for non-lead off baseball and the 60 foot base path. If that's all you are allowed to umpire in your local league, then attend this clinic. If you are old enough (or good enough) to umpire Lead-off baseball on the 70 foot diamond and larger, then attend the level 2 clinic where there is a special emphasis on pitching rules and balks.

Also at this year's level 2 clinics we will examine Obstruction and Interference, and take student umpires to a different level of training and rules discussion than at the basic entry level 1 clinics.

Coaching clinics are also available. These clinics are basic rules clinics that every first year or lower level coaches should take. We don't teach how to coach, but we will provide a certified instructor to help coaches learn the rules and how to approach a young umpire on the field. Contact the BCBUA if your local association is interested.

## NEW FOR 2013...

Baseball Canada is overhauling the clinic system in Canada with a goal to provide a streamlined training program to all officials across the country. This is expected to begin in 2012 and carry forward with full roll out in 2013. It is called Long Term Officials Development (LTOD). What will this mean for BCBUA?

In short, there will be some administrative changes and internal changes in the way we deliver and account for people in the program. There will be some funding models in place that will determine what we pay Baseball Canada for using their program, and there will be some savings on materials that BCBUA currently provides that we probably won't have to anymore.

What will this mean for umpires?

In short, it means that each umpire will have the best possible chance at a successful umpire career. The goal is to provide umpires with every opportunity to be the best that they possibly can be...

This will be accomplished by setting out a standard learning plan for each umpire, a standard progression of levels, and guidance and feedback and goals to achieve at each level before moving up to a new level. It will be more competency based than we currently do at level 1-3 in BC.

Level 1 and 2 will look a little different, but level 3 will essentially remain the same.

As a young or inexperienced umpire, it is important to practice more than the little bit of clinic time than we currently do. Players practice all the time, umpires rarely practice. So, there will be a bit of pre-clinic learning to do on your own and some various learning objectives to complete, so that the clinic time itself can be devoted to practicing field drills.....the stuff that you actually do during a game.

There will be a mandatory online registration so that you can track where you are in your goals and objectives and so that everyone knows when you are ready to be evaluated to move up to level 2 or 3.

This is another exciting development opportunity for our province!

## ALLAN IMPRESSES at Pan Americans

Maple Ridge's Rob Allan represented Canada at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara Mexico in October. Allan performed admirably and was assigned Home Plate for the Semi Final game between the USA and Cuba. Had Canada not performed so well, Allan likely would have received Home Plate on the Gold Medal game.

Congratulations Rob for your outstanding performance. We are all proud of you.

But the good news didn't end for Rob there. Major League Baseball umpire supervisor Larry Young was on hand scouting umpires for potential selection to the World Baseball Classic next winter. Allan received an invite to MLB selection camp in November in Los Angeles and performed well at this training session as well.

Rob will find out in 2012 if he will receive a qualifier tournament where he can strut his stuff amongst major leagu-

ers. Potentially he could receive selection to the actual World Baseball Classic itself following all of these qualifiers and camps.

Good luck Rob.

More on Rob in the next edition of Hey-Blue! Online.

## Doug Hudlin Enshrined in Hall of Fame

The BCBUA Hall of Fame Committee has elected Doug Hudlin as the second member of the BCBUA Hall of Fame following fellow Victoria native Ian Lamplugh who was elected in 2010.

Hudlin, the association's first President in 1974, was an avid and exceptional umpire in Victoria and area for the bet-

ter part of 30 years. Doug worked every level of baseball from Little League to Sr, and was best known for his impartiality and calm demeanour on the field. Often referred to as "the Gentlemen Umpire", Doug was respected by his peers and players alike.

Hudlin was one of the BCBUA founding

5 members and was so honoured for his contributions at the BCBUA 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Victoria in 2009.

Hudlin will be presented with his award at a function in Victoria in the coming weeks.

## President's Report *By John Berry*



An enthusiastic welcome to BC baseball umpires for 2012!

This is a great time of year to think about our sport, and officiating. We aren't yet into the immediate pressures of doing games, and the many immediate questions and issues we deal with on and off the field. Our clinic season is starting, and your BCBUA board, with the capable leadership of Provincial Supervisor Steve Boutang, is busy getting instructors prepared. Many clinics are already scheduled, and the clinic roster should be complete very soon.

Whatever your level, from level 1 through level 4/5, we have a clinic for you! And we all benefit greatly from

attending a clinic. We have some of the best instructors in the country, of course! Also, we are keeping up to date with the latest developments in officiating, and working with the Baseball Canada material that itself keeps improving.

BCBUA continues to enjoy good support from the leagues with whom we work, and with Baseball BC. This year, Baseball BC has given us increased financial support for umpire development. Part of that support is going to the newly-established Ron Boutang fund. That fund, which began with a bequest from Ron Boutang, Steve's father, will allow us to assist umpires to attend pro

school. Details are still in development, and contributions are continuing to come in, from umpires especially in the Okanagan, and from a wonderful variety of people who are donating in memory of Ron Boutang.

I'd like to give a special vote of recognition to Brian Cagnelli, our Education Committee Chair and Hey Blue editor. Brian is finally on a long road to recovery from a car accident several years ago and has had to step back temporarily from his Education Committee responsibilities (Steve Boutang is covering). But he is still doing what he can for BCBUA, and has been active in putting together this issue of our publication!

## Level 3 Exam Changes:

If you have taken the time to download the 2013 level 3 exam (to be submitted any time in 2012), you will note our new format. The exam continues to evolve. A few years ago, the Education committee went to more of a situational exam, and not just the standard 50 True and False questions. This year the exam is comprised approximately of 50% situational judgement, and 50% true and false. It is one thing to memorize the rules, but it is another thing to be able to apply the rules to a given situation. This builds on the Game

Management segments we have focused on in our clinics the past 2 years.

We are also focussing on Obstruction and Interference this year, so it should come as no surprise to you that there may be a few questions relating to this topic.

Good luck and remember that it doesn't do you any good to go to the clinics and get your evaluations if you don't bother to submit your passing level 3 exam each year....

**Advanced level 3 clinics in your area:**

As this issue goes to press, the level 3 clinic schedule is being finalized. February 25 will be the date for the Lower Mainland clinic in Surrey. March 10 is the date for the Interior Advanced clinic in West Kelowna. Check the website for updates, or contact your local area rep if you are interested in attending.

Remember, in order to maintain or obtain your level 3 standing, you must attend an advanced clinic, Superclinic, or the national clinic, at least once every 3 years.



**Jason Nazaroff**



**Josh Kennelly**



**Eric Rasmussen**



**Siobhan Savard**



**Kelly Hunter**



**Kris Hartley**



## BCBUA Awards Presented

The BCBUA wishes to congratulate all the award winners for 2011...

Howard Chapman Sr Umpire of the Year  
Female Umpire of the Year  
Doug Hudlin Distinguished Service Award  
Ian Lamplugh Award – Top Prospect  
George Connelly Builder's Award  
Richard Christie Award – Unsung Hero  
Bill Murphy Award – Most Improved Umpire  
Chuck Blaikie Award – Outstanding Contribution to the BCBUA  
Abe Shapiro Mentorship Award

Kris Hartley, Kamloops  
Siobhan Savard, Kelowna  
Eric Rasmussen, Victoria  
Jason Nazaroff, Castlegar  
Rob Kloster, Kamloops  
Gary Webber, Maple Ridge  
Josh Kennelly, Kamloops  
Jerry Tregaskis, Delta  
Bill MacMillan, Trail



Rob Kloster



Bill MacMillan

## Pro Image Jr Winners Announced....

In addition to the normal prize donated by Pro Image, the Board of Directors approved that all the winners would be entitled to attend Superclinic or an Advanced Level 3 clinic in 2012 at no clinic charge.

**Area 1** – Brendan Rogers – Nanaimo  
**Area 2** – Chloe Elston – Parksville  
**Area 3** – Tamara Bourgeois – Mission  
**Area 4** – Luke Yam – Richmond  
**Area 5** – Anton Cvitkovich – Delta  
**Area 6** – Ryhs McKenzie – Kamloops  
**Area 7** – Trevor Hamilton – Kelowna  
**Area 8** – Kyle Soukeroff – Trail  
**Area 9** – Aaron Antonenko – Prince George



Rhys McKenzie accepts his Junior Umpire of the year award from Area Director Kris Hartley

## National Clinic returns to Kamloops!

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual National Umpires clinic will again be held in Kamloops March 29 -April 1. This will be the third successive year that the event is held in Kamloops. The clinic is invitation only, and open to level 3's who were recommended on an evaluation last year to attend. The clinic

is mandatory for all level 4 and 5 umpires.

The event will feature a Bantam select tournament, plus the Premier League's Best of the West Icebreaker event, and Thompson Rivers University will be play-

ing four league games that clinic umpires will staff.

For those National umpires wishing to register, contact George Smith at [gss112@shaw.ca](mailto:gss112@shaw.ca) and check the website for registration forms and details.

## KIDSPORT DRIVE CONTINUES

In 2012, BCBUA is again pleased to partner with Baseball Canada's Charity of Choice – Kidsport.

Kidsport is an organization that gives young people the opportunity to play sports when they normally would be

unable to do so for financial reasons.

The baseball branch of Kidsport will benefit from our efforts.

This year, Rhonda Pauls and Darcy Rysz are co-chairs from the BCBUA Board and will be looking to partner with Kidsport

at the John Main Tournament in the Lower Mainland and the Valley of Champions in Kelowna.

Contact them for more details or donate online.

## BYLAW CHANGE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

The bylaw change posted in the previous edition of HeyBlue! Was approved unanimously at the AGM in Kamloops.

Bylaw29 (10)

In the case of elections for the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, any member wishing to stand for election to the office must submit his intention in writing (electronically or paper copy) to a duly appointed Returning Officer by September 1 of the election year. If only one nomination is received, the nominee will be elected by acclamation. If more than one nomination is received, there will be an election for the office at the Annual General Meeting. Only individuals nominated by September 1 will be eligible for the ballot. If no nominations are received by September 1, there will be a call for nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

## NEWSROOM: HeyBlue!Online reduces publication schedule

As you may have already read on the BCBUA webpage, our newsletter HeyBlue!Online has suffered some production issues over the past number of months and will continue to suffer the same issues for the next roughly 6 months. Both Editors apologize for this inconvenience. We all know how much you enjoy reading about our association and the accomplishments of our membership. At this time, mainly due to personal reasons, we are unable to contribute the time and effort required to put out a newsletter with a regular publishing schedule as we have for the past few years. Check the webpage often for updates on the association. And look for the next edition of HeyBlue!Online coming out soon!

## Supervisor's Report...by Steve Boutang

---

Baseball is just a game.... Umpiring is a hobby. It's not life and death with every decision. I'll remember that more this year when I go to the ball park.

Sometimes we forget that too easily. Nobody is going to die if we make a bad call. Nobody is going to the World Series (despite what some misinformed parent may yell at you) or not getting a College Scholarship based on your performance behind the plate that day.

I've been accused lots of times by my friends and family that I spend too much time travelling for baseball, too many vacation days from work on baseball, too much time at the yard, agonizing over close calls that I might have got wrong (ok – I did get them wrong), and generally stewing and stressing out about things that are no longer in my control. And I don't even have a family like most of you do...Seriously, I lay awake some nights when I make a bad call, particularly when my call played some part in the outcome of the game. One year I thought about it all winter, just waiting for the first day of baseball where I could go on the field to have a good game and forget about it. Maybe that's because I care so much. Maybe it's because I care too much.

Then one day, when you get older – or not - you suddenly lose things that are truly important in life.

That happened to me this year when my dad died. It was and still is devastating. And my loss is by no means unique or special in this regard...I wasn't the only one who suffered loss through death of family in 2011. Several of us lost our Dads, some of us lost life partners, some lost relatives, and others had serious and significant health issues that stole their quality of life from them. All of these examples come from the lives of good baseball people in the BCBUA, excellent umpires, wonderful people, and all of whom I consider to be my friends. It was a terrible year for many of us, personally speaking.

I want everyone to remember this year when you go to the park that it doesn't matter what kind of game you have. It doesn't matter if you kick a call, or several calls, as long as you are doing your best. As long as you are out there enjoying a game and a hobby with your friends and trying your best.

And when the game is done, go home and enjoy your family and the things that really matter.

Cherish Life. Baseball is just a game.

---

## Prize Money Increases

Top Prize at the prestigious Grand Forks International tournament is now \$20,000 with runner up taking home \$11,000. The changes were announced recently as part of an overall \$11,000 prize money increase

at the GFI, which enters its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of operation in 2012. The new Tournament Chairman is Rev. Gerry Foster, who was the chairman for half a dozen years prior to taking a hiatus while Joan Thomas ran the event for

the past 3 years.

BCBUA has again earned the right to allocate umpires for this event for a 2<sup>nd</sup> successive year.

---

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Derek Jeter surpassed the magical 3000 hit mark this past summer. The next closest active players to the 3000 hit club are: Ivan Rodri-**

**gues (2844), Omar Vizquel (2841), Alex Rodrigues (2775), Johnny Damon (2723). There are only 28 players in the history of baseball**

**with 3000 hits. But there are 268 who have over 2000 hits.**

# BC Umpire to Women's World Cup

---

Kelowna's Kelly Hunter has been selected by Baseball Canada as one of 4 female umpires who will work at the Women's World Cup of Baseball to be held in Edmonton August 9-20. Hunter attended the last Women's World Cup in Venezuela and is a former Olympic Softball umpire when she went to Athens in 2004.

## MORE NEWS FROM AGM 2011

---

### Pauls climbs within ranks

Rhonda Pauls concluded a successful weekend of election victories as she was promoted from the position of Lower Mainland East Area Rep to the role of Vice President. The position of Vice President was vacant following the resignation of new Provincial Supervisor Steve Boutang after a decade on the job. Pauls will serve a single year as Vice President to conclude the term of office. She was acclaimed to the post.

The BCBUA election culminated a pair of weekend victories, as Pauls was elected to the Abbotsford School Board as a Trustee. Congratulations Rhonda!

### Poulin continues as Treasurer:

Longtime National umpire and Nanaimo resident Fabian Poulin was acclaimed to his second successive term as Treasurer at the AGM in Kamloops... Poulin worked as the Discipline Chairman during the 2011 season in addition to his Treasurer's role.

### New Area reps on board:

In a year of change for the board, three new area reps were elected to their first terms of office. Nick Moore is the new Area Rep for Vancouver Island North, replacing the retiring (R)Ed Berkenstock. Moore, a teacher in Courtenay, is also a National umpire who worked the Gold Medal Plate at the Canada Cup in 2009. Will Hunter will be the assistant in this area.

Rick Antoniak replaces Bobby Olszowiec in Area 5, Lower Mainland South. This is Antoniak's first position on the Board of Directors. Bobby "O" continues as Assistant Area Rep and Supplies Chairman.

Terry Shaw of Prince George replaces Lance Brommeland as Area 9 (Northern BC) Area Rep. Shaw has been in the BCBUA program for a number of years and is a former Western Hockey League official.

Maple Ridge resident Robert Allan returns to a familiar post. He was elected by acclamation to a 2 year term as Area Rep for Lower Mainland East, replacing Pauls who was elevated to the Vice Presidency.

Allan, the Kamloops native and International umpire sensation appointed Mike Green to be his assistant. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> such term for Allan who had served four previous years as Area Rep prior to Pauls replacing him two years ago.

Finally, Darcy Rysz of Kelowna was acclaimed to the position of Okanagan South Area Rep for a two year term. Rysz joined the board a year ago as Area Rep and is a longtime Kelowna umpire. There are other new faces (and an old face) joining the board in Area 7. Female Umpire of the Year Siobhan Savard is a new assistant area rep.

Fours are wild..... Also joining Rysz as an Assistant Area Rep is former BCBUA Vice President, Treasurer, and Area Rep Lorne Raymond of Penticton. Raymond will be making his fourth different appearance on the board in his career. And this will be his fourth different role within the organization. He began as an Area Rep in the early 90's, served as the Vice President in the late 90's and into the new Millenium, Treasurer for 1 year in 2009, and now Assistant Area Rep in 2012.

Welcome to the new faces, and welcome back to the old ones!



# INTERVIEW WITH FORMER MLB UMPIRE IAN LAMPLUGH

Recently, HeyBlue! Online was able to catch up with Former Big Leaguer Ian Lamplugh of Victoria while he was umpiring at the World Baseball Challenge in Prince George.

We took the time to ask a number of questions about his career, how it got started, his life in the Show, and how it ended.

*What age were you when you started umpiring?*

16

*When did you become serious about it?*

At the end of my first year. I went to a tournament and realized that umpiring might give me some unique opportunities.

*You applied for and won the Ken Van Hatten Umpire Scholarship. That got you to Pro School. Tell us about how it went from there.*

I went to Arizona to the inaugural Jim Evans Professional School. I finished in the top 6 students during the 5 week school. I was sent to the Professional Baseball Job Evaluation course (PBJC) where the top students from the other 2 schools (Joe Brinkman and Harry Wendlestadt) were there as well. This was a 10 day evaluation camp. I finished in the top 5 and was offered a job in pro ball.

*When did you think you legitimately had a chance to get to the Big Leagues?*

I was in my first year of AA in the Texas League in Midland, Texas. I was working the plate and there was a beanball situation, which I handled almost perfectly. It was after that game,..... because I now knew I had the personality plus the skill level necessary to handle those situations successfully, which separated the good umpires from those that MLB looked at.

*Tell us about the day the phone rang to call you up?*

It was 1999. I was going to lunch at Boston Market in Colorado Springs, Colorado (home of the Rockies AAA team). I had just parked the car when I saw that Tom Leppard (Administrator of the National League Umpires) was calling. He asked if I would be interested in going to Montreal for a series starting September 3! However, there was no guarantee it was going to happen.....it depended on what was going on with the potential umpire strike.

I did end up going.

*How was life in the Big Leagues?*

Different. As in Different Great! Everything is first class. Flights, 5 star hotels, huge clubhouses with people bending over backwards to do things for you. Large crowds every night (except Montreal!) Travelling in limos! Everything was the best.

*When you realized your days in the Majors were finished,*



*what went through your mind?*

I was bitter because there were people who believed in me, but they weren't the people making the decision on my career. After that passed, my thoughts were on how to prolong my career – which I was lucky enough to do. I spent 4 years in Taiwan in the Chinese Professional Baseball League.

*You also worked in the Dominican Leagues. What were those experiences like?*

Dominican – Unbelievable level of baseball. Many MLB guys use it to get ready for spring training. Crazy, crazy, crazy fans!

Taiwan – The level of baseball was inconsistent but the people in and around the baseball were fantastic. The league office however made it hard to umpire because they tried to control everything the umpires did. Both situations though I would do again in a heartbeat.

*You haven't really umpired a lot of ball the past few years. You've adjusted to life away from baseball. How has that been? Harder or easier than you thought?*

The hardest part is the first year.....realizing that there is life outside of baseball. I was no different than any other athlete who leaves pro sports. You're looking for a new routine in your life when you are accustomed to your profession defining you. When spring training came around the first year and I knew I was not going, that was rough.

*When you think about your roots, the BCBUA, what comes to mind?*

I think that the BCBUA gave me the basic umpire skills that I needed to get through umpire's school. Every time I teach a clinic I tell the students that. I was sitting in one of those chairs, and that BCBUA started me to the Major Leagues. I think that's something that the BCBUA should be proud of.

*That's nice Ian, thank you...Do you have any goals left?*

My umpire goals differ. I have a goal every game I umpire....to be perfect. I set a goal for the year, and I have a long term goal. Currently that goal would be – however not possible at this time – to umpire in the Olympics.

*What is the single most important thing about umpiring that you can tell to a young person?*

For Umpires, it's integrity. Without it, forget it. The thing I like most about umpiring is the camaraderie. If you're an umpire, you're a friend. It's a great fraternity this umpiring thing....

*Thank you for your time Ian. Thank you for inspiring so many young and old umpires in our association with everything you have done.*

## FUNFACTS:

---

Barry Larkin was the only player who gained enough votes (75%) to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012. The next closest players are: Jack Morris 66%, Jeff Bagwell 56%, Lee Smith 51%, and Tim Lincecum 49%.

## Stump the Ump Answer....and new Question

---

In the last edition, we asked about a confusing situation that the rulebook apparently contradicts itself. Situation: R1 and R2, nobody out. Infield Fly Situation. Pop fly near the first baseline and the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman is camped under the ball.

"Infield Fly" is declared by the umpires. R1 had taken a large leadoff. With the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman settling under the ball, R1 retreats to the bag but bumps the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman. Offensive Interference is called by U1. The 1<sup>st</sup> baseman makes an easy catch in fair territory with R1 standing on the bag.

How many outs occur?

**Answer: This is very tricky.**

**Since an Infield Fly was called, the batter is out. But since the ball is still alive, and R1 interfered with the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman, he is also out. 2 outs on the play. R2 must return to 2<sup>nd</sup> as he cannot advance on Interference.**

**IF, the Interference had been called on R1 PRIOR to the Infield Fly, then R1 would be Out on Interference, and the status of the batter would be determined based on the decision of the Infield Fly. If it ends up being an Infield Fly – then 2 outs again occur on this play. If it doesn't end up being an infield fly (Foul ball, Not declared for whatever reason, Caught in Foul Territory) then the batter returns to bat and it is treated as a foul ball, but R1 is still out for Interference.**

**Reference: Rule 7.09 Jaksa/Roder – Interpretation of Major League Rules, page 111.**

### Here is this month's question:

You are umpiring in a small ball park that is not enclosed from the dugout to the right field fence. There is just a line on the field to denote live ball and dead ball territory.

A fly ball is hit just beyond the dugout towards right field in foul territory. The second baseman is racing over to get it and the ball enters his glove in live ball territory as he dives for it. His momentum carries him into dead ball territory where he collides with an elderly lady who is there watching her grandson play. The elderly lady catches the player in her arms and takes the ball from his glove in one fell swoop.

The player no longer has possession of the ball.

What's the call? Is it a catch, is it spectator interference, or is it a foul ball? You make the call!

## Extra Innings – Meet your new Provincial Supervisor

**Personal: Steve Boutang**

**Age: 39**

**Residence: Cranbrook, BC**

**Occupation: Peace Officer, Federal Government**

**Top of the 1<sup>st</sup> – What is your favourite food?**

*What **isn't** my favourite food? I like to cook so I make a lot of different things. Love to eat at good restaurants. Seafood and ribs are probably my fav's.*

**Bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – What kind of music do you listen to?**

*Mostly I like 70's and 80's bands. Pink Floyd, Rolling Stones, ACDC, Police. But my favourite artist of all time is Johnny Cash!*

**Top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – Do you have a favourite tv show?**

*I was a huge Magnum PI fan growing up. The Ferrari and the Tigers Cap did it for me. Today I love Two-and-a-half-Men, but only when Charlie Sheen is in it.*

**Bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> – What's your favourite movie?**

*Probably "The Natural" with Robert Redford, but I loved "Field of Dreams" with Kevin Costner. I could watch those every day.*

**Bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> – Do you have a favourite actor/actress?**

*Clint Eastwood. It's not even close. I liked his old spaghetti westerns, Dirty Harry, Heartbreak Ridge, and Gran Torino. I cried when he died at the end of that one. Clint's not supposed to die – ever.*

**Top of the 6<sup>th</sup> – What jersey do you like wearing on the field?**

*Also not close.... Black. Love how it is so slimming! Seriously, I would wear black when it is 35 degrees out rather than powder blue on the plate. My crew hates me for it, but they know what's coming when they see the schedule. They just pray for night games.*

**Bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> – It's the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch. What will you be reaching for? A beer, wine, soda, coffee?**

*As everyone knows who works with me, I have to get a Starbucks in before the game, but if I'm spectating, I like a beer and a dog in the stands.*

**Top of the 8<sup>th</sup> – who was your hero growing up?**

*My dad was my hero. He got me started in baseball, got me started in umpiring, taught me never to quit or give up and to believe in myself. Everything I*

*have in baseball I owe to him.*

**Bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> – How about athletes you idolized?**

*In baseball it was Tim Lincecum and Nolan Ryan. In hockey it was Guy Lafleur.*

**Let's go EXTRA INNINGS with Provincial Supervisor Steve Boutang...**

**Bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> – If you could spend an hour with anyone in history, who would it be?**

*I would have loved to meet Babe Ruth. I'm sure there are many other important figures in life whom one could choose, but I love the stories and mystique about the Babe. I want to see if they were all true.*

**Top of the 11<sup>th</sup> – You've seen games in many Major League Parks. What was your favourite?**

*12 to be exact. Old Yankee Stadium had the mystique of no other. It was like a religious experience to be there. Looking at the grass in left where Babe Ruth stood, among all the other greats of the game. Amazing.*

*Safeco in Seattle and Camden in Baltimore were the best modern stadiums I thought.*

**Bottom of the 12<sup>th</sup> – What words of wisdom do you have for young umpires?**

*The word "quit" doesn't exist to me. Don't be a quitter in baseball... but more importantly don't be a quitter in life. You have to work for things you get. If you work hard and believe in yourself, anything can happen.*



Steve Working 3rd Base at the World University Games