****

**District 2 Softball Umpire News – About this Newsletter** - #15 – April 2023

* Recruitment and Retention of Umpires
* Umpire Clinic Registration
* Umpire Clinic Info
* Rules Corner
* Blue Convention 2023 details – Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Recruitment and Retention of Umpires**

When you look outside it doesn’t look like ball season is right around the corner. There has been a lot of preparation by the Umpire Development Committee (UDC) in order to bring everyone new and experienced up to speed at the clinics that take place all around the province. Everyone’s mission is to spread the word and encourage others to register with Softball Sask. This message will not self destruct after you read it. All kidding aside, it’s a great way to make a little money, meet new people and interact with everyone in this great sport of Softball.

**Umpire Clinic Registration**

Please be advised that umpire registration for the 2023 season is now open. Softball Saskatchewan Registration is available at this link:

<https://www.rampregistrations.com/login?v3=5eac8895>

If you have any questions regarding registration you can contact Softball Sask. at 306-780-9235.

For more information the new handbook for 2023 is available online at:

<https://www.softball.sk.ca/cloud/softballsaskatchewan/files/Membership/2023%20Handbook%202.0.pdf>

Pages 84-87 cover off registration questions.

**Umpire Clinic Date for Regina**

Date of clinic: April 22

Where: Martin Collegiate, 1100 McIntosh St. Regina, Sk

Time: Check in starts at 8:30 am – Clinics start at 9:00 am

**“IMPORTANT NOTICE”**

**If you have not pre registered with Softball Saskatchewan and show up at the clinic it is imperative you pre register even if you do it on your phone before the clinic starts that morning. Do yourself a favor and pre register.**

There will be 2 types of clinics. Fundamental and Intermediate. New and Level 1 umpires will attend the Fundamental. All levels beyond that will attend the Intermediate clinic. Bring a lunch or snack. The fundamental clinic will run until approximately till 2:00 pm. The Intermediate clinic will wrap up around 3:30 pm. There will be classroom and gym sessions combined for both groups.

If you know of anyone new that is interested get them to contact me by email: [djbakken@sasktel.net](mailto:djbakken@sasktel.net) or text at 306-551-3069. New umpires have to be at least 12 years of age.

**Rules Corner**

Did you know:

* An umpire may allow a proper appeal to the defensive team to achieve a fourth out in the inning, in order to negate a run that has been scored by the offence.
* In U17 categories and below the pitcher has to have a protective face mask on.
* A legally bunted ball that rolls against the stationary bat in fair territory, shall remain live unless it crosses the fair/foul line before being touched by a fielder.

The more you know your rules, the more confident you become as an official.

**Blue Convention 2023**

I know this is last minute but it is not to late to register for this great event.

**The Blue Convention** is a major event for umpires organized by Softball Canada every three years. Officials of ALL levels from across the country (and internationally) meet to discuss a variety of topics and participate in a series of workshops to learn and improve their umpiring skills.

The event attracts the top presenters from across the country and the world, discussing interesting topics that are designed to attract both Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch umpires.

The event is designed for umpires just starting out as well as experienced ones. There is something for everyone. Go to this link for more information.

<https://softball.ca/programs/umpires/blue-convention>

The following link gives you an itinerary of what will be going on there.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D5Y7vnQTGGwtORoOX5C3_ZP1_pbFL2_u/view>

I have registered and look forward to the event. It’s a great way to prepare yourself for the upcoming season.

**Any Questions contact me at 306-551-3069**

**District 2 Umpire in Chief – Duane Bakken**