



The Indicator

The Newsletter of the MBUA



Honor Roll

◆ MABL –MSBL Play-OFFS-

August

Jay O’Hare

Jim Sambataro

Darren Harris

Ian Spatz

Brian Carroccio

Tony Iacone

Sandy Frank

◆ Cooperstown, N.Y.

Paul Zimmerman

Roger Loos

Commissioner Updates:

- ◆ *Keep the Arbiter calendar updated.*
- ◆ *Call partners or e-mail partners 48 hours before the game.*
- ◆ *Send in game reports and self evaluations after each game.*

Commissioner's Corner

What do you talk about in pre-game? Here is a list and guide. Hopefully everyone is having a pre-game.

1. **Confirm Start Time**
2. **Go over Points of Emphasis**
3. **Meeting with Coaches**
4. **Check Swing responsibilities and mechanics**
5. **Swipe Tag and pulled foot mechanics**
6. **Fair/Foul Responsibilities**
7. **Outfield Coverage**
8. **Rotations**
9. **Tag Situations**
10. **Non-Verbal Signals**
 - a. Infield Fly
 - b. Time Play
 - c. Standard Rotation
 - d. Appeal.
 - e. Trap/catch by catcher on third strike
 - f. Outs and Count
 - g. Eye Contact
11. **Appeals: Base Touches and Tag-Ups**
12. **Handling Dugouts:**
 - a. Arguing balls and strikes
 - b. Bench jockeying
13. **Arguments:**
 - a. One on one
 - b. When to step in and when to leave them alone as the off official or crew chief
 - c. After an ejection the umpire should turn and walk away. The off official should get the coach or player off the field
14. **Intangibles:**
 - a. Balks
 - b. Pop-Up Coverage
 - c. Obstruction
 - d. Interference
 - e. Fights
15. **Closing:**
 - a. Game
 - b. Partners
 - c. Myself



*Next Clinic: Tuesday, September 15th,
6 PM at The Heights School. Topic:
getting angles on the bases, plate
work and more on 3-Man.*

*If you would like to be con-
sidered to be a Crew Chief in
the fall and next season,
please e-mail me ASAP.*

Clinic:

On August 18th, MBUA had a clinic on 3-Man Umpiring. Dave Schaffel was the instructor and did a fantastic job. Those that attended were Ian Spatz, Tony Iacone, John Hughes, Jim Sambataro, Jim Barnsley, Brian Carroccio, Dan Kenno, Paul Zimmerman, Garrett Schaffel. Also, SDUA umpires attended and were impressed with our leadership and professionalism.

Equipment:

Dave Gould- TD Sports, 703-631-1786.

dbgould@erols.com

Chris Coccagna- POS- 443-655-5853.

Catcher Skull Cap- Mask Combination:

Illegal- NF- Casebook- 1.5.4.

Legal- MLB- 1-16d.

Leagues in the Fall:

- ◆ *MCBA*
- ◆ *Mexican*
- ◆ *Women's Baseball League*
- ◆ *MSBL*

Camps

National Association Umpires Camp

Atlanta, Georgia

August 21-23;

August 28-30

Contact- Jim Stros- 404-547-
6057

21st International Umpires Camp

October 8-11th

Contact- Tony Thompson- 770-
978-4319

Jim Evans Camp

Flemington, New Jersey,

November 11th-15th

Contact No. - 303-290-7411

Deadline- October 15th



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

A Cooperstown Dreams Park Experience

By: Gary Dayton

I was introduced to Cooperstown Dreams Park, via their website, 8 - 9 years ago. I was intrigued by the idea of participating in their umpiring program. One year led to another and each did not include a trip to Cooperstown, until this year. Hal Silverman and I made the journey and enjoyed a special experience for the week.

Dreams Park History

Cooperstown Dreams Park was the dream of the Louis Presutti family to give the opportunity to every youth baseball player in America the chance to play in the home of baseball, Cooperstown New York. It hosted the first group of teams on July 27th, 1996. Thirty seven teams participated in that first program (3 teams from Maryland, Gaithersburg (GSA), Annapolis and Severna Park). Dreams Park has grown in the subsequent years. Currently it accepts applications from as many as 104 teams from across the country to play on their 22 fields on a weekly basis.

The Program

Each Friday throughout the summer a new group of teams (players, coaches, parents, grandparents, siblings etc) and umpires arrive at the park and begin a week of competitive baseball. Each team is guaranteed seven games (weather permitting) for the week. Teams, coaches and umpires are housed in barracks on Dreams Park property and provided meals. Umpires are unpaid but do receive various items from Dreams Park (jerseys, jacket, ball bag, plate brush etc). Saturday is dedicated to non-baseball activity. Opening ceremony and procession of athletes into the main stadium, team skills competition, umpire clinic, pictures etc. Sunday begins the baseball competition. Sunday – Tuesday are tournament games that won/loss records seed the teams for the single elimination playoffs that start on Wednesday. The final 16 teams move to the Thursday playoffs that will crown the week champion.

The Experience

Many of our membership have umpired at Cooperstown Dreams Park in years past, some multiple times. In conversations with these individuals, all come away with a positive impact and good things to say about the whole experience. I now understand why!

First, it is all about the players. It is an opportunity to meet teams from other parts of the country. There was a team from Hawaii participating. There was an all girls team participating. It gives the players an opportunity to compete and succeed in an environment that is all about quality and tradition. The player's energy and excitement becomes infectious. The players continue to compete at a high level, regardless of the score or skill level.

Umpiring baseball games was my reason for being there. The real fun began when the games started on Sunday. You also start to establish friendships with your fellow umpires. Exchanging war stories, joking around or just having friendly conversations. I worked three games a day (one plate and two field assignments). Depending on your crew decisions you could work more games or less. My crew worked three man mechanics for all of our games. Playoff games will require working four man and six man mechanics. Team pin trading is a HUGH activity, especially in the early part of the week. Each team member is provided team pins to trade with other teams and umpires. Umpires are provided 20 Cooperstown umpire pins to participate in the trading activity.

Overall Cooperstown Dreams Park was good experience. Wonderful fields, excellent facilities, great staff and a well run program. Even the meals are reasonably good. Would I consider returning... yes! It would probably be an even better experience the second time around.



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association



The Metropolitan
Baseball Umpires
Association

The Newsletter of the MBUA

September 2009

We're on the web!
www.mbu.org

Officials

Editor / Commissioner:
Al Battista

Treasurer:
Thomas Kneeland Jr

Rules Interpreter:
Jay O'Hare

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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