

# The Indicator

The Newsletter of the MBUA

Game, Partners,



Myself.

## Pregame Responsibilities 2011

Get to your assignment at least 45 minutes before the game. On weekends get there one hour before the game. Make sure you e-mail and call your partner before the game and agree to meet in a specific spot at the school or neutral field parking lot.

1. **When you arrive at the field, notify the home team. Ask the home team for at least three new baseballs to rub up BEFORE the game. Do not step on or roll the new game balls in the dirt at the plate conference**
2. **Confirm start time**
3. **Review with your partner the following items in the locker room or parking area:**
  - a. *Check swing responsibilities and mechanics*
  - b. *Swipe tag and pulled foot mechanics*
  - c. *Fair/Foul Responsibilities*
4. **Outfield Coverage**
  - a. *When U-2 in the "A" position goes out*
  - b. *U1's coverage area when U2 goes to RF*
5. **Non-verbal Signals:**
  - a. *Infield Fly*

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## Commissioner's Corner

1. On scrimmages, make sure you get plate and field work
2. After each scrimmage and regular season game BOTH umpires must submit a game report
3. Always have MBUA partner phone lists with you
4. Call and e-mail your partner before each game at least 48 hours in advance
5. Keep Arbitersports.com updated
6. Submit (USPS) sportsmanship forms to the Montgomery County Public School office in the envelope the home team will provide
7. Have a post game meeting with your partner (s) after each game
8. If you can ride together, do so
9. If you have to turn back a game call and e-mail Al Battista as soon as you know you have a turn back



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

## Pregame Responsibilities 2011

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- b. *Standard Rotation*
- c. *Non-Standard Rotation*
- d. *Appeals*
- e. *Time plays*
- f. *Trap/catch on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike*
- g. *Outs and Count*
- h. *Eye Contact*

### **6. Batter Interference**

### **7. Running Lane Interference**

### **8. Fielder Interference**

### **9. Obstruction**

- a. *Fake Tags*

### **10. Catcher Obstruction**

### **11. Umpire Interference**

### **12. Spectator Interference**

### **13. Balks-**

- a. *Responsibilities*
- b. *“Echo” Balk calls*

### **14. Tag Up Responsibilities**

### **15. Arguments**

- a. *One on one*
- b. *When to step in and when to leave your partner alone*
- c. *Restriction to Bench*
- d. *Ejections*
- e. *Fights*

### **16. Closing**

- a. *Rule questions*
- b. *Mechanic questions*
- c. *Eye Contact*
- d. *Be a good partner*

## March 13, 2011 is National Federation Exam Date and Mechanics Clinic for MBUA Members

Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 2 PM at The Heights School gymnasium on Seven Locks RD in Potomac we will hold our annual field mechanics clinic. Wear your MBUA uniform to the clinic. At 3:30 PM there will be a 30 minute NFHS test prep session and at 4 PM we will then conduct the closed book, 2011 Part 2 NFHS Baseball examination. Dave Gould from TD Sports will also be there for all your uniform or equipment needs. This will be the last time the MBUA will take the National Federation Exam on paper. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the sanctioning body for public high school sports in the state of Maryland is mandating a change in test procedure. In 2012, the MPSSAA, in association with the National Federation of High Schools and Arbitersports.com, will require Maryland officials in each recognized sport to sit for their respective sport's exam

online and through the NFHS online registration process. As an association, we MUST improve our test scores. There may be approximately a dozen umpires in our association who will not be qualified to work high school baseball if they do not achieve the minimum passing grade of 75. MBUA officials who claim to take the 2011 NFHS exam with another association must present written proof of their score via e-mail to Jay O'Hare through the other association's presiding official. —



## Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

## MBUA Procedure for Non-Compliant Compound Bats for the 2011 High School Season

After consulting further with the Maryland MPSSAA Baseball Rules Interpreter regarding the rule changes about compound bats, the MBUA has adopted the following procedure for 2011 Montgomery County Public School Varsity and Junior Varsity play:

- ◆ Umpires shall inspect all required equipment (bats, helmets and catchers equipment) in the team dugouts at least 10 minutes before the start of the game.
- ◆ Any compound bat discovered shall be disqualified from play that day.
- ◆ Should the head coach object to a bat being disqualified, it is the responsibility of the coach before the game to produce a current, bona fide list from the NFHS that details the specific bat as approved for 2011 Federation play. Failure of the coach to produce the approved NFHS list shall disqualify any compound bat from play.
- ◆ Bats or other equipment that has been disqualified and then is discovered in use later during play shall result in the head coach being ejected from the game.
- ◆ Once a game has started, a bat is illegal ONLY when the batter brings the bat into the batter's box. Let's use good judgment and some preventive officiating in this area.

## National Federation High School Baseball Rules Changes for the 2011 Season

**Rule changes this year include significant changes regarding:**

1. The acceptance of the lineup card with substitutes listed. (1-1-2)
2. Modifies the bat rule involving composite baseball bats, defines the components of all not wood bats and the prohibition of altering bats. (1-3-2)
3. Clarifies the use of hard and unyielding materials for injuring padding purposes. (1-5-8)
4. Changes the definition of a foul tip batted ball (2-16-2)
5. Clarifies the importance of identifying the symptoms, signs or behavior of a player who has suffered a concussion. (3-1-5)
6. Clarifies a commonly accepted base running practice. (8-2-6l)

**Among the Points of Emphasis for the 2011 season:**

1. Good sporting behavior outside the confines of the field
2. The altering of bats
3. Umpires checking the bats and other equipment before games
4. Identifying symptoms of concussions
5. Lightning safety



# Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

## Next Meeting/Clinic

Sunday, March 13

**Mandatory Umpires Clinic  
and Rules Test  
St John the Baptist-Gym  
2:00 pm**



### March Baseball History

- ◆ 1903 The rules committee sets the height of the pitcher mound (box) to a maximum of fifteen inches.
- ◆ 1920 The Yankees become the first team to train outside of the United States when they practice in Bermuda.
- ◆ 1923 The Cardinals announce players will wear numbers on their uniforms. The digits will correspond to the player's place in the batting order.
- ◆ 1930 Yankee superstar Babe Ruth signs a two-year deal for \$160,000 making him the highest paid player of all time.
- ◆ 1954 During an exhibition game against the Yankees, recently acquired Brave Bobby Thomson breaks his ankle in three places and will be sidelined until July 14.. The '51 National League play-off hero is replaced by a promising prospect named Hank Aaron.
- ◆ 1958 American League batters this season will be required to wear batting helmets
- ◆ 1969 Citing "I can't hit when I need to", Mickey Mantle announces his retirement thus ending his fabled Hall of Fame career
- ◆ 1995 With a vote of 28-0, the major league owners admit two new teams, the Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays.
- ◆ 2004 Commissioner Bud Selig announces major league baseball will celebrate "Jackie Robinson Day" in every ballpark on April 15, the anniversary of the debut the first black player in the major leagues.

# 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.

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## Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

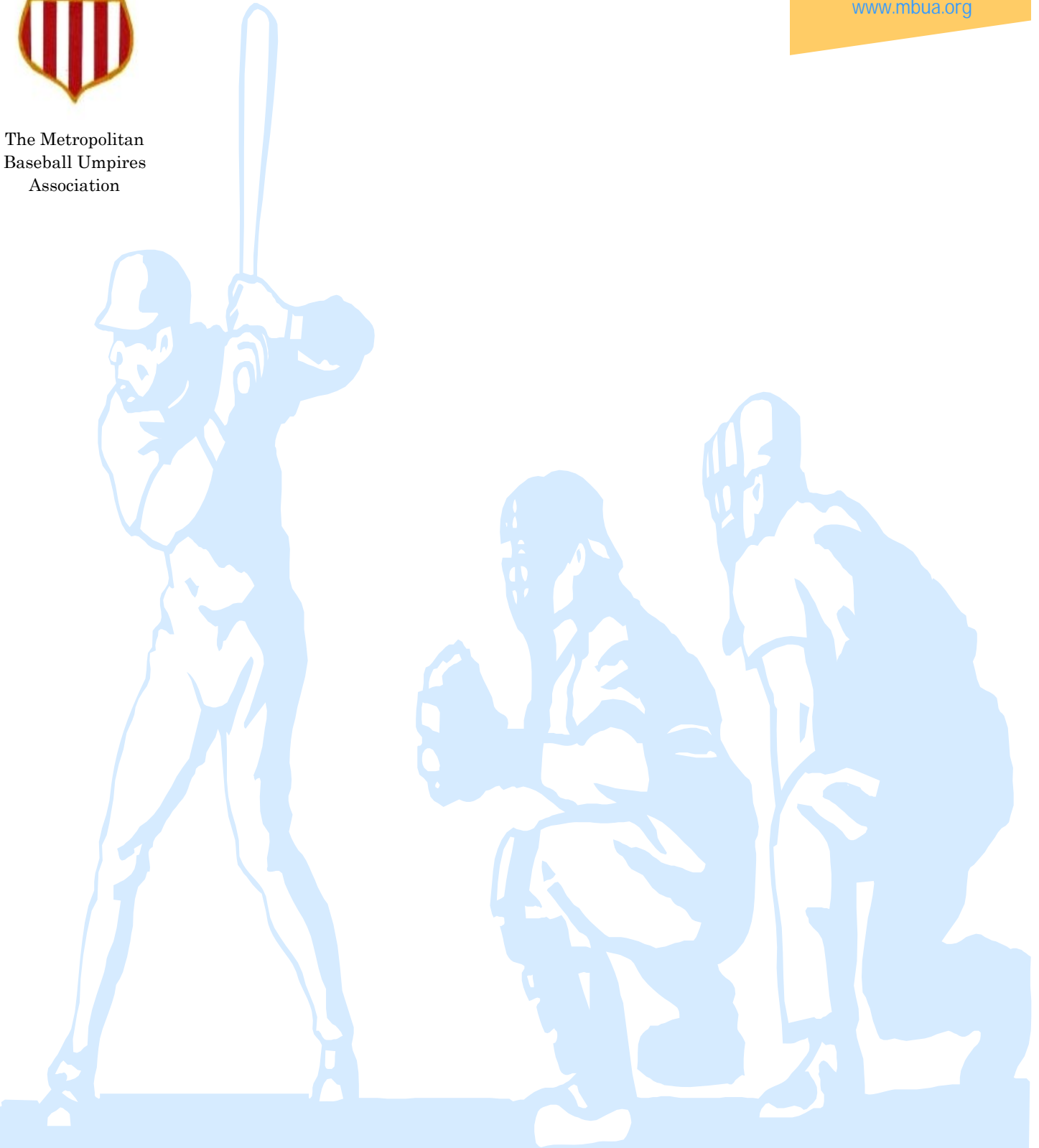


The Newsletter of the MBUA

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

The Metropolitan  
Baseball Umpires  
Association



**Maryland's Elite Umpire Association**