

CBS Kiwanis Baseball Association

Umpire Director's Report – 2025 Season

Prepared by: Erin Letto, Umpire Director

Date: October 2025

Staffing Overview

This season, our umpire program operated with a strong team consisting of:

- 7 staff hired under **federal grants**,
- 6 staff hired under **provincial grants**, and
- 10 casual umpires utilized on an as-needed basis throughout the summer.

Our group included a mix of returning umpires and a high percentage of new staff joining the association for the first time. All hired umpires successfully completed the Umpire Course, either in previous years or the most recent which was delivered in May 2025.

Season Operations

Programming was delivered six days per week, ensuring consistent officiating coverage across all divisions. In addition to regular league play, we successfully supported three tournaments, all of which were staffed internally with our trained umpires.

For the U6 and U9 divisions, practice plans and on-field direction were developed and coordinated by Billy Taggart and Michael Piercey. Their guidance helped ensure that sessions ran smoothly with assistance from on-field volunteers. While some coaches deviated from the provided plans—which occasionally created confusion for staff—the programs overall ran effectively and achieved their developmental objectives.

Training and Development

Recognizing that many of our umpires were in their first year of officiating, significant emphasis was placed on education and support. All umpires received rule summaries and guidelines for their assigned divisions both at the start of the season and at key points throughout.

There were some noted challenges with rule variability, particularly within the female divisions, which required additional clarification and reinforcement during the season. Continued emphasis on communication between umpires, coaches, and directors will remain a focus going forward.

Challenges and Conflict Management

A few conflicts arose between coaches and umpiring staff during games. In these situations, support was provided to ensure fairness and professionalism were maintained. It is important that coaches continue to be reminded that many of our umpires are still gaining experience, and that games provide valuable opportunities for learning and growth.

Summary

Overall, the 2025 season was a success for the CBS Kiwanis Baseball Association's umpire program. Despite a high number of new staff and adjustments to variability of rules, the team demonstrated commitment, flexibility, and professionalism. With continued mentorship, improved communication, and consistent application of training resources, the program is well-positioned for further growth and success in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Letto
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CBS Kiwanis Baseball Association