



2022

UMPIRE HANDBOOK



Softball Manitoba Umpires



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SOFTBALL MANITOBA STRUCTURE

Executive Director

**Administrative Coordinator
Program Coordinator**

President

Executive Board

Board of Directors

Officials Division

**Provincial UIC
Deputy UIC
UDC Members
Zone UICs
League UICs
Officials**

A Message from the Provincial Umpire in Chief

Dear Umpires,

Another season is upon us. This handbook is designed to provide you with information to have a successful year. You will find contacts for your zone UIC, UDC members as well as information on what to expect if you travel or work a provincial championship.

I wish you all the best this season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your zone UIC or myself throughout the season if you have any questions.

Yours in umpiring,

Frank Fargey

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UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PROVINCIAL U.I.C.

Frank Fargey
204-960-8679
jetswpg@hotmail.com

Portfolio(s): Finance, Competition

DEPUTY U.I.C. (FASTPITCH)

Val Pelleck
204-479-0619
vpelleck@hotmail.com
Portfolio(s): 2023 Blue Convention,
Recruitment/Retention

DEPUTY U.I.C. (SLOPITCH)

Terry Wolowiec
204-831-7286
twolowiec38@gmail.com
Portfolio(s): Rules Committee,
Finance

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Al Bruneau
204-226-1040
tsstrikezone@gmail.com
Portfolio(s) Mentorship

Brad DeGraeve
204-761-0209
braddegraeve@gmail.com
Portfolio: Travel coordinator

Chantel Girouard
204-750-2909
cgirouard134@outlook.com
Portfolio: Social Media

Jordan Guberman
431-999-1672
tkuleza@gmail.com
Portfolio: Junior Rep.

Mike Klassen
204-392-6174
mike2tam@mymts.net
Portfolio: Fundraising

Tony Kuleza
204-793-3309
tkuleza@gmail.com
Portfolio: Administration

Bruce Luebke
204-730-2142
luber@mymts.net
Portfolio: Education officer

ZONE UIC'S

CENTRAL

Mack Walske
204-823-3748
Mack24walske@gmail.com

INTERLAKE

Tony Kuleza
204-793-3309
tkuleza@gmail.com

WINNIPEG FP U.I.C.

Tony Kuleza
204-793-3309
tkuleza@gmail.com

EASTMAN

Joyce Schroeder
204-346-4561
bigredtruckwithbubbles@hotmail.com

WESTMAN

Bruce Luebke
204-730-2142
luber@mymts.net

WINNIPEG SP U.I.C.

Terry Wolowiec
204-831-7286
twolowiec38@gmail.com

UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (UDC)

Provincial UIC Responsibilities

- Liaison with Softball Manitoba
- Chair UDC meetings
- Member of the executive committee/attend meetings
- Member of the board committee/attend meetings
- Attend Softball Canada Congress AGM
- Finalize Canadian Championship umpire assignments
- Finalize Western Canadian Championship umpire assignments
- Finalize spring clinic dates, clinicians and locations
- Finalize budget
- Approve expenses

UDC Responsibilities

- Attend UDC meetings (a minimum of five per calendar year).
- Supervise Provincial Championships and evaluate working umpires, as required.
- Provide input into the selection process of travelling umpires to Canadian and Western Canadian Championships and other special events.
- Provide input into the selection of Kahunaverse Sports Wayne Deschouwer Umpire of the Year.
- Chair or be part of at least one sub-committee.
- Set annual spring clinic dates and locations and select clinicians.
- Coordinate fundraising efforts (Goldeyes' 50/50, Raffles, etc.)
- Promote recruitment and retention of umpires.
- Attend Fall and Spring meetings with Zone UIC/DUIC's.
- Keep zone representatives informed.
- Provide input into the selection process for Umpire-in-Chief and Deputy Umpire-in-Chief for Provincial and Western Canadian Championships.
- Promote Blue Convention.
- Submit year-end reports on committee activities.
- Provide evaluations.
- Coordinate the Mentorship Program.
- Liaison with Zone UIC/DUIC's.
- Promote Zero Tolerance.
- Yearly Game Plan
- Rule changes.

Zone UIC/DUIC Responsibilities

- Submit names for Umpire of the Year
- Submit names for year-end recognition
- Submit recommendations for advancement
- Help promote and coordinate spring clinic dates, clinicians and locations
- Provide UIC for area provincial championships
- Recruitment and retention of officials
- Mentoring
- Provide evaluations
- Dispute resolution
- Attend league meetings where possible
- Submit a year-end report to UDC
- Work with local UIC's
- Report problems to the UDC
- Promote Zero Tolerance
- Submit year-end report

League UIC

- Work closely with Zone UIC/DUIC
- Attend league meetings
- Support working officials
- Mentor
- Evaluate
- Recruit new officials
- Provide league rules to umpires
- Promote Zero Tolerance
- Report problems to Zone UIC

SOFTBALL MANITOBA CHAMPIONSHIP

UIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Pre-Championship

1. Confirm the site, date, number of diamonds and schedule for the tournament.
2. Contact the host chairperson regarding the change room and refreshment arrangements.
3. Confirm umpires.

For Western Canadian Championships Only:

4. *Confirm accommodations for out of town officials with the Host Committee.*
5. *Collect fees for all umpires from the Host Committee.*
6. *Receive honorarium from Softball Manitoba.*

During Championship:

1. Check diamonds for safety and dimensions (base paths, pitching distance).
2. Meet with the Tournament Director and Host Chairperson to:
 - a. Ensure the correct size of game balls;
 - b. Finalize the protest committee;
 - c. Confirm refreshments for working officials.
3. Attend the pre-tournament meeting with the Tournament Director and Chairperson to clarify:
 - a. ground rules;
 - b. number and nature of infield practices;
 - c. procedures to be employed when removing illegal bats or helmets from the game;
 - d. Run-ahead rule;
 - e. Line-up card procedures;
 - f. Protests.
4. Meet with the umpires before the first game. Review:
 - a. the discussion at the coach's meeting;
 - b. points of emphasis for the tournament (interference/obstruction; pitching etc.);
 - c. agreements made with the host surrounding refreshments, dressing rooms etc.;
 - d. opening day assignments.
5. Assign games throughout the tournament using the Horizon app.
 - a. If you choose to assign with paper, ensure you keep accurate records of all games worked by each umpire during each day of the tournament.
6. Complete and review evaluations with the umpires.
7. Support the Tournament Director to ensure the smooth running of the tournament, especially with regards to inclement weather.

8. Continue to confer with my officials and support their safety concerns.

Post Championship

1. Return all used/unused softballs.
2. Submit a tournament report to Softball Manitoba.
3. Submit mileage claims for eligible officials.
4. If significant problems occurred, a written report must be submitted to the Provincial UIC and the Softball Manitoba office.

UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TIMELINES

January

- UDC meeting
- Clinic dates set
- Travel Application Package sent out by Softball Manitoba Office.

February

- UDC meeting
- Registration package including clinic dates sent out by Softball Manitoba office.
- UIC Applications for Provincials/Westerns due by Friday, February 19, 2021
- Travel applications due by Friday, February 19, 2021

March

- UDC and Zone UIC/DUIC meeting
- Softball Manitoba UDC Blue Forum (To be Determined)

April/May

- Level I-II Umpire Clinics
- Level II-V Refresher Clinics
- Online Exam Writing
- Softball Manitoba On-Field Season begins

June/July/August

- Travelling Umpire Evaluations
- MLSSL Regular Season and Tournament
- Provincial, Western Canadian and Canadian Championships

September

- UDC meeting
- Recognition information due from Zone UIC's by September 30th

October

- UDC and Zone Meeting Sunday, October 20 (**a.m. only**)
- Umpire Appreciation Event Sunday, October 20, at 12:30 p.m.

November/December

- Softball Canada Congress Meetings (attended by Provincial UIC)
- Softball Manitoba Annual General Meeting

ZONE UIC/DUIC TIMELINE

January/February

- Set clinic dates with UDC
- Encourage officials to apply to officiate at Western Canadian and Softball Canada Championships
- Application for UIC positions for Provincials and Westerns

March

- Semi-Annual UDC/Zone UIC Meeting

September

- Submit Year-End Report
- Include names for recognition (see Page 35)

October

- Annual UDC/Zone UIC Meeting

All Year

- Promote volunteering for Fundraising

UMPIRE'S CODE OF ETHICS

Fair Play Code:

1. Softball Manitoba has entrusted us to assist them in the development of our youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials shall be independent, impartial and responsible to people they serve.
2. An official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and to the mechanics necessary to carry out enforcement of these rules. They must do so that they may render competent and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.
3. An official must work with fellow officials and Softball Manitoba in a spirit of harmony and cooperation despite differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.
4. An official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the particular interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
5. An official must consistently uphold the honour and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the athletes, coaches, administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
6. An official is mentally and physically prepared, dresses according to expectations and maintains an appearance that is befitting the importance of the game and Softball Canada's expectations.
7. The official shall avoid the use of tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol at the contest site.
8. Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. An officials' conduct influences the perception of the public toward the specific official and on the profession in general.

ZERO TOLERANCE **REGARDING ABUSE OF OFFICIALS**

ZERO TOLERANCE

There will be **zero tolerance for abuse of Manitoba Softball Association Officials** during softball games in the Province of Manitoba.

PROVINCIALS

The Softball Manitoba delegate and Umpire-in-Chief have the authority to immediately suspend a coach, athlete or fan for a minimum of one game. The suspension will be reviewed immediately by the Protest Committee.

IMMEDIATE EJECTION AND ONE GAME SUSPENSION **(LEAGUE PLAY)**

Immediate action to be taken by the Umpire will be to eject the offending player/coach/team official from the game who will also be suspended for the following game. The offender shall be dealt with by the Umpire-in-Chief of the League and the League President.

VERBAL REPORTING

The Umpire must verbally report **all instances** of ejection, including **abuse of an official** immediately following the game to the League Umpire-in-Chief. The League Umpire-in-Chief will then inform the League President of the incident.

WRITTEN FOLLOW-UP

A written report within 72 hours must follow verbal contact. The written report is sent to the Umpire-in-Chief of the League and copied to the League President, Zone Umpire-in-Chief and Provincial Umpire-in-Chief (or designate).

RESULT OF ACTIONS

The League Umpire-in-Chief will discuss the course of action required with the Umpire and League President to which the offender belongs. The Zone UIC and Provincial UIC will receive copies of the outcome. Repeat offenders will face longer suspensions.

COMMITMENT TO ATHLETES AND COACHES

1. I will make sure that every athlete has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of their ability, within the limits of the rules.
2. I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the athletes.
3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
4. I will not permit the intimidation of any athlete either by word or action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, other athletes, spectators or myself.
5. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual athlete.
6. I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
7. I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.



SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Softball Canada is aware that Member interaction and communication occurs frequently on Social Media. Softball Canada cautions Members that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour required by the Softball Canada Code of Conduct will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within the Softball Canada Discipline Policy.

Per the Softball Canada Discipline Policy and Code of Conduct, the following Social Media conduct may be considered minor or major infractions at the discretion of the Case Manager:

- a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on a personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Members or at other persons connected with Softball Canada and/or other National Federations, the World Baseball Softball Confederation and related events.
- b) Posting a disparaging or harmful comment on a personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Softball Canada and/or other National Federations, the World Baseball Softball Confederation and related events.
- c) Creating or contributing to a Facebook group, webpage, blog, or online forum devoted solely or in part to promoting negative or disparaging remarks or commentary about Softball Canada or its reputation and other National Federations, the World Baseball Softball Confederation and related events
- d) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, YouTube, or other social medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, or otherwise offensive, and that is directed at Members or at other persons connected with Softball Canada and other National Federations, the World Baseball Softball Confederation and related events.
- e) Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment between one Member and another Member (including a teammate, coach, opponent, volunteer, or official), where incidents of cyber-bullying and cyber-harassment can include but are not limited to the following conduct on any social medium, via text-message, or via email: regular insults, negative comments, vexatious

behaviour, pranks or jokes, threats, posing as another person, spreading rumours or lies, or other harmful behavior.

f) Any instance of bringing the game of softball into disrepute.

5. All conduct and behaviour occurring on Social Media may be subject to the Softball Canada Discipline Policy at the discretion of the Case Manager.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

6. Members must be aware that their Social Media use may be monitored by Softball Canada or by the Members' provincial/territorial or local softball associations.

7. When using Social Media, a Member must model appropriate behaviour benefitting the Member's status as a member of Softball Canada.

8. Removing content from Social Media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the Member from being subject to the Softball Canada Discipline Policy.

9. A member who believes that the Social Media use by another member is inappropriate or may violate Softball Canada's policies and procedures should report the matter to Softball Canada in the manner outlined by the Softball Canada Discipline Policy.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MISSION STATEMENT

Bolster the Manitoba Softball Officials Program and enhance the game of softball, by providing direct support and personal guidance to entry-level umpires during their first years on the diamond.

PURPOSE

The Manitoba Softball Officials Program is consistently losing young, entry-level umpires in increasing numbers each year. Many young and inexperienced umpires become disenchanted with the treatment they receive and their position in the game during their first year(s) on the diamond. These young people are provided basic rule interpretation training and some mechanic work at entry-level clinics. A training gap exists until the umpire progresses into championship tournaments years down the road when exposure to the evaluation process and feedback from more experienced umpires begins. The problem is, they are dropping out before making that next step.

When these inexperienced umpires find themselves in situations they are not yet confident in handling; they lose interest. These situations quite often include negative feedback they get from coaches, players, and spectators.

Credibility in any training program requires that the inexperienced are instructed on the correct way to perform their duties. They should then be allowed to perform under the auspices of the experienced, ideally under realistic (game) conditions. Feedback at this stage is critical and should be routinely accessible. Programs developed in this fashion will not only provide a solid foundation for young umpires to build on. When they feel confident, their general skill level and proficiency will increase.

There are also situations where skill development is not necessarily the main issue, and all the young umpire needs is encouragement and support to stay involved.

FEEDBACK

It is important to emphasize that the input required is not to be considered an EVALUATION in any shape or form. A constructive process of **positive reinforcement** and **general guidance** from a MENTOR will provide the entry-level umpire with structure and a foundation on which to build their officiating careers. The feedback process should take place throughout the season, keeping in mind the umpire's age and capabilities. The MENTOR will represent a resource for the young umpire, to contact with questions about the game; rules; and problems that may come up throughout the season. MENTORS could consider making arrangements for young umpires to attend and observe them work a game as well.

THE PROGRAM

Mentors would assist 1-3 entry-level umpires for the season. There is latitude on how you structure your contact. However, the following fundamentals will be agreed to when you sign on:

- **Initial telephone call to make contact, and provide a telephone number to the umpire for resource purposes.**
- **Arrange to attend a game in the very early stages of the young umpire's season, and begin the process of providing positive reinforcement and guidance (NOT an "evaluation").**
- **Attend additional games, and maintain some sort of contact throughout the season, as deemed appropriate by the mentor.**
- **Follow-up contact at the end of the season. Mentor can represent a sounding board for the young umpire, and encourage them to stay involved next year.**
- **Maintain a mentorship log throughout the season, to be forwarded to the COORDINATOR at season end.**

To be a part of the Mentorship Program, please contact:

Al Bruneau, 204-257-5473 (h) or 204-226-1040 (c), 1strikezone@gmail.com



UMPIRING CERTIFICATION **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The following are guidelines regarding the certification process and recertification process used for Manitoba umpires certifying with Softball Canada.

For a detailed description of Level requirements, please visit the Softball Canada website: <https://softball.ca/programs/umpires>

Level I Certification

Level I certification requires participants will be required to attend a one-day clinic. This clinic will provide both classroom and on-field experience. Participants must receive a minimum of 60% on a written test. The clinic is usually six-to-eight hours in duration.

Cost: Under 21 = \$70.00 Over 21 = \$110.00

Level II Certification

A Level II clinic requires participants to attend a one-day clinic involving both on-field and classroom instruction. The clinic is usually six-to-eight hours in duration.

Second-year officials have the option to remain a Level I for a second consecutive year or advance to Level II.

Recertification at Level II requires officials to:

- a) Attend a refresher course involving classroom and on-field instruction. The clinic is approximately four hours in duration.
OR
- b) Write and pass an online exam provided by Softball Canada.

Level II officials require a minimum passing grade of 70% on their Softball Canada exam.

Officials will be required to maintain a Level II certification for a minimum of two years before advancing to Level III.

Cost: Under 21 = \$70.00 Over 21 = \$110.00

Level III Certification

Softball Manitoba currently holds a Level III certification clinic every two years during odd years. A Zone UIC/DUIC can recommend an official advance to Level III, or an application form will be required to advance to Level III Theory. Applications for a Level III clinic will need a positive evaluation from a recognized evaluator. The clinic will be two days involving game situations as well as classroom instruction, with a duration of approximately 12-to-14 hours.

Recertification at Level III requires officials to:

- a) Attend a refresher course involving classroom and on-field instruction. The clinic is approximately four hours in duration.
OR
- b) Write and pass an online exam provided by Softball Canada.

A minimum grade of 80% on the written exam is required to pass.

Officials will be required to complete a **practical portion** requiring a game situation evaluation to obtain a complete Level III certification. Umpires will need a positive assessment and recommendation from the evaluator for completion of their certification at this level. The game must be officiated at the U14 AAA level or higher. Officials will be required to maintain a level III certification for a minimum of two years before advancing.

Cost: \$135.00

Level IV Certification

Level IV is by **invite only** and comes as a result of positive evaluations at the Provincial, Western or Canadian Level. Recommendations from the local UIC and the UDC of Manitoba are also required.

Softball Canada conducts the Level IV theory clinic. The online version involves several hours per week after a six week prior in the late winter or early spring. A Level IV clinic also offered in conjunction with the Blue Convention every three years.

Umpires are required to attend a Canadian Championship at the U19 Level or higher and receive a positive evaluation along with a recommendation from the evaluator to obtain their Level IV practical or full certification.

Recertification at Level IV requires officials to:

- a) Attend a refresher course involving classroom and on-field instruction. The clinic is approximately four hours in duration.

OR

- b) Write and pass an online exam provided by Softball Canada. A

minimum grade of 85% on the written exam is required to pass.

Cost: \$135.00

Level V Certification

Achievement of Level V is through a recommendation by Softball Canada from a Canadian Men's or Women's Championship.

Recertification at Level V requires officials to:

- a) Attend a refresher course involving classroom and on-field instruction. The clinic is approximately four hours in duration.

OR

- b) Write and pass an online exam provided by Softball Canada.

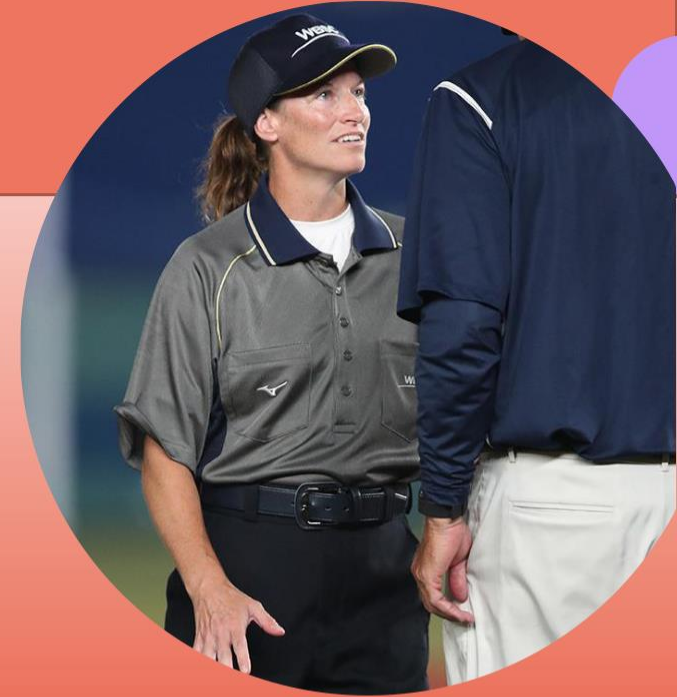
A minimum grade of 90% on the written exam is required to

pass. **Cost: \$135.00**

NATIONAL OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Competitive Development Pathway



National Officials Certification Program

Level I Certification

Introduction to Umpiring

LEVEL I CLINIC

THEORY

Classroom Session

- Role & Responsibilities
- Dress & Equipment
- Use of the Rule Book
- Basic Rules
- Basics of Game Management

LOCAL



TOTAL
8 hrs
+ Quiz

On-Field Drills

- Positioning (Mechanics)
- 1 and 2 Umpire Systems
- Calling Balls & Strikes
- Calling Safes & Outs
- Applying Basic Rules

PRACTICE

CERTIFIED

In-Game Training & Assessment

- Work Local Games at an Appropriate Level of Competition
- Certified Local Mentors & Evaluators



National Officials Certification Program

Level II Certification

Prerequisite: Registered Level I Umpire for One Season

LEVEL II CLINIC

Classroom Session

- Role & Responsibilities
- Dress & Equipment
- Use of the Rule Book
- Game Management

LOCAL



TOTAL

+ Quiz

On-Field Drills

- Advanced Mechanics
- Advanced 2 Umpire System
- Introduction to 3 Umpire System

Fielding, Batting & Base Running

PRAC
TICE



In-Game Training & Performance

- Work Local Games at an Appropriate Level of Competition
- Formal Written Game Evaluations (min one each, plate and base)
- Certified Local Mentors & Evaluators



CERTIFIED

MAINTENANCE:

- Attend Clinic Every Two Years
- Successfully complete (70%) the National Exam annually



National Officials Certification Program

Level III Certification

Prerequisite: Registered Level II Umpire for Two Seasons

LEVEL III CLINIC

PROVINCIAL

Classroom Session

- Mental Preparation
- Communication Skills
- Preventative Umpiring
- Protests & Confrontations
- Canadian Championships



TOTAL
12 hrs
+ Quiz

On-Field Drills

- Advanced Mechanics
- Advanced 3 Umpire System
- Introduction to 4 Umpire System
- Applying Advanced Rules;
Fielding, Batting & Base Running



In-Game Training & Performance

- Work Games at an Appropriate Provincial Level of Competition
- Formal Written Game Evaluations (minimum one each, plate and base)
- Certified Provincial Mentors & Evaluators



CERTIFIED



MAINTENANCE:

- Attend Clinic Every Year
- Successfully complete (80%) the National Exam annually
- Eligible for Canadian Championships up to U19 FP and Women (SP)

National Officials Certification Program

Level IV Certification

Prerequisite: Registered Level III Umpire for Two Seasons
Recommendation of Province to Attend Level IV Clinic

LEVEL IV CLINIC

NATIONAL

Classroom or On-Line Session(s)

- Psychology of Officiating
- Advanced Game Management
- Program Leadership
- Instruction & Evaluation
- Advanced 4 Umpire System

TOTAL
10 hrs
+ Quiz

THEORY



In-Game Training and Performance

- Fitness Assessment
- Successful Evaluation at a U19 Men's or Women's (FP) or Women's (SP) Canadian Championships
- Approved by National Director of Umpires



CERTIFIED

MAINTENANCE:

- Attend Clinic Every Year
- Successfully complete (80%) the National Exam annually
- Eligible for ALL Canadian Championships



EVALUATION

National Officials Certification Program

Level V Certification

Eligible for International (WBSC) Certification

MINIMUM TWO
SEASONS LEVEL IV

Received Successful
Evaluation at one (SP) or two
(FP) Approved Elite Events

Assigned to an Open Men's or
Women's Slo-Pitch or Fast Pitch
Canadian Championship

EVALUATION

Game Performance

- Fitness Assessment
- Successful On-Field Evaluation at an Open Men's or Women's Canadian Championship
- Recommended by National Director of Umpires; Approved by Board

CERTIFIED
Eligible for WBSC
Certification



MAINTENANCE:

- Attend Clinic Every Year
- Successfully complete (90%) the National Exam annually
- Attend WBSC International Certification Seminar
- Maintain Minimum Annual Activity²⁸ Levels

TRAVELLING UMPIRE CRITERIA

UIC/DUIC or Officiate at Western Canadians or Softball Canada Championships

UIC/DUIC of Provincials/Westerns

- Registered with Softball Canada for two consecutive years previous to the competition as well as the current year
- A complete Level III official
- Experience as an official at a Provincial Championship and Western Canadians or a Canadian Championship
- Attendance at Softball Manitoba Blue Forum in current year
- Recommend clinician experience
- Recommend the completion of Softball Canada's Instructors/Evaluators Course

Officiate at Western Canadians

- Registered with Softball Canada for two consecutive years previous to the competition as well as the current year
- A complete Level II or III official (requires both theory and practical with a positive evaluation from the prior year)
- Attendance at Softball Manitoba Blue Forum in current year

Officiate at Canadian Championships

- Softball Canada for two consecutive years previous to the competition as well as the current year
- A complete Level III, IV or V umpire (requires both theory and practical with a positive evaluation from the previous year)
- Attendance at Softball Manitoba Blue Forum in current year

Canadian Championships Requiring Full Level IV Certification

- Women's FP
- Men's & Masters FP
- Men's U23 FP
- Men's SP
- Women's SP

TRAVEL UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS

Umpires selected to represent Softball Manitoba at a Softball Canada or Western Canadian Championship must agree to the following requirements and commitments:

- Officiate at a minimum of one AAA Level Provincial Championship.
- Volunteer at least twice for UDC fundraising events during the 2022 calendar year.
- Attend the annual Softball Manitoba Blue Forum or the Softball Canada National Umpire School. A virtual program is offered in 2021.
- Complete the Softball Canada exam, either online or at a recertification clinic, and receive a passing grade.
- Undergo a criminal record check, if required, for the Championship as outlined by Softball Canada or the WCSA.
- Have the proper uniform elements necessary for the Championship (shirts, hats, jacket, pants, ball bags, etc.) as outlined by Softball Canada or the WCSA.



FITNESS TESTING PROTOCOLS

As of 2020, all candidates attending U19 and above Canadian Championships will be completing the WBSC fitness requirements through their respective provinces, before attending the Softball Canada Championship.

Travelling umpires must complete their fitness test by April 30th. Zone UIC's will administer the fitness test at a time determined with each individual umpire.

The UDC will be conducting the testing during the Softball Manitoba U19 Girls' Championship.

Details of the fitness requirement include:

1. Plate Squat Test
 - measures leg strength and endurance.
2. 27 Metre Dash
 - represents the longest distance an umpire in a four-umpire system would have to cover quickly.
3. Agility "T" Test
 - a test of agility that includes forward, lateral and backward running.
4. 1,000 Metre Test
 - measure of general fitness.

Details of the WBSC Softball Umpire Fitness Testing Protocols are at <https://softball.ca/programs/umpires/policy>.

FUNDRAISING

All umpires should support the Umpire Development Committee's fundraising efforts by **volunteering their time**.

The monies raised through these opportunities help to offset the cost of your registration and support umpire development across the province.

There are many fundraising opportunities for all umpires during the year. If you are travelling to a Western or Canadian Championship, you or a representative must volunteer at least twice for UDC fundraising events and complete that obligation by the end of the 2020 calendar year.

Even if you aren't attending a Championship on behalf of Softball Manitoba, you are encouraged to check-off the 'willing to help fundraise' box on your umpire registration form.

Current fundraising options include

- Selling 50/50 tickets at Winnipeg Goldeyes' games listed below,
- Gate shift(s) at the UDC-hosted Championship(s) (currently the Softball Manitoba U11 A Girls' Championship),
- Umpiring a minimum of two games without a fee at U10 B Girls' Championship,
- Selling a minimum of 25 tickets for any UDC sponsored raffle, or
- Helping for a day as a liaison at UDC hosted Western Championship.

The UDC may send notification on other fundraising events during the year.

Contact Mike Klassen for fundraising information.

ACCIDENT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE

Registered umpires of Softball Manitoba are insured through the Liability and Accident Program offered through All Sport Insurance while acting within the scope of your duties.

The general liability coverage is \$5,000,000.00, which pays for your defence as well as any costs found against you.

The sports injury insurance provides coverage for practices, games, and team travel (within Canada). For each separate accident the plan pays:

- **Dental** - up to \$10,000.00 for dental treatment resulting from injury to sound natural teeth;
- **Blanket Accident Reimbursement** - up to \$25,000.00 (prescription drugs, ambulance, hospital services, physiotherapy, athletic therapy, crutches, splints, and braces);
- **Accidental Death** - \$25,000.00;
- **Fracture Indemnity Benefit** (up to \$500.00);
- **Rehabilitation Indemnity Benefit** (up to \$5,000.00);
- **Tuition Fees Reimbursement** (up to \$5,000.00);
- **Emergency Transportation Benefit** (up to \$100.00);
- **Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses Expense** (up to \$200.00 for repair or replacement).

For further information on insurance and to obtain a copy of the insurance package, you can contact Softball Manitoba at 204-925 -5673 or go to Softball Manitoba's website, www.softball.mb.ca. Click on Forms, then on Market Insurance and download the insurance package.

TRAVEL PERMITS

Any team, player, coach, manager or umpire wishing to travel outside of Canada to participate in any softball competition must have a travel permit issued by the Executive Director or Administrative Coordinator.

1. No team, player, coach, manager or official may travel outside of Canada to participate in any softball competition at the same time the team, player, coach, manager or umpire has an obligation to participate in any association sanctioned competition such as a Softball Manitoba Championship.
2. Failure to observe these regulations could result in suspension or other actions.

Umpires wishing to travel outside of Canada to participate or officiate in any softball competition must have a travel permit issued by the Official Director (PUIC) or his/her designate. Failure to observe these regulations could result in suspension or other actions.

UDC RECGONITION AWARDS

The Umpire Development Committee has established several achievements and awards. Any Softball Manitoba registered umpire can nominate individuals prior to September 30 for:

- 1) The Ellery Scatch Northern Umpire of the Year Award
- 2) The Grassroots Umpire of the Year a.
One award is given per region
- 3) The Wayne Deschower Umpire of the Year

The UDC also provides recognition when:

- a) *A Softball Manitoba registered umpire receives WBSC Certification*
- b) *A Softball Manitoba registered umpire receives Level V Certification*
- c) *A Softball Manitoba registered umpire receives Full Level IV Certification (Theory and Practical)*
- d) *An umpire announces retirement from Softball Manitoba Umpire Program*
 - Must have given a minimum of 12 years to the umpiring program.
 - They served in a volunteer officiating position for a minimum of four years.
 - They contributed to umpire development as an instructor, evaluator, and mentor or program developer.
 - Have a high level of officiating ability.
- e) *Special Recognition Award*
 - To be given to a non-umpire who has made significant contributions to the Softball Manitoba umpiring program.



**WAYNE DESCHOUWER HOME RUN
SPORTS UMPIRE OF THE YEAR**



2020 Recipient Rick Knutt

Criteria

1. Be a registered umpire in the Province of Manitoba.
2. Be a registered Softball Canada/Manitoba Softball Association official in good standing. Minimum Level II certification required.
3. Must have participated as a working official at local league competitions or Provincial Competitions in the Province of Manitoba.
4. Must have been involved in assisting with the development of officials at the local or provincial level.

Past Recipients

Jason Gaudreau- 2019

Reg George- 2018



SOFTBALL CANADA YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

In 2019, Softball Canada introduced a new program to recognize the efforts made by officials across the country. The first Years of Service Milestone Awards were presented at the 2019 Blue Convention in Montreal.

The Umpire Development Committee in pleased to recognize the following Softball Manitoba officials:

25 Year Pins

Fred Shipley
Don Adamko
Kim Kosokowsky
Ron Westcott
Dave Wiens
Tony Kuleza

15 Year Pins

Myles Blahut
Trevor Alexander

10 Year Pins

Manfred Glor
Jayme Menard
Terry Brown
Greg Kostal

5 Year Pins

Allan Miswaggon
Bernie Novak
Curly Knapp
Gillian Lambert
Jay Goudreau
Justine Rhodes
Madison Rempel
Brian Lemon
Joryn Buchanan
Jim Beaugrand
Fred Spiring

CANADIAN INDICATOR CLUB

Since 1997, Softball Canada has recognized individuals who have made significant contributions to officiating in the sport. Some of the criteria used to determine nominees to the Indicator Club include:

- Minimum of 10 years of service to the umpiring program.
- They have served in a volunteer officiating position for a minimum of four years.
- They contributed to umpire development as an instructor, evaluator, and mentor or program developer.
- Have a high level of officiating ability.
- They are a positive umpiring role model.
- Tries to become a better umpire through education and training.
- Shares expertise with the softball community.

Manitoba umpires inducted into the Indicator Club are:

2019

Al Bruneau
Earl Cheasley

2016

Don Adamko
Robert Croteau
John Loxton

2013

Ken Baron
Bruce Luebke

2010

Devin Beaudry
Frank Fargey
Peter George

2007

Wayne Deschouwer
Joanne Hodgkinson
Bruce Jamieson

2005

Bill White
Jim Hyrich
Garth Steidl

2003

Doug Barber
Dave Brandt
Pat O'Callaghan

2001

Wayne Griffin
Peter Dueck

1999

Morris Cesmystruk
Frank Searle

1997

Mike Bobko
Keith King



The Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame and Museum preserves the history of the sport in Manitoba. The Hall recognizes individuals, teams and organizations for outstanding achievement or contributions to the game of softball.

This year's 18th Annual Softball Manitoba Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will take place on May 11th at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.

Over the years, several inductees with an officiating background have been enshrined.

2020

Charlie Kurtz

2009

Wayne Griffin

2015

Bill White

2008

Peter Dick

2014

Keith King

2005

Kathleen Penner

2010

Wayne Deschouwer

Eva Peters

2002

Gerry Howard

****Nominations for individuals can be brought forward at any time. Please contact the Softball Manitoba officer at 204-925-5673 with any questions.**

BLUE CONVENTION

The Blue Convention is a significant event for umpires organized by Softball Canada every three years. Officials of ALL levels, from across Canada (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 designed to attract both Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch umpires.

Start planning now to attend, and be sure to invite fellow officials along! Workshops are useful for the inexperienced right through to the elite umpire. Guest speakers are always entertaining and informative.

**The 2023 Blue Convention will be held April
7-9, 2023, in Manitoba. Please plan to
attend!**



BAT CERTIFICATION

Softball Canada does not currently have its own bat certification program, but endorses the following bat standards for Canadian Championships.

Softball Canada recognizes bats certified by both USA Softball and the WBSC for use in Fast Pitch competitions and USA Softball, the WBSC and USSSA for Slo-Pitch play.

FASTPITCH - MALE (UP TO U19) AND FEMALE (ALL LEVELS)

Acceptable Certification Stamps:

ISF2005 WBSC (New) ASA2000 ASA2004 USA Softball (New)



- Any bat that appears on the WBSA Softball Approved Bat List and has a current ISF certification stamp (2005 only) will be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event *or*,
- Any bat that appears on the USA Softball Approved Bat List and has an ASA 2000 or 2004 certification stamp will also be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event.
- The bat must meet the compression standards outlined by the certifying organization and may be tested to ensure they are in the proper range.
- The bat must still pass a visual inspection per the current Softball Canada rulebook.

FASTPITCH - ADULT MALE (U23 AND ABOVE)

Acceptable Certification Stamps:



- Any bat that appears on the WBSC Approved Bat List and has a current ISF certification stamp (2005 only) will be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event *or*,
- Any bat that appears on the USA Softball Approved Bat List and has an ASA 2000, ASA 2004 or ASA 2013 certification stamp will also be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event.
- The bat must meet the compression standards outlined by the certifying organization and may be tested to ensure that they are in the proper range.
- The bat must still pass a visual inspection per the current Softball Canada rulebook.

SLO-PITCH - (ALL)

Acceptable Certification Stamps:

ISF 2005



WBSC
(New)



ASA 2000



ASA 2004



USA Softball
(New)



USSSA



All other bats are not approved for use. Non-approved bats shall be removed from competition and visibly marked (e.g. tape). Teams should be advised that attempted use during the game will, by rule, result in ejection.

Updated November 2018

- Any bat that appears on the WBSC approved bat list and has a current ISF certification stamp (2005 only) will be accepted for play in Softball Canada competition or,
- Any bat that appears on the USA Softball Approved Bat List and has an ASA 2000 or ASA 2004 certification stamp will also be accepted for play in Softball Canada competition (*the ASA 2013 certification stamp is no longer accepted for endorsement in Slo-Pitch competition*) or,
- Any bat that has a new USSSA certification stamp and is not on the USSSA withdrawn/non-compliant list will also be accepted for play in Softball Canada competition.
- The bat must meet the compression standards outlined by the certifying organization and may be tested to ensure that they are in the proper range.
- The bat must still pass a visual inspection per the current Softball Canada rulebook.

Note: Bats with an ASA 2013 certification stamp may still be eligible for use in Slo-Pitch competition if they are eligible under WBSC (ISF) or USSSA certification.

SOFTBALL CANADA



FAST PITCH

FORM A

UMPIRE EVALUATION

Umpire Name: _____ Umpire email address: _____

Event: _____ Dates: _____ Province/Territory: _____

GAMES WORKED Plates: Bases: Total:

1. Pre-Game, Dress, Post Game Conduct

Appearance (uniform/grooming) ☒ ☐ Pre-Tournament Responsibilities (forms, communication, meeting prepared) ☒ ☐ Pre-Game Duties (crew discussion, field, bat and helmet check, managers' meeting) ☒ ☐ Off field conduct (personal presentation, teamwork) ☒ ☐

2. Game Control - attitude, approachability, confidence, pressure I A G E

Attitude (with teams, fellow officials, fans) ☒ Y ☐ N. Confidence (situations handled calmly and efficiently, under control, with no visible frustration) ☒ Y ☐ N.

3. Hustle - into position, players

Hustles players on and off field in a firm but courteous manner **Y/N**. Alert and anticipates what play could occur without predicting play **Y/N**. Gets into position, ahead of play (base and fly ball coverage) **Y/N**. Mental/physical reaction and position (overthrows, dead ball situations, pick-off, etc.) **Y/N**.

4. Judgment - fair/foul, safe/out, infield fly, obstruction, interference ☒ I ☐ A ☐ G ☐ E

Judgment and enforcement on fair/foul, safe/out, catch/no catch, check swing appeal ☐ Y ☐ N

5. Mechanics - visible signals, audible signals, reaction, rotation I A G E

Umpire to umpire signals (acknowledgements, requests, verbal communication, team work) **7.9**. Visible signals (proper delay or timing, decisive call, steps into call using body language) **7.9**. Audible calls (tonal voice control to fit closeness of play) **7.9**. Proper words used in unusual situations (e.g. "Tag, Out!") **7.9**. Umpire rotation - two, three or four system (communication, correct movement) **7.9**.

Plate

Comfortable, wide, square to slightly staggered stance [7][R]. Working inside slot area between batters and catcher with eyes level to top of strike zone [7][R]. Stays down on ball call [7][R]. Strike zone is consistent with calibre of ball and for both teams [7][R]. Following batter-runner to first [7][R]. Follows catcher to ball on pop up close to plate or screen [7][R]. Tracks pitch through the strike zone with slight head turn [7][R]. Moves out in front of plate to track hit balls [7][R].

Base

Fundamental principle of ball out/umpire in, ball in/umpire out ☐ ☐ Angle, distance and position (90° angle) for play ☐ ☐ Opening up to the play keeping ball, runners and defensive players in front ☐ ☐ Position (start in the proper position with runners on base) ☐ ☐ Delay between play and call/signal ☐ ☐ Set position for play, proper timing - not too quick or overly delayed ☐ ☐ Selling close plays with extra force using a stronger mechanic ☐ ☐ Uses Leading Edge position ☐ ☐

6. Rules - Knowledge, Application, Enforcement

Basic knowledge of the rules (immediately explain option plays to coach) **YN**. Enforces rules and applies proper penalty in all situations (without hesitation or confusion) **YN**.

Current Level (please check appropriate box below):

Level I ☐Level II ☐Level III ☐Level IV (T) ☐Level IV ☐Level V ☐

7. Needs to work on: a)

b)

d

UmpireComments:

Umpire in Chief

Deputy UIC

Umpire

Email to: [National Office](#) / [NDU](#) / [Provincial UIC](#) / [Umpire](#)

CLEAR FORM

SOFTBALL CANADA

SLO-PITCH

FORM A

UMPIRE EVALUATION



Umpire Name: _____ Umpire email address: _____

Event: _____ Dates: _____ Province/Territory: _____

GAMES WORKED Plates: _____ Bases: _____ Total: _____

1. Pre-Game, Dress, Post Game Conduct

I A G E

Appearance (uniform/grooming) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Pre-Tournament Responsibilities (forms, communication, meeting, prepared) ☐ ☐ Pre-Game Duties (crew discussion, field, bat and helmet check, managers' meeting) ☐ ☐ Off field conduct (personal presentation, teamwork) ☐ ☐

2. Game Control - attitude, approachability, confidence, pressure

I A G E

Attitude (with teams, fellow officials, fans) ☐ ☐ Confidence (situations handled calmly and efficiently, under control, with no visible frustration) ☐ ☐

3. Hustle - into position, players

I A G E

Hustles players on and off field in a firm but courteous manner ☐ ☐ Alert and anticipates what play could occur without predicting play ☐ ☐ Gets into position, ahead of play (base and fly ball coverage) ☐ ☐ Mental/physical reaction and position (overthrows, dead ball situations, pick-off, etc.) ☐ ☐

4. Judgment - fair/foul, safe/out, infield fly, obstruction, interference

I A G E

Judgment and enforcement on fair/foul, safe/out, catch/no catch ☐ ☐ Judgment and enforcement on infield fly, obstruction, interference, pitching rule ☐ ☐

5. Mechanics - visible signals, audible signals, reaction, rotation

I A G E

Umpire to umpire signals (acknowledgements, requests, verbal communication, team work) ☐ ☐ Visible signals (proper delay or timing, decisive call, steps into call using body language) ☐ ☐ Audible calls (tonal voice control to fit closeness of play) ☐ ☐ Proper words used in unusual situations (e.g. "Tag, Out!") ☐ ☐ Umpire rotation - two, three or four system (communication, correct movement) ☐ ☐

Plate

I A G E

Comfortable, wide, square to slightly staggered stance ☐ ☐ Works inside slot area ☐ ☐ Tracks the pitch, from the hand, through the arc, to the mat or through the strike zone with a slight head turn ☐ ☐ Calls a perceptible arc of at least 6' and not more than 12' ☐ ☐ Following batter-runner to first ☐ ☐ Follows catcher to ball on pop up close to plate or screen ☐ ☐ Moves out in front of plate to track hit balls ☐ ☐

Base

I A G E

Fundamental principle of ball out/umpire in, ball in/umpire out ☐ ☐ Angle, distance and position (90° angle) for play ☐ ☐ Opening up to the play keeping ball, runners and defensive players in front ☐ ☐ Position (start in the proper position with runners on base) ☐ ☐ Delay between play and call/signal ☐ ☐ Set position for play, proper timing - not too quick or overly delayed ☐ ☐ Selling close plays with extra flare using a stronger mechanic ☐ ☐ Uses Leading Edge position ☐ ☐

6. Rules - Knowledge, Application, Enforcement

I A G E

Basic knowledge of the rules (immediately explain option plays to coach) ☐ ☐ Enforces rules and applies proper penalty in all situations (without hesitation or confusion) ☐ ☐

Current Level (please check appropriate box below):

Level I ☐ Level II ☐ Level III ☐ Level IV (T) ☐ Level IV ☐ Level V ☐

7. Needs to work on: a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Umpire Comments: _____

Umpire in Chief: _____

Deputy UIC: _____

Umpire: _____

Email to: National Office / NDU / Provincial UIC / Umpire

CLEAR FORM

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Field:** _____

Home Team: _____ **Visiting Team:** _____

League: _____ **Category:** _____

League UIC: _____

Plate Umpire: _____ **Base Umpire:** _____

Individual(s)/Team involved:

Description of the Incident:

Further action requested ☐ **No Further action required.** ☐

Submitted by:

Date Submitted:

2022 COMPETITION CALENDAR

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2022 FAST PITCH PROVINCIALS			
CAT.	Class.	Date	Location/Bids
U11	A Girls	June 24-26	Buhler
	Open Boys	July 14-17	Cross Lake
U13	AAA	July 21-24	Brandon
	AA	July 21-24	Brandon
	A	July 8-10	Buhler
	Open Boys	July 14-17	Cross Lake
U15	AAA	July 21-24	LaSalle
	AA	TBD	JBSC
	A	July 15-17	Winkler
	Open Boys	July 14-17	Cross Lake
U17	AAA	July 14-17	Fridensfeld
	AA	TBD	Brandon
	A	July 22-24	Steinbach
	Open Boys	July 14-17	Cross Lake
U19	AAA	July 14-17	JBSC
	A	July 7-10	JBSC
	Open Boys	July 14-17	Cross Lake
ADULT	55+ Comp SP	TBD	JBSC
ADULT	55+ Rec SP	TBD	JBSC
2022 WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS			
U13	M	July 29-August 1	Prince Albert, SK
U15	M / F	August 4-7	Stonewall, MB
U17	M / F	August 4-7	Edmonton, AB
U20/19	M / F	August 4-7	Richmond, BC
U23	M/F	August 11-14	Saskatoon, SK
OPEN	M / F	August 4-7	Blackfalds, AB
Masters	Male	August 11-14	Abbotsford, BC
2022 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS			
U15	Girls	August 3-7	Saskatoon, SK
	Boys	August 3-7	Wilmot, ON
U17	Girls	August 17-21	Montreal, QC
	Boys	August 10-14	Saskatoon, SK
U19	Women	July 26-31	Fredericton, NB
U20	Men	July 27-31	Carbonear, NL
U23	Women	August 10-14	Saskatoon, SK
U23	Men	August 2-7	Carp, ON
SENIOR	Women	August 17-21	Regina, SK
	Men/Mas	August 31- September 4	St. John's, NL
Slo-Pitch	Women	August 7-13	Surrey, BC
Slo-Pitch	Men's	August 7-13	Surrey, BC



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