

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

To: All BOMBA 2024 Umpires

From: BOMBA Umpire In Chief

Re: 2024 Equipment Program

Date: February 28, 2024

As previously announced, the BOMBA Executive has approved a major expenditure focused on the increased well being and continued success of our Umpires within the Organization. After many long hours of work by many in the organization, I am please to announce further details as it relates to the upcoming season.

BOMBA has moved ahead with plans to overhaul the umpire equipment program that we currently have. Starting in 2024, all Level 1 & 2 Umpires will be provided with the opportunity to rent a dedicated set of equipment from BOMBA for the entire season. The equipment will contain a mask, shin guards and chest protector as well as a bag to carry the equipment in. This equipment will be sized and fitted to the umpire by our mentorship committee team. The umpire will be able to keep the equipment for the season and can return it once the season is over.

The new equipment program will help to ensure that our umpires are wearing gear that is appropriately size to them, always in good condition and always ready to go for the official. The program will also help avoid the issues faced previously of missing equipment, damaged equipment or wet and dirty gear. The new equipment will also bring our umpires in line with the provincial training standards of using an actual chest protector instead of the old style balloons. The existing balloons will be retired from service.

The equipment will be rented to the umpires at a rate of **\$50** per season. This will allow the new umpires to avoid the higher costs of purchasing new equipment which can run well beyond \$400 for introductory sets. Not all organizations provide equipment to their umpires and the new gear will put the safety, quality and professionalism our our umpires ahead of other organizations! A deposit of \$50 will also be collected to help ensure that the equipment is returned at the end of the season.

The major change going forward is that there is no equipment being stored in the boxes for umpires now. Umpires will be required to bring their equipment to and from to the park with them. The Equipment Program is being targeted for beginning umpires at Levels 1 & 2. Level 3 umpires will be able to also take advantage of this program if equipment is left over after initial allocation. There are additional plans in the works to address Level 3's during a transition period. Any Level 3's (or others) who wish to purchase their own set of gear can do so by contacting me at umpireinchief@baseballburlington.com. We have some special offers available to offer some discounts for a limited time.

Final details will be circulated to all umpires once the clinics get closer about pick up days, payment options, etc. BOMBA will also have available for sale this year Ball Bags, Indicators and Plate Brush sets for \$20each. Any umpires wishing to purchase one can do so at the equipment pick up day. This should be a savings of \$5 or more over the regular price from some of the suppliers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this big news with you! I look forward to seeing you at the umpire clinics coming up on March 23 and April 20.

If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out.