



Red Deer Softball Umpires Association

2019 Letter of Introduction for New Umpires

Dear Prospective Umpire:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a softball umpire. It is a very rewarding summer pastime, regardless of your age or experience.

This letter provides information about the Red Deer Softball Umpires Association (RDSUA), and what is involved in becoming a softball umpire. After reading the letter, and visiting our website, we are confident you will want to proceed with trying umpiring for the 2019 season.

In 2018, the RDSUA had 104 members, ranging in age from 12 years to 80. We officiate softball games for leagues and associations across Softball Alberta's Zone 4 (central Alberta). Primarily, RDSUA umpires officiate fast-pitch softball. The best sources of information about the RDSUA are our website and Facebook page. They contain lots of information about the RDSUA and umpiring in general.

[RDSUA Website](#)

[RDSUA Facebook Group](#)

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION CLINIC: Attending a clinic each year is a requirement for umpiring. You must pre-register to ensure we have enough manuals and rulebooks for everyone. The clinic schedule has been set, for the following dates and locations:

2019 Clinics

April 6-7, Red Deer, Pidherney Curling Centre

April 13, Castor, Gus Wetter School

April 27, Camrose, Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School

Each clinic, whether it is one or two days, covers the same information for first-year umpires. The clinic includes in-class instruction, practical sessions, and the Softball Canada exam. Please bring a pencil or pen, a notebook, and dress in comfortable clothes (including running shoes) as you will be moving around during the mechanics portions of the clinic. Once you have pre-registered, more details will be provided closer to the clinic date.

REGISTRATION FEE: Each umpire is required to pay a registration fee that covers the cost of the RDSUA clinic, rulebook, manual, Softball Canada and Softball Alberta registration, and insurance. The fee for a first-year umpire is \$100, payable at the clinic. If you are under 18 years, your local minor softball association may reimburse your registration fee if you work a minimum number of games. Check with your local association for their process.

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT: Each umpire is responsible for ensuring s/he has a proper uniform and equipment. An outline of the required equipment (for your safety and protection), as well as clothing, can be found on our website, under the Rookies & Parents tab.

We know that it can be expensive to outfit an umpire for the first time, and we don't expect everything to be purchased in the first year. We often have equipment and clothing donated by senior or retired umpires that is available for free, and some associations do provide gear for umpires to wear.

If you are concerned with the cost of equipment and clothing, reach out to any RDSUA executive member. We will make sure that cost of clothing/equipment does not stop anyone from starting their umpiring career.

WHO WE UMPIRE: The RDSUA covers games at levels from U10 Girls right up the Men's Highway 21 league and the Red Deer Ladies Fastball League. As a new umpire, dependent upon your age and ability, you could be working any of the following:

- Girls minor softball (10 years and up, many communities in central Alberta)
- Weekend minor tournaments (you could make \$200 or more during a weekend)



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ASSIGNING OF GAMES: The RDSUA has an assignor and uses the ARBITER online scheduling software to assign games during the regular season. You must provide an email address that is monitored regularly, as all assignments are distributed via email. Assignments are sent out every couple of weeks. You accept or decline games assigned to you by logging into your account in Arbiter on a computer or mobile device. You will only receive assignments that match your ability. More details on Arbiter will be provided at the clinic.

MENTORS: The RDSUA believes that one of the ways to help you succeed as an umpire is to provide mentoring during the season. Senior members of the RDSUA will be assigned to work with you during some of your games to help you with the skills and knowledge you need to progress within the sport.

We are pleased that you are considering becoming an umpire and joining the RDSUA. To pre-register for the clinic, or if you have any questions, you can email me or any of the following executive members:

- Brad Lyon, President/UIC, 403-391-9014, president@rdsua.ca
- Chris Harper, Recruitment and Retention, 403-396-9502, chris@rdsua.ca
- Pat O'Callaghan, Mentoring and Website, 403-314-0231, website@rdsua.ca

We look forward to meeting you at the clinic and working with you on the diamond this season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Lyon". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brad Lyon,
President, Red Deer Softball Umpires Association