



The Indicator

The Newsletter of the MBUA



Commissioner's Corner

This fall the MBUA will be officiating the following leagues: MCBA, Arlington Babe Ruth, MSBL and the Women's Baseball League. Please continue to get in the rule books on a regular basis. Remember go over NFHS as well as MLB rules. Now is the time to check your equipment and make sure you look sharp. Many officiating companies have fall sales for umpires.

Items That Must be Done Everyday:

By: Al Battista

- ◆ Keep the Arbiter updated
- ◆ Check your e-mails for announcements and assignments
- ◆ Study your rule book and casebook
- ◆ Go over certain differences in both codes

What shall you do before the game and after the game?

- ◆ Call your partner 48 hours before the game; or e-mail them.
- ◆ Tell them where you will meet in the parking lot to have a pre-game.
- ◆ Make sure after the game, you leave the field together and have a post game meeting.
- ◆ Both umpires must e-mail the commissioner a game report.

Why is the Fall Season Important?

The Fall is important because this is the time to get ready for the spring. It is essential to be professional, to look the part, to be in shape and to be well groomed. Why? Because many of these Fall League players will see you in the spring of 2012. Now is the time to develop a good reputation. Know the rules but be realistic. Have sharp mechanics but don't be robotic. Work on your timing behind the plate and in the field. Keep a journal on any unusual plays and look up the interpretations.



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

2011 Fall Season

By: Jay O'Hare
Rules Interpreter

High School- The 2011 Fall Baseball season opens this week. Please be aware that all the 2011 NFHS rules and rule interpretations are still in effect for the balance of the year for the leagues that play under high school rules. The Montgomery County Baseball Association uses NFHS rules with very few exceptions. The biggest variation in MCBA Fall play is that they often bat as many players as they have available that night- 9, 10, 11, 12 players or more. If a player leaves the game early some reason other than ejection, just shrink up the batting order. If a player is ejected, ring up an out in that hitter's position only if the team is batting ALL its available hitters each time that hitter should come to the plate. For speed up rules, allow the last batted out to become the designated runner for the pitcher or catcher. MCBA follows the NFHS pitching rules, including the defensive conferences (3) rule before removing the pitcher. Be sure to hustle, keep players in the dugout if they are not hitting, on deck, occupying a coach's box or in a bullpen area. Keep coaches off the field (including standing outside the dugouts, sitting on buckets, etc.) unless they are occupying a coach's box or there is a dead ball situation. The "gorilla" move by the pitcher (pitching arm swinging back in forth while on the rubber with a runner or runners on base) is a balk.

Men's Leagues- The MABL and MSBL leagues are in full swing for their fall 2011 seasons. Be sure to show up at least 45 minutes ahead of game time, get a good pre-game

conference with your partner and hustle once the game begins. Be consistent in your strike zone and to get a good angle on every play. The MABL and MSBL play professional Official Baseball Rules or what we know as MLB rules. There is no provision in MLB rules to restrict a player or coach to the bench. If a player or coach is disruptive, has violated a playing rule that warrants an ejection or has violated a MSBL rule that also warrants an ejection, then eject the player. Ejected players must leave the dugout. We follow the rules interpretation that an ejected coach or player must leave the sight and sound of the game. Do NOT restart a game until the ejected player is out of the dugout and in the parking lot.

General Observations on the 2011 Season to Date

By: Jay O'Hare
Rules Interpreter

After umpiring 75 or more games this season and watching our umpires work dozens more game, here is some feedback on our overall performance:

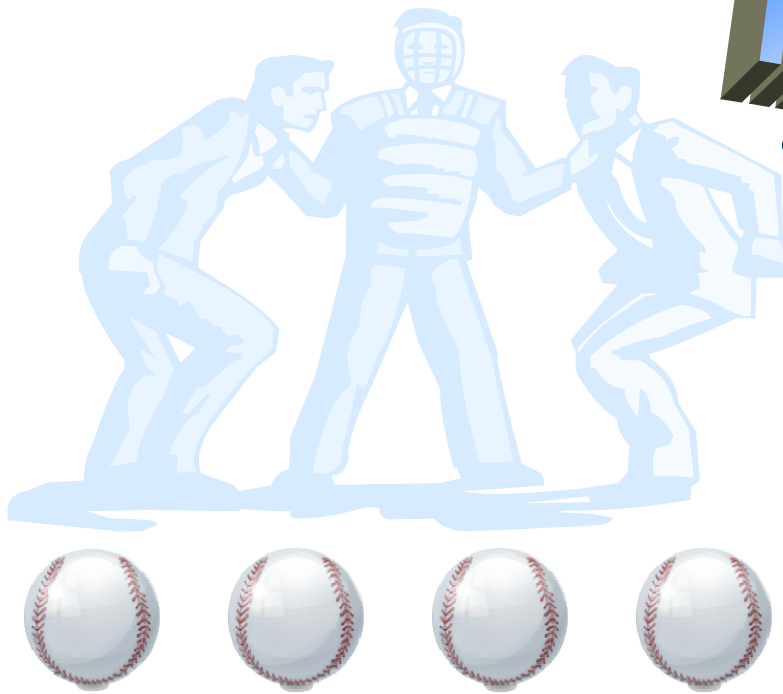
◆ Appearance

Most of us look like we know what we're doing and have the correct MBUA uniform. Let's try to wear a MBUA uniform cap that is neat and clean. More than a couple MBUA umpires have filthy, sweat and salt ringed caps or cats now a light purple from years of use and exposure to sunlight in the back of a car. Be sure you own a MBUA cap that was at least purchased in this decade. A shoe shine kit, a shoe brush and shine rag also goes a long way in improving an umpire's appearance. If you wonder

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September Baseball Facts

- ◆ 1906- In the longest game in American League history, Philadelphia beats the Red Sox in 24 innings, 4-1
- ◆ 1939 When Babe Dahlgren strikes out while being given an intentional walk and George Selkirk and Joe Gordon try to steal home on successive pitches by trotting to the plate, Red Sox fans throw a barrage of garbage onto playing field at Fenway Park to protest the Yankees making deliberate outs to take advantage of the 6:30 Sunday curfew. Umpire Cal Hubbard rules the Boston crowd's action makes it impossible to continue the game and awards the game as a forfeit to the Yankees with a 9-0 'official' score.
- ◆ 1975- When he whiffs Pirate Manny Sanguillen in the seventh inning of the Mets 3-0 victory, Tom Seaver becomes the first pitcher to strike out at least 200 batters in eight consecutive seasons. The victory is also 'Tom Terrific's' 20th of the season making it the fourth time in his career he has reached that plateau.
- ◆ 1999- Due to the union's failure to force an early start to negotiations for a new labor contract with mass resignations, twenty-two of baseball's regular 68 umpires find themselves unemployed. In a deal, mediated by J. Curtis Joyner, a U.S. District Judge, the union agrees the 22 will no longer provide services for major league baseball.

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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why you might not get a “big” game assignment, it might be you don’t look like a “big” game umpire. Many dual members are far too casual about the uniform and complain to their MBUA partner if our umpire doesn’t match their haphazard look. If you are working for another association, do NOT wear your MBUA uniform shirt or cap when assigned a game by another group. This includes SDUA, Ray Taylor’s group, Prince Georges Babe Ruth or other associations.

◆ Game Management

If we expect the games to start on time, we must be at the game site at least 45 minutes before the scheduled start time. Have a good pre-game conference with your partner, get on the field together as a crew on the field and take care of whatever pre-game duties you must perform and get the plate conference started five minutes BEFORE the start of the game. Be sure that you have an adequate supply of baseballs to start the game and let the home team know when you need more baseballs. Three baseballs is NOT an adequate supply when playing night games at the Montgomery County M-NCPPC regional fields like Blake, Olney Manor or Wheaton. Be clear about sportsmanship and player/coach/fan behavior at the plate conference and then fairly and consistently enforce all the playing rules. Keep players who aren’t on defense, hitting, on deck, coaching on the base lines or substituting off the field. No coaches (unless in the coaching box), scorekeepers and by-standers should be

on the field, especially during live ball play. Our lax enforcement of these standards represents an unreasonable risk to players, coaches, other team personnel and fans. Our performance in this category at Greenbelt Little League games was a bad joke.

◆ Hustle

We look good in this category except in the extreme heat of the summer. Stay hydrated, keep in decent physical condition and be prepared for the heat. Every league under contract asks us to keep the games moving. This does not include expanding the strike zone depending on the heat index or harassing teams to “hurry up”. If you can’t take the heat, Al has plenty of officials waiting to take your game.

◆ Judgment

Again, we look good in this category. If our rules knowledge, appearance, game management skills and hustle are top of the line, we are in a good place to make the right call. This means stopping a game due to lightning without regard to the inning or score. It means waiting a beat before we make a call on the bases; it means keeping your cool in a trouble situation or knowing when NOT to eject a coach or player.

◆ Be a Good Partner

We have a solid cadre of younger, solid officials who are growing into very competent umpires. Let’s do our best to encourage these umpires to

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do their best and let's do our best in return. Look sharp in your uniform and set a good example. Work the plate when it is "your turn". No umpire wants a plate dodger as a partner and the young guys are very quick to notice who pulls their fair share of plate assignments and who shirks responsibility. Call or e-mail your partner at least 48 hours before your game. Get to the game on time. Be sure to treat every partner with the same respect you expect. Try to stay away from "coaching" or providing advice to a less experienced partner after every inning, especially if one of you blew a call in that inning.



NEW MBUA UNIFORM JACKET FOR THE 2012 SEASON

The MBUA will change to a more modern looking, black MLB umpire style jacket with white trim for the 2012 season (top). This is the first time in nearly twenty years that we have made a change with the MBUA uniform jacket. Depending on the supplier, the new jacket will cost between \$35 and \$60. There will be no phase in or transition year for the new jacket. Umpires who work MBUA games in 2012 and wear the old style jacket will be considered out of uniform and subject to a fine of a half a game fee for the first offense. Repeat offenders will be subject to a fine of a game fee or suspension from future assignments. We will continue to wear the navy blue pullover shirt for the high school season, use the navy blue or light blue shirt for non-high school and the fitted, navy blue MBUA New Era cap. Please see the photo illustration. More information will be provided in the October 2011 *Indicator*.



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association



The Metropolitan
Baseball Umpires
Association

Important Notice About MPSSAA Insurance Coverage:

The 2010-11 MPSSAA annual dues year expires on June 30, 2011. The MPSSAA gives us the option to pick up our liability insurance coverage for the 2011-12 School Year effective July 1, 2011. The MBUA works straight through the first of November and we will continue to provide this important liability coverage to you. All MBUA umpires who are working "summer" ball will have insurance coverage deducted from their 2011 summer game fees. This applies to every umpire assigned by the MBUA to a game after the 2011 high school season. All dual members be charged the liability insurance fee.



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