



## District Umpire-in-Chief Report

This questionnaire will be used as your District Report for the Annual General Meeting. Please submit your report by September 30, 2022 for inclusion in the 2022 Pre-AGM Document.

**Full Name** Shawn Brant  
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**District** 2

### What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)

U13C - May 28,29 - Oceanside;  
U15B - May 6-8 - Pt. Alberni;  
U13 Regionals - Jun 17-19 - Ladysmith  
U15B Provincials - Jul 8-10 - Pt. Alberni  
Women C/D Provincials - Aug 5-7 - Nanaimo

### Were there any notable achievements made by members of your District this year?

Larry Cross invited to attend Slo-Pitch Nationals at Softball City.

Syrein Blair umpired effectively at the U15B Provincials in her first year umpiring.

### What other good things happened in your district this past season?

Nanaimo minor teams are starting to re-emerge.

### Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?

14 registered umpires.  
Suspect there are a number that umpire "rogue".

### What are associations in your district doing to promote softball and umpiring? Who is doing something new and exciting? What are they doing?

Beyond trying to come out from beneath Covid, Pt. Alberni continues to host large events such as Provincials.

Nanaimo is expanding the number of teams they have.

### Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?

Convincing umpires to come out after the Covid years. D2 has lost a number of experienced umpires to other pursuits after the dearth of games being played in D2. Reaching out to these umpires have indicated they are gone for good (a few for health reasons, others because they have found other activities).

### What new initiatives or events are planned for your District next year?

Don't know yet...

**What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?**

Increase umpire registrations. There seem to be few of umpires who are not registered with Softball BC.

**And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?**

Watching three young (1st and second year) umpires flourish at the U15B Provincials.

Helping a classroom full of young umpires through their introductory Level 1 course in Pt. Hardy. Granted that was District 3, but still, that was great!

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<b>Full Name</b>	Kyle Dennedy
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<b>District</b>	7
<b>What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)</b>	Provincials: U13A Girls; U15A Girls; U19A Ladies; Womens A; Mens C; Mens D; Womens Slo-Pitch; Mens Slo-Pitch U13C Regionals Canada Cup
<b>Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?</b>	There seemed to be a lower number of experienced umpires. We had a decent amount of new umpires, but seemed to have lost many of our middle tier and more experienced umpires.
<b>Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?</b>	Too many tournaments and not enough umpires. Overall there are too many weekend tournaments in the Lower Mainland.
<b>What new initiatives or events are planned for your District next year?</b>	Men's Canadian Fastpitch Championships at Softball City Canada Cup
<b>What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?</b>	Try to make it out to more of my parks during the week/season.
<b>And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?</b>	The excitement of everyone back playing at the Canada Cup this year after a two-year hiatus.

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**Full Name** Ken Edwards

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**District** 12

**What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)** Both Prince George and Quesnel Minor Girls Associations held Ice Breaker and Year End Tournaments and Prince George Boys had Exhibition Games with One Hundred Mile. A Regional Celebration for U11 was cancelled. No SBC sanctioned Championships were held in D12. in 2022.

**Were there any notable achievements made by members of your District this year?** Girls teams from PG and Quesnel attended U13, U15, U17, and U19 Provincial Championships. Boys from the district also attended their championship in Merritt.

**What other good things happened in your district this past season?** Late in July, Softball Teams and Officials participated in the BC Summer Games along with many other sports hosted by Prince George. Local Softball Umpires accounted for about half.

**Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?** District 12 umpire registration still remains low (possibly pandemic relate) with a slight increase in both minor and senior levels. Most senior ball in the district being non SBC sanctioned.

**What are associations in your district doing to promote softball and umpiring? Who is doing something new and exciting? What are they doing?** Several players in different locations are planning (unsanctioned) tournaments but are having trouble getting umpires because D12 has very few qualified umpires and most participating teams are not registering with SBC.

**Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?** Too many events and not enough umpires. Prince George hosted the Native Tournament with 51 teams in 4 divisions on 6 diamond and only 14 umpires. The umpire crew and I

never worked so hard for 3 hot August days with temperatures near 35°C.

**What new initiatives or events are planned for your District next year?**

Unknown at this time.

**What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?**

I am going to contact all prospective teams and associations early in the new year to organize both new or returning umpires and scheduling team and tournament schedules.

**And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?**

Doing my first 4 man umpire system at the BC Summer Games Girls Gold Medal game.

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**Full Name**

Jason Ranchoux

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**District**

9

**What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)**

U11 Celebration of Softball  
U13C Girls Regional Championship  
U13B Girls Provincial Championship  
U20C Women's Championship  
40+ Master Men's Provincial Championship

**Were there any notable achievements made by members of your District this year?**

Tonya Ribalkin Zanon - UIC Women's Canadian Championship  
Ian Brown - DUIC Men's Canadian Championship  
Scott McLaren - UIC Canada Games Men's Softball  
  
Jason Ranchoux - Canada Games Men's Softball (U3 Bronze Medal, ULF Gold Medal)  
  
Scott McLaren - Men's Canadian Championship (U1 Gold Medal)  
  
Frank Driedger - 19B Women's Westerns (PU Bronze Medal)  
  
Ian Brown awarded his D status Evaluator.

**What other good things happened in your district this past season?**

The progressive discipline procedure that I implemented in the district this year really helped with the amount of issues from players, parents, and coaches towards the Umpires.  
  
We had some good publicity from CBC Radio, where I was interviewed at the beginning of the season about Umpire shortages and my thoughts about what could be done.

In Men's Fastpitch, the "Kelowna Crew" seems to have become the training ground for the new generation of Elite umpires coming from BC. A number of times coaches and players have remarked they have noticed that Kelowna has become the go-to place to raise your game and learn new skills working with the Level V's here. In terms of something really good happening... the Kelowna Men's league crew is setting the standard and gaining a nation-wide reputation for being the best in the Country.

**Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?**

We managed to retain the majority of our Level II and up. We gained a Level IV from Ontario and another Level V from Alberta.

We recruited and engaged 15 new Level 1 umpires in the District this year.

6 of those were Youth umpires joining the ranks for the first time.

**What are associations in your district doing to promote softball and umpiring? Who is doing something new and exciting? What are they doing?**

Vernon Minor Softball is including Umpire posts, shout outs and promotion in their Association social media. It's bringing a new view that Umpires are members of the Association as well and people are responding well to it. Umpires, parents, coaches, and players seem to be acting as one.

**Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?**

From an Umpiring perspective, the only challenge we have is providing an equal amount of caliber ball being played for our Umpires to advance with.

In D9, unless you are working Men's ball, the caliber of games that our Umpires can work is not great. Umpires need to travel to the Coast to gain experience in "A" classification games. It would be great if Softball BC gave the District UICs a discretionary fund for some of our advancing Umpires to travel with and get experience in higher level events throughout the year.

**What new initiatives or events are planned for your District next year?**

We are raising the Umpire games fees to \$40 a game for all Minor ball. Adult ball is in negotiations, but \$50 per game is on the table.

Associations will purchase a "starter kit" of equipment for new Level 1s and at the end of the year, those new Umpires have a choice to return the gear or purchase it at a discounted rate.

**What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?**

To retain at least 75% of the new Umpires we gained last year and recruit another 10-15 new Level 1s.

Begin the succession plan of having Lucas Crosby be my successor as District UIC for 2023-24.

**And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?**

One of the goals that I had this past year was to show the Softball BC world that District 9 umpires are one of the best

crews in the Province. We have a very experienced group and, in the past, have seen Coaches and players come up here from the Lower Mainland and try to "pull a fast one" on the Interior folks.

I am proud to say.... our Crew has changed the perception that we are a bunch of backwoods nobodies who don't know what we are doing.

On two occasions, I heard:

1) Men's tournament - "We come up here because we know this is the best Umpiring that we will see all year;" and

2) Minor Tournament - (From a Gold medal team losing Coach) "Even though we lost, we feel like we won because these were the best set of Umpires we have had in a long time!"

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# District Umpire-in-Chief Report

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**Full Name** David Maandag

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**District** 5

**What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)** U13C Girls Region 2 Regional Championship  
U17B Girls Provincial Championship, Sr B Women’s Provincial Championships, Intermediate A Women’s Provincial Championship, U19 Women’s Western Canadian Championships, Cat Wheatly Tournament, numerous Minor tournaments from U10 to U19. Senior Women’s tournament. U13 B Lower Mainland Cup

**Were there any notable achievements made by members of your District this year?** Dana Edamura accepted assignment to umpire at the BC Summer Games. She also worked the U15 A Provincial Championship as an umpire earning another appearance in the gold medal game.

Ulani Cyr was offered, and accepted an assignment to the U19 Women's Western Canadian Championships. She was well received by the crew and her UIC.

**What other good things happened in your district this past season?** Vancouver Minor Softball hosted an in person umpire mechanics clinic for the first time in years. 18 umpires attended and learned new skills with the instructors with lots of experience to pass along.

In addition to this, when the Kasandra Kaulius Tournament was, unfortunately cancelled this year, the Richmond Girls Softball Association, as hosts of the U17B Girls Provincial Championships, stepped up and invited the Kaulius Family to come to this Provincial Championship and fundraise for their scholarship in Kansandra’s honour there. I’m told that enough money was raised to provide at least three scholarships next year.

**Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?**

As with last year, registration appears steady at the minor levels but there was a significant loss of senior umpires in the district. And one senior umpire was forced to end his season early as a result of a surgery.

**What are associations in your district doing to promote softball and umpiring? Who is doing something new and exciting? What are they doing?**

RGSA is encouraging teams to allow players to umpire. We had at least six first year umpires call their first strikes this season. They also hold many off season clinics for position players and umpires.

**Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?**

Vancouver Minor Softball Association has challenges when it comes to field availability. This causes some difficulty in promoting the games. But their umpire program seems to have a unique pay structure aimed at keeping umpires interested in umpiring. This may be worth showing to other associations that may be struggling with umpire numbers.

One orthodox league registered with Softball BC this year in hopes that we might better be able to provide them with umpires for their games that are always played on Sundays. Due to the number of tournaments being played on weekends, there just weren't umpires available for league games. Too many tournaments are being allowed to be played in the same weekend and no one seems to consider how low the umpire numbers are. The number of tournaments and the number of teams in those tournaments needs to be capped to allow for umpires to cover games without getting burnt out. The May long weekend was particularly bad with four tournaments around the Lower Mainland, one which had 60 teams. There are not enough umpires in the Lower Mainland to cover this. If we have a 60 team tournament, we can not have another tournament allowed anywhere in the Lower Mainland.

**What new initiatives or events are planned for your District next year?**

In light of the cancellation of the Kassandra Kaulius Tournament this year, the RGSA has offered to host the tournament going forward. It's believed that field rental fees caused the cancellation, and they believe that the fees will be significantly lower in Richmond, allowing for the tournament to go forward.

**What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?**

Communication with all associations has improved over last year. But I would really like to see that improve a lot more.

**And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?**

As UIC at the U17B Girls Provincial Championships it was a real honour to be asked by the crew if they could wear the pink jersey on the diamond. Without any hesitation, I said yes. I also said that there can be no more fitting tribute with the Kaulius Family there and RGSA's own story of a similar loss in Cat Wheatly. In talking with the Kaulius Family I was deeply moved by how much this tribute really meant to them. This was the first time I have assigned an all female crew to a gold medal game and they decided that the pink jersey would come out one more time. And without even thinking, I gave this crew the nickname, "The Pink

Ladies." This, I believe, ended up being the biggest hit for the weekend.

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<b>Full Name</b>	Paul Muirhead
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<b>District</b>	8
<b>What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)</b>	Langley Fastball hosted 3 tournaments for the 2022 season: U13A/U15A Tournament, SuperMite Tournament and an U15C Tournament Chilliwack hosted a very successful 11C Regionals! Langley Fastball hosted a very successful U17A Provincials!
<b>Were there any notable achievements made by members of your District this year?</b>	District 8 was very proud to have the following umpires be selected to attend: Kiera Hamm = Canada Summer Games in Ont Brittany Lorteau = U15A Nationals in Sask Elizabeth McEachern = U15B Westerns in Man
<b>What other good things happened in your district this past season?</b>	The District 8 umpires were well represented in 10 Provincials this season!
<b>Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?</b>	Umpire registration levels were down from previous years in Langley, however, Abbotsford and Chilliwack showed slight improvements!
<b>What are associations in your district doing to promote softball and umpiring? Who is doing something new and exciting? What are they doing?</b>	Both Langley associations and Abbotsford do a very good job of promoting softball and umpiring in social media (FB, Insta).
<b>Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?</b>	Umpire registration levels have been decreasing over the years, due to coach/parent abuse, demographics, and saturation of sports. I believe that SBBC needs to promote

umpiring more from a Provincial level down to the Associations, instead of always relying on each district/association to fend for themselves.

**What new initiatives or events are planned for your District next year?**

Both North Langley and Langley Fastball will be providing a combined \$1000 per year for 2-3 umpire scholarships, starting in 2023. Also, Langley held an umpire appreciation pizza party at the end of the season, and this will be held yearly as well.

**What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?**

My goal for next year is to work more closely with the associations on finding new ways to create umpire hype, so that we can continue attracting and retaining umpires.

**And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?**

Feeling proud of all the numerous D8 umpires that umpired at the 10 Provincials in July, and the 3 umpires that were selected for Post-Provincial Championships! I hope they inspire other umpires and potential umpires, to further their umpire goals!

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<b>District</b>	14
<b>What events were held in your District this year? (Tournaments, Provincial or Regional Championships, Westerns/Canadian Championships etc)</b>	May Invite Tourney May Madness and May Mayhem tourneys Districts for B and C teams Summer Series U19B Provincials
<b>Tell us about umpire registration in your district this year. Was there an increase in certain Levels? Were there any decreases?</b>	Umpire registration was up in the level 1 and first years compared to last year. We were very happy with the turnout for our winter clinics and the new umpires had a successful season and got some great experience. Many had opportunities as they became confident to take part in higher level games. Most Level 2 and 3 umpires returned; however, is still lower than prior to the pandemic slow down.
<b>What are associations in your district doing to promote softball and umpiring? Who is doing something new and exciting? What are they doing?</b>	RMMSA is constantly reaching out to schools, through word of mouth, and offering an open house at the Warehouse to introduce the sport to new players. The Garibaldi academy continues to attract higher level players and the Synergy team allows for growth and competition for the older rep players.
<b>Tell us about the challenges your district faced this year. What can Softball BC do to help with those challenges?</b>	The umpire challenge was first and foremost. It occupied a lot of time, planning, sharing, and some games were not officiated. If I could ask for one favour, it would be that the organizations stick to their tournament schedule and not add more during the season. Also if possible the provincials for A and B especially be spread out a little. We were literally working the same

umpires for 5 games a day to cover all the work.

**What is your goal for 2022 as a District UIC?**

To grow the number of umpires by again having the winter clinics. Identifying the umpires to go to level 3 training and continuing to advocate for the respect for umpires by coaches and spectators.

**And finally, tell us about your favorite memory or event from this past season?**

As with any season - watching the new umpires grow into confident, knowledgeable participants in the game.

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