



# Safe at Home

With Shelbey

## Editors Notes

With phase 4 of the re-open Saskatchewan plan right around the corner, it looks like we still may be able to salvage some of the fastball season!

And while I hope I get to see many of you out on the diamond, I am not excited to see if my plate pants still fit. For myself -and (hopefully?) many others- the "19" in COVID-19 stands for the extra 19 pounds I've put on while "Social-distancing". Because, while I have stayed away from many other people, my fridge is a WHOLE different story.

So, while I look for seamstresses and diet plans, I want to here from YOU. With it being "crunch time" how are you getting ready for this potential season? What have you been doing during this time of social-distancing? Talk to me.

Send it to me, at  
[shelbeyanne@gmail.com](mailto:shelbeyanne@gmail.com)

## THE UPDATES

2020- the year of uncertainty. While we may not have a full idea of what the next couple months may bring, we do have a few updates. While many of these have been covered in multiple emails to our association, here's a quick summary.

To continue to keep all of our members safe, all Western and Canadian Championships have been cancelled for the 2020 season. Likewise, the 2020 Summer Games have been postponed until 2021.

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 is the last day for you to take the online umpire test. If you haven't already taken the time, please go online and complete it. Here is the link

→ <http://hosted.onlinetesting.net/SoftballCanada/login>

Registration, at this point, we are still waiting to confirm a season before we open registration for our umpires. At this time, we encourage all members to complete the 2020 Umpire test (link above), register and participate in the online webinars put on by Softball Canada, and apply your knowledge to some of the scenarios included in this newsletter.

## Case Book Chaos

- From Susan Strafford

Keep you on your toes

1. The batter hits a double but misses 1st. The pitcher receives the live ball and throws to 1st while standing on the pitcher's rubber in an attempt to appeal R2 missing 1st. What is the call?
2. The batter hits a pitched ball in the air to right field. Two outfielders converge and the sinking line drive ball falls into the right fielder's glove just before the two collide. Both outfielders' fall to the ground and the right fielder's glove comes off his hand and falls to the ground, with the ball still firmly in the glove. The center fielder picks the ball from the glove. Is the batter out?
3. There is a runner at 1st. The batter gets an infield hit, advancing R1 to 2nd. R1 slides into 2nd, dislodging the base and sending it six feet from the peg. The infielder now tags the runner who is scrambling toward the dislodged base. Is the runner out?

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Scenario answers will be in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Stay tuned!



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## Who's on First?

Let's get to know each other.

Our second U.D.C. member to introduce is Saskatoon's own Terry Klein.

Terry's been around ball her whole life; but it wasn't until 2010 that she made the switch to the "Blue Crew". "I started umpiring because I loved the game... [Umpiring] allowed me to watch ball and get paid to do [it]." And let me tell you, Terry's been able to watch some great ball. With multiple Provincials, Canadians and even a Canada Cup, Terry is one of a select few that have their level 5 certification.



**"I wanted to understand the decisions that were being made provincially. I wanted to advocate for the umpires in my area to get them involved in Western and Canadian Championships. I wanted to give back."**

It hasn't been all sunshine and rainbows for Terry, Saturday night of the play-offs at the Women's Canadian Championship in 2018. "I was behind the plate and rotated to third base for a potential call. As I went to jab with my right foot to go back to home, I felt a pop in the bottom of my foot...It was a really tight game and this injury happened in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. I was having [such] a great game. I felt I was in the zone! I thought... it wouldn't be fair to the teams to have an umpire that couldn't move out of the way or be able to get in position properly to make calls at home or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. So, I let the Supervisors know they had to dress another umpire for [the remainder] of the game. I finished off that half inning and was replaced by another umpire from B.C. I ended up heading to the hospital for x-rays where I was diagnosed with a partial plantar fascia tear. It was the end of my tournament and any possibility of getting my Level V." Terry didn't give up, she continued to work towards her goal of achieving her level 5 and in 2019 she succeeded.

**"[Looking back] I would tell my younger self to keep striving for your goals. They are not impossible. It all depends on how much work you are willing to put in."**

Terry is currently in charge of the education portfolio; primarily focused on creating, designing, and implementing the curriculum for our umpire clinics. This isn't Terry's first portfolio though, she joined the U.D.C. back in 2016, and worked like crazy to help create newsletters, our Facebook page, and the Umpire of the Week.

**"I think I've learned way more about the game than I ever did as a player. With all the opportunities that I have had [to] meet and work with umpires that have the same goals and mindset that I have."**



Got a story? Someone who you think deserves to be recognized? Send it to me at [Shelbeyanne@gmail.com](mailto:Shelbeyanne@gmail.com)



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## Webinars, Seminars and educational opportunities

Miss being on the field? Craving one of our clinics? Same, and while it could be a while before we get to work through the random scenarios player and coaches throw at us, I suggest subsidizing the on-field learning with Softball Canada's amazing webinar series.

**"Everything we do on the diamond can enhance or diminish our presence and the way we manage a game"**

**-Frankie Billingsley**

Sunday May 24, Kris Hartley and Frankie Billingsley hosted the first of the Softball Canada Umpire webinars. The topic- **Conferencing: When Umpires Need to Chat**. If you missed it and want to watch it, the link is right here

→ [https://youtu.be/CS03\\_R-EpzU](https://youtu.be/CS03_R-EpzU)

OR if you want to know a little more, keep reading. I have an exclusive interview with Frankie, going over how it all went down.

This Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>, you can tune in to hear from Sandra Forand and Dave Jackson, on how to **"Start on the Right Foot – Secrets to a Great Pre-Game."** It starts at 5:00pm local time, and the link to register is

→ <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1527607986728234252>

*"Sandra Forand and Dave Jackson as well as being umpires for Softball Canada, are also basketball officials. Many aspects of our umpiring "toolbox" can be duplicated while officiating another sport. It's just a different set of rules. The Softball Canada PreGame Conference Card was imagined because of another sport. Join them this Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm Local time on "Blue Connections", to find out where you can download this "Great Game" preparation document!!"*



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## Instant Replay: Play by Plays from the Webinars

This past Sunday, Softball Canada presented the newest webinar series, made for umpires, by umpires. The first episode in the series was presented by Alberta's own Kris Hartley and Frankie Billingsley. And while I don't personally know Kris, I do Frankie, so I reached out and got an exclusive interview on what went down in the first episode "Conferencing – When Umpires Need to Chat". Let me tell you, definitely something WE need to chat about.

**"If we are going to teach, we need to make sure we are teaching it correctly!!" – Frankie Billingsley**

Both, Kris and Frankie are multi-game officials, including: hockey, baseball, and basketball, so both of them have quite a bit of experience behind them. Add in that both of them are Level 5 officials and Frankie is even going to the Tokyo Olympics, well you know it's going to be a good clinic; and with it only being a short 37 minutes long, you can easily listen to it while doing almost anything. If you're really short on time, well at the bottom I've broken down the timing for the main topics so you can easily search for the pieces you're most interested in.

Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm EST: Frankie, Kris, Donna and Jeff logged on to do the first episode of the new series. With 141 participants pre-registered they thought that they were going to have a good turnout... And they did. 95 people logged on, many from across Canada, with five from around the world. They had the stage and boy, did they deliver.

"Kris and I wanted to make sure that umpires of all levels would get something out of this. It was aimed at the grassroots umpire all the way up to the international umpire." With content, examples and information that spanned across all levels, it's definitely worth the watch. With the webinar a huge success, no technical difficulties to be seen or heard, the biggest difficulty was finding and getting the right software to accommodate these webinars. Thankfully, both Kris and Frankie were familiar with the GoToWebinar platform that was used, having used it all of last year.

**"We have multiple ways for people to ask questions. We are finding that people really like this way of learning because softball teaching has traditionally been in a classroom face-to-face [setting], so I think a lot of people like the change."**

One of the main topics, that will most likely come up in every webinar, is the importance of a pre-game. Both Frankie and Kris emphasize how important it is to discuss BEFORE the game: when, where and how you will conference. They also talk about the important strategies that go in to having a successful conference, simple things that you can do, to take your game, to the next level.

I want to end by thanking Kris Hartley, Frankie Billingsley, Donna Ozarko, Jeff Whipple and everyone else that has put so much work into making these webinars a success!

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"Conferencing – When Umpires need to chat" Timing  
13:43 – When to Conference  
17:47 – When not to Conference  
23:54 – How to avoid Conferences  
27:33 – Conclusion