



Association Newsletter

"It's not a game until we call it!"

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Web site: www.jaxump.com

**Jacksonville Umpires
Association**

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Contract Corner



Our summer season has finally come to an end with a short break now coming up before we go into fall mode. This will give all of you a chance to recharge your batteries, get some things done around the house, maybe look at your rule books a little bit and reflect on the season and what you might have done better in some of those ball games where you had a little heartburn or someone had an issue. This would also be a great time to start looking ahead and making sure you know what your plans are for the fall season. And by that, I mean your personal plans. Get your calendars, fill in those important dates, weddings, football games, graduations and such. It always happens in the middle of the season that we will get a request to handle an event and suddenly be short handed because you guys don't take time to make note of what the calendar has on it. So take this opportunity and get your personal calendars up to speed so that you can consolidate them with your officiating calendar. Some of you have called and asked about high school. And now is the time to be thinking along that subject line. If you think you want to go into the school ball arena and you have the time to commit, then this would be your opportunity to start taking the necessary steps to start making that happen. Contact Bill Franco or Glenn Seltzer, as they are the high school member at large and booking commissioner for all the necessary information and help. As always, I will be happy to answer questions, but you will have to talk with one of those two for final prep and details. Of course, you can check our website for any information available on it.

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Schools Corner



The schools division is fairly quiet this time of year. School is out for the summer, and umpires smart enough to support both divisions are busy calling contract division ASA and USAAA slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball. It's great to be able to stay busy during the summer! I have thoroughly enjoyed slow-pitch softball, as putting on the plate gear is no joy when the temperature is reaching 100 degrees on our fields. I can't say enough about how Curtis has handled the assignments and dealt with the many obstacles surrounding summer ball in a completely professional manner.

So here we are in the middle of July. August will go by fast, as life in general usually does, and school will be back in session before you know it. So here is my "wish list" (in no particular order) for this fall and the 2011 spring season:

We have an outstanding fall contract clinic, where 20 – 25 new officials are certified for calling ball. Of this group, nearly all are interested in calling school ball too and they are excited to attend our first schools division clinic in November.

We develop a way to combine a large portion of our recruiting and training so that we have nearly all new officials ready to call ball for both divisions in 2011. Most of our new officials will pay one price for registrations, gear, and administrative fees and be ready to

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Jacksonville Umpires Association

The Key to Better Officiating
is to Know
You Can Do Better
and Then Try.



Upcoming Meeting Date
Sunday 18 July 2010
Wolfson HS
2PM

CBC (Continued from page 1)

While on that subject line, are you using our website? If not, why? A lot of effort and work have been put into the site by our association secretary to keep it up to speed and with valuable information that can help each and every one of you in your officiating endeavors. I encourage all of you to go onto the website and at least look it over, as it offers a wealth of information on several areas that concern officiating in the northeast Florida area.

Now I would like to give the state of the contract division details. This year, JUA's contract division handled more tournament ball in baseball as well as fast pitch softball and slow pitch than it has in the last 5 years. We handled 3 fast pitch qualifiers for ASA plus 2 showcase tournaments, 1 fast pitch tournament for USSSA. We also were able to do a college showcase baseball tournament as well as a multitude of invitational and district baseball tournaments. For the most part, a pretty good job was done, but there is still room for improvement. The common complaint still seems to be tardiness and attitude of officials. Both of these can be fixed either with your cooperation or without you officiating in events like these. In other words, ladies and gentlemen, the competition out there, the cockroaches who exist in north Florida in and around the first coast, want to get into your pantry. You should not make their job easy. When we have training clinics, you should want to attend not out of obligation, but to better the game and yourselves. All of us think we are better than we are. If you would be more open to self improving, then the association can only grow and prosper and gain more ball and thus in the end, all of you be busy with work. I am asking all of you to make a serious effort this year to tune up and strengthen up your rules and mechanics knowledge and you can always hustle and be on time to a contest no matter what. As most of you know, I've had some serious health issues the last couple of months. My health is not any better, but it's not any worse. I appreciate those of you who have called to check on me and for those of you who are stuffing pins in the dolls, cut a guy some slack. Last but not least, if you have not done your renewals, you will be late after the July meeting. This will result in a late fee. It creates extra work for the association secretary as well as the commissioners. Help us all out and get this taken care of.

Have a great summer break. Enjoy the time off with your families and friends. As always, With Unity, There Is Strength.
MacDaddy

SBC (Continued from page 1)

support both divisions by February/March 2011.

Our numbers now look healthy for 2011. We have brought on at least 30 - 40 new members who support both divisions, our workload is truly intense, and Curtis and I have everyone working and all games completely covered on a regular basis.

Our new (soon to be developed) observation and feedback program is a huge success! We have geared this towards first and second year officials, and the improvement is dramatic. Third year officials and up are receiving peer feedback from our senior officials and our commitment to excellence is the talk of the baseball community.

The E-Board and designated committees develop some "bold, new adventures" that further separate JUA from all of the other competing associations. Our approval rating is at an all time high...

Sure, this is a wish list. Reality tells us that the world is not a perfect place. But we can make improvements and we need the entire membership behind us to do so. So please pass on any ideas that you think will help us to be better. Feel free to email or call me and we will discuss these with you and pass them on to the E-Board.

Have a great July and I hope to see you sometime soon. Glenn

If anyone needs help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. My phone number is 904-641-0220. I will keep all discussions strictly confidential. My job as your representative on the Executive Board is to make your experience as a member of JUA an enjoyable one. If anyone has any suggestions for ways we can further improve our association, the Executive Board would love to hear your ideas.

Bill Franco

JUA Schools Member at Large



JACKSONVILLE UMPIRES ASSOCIATION





Jacksonville Umpires Association

The Key to Better Officiating
is to Know
You Can Do Better
and Then Try.



Upcoming Meeting Date
Sunday 18 July 2010
Wolfson HS
2PM

MEETING AT HOME PLATE

Not less than ten minutes before game time the umpires should meet the coaches and sometimes the team captains at home plate. This is an important meeting. Several important issues must be covered.

Each head coach must confirm that all the players and equipment are proper and legal. The plate umpire must ask each coach. The umpire should wait for or request an explicit affirmative answer. In some states the coaches must affirm this in writing on the line-up cards. That is not the case in Florida. However, each coach must make that commitment. It is prudent to have the other umpire hear the coach's affirmation.

The line-ups are exchanged or, at least, given to the plate umpire. Often scorekeepers have already exchanged line-ups. The plate umpire should inspect each line-up carefully. Look to see that there are nine or ten players listed. Look to be certain that no player is listed twice and that no uniform number is repeated. See if eligible substitutes are listed. Confirm orally who is hitting as the DH (Flex/DP) and which defensive player is not hitting. Inspect them carefully. If someone other than the head coach has handed you the line-up card, ask the coach to confirm it is the correct one.

The ground rules will be discussed and agreed upon at this meeting. Usually the home coach explains them and the visiting coach concurs. If there is any controversy, the umpire must settle it. If there are any special conditions, a run rule for example, they are articulated at this meeting.

Some umpires remind coaches of new or safety rules at this meeting. Just keep it as brief as possible. The home plate umpire should do the talking. S/he should introduce the crew to the coaches and captains. The base umpire should be quiet unless there is some irregularity or omission requiring his/her participation. This should be an important but noncontroversial place where umpires initiate their jurisdiction of the game.

UMPIRING PRE-GAME GUIDE

One day before the game:

1. Check Schedule with partner
2. Check travel plans with partner
 - Who is driving?
 - What time will we arrive?
 - Where will we meet?
3. Who has the plate?

One half hour before game time:

4. Arrive early and let the coach or AD know you are there
5. "Don't wake 'em up!!!"
6. "One play; one call."
7. Plate umpire administers the pre-game conference.
8. Whose rules are in effect today?
9. Are there new book or ground rules?
10. Routine fly ball coverage
11. Positions A, B, C (D with three umpires)
12. If you go out, then what?
13. Interference at second base.
14. Back end of double play (with 3 umpires).
15. Lead runner to third
16. Covering home plate.
17. Ejections.
18. Protests.
19. Check swings.
20. Balks.
21. Run Downs.
22. Time Plays
23. Bag and Beyond (at A & D).
24. "I've got the tag".
25. Errors in rule interpretations
26. Mechanics between innings.
27. Leaving the field together after the game.

After the Game

28. Post game critique: what can be done better?



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