

# The Indicator

The Newsletter of the MBUA

Game, Partners,



Myself.

## Working a Double Header

Items to remember:

- ◆ Stay focused. When going from plate to bases, it is not a time to “take off”. Get motivated for the next endeavor. This is also true from going from the bases to home plate
- ◆ Keep a focused mindset. Use self-talk to get motivated for the next game
- ◆ If you had some tough plays in the first game, let it go, don't carry into the second game. If a team is giving you a problem about a situation that occurred in the first game, warn them and then eject them
- ◆ Make sure you are using the proper mechanics. Don't improvise because you are tired
- ◆ Stay hydrated
- ◆ In between games, eat energy bars or fruit. Stay away from heavy foods
- ◆ Stretch between games
- ◆ Change socks and undershirt between games

## Commissioner's Corner

1. When working the plate, track the ball with your eyes.
2. When working the bases, we should be in the “B” position with runner(s) at 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. We should be in the “C” position with runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; or the bases loaded.
3. When making a decision as a base umpire, get feet set and then make the call.
4. Plate umpires should work on ball management and pace of the game
5. You and your partner should have a definitive meeting place at your game site
6. Keep cell phones on for game days if it is at all possible
7. Keep the MBUA roster with you at all times. It might be a good idea to print a few
8. Hustle, don't walk when the ball is dead
9. Remember you are a “team”. Support one another
10. Keep the “Arbiter” updated, especially days that you have open



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

# One Man Mechanics

**By: Jay O'Hare**

**MBUA**

## **Rules Interpreter**

Some MBUA clients only require one man to umpire their games or once in great while your partner may not be available to work a game with you. It is essential that everyone know the essentials of one man mechanics- positive attitude, hustle and positioning.

**Positive attitude-** Without a partner, you must rely on your own good sense and training. One man game assignments are readily accepted so please do not communicate with the coaches, players or fans how "hard" a one man game may be or this is a "tough or "bad" assignment.

**Hustle-** Many a difficult call can be made easy by hustling into position. We're not talking about false hustle, but earnest effort to get out from behind the plate on every fly ball, getting into a good position in the infield to make the call at first base and to jog back into position after breaking up a meeting on the mound or getting the play right at second base. Coaches and players, even at the middle school level, know when the umpire is giving his best and moving to get in the best position to make the call.

**Positioning-** With no partner, you must rely on correct position to make your calls. In one man games, the umpire ALWAYS takes his position behind the catcher. We do this to see the strike zone and have command of the foul lines. In a one man game, here are your priorities in order of significance:

- ◆ Ball or Strike
- ◆ Fair or Foul
- ◆ Catch/No Catch
- ◆ Out or Safe
- ◆ Tag up or no tag up
- ◆ Position of lead runner

Once the ball is pitched and hit into the infield, the umpire must clear the batter's box, take his mask off with his LEFT hand and then get into position in the infield to make a ruling on either a fly ball or a play by the infield. Angles are essential in one man games. Proximity to the play is not always possible so get into a spot where you can clearly see the play, get set and then make the call. Even on a 60 foot diamond, you should have time to get set. You control the pace of the game so be sure to call time when necessary and to put the ball back into play to restart play.

Rookie umpires are often assigned to one man games. It is often more difficult to work a Little League game than it is to work a Division 1 NCAA game. In a league where the players are of a lower skill level, do NOT assume that routine plays will be routine. With two outs and a runner at third, a one hop ground ball to the pitcher should go to first. Be aware that a ten year old pitcher might not know that and throw home. Be prepared make ANY call that comes your way.

## **COMPOSITE BAT RULE-**

I talked with the MPSSAA baseball rules interpreter Tom O'Hara over the weekend and I'm happy to report that we're doing a solid job with enforcing the new rules around composite bats. We must enforce this rule straight through the end of the season. Let's not get too comfortable as we begin to see the same teams for a third or fourth time in the season.

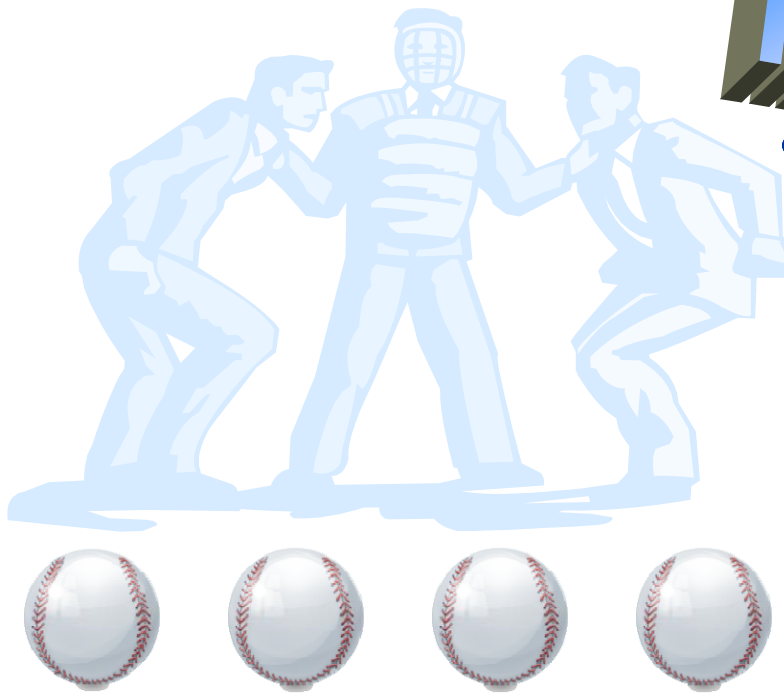
## **Batter or Runner Out? Make the Right Call -**

Be sure to be correctly enforcing NFHS rule 7.4.1 f. A batter is also out ...when any member of the offensive team or coach **other than the runner(s)** interferes with a fielder who attempting to field a foul fly ball. If the **RUNNER** interferes, the **RUNNER** is out in this circumstance.



# Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

# Indicator Contributors



We proudly provide top quality umpires throughout the greater Washington DC metropolitan area. Our services have been utilized by area baseball leagues since 1920. We service all ages and levels of baseball from Little League to High School to Adult leagues, primarily from March to November.

Commissioner:  
Al Battista

Treasurer:  
Thomas Kneeland Jr

Rules Interpreter:  
Jay O'Hare

Production Editor:  
Megan Guerriero

## April Baseball History

- ◆ **1911** All National League umpires are asked by league president Tom Lynch to provide evidence of vision tests.
- ◆ **1931** Chattanooga Lookouts' pitcher Jackie Mitchell, a seventeen-year old girl, strikes out a good-natured Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig on six pitches in an exhibition game
- ◆ **1950** Pacific Coast League Hollywood Stars wear shorts and rayon shirts as their Opening Day uniform.
- ◆ **1961** Connie Mack Stadium, formerly known as Shibe Park, is sold and will be torn down after the 1963 season to make room for bowling alleys. The 52-year old ballpark served as the home for both the A's (1909-1954) and Phillies (1938-1970).
- ◆ **1968** Due to the today's assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King most of the major league teams will decide to postpone their opening day games until the reverend's funeral takes place in five days. Surprisingly, the Dodgers, at first, are the notable exception, even though the Phillies, their opponents on April 9th, say they will forfeit rather than play on the national day of mourning.
- ◆ **1997** For the first time in major league history, the salary of one player is more than the payroll of an entire team. The White Sox will pay Albert Belle \$10 million for the season which is \$928,333 more than the entire Pirate payroll.



## Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

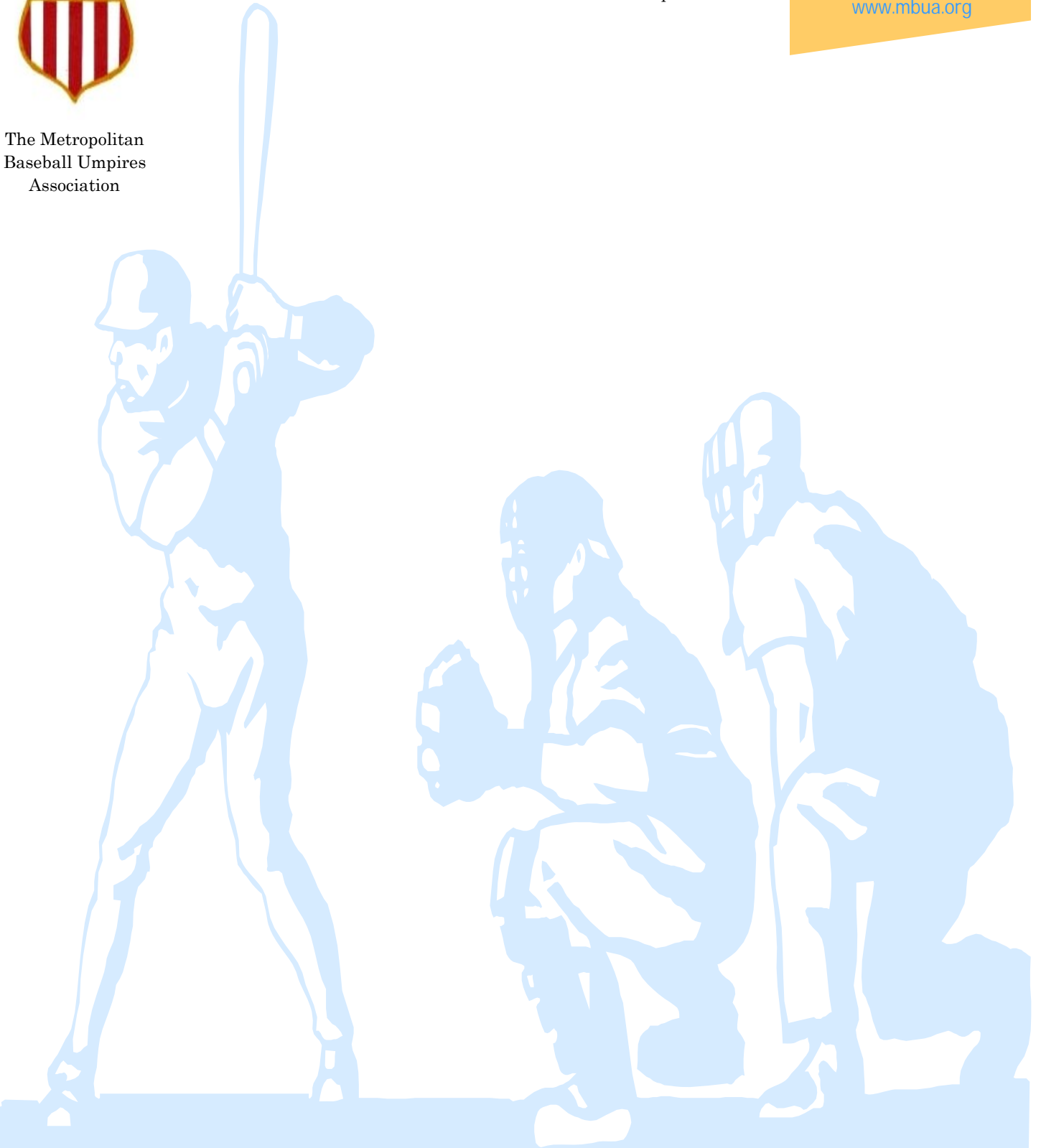


The Newsletter of the MBUA

April 2011

We're on the web!  
[www.mbu.org](http://www.mbu.org)

The Metropolitan  
Baseball Umpires  
Association



**Maryland's Elite Umpire Association**