



2020

Provincial Umpires' Committee

AGM Reports & Resources

October 23/24, 2018

The World Wide Web, Saskatchewan

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Provincial Umpire Committee Meeting

Agenda

7:00 PM, October 23rd, 2020

Via Zoom Call



1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Minutes from October 18, 2019
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - a. Program Contribution
 - b. Registration Lists
 - i. Discussion on Online RAMP Database with SBA
6. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. Committees
 - i. Education
 - ii. Operations and Communications
 1. Procedure for Operations Manual Changes
 - iii. High Performance
 1. 2021 National Assignments
 - iv. Evaluation and Mentorship
 - v. Umpire of the Week
 - b. Supervisor
 - c. Assistant Supervisor
 - d. Past Supervisor
 - e. Baseball Canada Report
 - i. Nothing to report at this time. National meetings will be virtual on Saturday Nov. 21
 - ii. Scott will make a proposal regarding umpires that could not umpire this year due to Covid and paid registration.
7. New Business
 - a. Discussion on Covid Regulations
 - b. Reports – Template Development
 - c. 2020 – Clinic material creation recognition & feedback
 - d. Level 4/5 Clinic 2021
 - e. Level 3 umpires in 2020
 - i. Continued engagement & recruitment in 2021
 - f. Level 3 Clinics – 2021
 - g. Level 1 & 2 Clinics - 2021
 - h. Umpire Recruitment Guide
 - i. Discussion regarding discipline in 2020 season
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjourn



Provincial Umpire Committee Meeting

Minutes
October 18th, 2019
Saskatoon



1. Call to Order → 8:17pm

2. Roll Call

Rocky Nickel, Huck Craig, Adrian Bourgeois, Trevor Drury, Joe Smith, Bruce Walker, Scott Mills, Murray Bucsis, Aaron Roberts, Matt Schule, Karl Rowe (Observer), Brad Biermann.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Bruce; Trevor seconded.

4. Minutes from October 19, 2018

Motion to adopt Minutes made by Adrian; seconded by Huck

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Program Contribution

Huck reported that 20 individuals submitted contribution reports which is a slight increase from last season. Contribution point averaged 39 points/person. There were a few with 60 points or more. Trevor reminds that every level 4/5 umpire must submit contribution points to demonstrate their contributions towards the program. It was discussed that there were sufficient examples of how to get points within the program. It was reminded that the minimum standard for what is expected for contributions is 20 points. Executive discussed whether or not 20 points is a good standard and if it should be altered. It was determined that there should not be a 'cap' on how someone may contribute due to the variation of opportunities in each zone, and to avoid discouraging individuals from contributing to the program in a way that they enjoy and/or are effective in doing. The question in the future should be "How have you given back," not "are you giving back." The purpose is to further the program's development and prosperity, not punish.

Submission method of contribution points was discussed. This needs to be an off-season project to create ease of access, easily completed forms, and consistency in submission that is accessible. For the most part, it was agreed that the form is user friendly with minor fixes required.

b. Game Premiums

Scott Mills proposed to Baseball Sask Executive to increase all game premiums. It was also encouraged to avoid high amounts of provincial championships for one weekend (i.e., there was one weekend this year that had 15 championships throughout the province causing major strain on umpires & zones). Having such premiums, as recommended by Scott, might encourage hosts to have their opening ceremonies earlier in the day, thus weekday games being played later in the day when more umpires are available. Baseball Sask Board will discuss and come to a decision on this topic prior to the 2020 season.

c. Registration Lists

Tracking Umpires and updating current list from the office

Thank you, Adrian for compiling the information from all umpire registration this year. Adrian suggests that Age and experience be something worth adding to future online registration forms to allow zone directors to easily see the eligibility of umpires able to work provincials. Furthermore, Adrian suggests a formatting change to the registration form so that all the information lines up with the Baseball Sask form, thus making it easier and faster to compile the work. Adrian will speak with Phil McGee to discuss what this would look like. Mike Ramage needs to be included in this process to align such changes.

Scott Mills asks all zone directors to review all umpires in their zone and highlight umpires who are not registered, as well identify any umpires who did attend a clinic that are missing or simply not updated to having attended in 2019. Adrian will try to submit and share updated information to clinicians at the next clinicians meeting.

6. Executive Committee Reports

a. Committees

Education

There was an increase in clinics from 38 in 2018 to 47 (2019). There were 52 clinic requests, however some did not go through due to lack of clinicians and demand on the date. There is a strong need for additional clinicians as some centers were sending out clinicians out of zone every single weekend. Some ideas to combat these stresses would be:

- Start clinics in March
- Increase clinicians
- Continue streamlining the clinic request form

Instructional video for Yellow Card and Ejections was helpful – thank you, Matt. Aaron plans to continue creating additional videos with the guidance/assistance of Matt to be posted for clinicians and through social media. One idea was to have a ‘table talk’ style video cast of reviewing plays, situations, etc. This must align with Baseball Canada Rules and Information.

Superclinic was successful in Saskatoon. The indoor facility was greatly beneficial and should be considered for the future when Saskatoon hosts.

Scott Mills asks Zone Directors to remind clinic hosts and local associations to consider having a level 2 clinic. Not having a level 2 clinic may result in high expenses for having to commute out of zone umpires to umpire provincials with possible post-provincial play. These tournaments require level 2 officials.

Executive discussed whether or not Level 3 clinics should be 1 day versus 2 days, whether \$100 registration fees are ideal (or deterring), etc. Education material will be reviewed and altered if required by the Education committee to ensure it is both correct and engaging to avoid redundancy. At the clinicians meeting, there may be time allotted for a jig saw activity to review, revise and discuss clinic materials for 2020.

Operations and Communications

Edited Operation Manual – Phil was not able to attend so his report will be tabled until tomorrow's meeting. The social media presence has received outstanding feedback from across the country. He also updated the Operations Manual. Executive are asked to review it and communicate any errors immediately.

High Performance

No report was submitted but Scott Mills summarized the portfolio. The High Performance position will most likely be vacant and need to be filled. All umpires sent to national championships had positive evaluations.

Evaluation and Mentorship

Evaluations were completed at the May Long tournament and were successful. In 2020, the evaluations will not be in conjunction with the Superclinic next year. This means umpires must contact zone directors for opportunities to get evaluated. A good opportunity would be the Selects tournament as many will most likely go. If the selects tournament does not continue, there will be other opportunities that will be determined as the 'main tournament' for evaluations.

Umpire of the Week

Murray shared the success of the program and we greatly thank his organization of such. Stu Scheurwater's donation of signed baseballs was greatly received amongst the umpire of the week recipients; we hope to continue this. We do not have any Baseball Sask embroidered ball bags which means executive will need to contact Al Anderson's Source for Sports for additional ball bags.

Supervisor

Some highlights of the report include:

- Increase in umpires in almost all zones.
- Level 3 umpires decreased by almost 50%.
- The province had fewer yellow cards and more ejections in comparison to last season. After review, the majority of these ejections could not be managed with a yellow card. There were 12 "Other incidents" that were reported which is telling that this newly added feature is worth keeping. After reviewing ejection reports, there might be a need for some additional teachings on ejections that are unremarkable versus subject to review.

Assistant Supervisor

Huck's only concern is to continue making the contribution points easier and more consistent to submit. He plans to follow up with the individuals who have not yet submitted their contribution points.

Past Supervisor

As submitted.

Baseball Canada Report

Scott Mills shared with Baseball Canada about the Yellow Card and Contribution Points Program.

Trevor added that the Course Conductor program will be adding a “scheduling” portion in their modules to help train course conductors how to properly and effectively schedule umpires for a National Championship.

7. New Business

Umpire Starting at Level 2 policy – Addition to Operations Manual

Provinces have some control where an umpire may begin within the program, whereas in the past, executive may have thought otherwise. Scott will be proposing a guideline for new/returning umpires to start at level 2 so that members receive the best training and challenge that will fit their development level. There are 5 criteria to determine the starting level of an umpire. This will depend on Age, experience, involvement and exposure to baseball, recommendation(s) and experience within other sports/officiating as outlined in Scott’s proposal. The process will also include multiple individuals to determine the umpire’s level. *Scott presented the policy to executive.*

***Trevor Drury motions to adopt the policy as presented by Scott Mills. Seconded by Murray.
Motion PASSED –Unanimous decision.***

2020 – Bi-provincial National Clinic

Adrian will be helping with booking facilities. The clinic will be on February 15th – 16th. Zone Directors are encouraged to communicate with eligible umpires to ‘save the date’. Stu Scheurwater will be joining, as well Kevin Mandzuk. As we approach the date, please submit ideas for the clinic to Aaron Roberts or Scott Mills. Scott Mills will send out an email about the clinic.

Level 3 umpires - Large drop this year – Need to discover why.

There are questions of why level 2 umpires are not trying the level 3 program, as well why did some level 3s register only as a level 2 this year. Is cost a factor? Is the 2 day clinic a deterrent? Scott Mills created a task force, consisting of Trevor and Huck to devise a plan and seek some answers to these questions. Rocky offered to help the task force and suggests getting feedback from last level 3 attendees to ask them for feedback; was 2 days and the cost worth the experience, etc.

Level 3 Clinics – 2020

Executive discussed length, costs, placements, and combining with level 2 clinics. One suggested that there should be online modules for non-clinic years and one in-person clinic every 3rd year. Other suggestions included that every zone have a 2/3 combined clinic (every 3rd year). Before executive can make a decision, level 2 feedback must be collected. Furthermore, it is worth asking Baseball Canada of any modules and training they may want to make nation-wide prior to spending time and effort once feedback is collected.

Umpire Recruitment Guide

The idea was presented by Brian (SBA) to Scott this year. This included incentives for umpiring and other perks for continuing to umpire. The executive will need to compile a list of ideas to entice kids/adults to become an umpire and to determine what might be encouraging for others to continue umpiring. Brad and Matt have been assigned the task to get ideas for this, look into other sports and what there are doing, etc.

Umpire Availability for Provincial play

This topic is tabled to tomorrow's meeting.

Selects Tournament

Scott asked that it be held Saturday to Monday, or at the very least hold off from any day games on Friday. There will not be any umpires available.

Provincial Crew Chief Responsibility Guide – Matt Schule –

Tabled to tomorrow.

Baseball Canada Proposals – Phil McGee –

Tabled to tomorrow.

8. **Next Meeting** – Tomorrow at 9:00am
9. **Adjourn** – Motion made by Joe Smith.



Umpire Annual General Meeting

10:00 am, October 24th, 2020

Via Zoom Call

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. AGM Voting Procedures**
 - for election of zone directors**
 - For resolutions**
- 4. Adoption of Agenda**
- 5. Adoption of the 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes**
- 6. Business Arising from Minutes**
 - i) Zone Reports**
 - ii) Baseball Sask Uniforms**
- 7. Committee Reports**
 - a) Supervisor**
 - b) Past Supervisor**
 - c) Assistant Supervisor**
 - d) Executive Committee**
 - i) Education**
 - ii) Communications and Operations**
 - iii) High Performance**
 - iv) Evaluation and Mentorship**
 - v) Umpire of the Week**
 - e) Zone Director Reports**
- 8. Follow up from PUC proposal regarding post-game ejections.**
- 9. 2020 Elections – Chaired by Trevor Drury – Past Supervisor**
 - Provincial Supervisor – Scott Mills Acclaimed for a 2 year term**
 - Zone Directors**
- 10. New Business**
- 11. Other**
- 12. Adjourn**



Umpire Annual General Meeting

Minutes October 19th, 2019 Saskatoon

1, Call to Order – 9:06am

2. Roll Call – Joe Smith, Scott Mills, Blake Thille, Phil McGee, Adrian Bougeois, Brad Biermann, Bruce Walker, Hauk Craig, Murray Bucsis, Rocky Nickel, Trevor Drury, Larry Orth, Mark Clarke, Matt Schule, Scott Mostoway, Travis Wourms

3. Adoption of Agenda –

Motion to adopt agenda as amended made by Trevor, seconded by Mark Clarke.

4. Adoption of the 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes –

Motion to adopt minutes made by Murray, Seconded by Joe. There was a question about Cannabis policy; Executive plan to adopt any policy that is created by Baseball Canada.

5. Committee Reports

a) Supervisor

13 umpires were given a national assignment, all received positive feedback and evaluations. Two umpires received invitations to T12, one (Aaron Roberts) was selected to work WSBC Premiere 12. In addition, 3 umpires were sent to work the Western Canada Summer Games. As discussed in last night's meeting, the following were highlights in the report:

- Increase in umpires in almost all zones.
- Numbers have increased across the province as a whole; Zone 3 having the largest increase. Level 3 umpire registrations dropped significantly, and this will be explored through a task force that was created in yesterday's meeting (Trevor, Hauk and Rocky). 2020 is a clinic year, so the information gathered is extremely important for how we move forward with clinic set up. Level 3 umpires decreased by almost 50%.
- The province had fewer yellow cards and more ejections. After review, the majority of these ejections could not be managed with a yellow card. There were 12 "Other incidents" that were reported which is telling that this newly added feature is worth keeping. Lots of these reports were focused on post game incidents that involved coaches and parents. With these reports, Baseball Sask and local zones were able to better manage and track these actions and the individuals involved. After reviewing ejection reports, there might be a need for some additional teachings on ejections that are unremarkable versus subject to review. Game management and differentiating "Subject to review" versus "Unremarkable" might be worth creating learning materials for Level 3.

b) Past Supervisor

As submitted.

c) Assistant Supervisor

As mentioned in yesterday's meeting, Huck's main concern was to continue making the contribution points easier and more consistent to submit while following up with the individuals who have not yet submitted their contribution points. He will work with Phil to achieve this.

d) Executive Committee

Education

Aaron Roberts presented the report yesterday – Scott Mills reviewed and presented the report to members not at yesterday's meeting on Aaron's behalf. This included the following points:

- Increase in clinics to 47; 38 in 2018. There were 52 clinic requests, but some did not go through due to lack of clinicians and demand on the date. There is a strong need for additional clinicians as some centers were sending out clinicians, out of zone, every single weekend. Some ideas to combat these stresses would be:
 - Start clinics in March
 - Increase clinicians
 - Continue streamlining the clinic request form

Instructional video for Yellow Card and Ejections was helpful – thank you, Matt. Aaron plans to continue creating additional videos with the guidance/assistance of Matt to be posted for clinicians and through social media.

Superclinic was successful in Saskatoon. The indoor facility was greatly beneficial and should be considered for the future when Saskatoon hosts.

Scott Mills asks Zone Directors to remind clinic hosts and local associations to consider having a level 2 clinic. Not having a level 2 clinic may result in high expenses for having to commute out of zone umpires to umpire provincials with possible post-provincial play. These tournaments require level 2 officials.

There was discussion whether or not Level 3 clinics should be 1 day versus 2 days, if \$100 registration fees are ideal, etc. Education material will be reviewed and altered as required by the Education committee to ensure it is both correct and engaging to avoid redundancy. At the clinicians meeting, there may be time allotted for a jig saw activity to review, revise and discuss clinic materials for 2020.

One of the level 1 modules do not include anything on Fair/Foul rules and situations. Travis noted the importance of including this point. Education committee will consider whether or not this needs to replace another point in the level 1 module. In the meantime, there is some teaching in the gym session. Phil mentions the possible benefits of providing a list of "Need to Knows" that clinic attendees will leave the clinic with. In addition, Murray suggests that this could also be sent to local associations for coaches to be aware that umpires in their first two years may only have 'this' limited understanding.

Communications and Operations

Phil presented his report. There was an increase of over 30% for Facebook followers and over 75% increase for Twitter. Across Canada, Saskatchewan is gaining a reputation for being successful umpires who can have fun. Around 600+ individuals entered to win Stu Scheurwater's jacket.

Phil also updated the Operations Manual to the formatting that was determined and agreed upon for change at the 2018 AGM. He will also be adding the policy change that was passed in last night's meeting.

High Performance

There was no report submitted as mentioned at yesterday's meeting. The portfolio may combine with another portfolio.

Evaluation and Mentorship

As discussed in last night's meeting, Scott presented the following:

Evaluations were completed at the May Long tournament and was successful. In 2020, the evaluations will not be in conjunction with the Superclinic next year, so umpires must contact zone directors for opportunities to get evaluated. A good opportunity would be for the Selects tournament as many will most likely go. If the selects tournament does not continue, there will be other opportunities that can be determined as the 'main tournament' for evaluations.

Umpire of the Week

As discussed from last night's meeting: Murray shared the success of the program and we greatly thank his organization of such. Stu Scheurwater's donation of signed baseballs was greatly received amongst the umpire of the week recipients; we hope to continue this. Furthermore, Stu would write a letter for these young umpires to congratulate them. We do not have any Baseball Sask embroidered ball bags which means executive must contact Al Anderson's Source for Sports for additional ball bags.

Scott Mills urges that Zone Directors need to nominate more officials for Provincial awards as this year there were only two nominations. Scott asks that every Zone Director try to have two nominations each year for umpires to be recognized.

e) Zone Director Reports

Zone 1 – It was disappointing to see Zone 1's report due to the content and quality of the report. Scott Mills will contact the director. These reports are important as they demonstrate the growth of the Baseball Sask Umpire Program; they are not to be made a joke.

Zone 2 – As submitted by Joe Smith. Joe presented highlights within the report, including an increase in registrants and quality of baseball within the zone. The game fee pilot program that was created in 2018 (paying umpires based on level of experience) for Zone 2 continued and seemed successful in encouraging umpires to continue umpiring and attend higher levels of clinics. Joe is making it a priority to encourage a few high school age umpires to continue to work higher levels of ball due to their great potential. There was an error for scheduling playoffs during provincial play that was sorted out. This can be an opportunity for zone directors to remind local associations that Provincial Play is a priority in comparison to other playoffs.

Zone 3 – As submitted by Bruce Walker.

Zone 4 – As submitted by Murray Buccis. Highlighted the benefit of spreading out the clinic dates within the zone and that some communities hosted clinics, bringing in a few new umpires. Notes that some communities are isolated in the sense of not many senior umpires being able to mentor new officials.

Zone 5 – As submitted by Doug Jackson.

Zone 6 – As submitted by Matt Schule. Highlighted the improvement of behavior at the Senior Men's division. Most issues within Zone 6 stemmed around parents and coaches at the 13U and 15U levels, some having post game incidents.

Zone 7 – As Submitted by Brad Biermann.

Zone 8 – As submitted by Adrian Bourgeois. Adrian highlighted that their zone does a mentorship pay bonus to help young/newer officials. This is paid by the zone's minor baseball association. The association(s) see value in mentorship and are supportive to pay an additional fee.

Motion to accept all reports was made by Brad, seconded by Blake Thille.

1. 2019 Resolutions and Operations

There is one resolution that will impact umpires directly. At 11U AA tier 2 and lower, an Infield Fly that is called will result in an immediate dead ball and the batter being recorded out. Reasoning is due to the chaos that may result from players and coaches due to their developmental level. It also would help new umpires manage the rule.

Trevor Drury will follow up with possible discussion about a possible disciplinary procedure for a late game ejection in game 1 of a same day double header.

As noted from yesterday's meeting, one addition to the operations manual will be made. See October 18th, 2019 minutes.

2. 2020 National Clinic

February 15-16, 2019. As discussed on October 18th, Adrian will be helping with booking facilities. The clinic will be on February 15th – 16th. Zone Directors are encouraged to communicate with eligible umpires to 'save the date'. Stu Scheurwater will be joining, as well Kevin Mandzyk. As we approach the date, please submit ideas for the clinic to Aaron Roberts or Scott Mills. Scott Mills will send out an email about the clinic.

3. 2020 – Level 3 Clinic year

As mentioned from October 18th, Huck, Rocky and Trevor will be exploring why there are not many level 3 umpires and why some level 3s choose to go back to level 2 status. This is fairly consistent with Baseball Canada as a whole so this information may be shared with other provinces. There was some concern about the difficulty of the exam and how it may deter some officials.

4. 2019 Elections – Chaired by Trevor Drury CEO

Assistant Supervisor

Due to no nominations being submitted, the Provincial Supervisor will appoint an Assistant Supervisor. Scott Mills made it known that he plans to have Huck Craig continue his role as Assistant Supervisor.

Zone Directors

Zone 1 – Kevin Culy – Nominated by Scott Mills, seconded by Bruce. No other nominations.

Zone 2 – Joe Smith was elected by his local association.

Zone 3 – Bruce Walker – Nominated by Murray Bucsis, seconded by Scott Mills. No other nominations.

Zone 4 – Murray Bucsis – Nominated by Brad Biermann, seconded by Blake Thille. No other nominations.

Zone 5 – Is declared vacant due to no nominations within the zone.

Zone 6 – Matt Schule was elected by his local association.

Zone 7 – Brad Biermann - Nominated by Phil, Seconded by Bruce Walker. Phil was nominated but declines to let his name stand. Brad Biermann is Zone 7 Director.

Zone 8 – Adrian Bougeois - Nominated by Murray, Seconded by Rocky. No other nominations.

New Business

a) Baseball Sask Uniforms – Travis Wourms

Travis spoke with Al Anderson's staff about improving the quality of Baseball Sask Jerseys. The cost would increase to \$81.00 which is not feasible for umpires across Saskatchewan. Al Anderson's does not show interest in carrying inventory in their store. Travis suggests that a bulk order through an American supplier would be approximately \$30.00/jersey, plus \$20.00/embroidery. That would cut costs to approximately \$50.00/jersey. NOTE: 2020 is the expected year of new logo Baseball Sask jerseys be used. Travis and Matt shared their past experiences with getting shirts for first year umpires, costs and suppliers.

Feedback from the current Jerseys and service include:

- Low quality jerseys (they appear to be thick golf shirts – not athletic wear)
- Restricted to 2 or 3 order dates
- No or limited inventory in store

This discussion will be continued throughout the winter to determine what is the best move.

b) New Umpire Availability for Provincial Play

This was discussed in Joe's Zone report.

c) Provincial Crew Chief Responsibilities Guide

Matt presented and emailed it to executive. He asks that everyone read, review and reply via email whether or not it is acceptable or if a change should be made. This would be added as an appendix to the Provincial Operations Manual.

d) Baseball Canada Proposals

Phil would like to make a proposal to make an adjustment to a specific rotation play that would prevent PU being trapped in a rundown situation. Executive understood the rationale and Scott Mills said he would submit it to Baseball Canada representatives to discuss the possible change to a future published Baseball Canada 4/3-person system. Phil will send the information to Scott Mills.

Other

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Trevor Drury at 11:22am.

Supervisor of Umpires
2020 Provincial Umpire Report

Umpire Numbers

Level	Number of Umpires	Previous Year	% increase (decrease)
Level 1	244 (combined 1&2)	563	-68%
Level 2		204	
Level 3	28	16	175%
Level 4/5	26	27	-4%

2020 was a challenging year for baseball in general. Umpire registration numbers were down this year due to a variety of reasons. Those reasons were a combination of decrease or absence of baseball in communities, uncertainty regarding the online registration and training program, apprehension due to Covid-19 and lack of communication regarding the registration process, umpire apathy to do the training materials provided, etc.

The amount of work many individuals put forth to get umpires registered this season was admirable. I would especially like to thank Aaron Roberts, Matthew Schule and Trevor Drury as their work in assisting me with providing our umpires with online training for level 1 and 2 is deserving of special recognition. These individuals created online materials in absence of clinics so that umpires could still get their training and continue their development in the level 1 and 2 umpire pathways. Saskatchewan was one of the leaders in Canada for developing and delivering training materials for the registration of umpires at the grassroots levels. Ontario is the only other province to have a developed online option for umpire training. The Baseball Saskatchewan umpire committee will be doing some research into the Ontario program to see if it can become an option for mandatory umpire training in Saskatchewan in addition to the clinics so clinicians would be able to focus more on mechanics, game management, etc. than large amounts of rules at umpire clinics.

There were some drawbacks to the online process that we used this year for our umpires.

1. There was no way of tracking if the umpires who registered actually completed the clinic materials after paying their registration. This was logistically impossible with the infrastructure available to our organization. We had to rely on the honor system this year. There is a strong suspicion that many umpires did not complete the training due to some of the incidents that arose during the season. I will address some of this later in this report.
2. The registration process was difficult to track as even though specific instructions were provided to zone directors regarding registration, some of the information was not passed on to some communities, some communities did not follow the instructions, or communities chose to ignore the requirements for using registered officials. Some officials also chose not to register and umpire anyway. There were many communities that played baseball this season and did not use registered officials. Many of these communities were not brought to my attention until the season was almost over. There were some communities that played in the SPBL 15U AAA,

18U AA and 18U AAA leagues that played the entire season using unregistered umpires in their communities for home games. I spoke to a couple of these communities and expressed my concern that they chose to not register their officials this year, discussed the reasons why they did not use registered officials and made it very clear that they must register officials in the future to play baseball in Saskatchewan.

3. The biggest roadblock in providing Baseball Saskatchewan umpires with the information regarding registration and online training materials is the absence of an umpire database. The Baseball Saskatchewan Umpires committee, along with the Baseball Saskatchewan office have done their best to track umpire registrations in the past. This has often led to inconsistencies and some inaccuracies in the registrations collected. All players in Saskatchewan are registered on the RAMP system so that emails can be sent to every registered player and coach in this province. We as umpires do not have this ability to send out mass emails to registered umpires. We have to rely upon our collected phone lists and zone director's knowledge of communities to contact umpires regarding provincials, etc. to assign umpires. I had some preliminary discussions with Mike Ramage in the spring about creating an umpire database and online registration system for umpires. This year has made it very obvious that this type of RAMP system is need for the umpire division for ease of communication and tracking of officials in this province. If there is one thing that the umpires need more than anything else it is an online registration platform and database for the umpires in this province. I will continue to have discussions with Mike Ramage regarding the development of this type of system for anticipated launch for 2021. This will help us be able to communicate with our umpires regarding return to play procedures and training options in 2021.

In 2021, zone directors are going to need to take a prominent role in encouraging the communities in their zones to actively recruit umpires back to the program. As expected numbers of officials dropped significantly in 2020. Our program had some great momentum going into 2020 and we want to keep that momentum going even after this pause in 2020. Many of the great baseball people in this province are going to have to put forth some extra time and effort to help rebuild the officials in this province.

	Umpire Registrations		
Zone	2019	2020	Difference
1	182	52	-130
2	66	41	-25
3	94	17	-77
4	61	19	-42
5	91	40	-51
6	141	92	-49
7	120	17	-113
8	75	20	-55
Totals	727	298	-429

This year was a landmark year for our Level 4/5 Superclinic. On the Family Day long weekend in February, Lloydminster hosted the first ever Level 4/5 bi-provincial superclinic. Baseball Saskatchewan teamed up with Baseball Alberta to provide the high-level umpires from both provinces with a top-notch training experience. In October 2018, MLB Umpire Stu Scheurwater, who is from Regina, attended our Umpire Committee AGM and expressed interest in instructing at a super clinic. The idea of a bi-provincial superclinic was conceived and Stu was on board as our special guest instructor. Elemer Jerkovits and Brad Biermann were integral individuals to make this clinic happen. Brad arranged all the facilities, which were excellent and Elemer stayed in contact with Stu regarding our progress. Stu was supposed to arrange for a second MLB umpire to join our clinic but due to the timing of spring training, he was unable to find another umpire to attend. In that umpires place we were able to use another Saskatchewan MiLB umpire Kevin Mandzuk and his friend and fellow MiLB umpire from Japan (I am unable to recall his name) to instruct. The Senior level instructors from Saskatchewan and Alberta created an excellent curriculum and umpires were challenged and learned a great deal of valuable skills over the 2 days of the clinic. A line up of instructors that would be envied by anywhere in the country was assembled to instruct. Provincial instructors included Rocky Nickel, Trevor Drury, Scott Mills, Aaron Roberts, Bruce Walker, Corrie Davis, Brandon Strocki, Rob Allen, Stephen Delude and Jeff Donnelly. Feedback from this clinic was very positive and will be something we look at doing again in the future in partnership with Baseball Alberta or grow it further and have a clinic with Alberta and Manitoba. Preliminary thoughts are to have a clinic like this every 4 years.

With all national tournaments being cancelled this year, it will create some challenges for the selection committee in 2021. If national tournaments are to be played next year, the selection committee will have to consider the umpires that were assigned this year for tournament next year along with our needs for continued development of our program. It will be an interesting year in 2021 if Nationals will be played and if travel will return to normal again. We will wait and see what happens on the national stage.

Our Social Media presence has continued to grow and has been very well received! I would like to thank Philip McGee for being the lead on this and developing our social media platform to be the envy of most other provinces in Canada. There are more followers and post engagements every month on our Facebook page. Some of the most popular posts in the past were our National Assignment announcements and our sendoff posts to umpires as they left for their nationals. Our social media presence continues to be the envy of other provinces. We are continuing to vary our posts and maintain engagement through the past season.

Saskatchewan continues to take a role in Baseball Canada committees for the further development of umpires in Canada, which also benefits umpires in Saskatchewan. Trevor Drury (Instructor Development), Aaron Roberts (Communications) and Scott Mills (Grassroots) are significant contributors on these national committees and will continue to be involved provincially as well. These committees produced materials that filter down to the provinces for use by our umpires for training, instruction, etc. Continue the good work gentlemen.

Even though there was not a lot of baseball this year, the Baseball Saskatchewan Umpires division had several landmark events to celebrate. At the 2019 Baseball Canada National Convention, Saskatchewan swept the national umpire awards. Rocky Nickel was recognized for his contributions to baseball at both

the provincial, national and international level in Canada and was awarded the Baseball Canada Lifetime Achievement Award. Our program would not be where it is today without the contributions of Rocky over the years. This is a very prestigious honour to be awarded by Baseball Canada. This was not the end of our awards in 2019. Trevor Drury was also the recipient of the Dick Willis Award, which is awarded to the top amateur umpire in Baseball Canada. This is also a very prestigious award that has only been won on 2 other occasions by a Saskatchewan Umpire (Rocky Nickel & Scott Mills). Trevor had an excellent 2019 season as both a supervisor and an umpire which culminated with the Gold Medal Plate at the 21U National Championship where he attended as a replacement umpire. Trevor is another cornerstone of our umpire program who is deserving of this recognition. Continuing with the accolades and momentous events for our umpires, Baseball Saskatchewan had 2 umpires inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame. Rocky Nickel and Elemer Jerkovits have both been selected for induction into this prestigious institution. Both of these umpires have had distinguished careers at the provincial, national and international levels. Congratulations to both of these umpires as they have been great ambassadors for baseball umpires in this provinces for many years.

I continued the work of my predecessor with the Co-Commissioners of Baseball Sask in tracking all sanctions reported this year. See the chart below for a comparison of 2019 and 2020 sanctions. With the fewer number of games this year, there was obviously a reduction in the numbers of sanctions this year. What was of concern was the number of ejections this year that required supplementary discipline. Of the 35 ejections in this shortened season, there was a total of 48 games in suspension by Baseball Sask and leagues in this shortened season. This an alarming amount of games considering the season was only a couple months long. There were some very troubling incidents in 2021, but we are very pleased with how Baseball Sask supports its officials and we will continue to work together regarding discipline of players, coaches and umpires. There was also an alarming amount of feedback from officials in some centers of a dramatic increase in the amount of incidents where coaches and fans were abusive or made inappropriate comments towards umpires, followed umpires off the field to both directly and indirectly voice displeasure with an umpires performance. There were certain centers where this behaviour was more prominent and those zones took some steps to deal with these issues and some preventative measures for next season will also be completed in the offseason such as signage, etc. Some of the issues with game management may be attributed to the lack of face to face clinics and the value of training on those areas in a clinic setting. Dealing with player, coach and fan behaviour will be focused on at our clinics in 2021 at levels 1, 2 and 3. Level 3 clinics will be held in 2021 as they were postponed from 2020. There were also other factors involved such as smaller communities coming into larger centers to play where they perhaps get away with these types of behaviours in their communities in the past, umpires were not as prepared with the basics form the online modules, or the umpires did not complete the online modules.

Baseball Saskatchewan was also required to suspend an umpire this year due to inappropriate behaviour/comments to a young player. The complaint was brought forth to Scott Mills who recruited the appropriate zone director to help with the investigation into the complaint before submitting the evidence to the commissioners. Umpires need to know that they are in a position of power on the field and that they must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on the field. The umpire in question had been disciplined by his local association the previous year due to an inappropriate interaction with some fans. After investigation, the umpire was suspended for 10 days and was required to complete the

Respect in Sport modules before he would be allowed to umpire again. The umpire did not appeal, completed the online training and will be on probation for 2021.

I will still work with the co-commissioners regarding how to handle post-game ejections. I would like to see section 6.09 of the Baseball Sask handbook to also deal with post-game ejections. Section 6.09 currently reads:

6.09 Any ejection that takes place in the last inning of the first game of a double header will result in the automatic suspension of the individual for the second game of the double header.

I will ask that is be changed to the following, or another criteria be added as 6.10 and all others after be increased in number:

6.09 Any ejection that takes place in the last inning of the first game of a double header or any post-game ejection will result in an automatic 1 game suspension of the individual which must be served immediately for the next game which may be the second game of a double header if the ejection occurs between games 1 and 2 of a double header.

Or

6.10 – Any ejection that occurs after the final out of a game has been made (post-game) shall result in an automatic 1 game suspension that must be served immediately. This would include the second game of a double header if the ejection occurs between games 1 and 2 of a double header.

We Continued with the new reporting classification as other incidents. This was used successfully this year as it provided a mechanism to bring incidents to the attention of Baseball Sask that do not fall into the criteria of an ejection or yellow card. We will continue with it as the information in these incidents allow for the reporting of continued behaviour of players, coaches and fans for possible evidence for supplementary discipline.

Baseball Saskatchewan Sanctions			
	2019	2020	Difference
Yellow Cards	59	17	-42
Ejections (No Yellow Card)	79	34	-45
Ejections (Following Yellow Card)	3	1	-2
Other Incident	12	8	-2

Due to the season we had, we made our program contribution program optional this year. Huck Craig is currently collecting the points from our level 4/5 umpires so we will see if any of them submit points. In 2021 we plan to make the program mandatory again.

To say this year was a different year for baseball would be an understatement, but I am grateful that there was a season and we all got onto the field if we were able to do what we love. The busiest time I found was in June, preparing for the upcoming season. I am concerned about the unusual amount of inappropriate spectator and coach behaviour in this shortened season, so I want to make sure we focus on this aspect of our umpire training in 2021. I will continue to lean on the people on the executive and we will look at expanding the people involved in our umpire program

I would like to again thank Trevor Drury and his guidance and assistance during the past year and I know I will continue to lean on him, along with the rest of the executive to continue to improve the program here in Saskatchewan.

Yours in Baseball,

Scott Mills
Supervisor of Umpires
Baseball Saskatchewan

Baseball Saskatchewan Umpire Assistant Provincial Supervisor Report

2020 has been a crazy year! We went from probably not having any baseball to a full season of league games. This is now my 2nd year of being the assistant provincial supervisor and I look forward to being part of the umpires executive again next year if I am given the chance.

As assistant provincial supervisor I took the lead on program contribution points tracking. The number of contributions was definitely affected by the circumstances this year. With attendance at games being monitored and regulated it made it tough for mentors to watch games. It has been decided that contribution points in 2020 will not affect the standing of our level 4 umpires when it comes to deciding who goes to national championships. That being said, we did receive some contribution points from some of our members and those contributions are greatly appreciated.

In 2021 I look forward to being able to instruct clinics again. The level 3 materials that were being developed for 2020 were starting to take shape and I plan on getting back to work with those that are putting that clinic together for 2021. I have also been a member of the Moose jaw minor baseball board for 2 years and have put together a committee to help try and recruit new umpires. I anticipate this committee will be able to help with umpire shortage in moose jaw but will also develop some recruitment strategies that can be shared with our provincial umpire committee. I'm hopeful that the 2021 season is more normal and we can all be back on the field in spring.

Huck Craig

Assistant Provincial Supervisor

Past Supervisor Report

Well, we are approaching the final few innings of the year 2020, let us hope our bullpen is better than our starting pitching.

Obviously, there is not much for me to report, but there are a few things I wanted to highlight. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate Rocky Nickel and Elemer Jerkovitz on their induction into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame. Both have had several decades of contribution to Baseball in Saskatchewan and Canada. I cannot think of any more deserving individuals of being enshrined. Congrats to you both!

2020 was not all bad, before the unprecedented shutdown, we were able to co-host perhaps the best Super Clinic we have ever had. Co-hosting with Alberta, the clinic in Lloydminster was a huge success, thanks to Brad and his efforts in hosting 2 provinces. I had the pleasure of being on the instructional staff with some of the top instructors in Western Canada, as well as Stu, Kevin, and another MiLB umpire. Feedback I received on the clinic was quite positive, and brotherhoods across the 2 provinces were further cemented.

One of the larger obstacles we faced was the inability to host clinics. As with so many other things, they went online for level 1 and 2. A lot of work went into these, and the end product, although it can never be as good as face to face instruction, was really good in my opinion. The online platform is something we may want to continue to utilize in the future (not to replace clinics, but to supplement training). Perhaps the off-season modules for level 4/5 could be revisited with an online format.

As with many others, my summer was pretty boring. I managed to be on the field for 6 games (3 of which were in 1 day). Mentoring when there is no ball being played was impossible, but I made sure I had contact with all the umpires in my area that registered, and got them all registered this year. One of the challenges I think we will have is getting our teenagers and newer umpires to reengage. Zone directors will have a significant challenge coming out of this attempting to retain the umpires we had.

I continued my work with the National Instructional Development Committee. We updated some of the modules for the Senior Course Conductor Pathway, and have been mostly assessing Instructors' advancement through the modules. Next up, we will meet to evaluate current practices, and adjust as needed.

I was scheduled to attend the 18U National Championship this past summer as part of a new initiative to improve the supervision process across Canada. There were some new processes we were going to implement, improve, and fine tune to make experiences better for our umpires attending national events. I hope the plan is to do this at a 2021 National, whether or not I am involved.

Finally, to close the year off, and prepare for these meetings, I volunteered to put together this package as a resource. I started doing it a few years ago with a purpose in mind, I guess I should have explained the purpose for putting in this extra work. I know we are all busy, so I believe that work we are asked to do should be purposeful and meaningful, not just make work projects. Here is why:

Firstly, it was get all the information out to everyone ahead of the meeting. That way, we would avoid wasting time passing out and reading reports. You have access to them ahead of time, and reports given in our meeting could just be 1 or 2 things you would like to highlight, answer any questions, and

the rest would be as submitted. This could be a huge time saver in meetings, as well as highlighting the key aspects of each report.

Secondly, and more importantly, it was to give everybody a central place to find information. Individual sheets tend to find the recycle bin far too easily, and members of our committee would lose information from year to year. Along with that, it gives zone directors an idea of what happens in other zones, their successes (and there are many in this province), and challenges. Particularly, newer zone directors could look back at reports from other zones as a resource through the year, and in preparing for this meeting.

Needless to say, if this package is to be useful in this way, we need more consistency in the Zone Directors' Reports. I am proposing that our provincial committee create a template to guide zone directors in creating their report. It would be for the sole purpose of the committee getting the information it needs from each zone, and give others in the province the ability to take away positives from what each of you are doing. Some key information may also reveal areas that zones may need support, and then we can work as an entire province to find solutions. It could also streamline reports, reducing redundant or irrelevant information making for an easier read.

In closing, I'd like to congratulate Scott on another 2 year appointment as Provincial Supervisor. His learning curve has been tremendous, and the workload is often overwhelming, but he has handled it all well. Keep up the good work!

I hope everyone has a good (and safe) off-season.

Yours in Baseball,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Drury', with a stylized, flowing script.

Trevor Drury

Past Supervisor

High Performance Pools

* 2020 – assignments as given, no championships were held

Pool A - Major

Name		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Brent	Chadwick	Cup									-
Huck	Craig		Midget		Junior	Junior		Senior	Junior/T12	T12	* Senior
Kevin	Culy	Midget	Cup			Junior			Cup		-
Trevor	Drury			Junior / T12	T12	World		World	Senior	Junior	-
Elemer	Jerkovits	Senior		T12	Senior/T12	World		Junior / World		Cup	-
Scott	Mills		Senior			Senior	Junior	Can Games / T12		Senior	-
Scott	Mostoway				PeeWee	Midget	Junior				* 21U
Rocky	Nickel					Cup					-
Aaron	Roberts			Senior	T12		Senior	World		T12/WBSC	-
Matt	Schule				PeeWee	Bantam	Cup		Midget		* Cup
Bob	Sonder	Bantam			Midget		Cup	Sr. Women		Cup	-
Bruce	Walker	Midget			Cup		Junior	U-13 W		Sr. Women	-
Braden	Lonsberry									18U	-
Philip	McGee					Pee Wee	Bantam	Bantam		Cup	-

Pool B – Minor

Name		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bradley	Biermann				Pee Wee	PW W	PW N		15U	-
Gary	Dodds	PeeWee				PW W				-
Mike	Tardiff									-
Travis	Wourms		Pee Wee			PW N	Midget			* 18U
Daryl	Zimmer						21U Women	PW N	13U N	-
Kirk	Schaffer							PW W		* 15U
Warren	Burrell							Bantam		-
Rob	Anderson							21U Womens		* 13U W
Tyson	Blomquist									* 13U W
Clayton	Obst								13U W	* 13U N
Raymond	Smith									-
Aaron	Szejvolt									* 13U W
Blake	Thille									

Communications and Operations Report:

October 15, 2020

To: Baseball Saskatchewan Umpire's Committee

Re: 2020 Operations & Communications Lead Report

Social Media Statistics (As of Oct 15, 2020):

Facebook followers: 421 (353) – YOY growth – 19.3%, (68)

Twitter followers: 139 (117) – YOY growth – 18.8% (22)

Comparison Baseball Canadas Umpires:

Facebook: 551

Twitter: 393

Efforts were made to keep social media presence through the downtime to maintain a sense of morale & connectedness amongst the umpire family. The reach of our posts extends from “sea to shining sea” and around the world. As an organization we use Facebook as a way to communicate information to our members I do not think that it should be considered our sole method of communication. This is because not all members use the various social media platforms.

In discussion from members at this year's super clinic a summary the following feedback was provided: -

- Members would like to know what the executive are doing/planning
- Opportunities how members can get involved administratively
- Clinic/Registration fees as early as possible
- Clinic dates as early as possible
- Clinic agenda/directions/expectations as early as possible (from 2 weeks to 1 month prior)

Members have said email is an appropriate and the best method of communication.

Based on feedback – would a newsletter – 2/3 times a year be something we would want to do? This would require executive member to submit a progress report to submit to update membership. This could also be a way to call for help in portfolio work etc.

Recommendation would be that we use the BaseballSaskUmpires@Gmail.com as the central source. We could also ask Baseball Sask if there is an option for the umpires to get a specific email from them as well. Thoughts are that it adds a bit a credibility outside of Google.

Operations:

Document Storage:

All minutes and reports are being stored in one central location now – google drive that is attached to the BaseballSaskUmpires@gmail.com account. There is 15GB of available free storage. This will ensure that minutes are not on someone's laptop and can ensure succession planning and long term health of the organization.

This could also be a place where contribution tracking forms, copies of proposals, evaluations could be stored as well. Though it's a communal drive there are ways that documents can be individually password protected if needed (ie personal information, evaluations etc.).

Manual:

Updates were made (re: umpire entering program at level 2 – page 11 & 12 of 27). The manual has been posted through the season on the Baseball Sask website.

In reviewing and working to keep the manual up to date. An area that is missing is the process to make changes. There is nothing laid out on how/when a change can be made or by whom. To protect the organization, we should look to come up with a formal process on how proposed changes can be made, whom can make them, acceptable way to ratify the changes (email, phone, in-person meeting, web-conference etc.). This is so an individual/group does not have the ability to make changes without going through a process. This would not handcuff the organization, but offers a layer of protection both the organization & the hard work put in by current & past leadership to build the program and manual. Having a process would allow for the proposal to be submitted, reviewed and appropriate time to be discussed before any changes would take effect.

Recommendation:

Over the next 6 months set a process for policy change, this would give us time to present to executive in the spring and submit for review at Umpire AGM in the fall for membership to vote.

Notice of meeting:

There is no mention of notice of AGM. There is no specific area that addresses the AGM. Quorum, etc. Though common knowledge around the executive committee table is that is aligns with Baseball Sask AGM, it is normal formally identified. It is casually mentioned in provincial supervisor election “usually held in conjunction with the SBA Annual General Meeting”, but could be tidied up. It should be noted that Baseball Sask by-law reads 15 days.

Recommendation:

Set a Notice of meeting policy

Baseball Sask Constitution & Bylaws:

The Baseball Sask By-Laws have the umpire committee as follows:

“Umpire Committee Members shall include:

Umpire Supervisor chairperson to be appointed each year by the Board of Governors

8 Zone Umpire Directors to be named by the Umpire Supervisor by November 1 each year

1 Management Committee member (at the discretion of the President)”.

Though it is too late this year, we should make a motion for next year's Baseball Sask AGM to have a motion to have it change to match our “Executive Committee of Assistant Supervisor”. Again, this is housekeeping, but previous executive committees saw value in having the current portfolios. This motion would wrap up loose ends.

Recommendation:

Make a motion for bylaw change with Baseball Sask. Re: Umpire Committee Structure.

In closing, I would like to extend a thank you to provincial supervisor Scott Mills and general membership for allowing me to be part of executive committee for the 2019/2020 year. It has been both a pleasure and honour, and I look forward to seeing our organization grow.

Philip McGee
Battleford, SK

2020 Umpire of the Week Program

This program took a 1 year hiatus due to Covid 19.

Murray Bucsis
Zone 4 Director

Education Lead Report

The 2020 clinic season was shaping up to be another busy season prior to Baseball Saskatchewan suspending sanctioned activity. Clinic materials were converted into PowerPoint videos and uploaded onto our YouTube channel. Special thank you to Scott Mills with helping record & converting these into videos as it was a bit outside my scope, but a good learning experience. Trevor Drury, Scott Mills, and Matt Schule took on the task of recording videos demonstrating basic level 1 mechanics for umpires. These were edited by Matt and will be added to our video library on YouTube. One positive that we can take from the shutdown is we now know we have the ability to create more educational videos. They can be created at a minimal cost other than the time commitment. These can be shared through YouTube, social media and could potentially become a part of a “pre-clinic” curriculum.

Registrations submitted to me were very minimal; most centers did not submit registration forms. Any I did receive were sent directly to the Baseball Saskatchewan office as I received them. Minor baseball associations along with their Umpire Zone Director were tasked with collecting registrations of umpires as return to play started to take effect. Fee payments were either invoiced to the minor baseball association or asked to submit payment the Baseball Sask office. I would strongly recommend that Baseball Saskatchewan look at an online registration and payment method as it was almost impossible to record and track without “boots on the ground”.

Clinic planning for the 2021 season will need to start a bit sooner as we will have challenges heading into a new baseball season. Using both Clinicians and experienced officials we may need to have more “on field” activities with smaller groups. A combination on online learning for the classroom learning and some type of in person training will be a goal to aim for (if baseball sask policies allow). The on-field sessions are a critical part of train for officials in the Level 1 & 2 programs.

Here is hoping for a more active baseball season in 2021 and I look forward to continuing to help umpires in our program.

Yours in Baseball

Aaron Roberts

Education Lead

Attached:

- 2020 Clinic Requests data (Prior to suspension of activities)

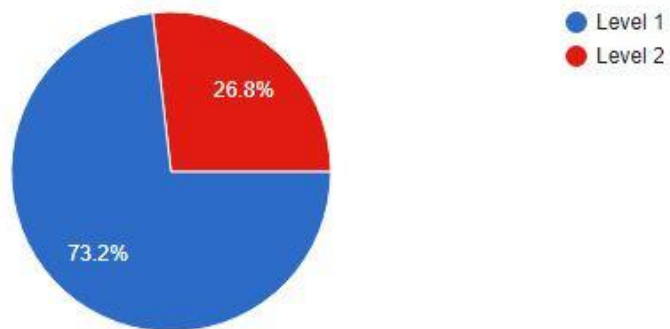
Date of Clinic

41 responses



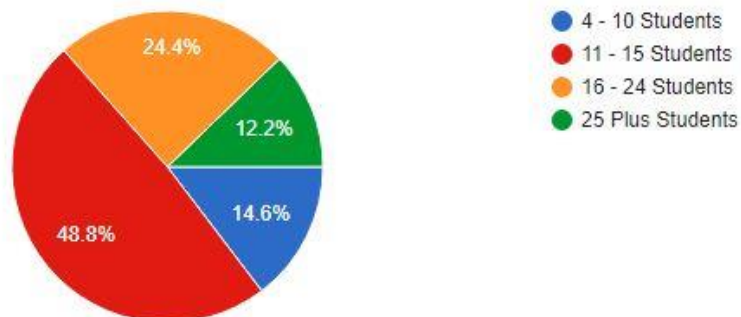
Level of Clinic

41 responses



Expected Attendance

41 responses



Zone 1 Report

Challenging year, for everyone... COVID was discussed early and often with local teams to measure concern and safety. House leagues ran in some centers but not all. AA and AAA programs were mostly weekend based and allowed for some mentorship and development. Again, key people like Billy Wyatt in Carlyle were instrumental in finding any kind of success in zone 1. Registrations were down in zone 1 but they were likely down in most zones. No significant issues, remarkable ejections or sanctions handed down in zone 1 to my awareness.

Regards,
Kevin Culy

Zone 2 Report

What a wild ride 2020 was. We had approx 25% of our umpires decide not to umpire this season due to Covid 19 epidemic. I'm confident most of them will return if 2021 season is safer to do so. The quick and constant changes in scheduling by the leagues was the biggest challenge. Baseball Regina 15U to 11U played a full season schedule in 8 weeks and we had to adjust start times in August for weeknight games due to earlier sunset. We had a lot of dedicated umpires this year who put it all out on the field to allow many people enjoy their summer just a little bit more.

2020 Season Debrief

ZONE 2

Goals

- Get through the season Covid free
- Have some level 2 umpires move up to level 3
- Ensure all umpires attended a registered Baseball Sask clinic
- Partner new umpires with seasoned umpires to mentor the junior umpire to retain more umpires

Outcomes

- There were no cases of Covid for any Zone 2 umpires
- We had 3 umpires complete their level 3 this year
- All umpires used in 2020 had taken the online clinic put together for the 2020 season
- Each new umpire was paired with a veteran umpire for their first 2-3 games

Joe Smith

Zone 3 Report

Baseball 2020, otherwise known as the Lost Season. Man (or women to be politically correct) what a difference a year makes...who would have thought in their wildest dreams we would be faced with a once in a hundred year global health crisis!! I hate to sound pessimistic, but I believe we are stuck in the top of the 2nd inning (not unlike Atlanta being stuck in the top of the 1st inning last night).

On a personal note my wife works in "long-term care" and as a precautionary measure I did not work a single baseball game...the first time I could make that statement in close to 50 years. Did I miss baseball; you bet, yet there is something to be said for having a summer weekend off like normal people instead of racing all over the country covering Provincial Championships. At this stage of my umpiring career I could become accustomed to that.

Unrelated to COVID-19, the individual I was grooming to succeed me as Zone 3 Umpire Director has developed serious health issues. Unable to produce a death certificate I am prepared to let my name stand for re-election if there is no objection.

I want to commend all facets of Baseball Saskatchewan's organizational structure for their flexibility in doing whatever was necessary in order that "baseball" might resume in some small semblance of normalcy.

I am truly disappointed to report Aaron Robert's and the Education Committee's yeoman efforts in developing on-line clinic materials and exams did not bear fruit in Zone 3. Only 10 umpires availed themselves of this alternative learning opportunity and subsequently registered at the 1/2 level. Another 7 registered at the 3/4/5 Level; bringing total Zone registrations to 17, down over 75% from 2019. I did not analyze other Zone registrations, but if they are in any way similar, it begs a serious question...what do we do going forward if faced with a similar set of circumstances? And even if we do return to a new normal, how do we regain lost momentum? Going forward a concerted communication initiative with our umpire membership will be paramount!!

Without video-conferencing capabilities my attendance at the AGM is doubtful.

Warmest regards and wishing you and yours all good health, I remain,

Respectfully,

Bruce Walker
Zone 3 Umpire Director

Zone 4 Report

Zone 4 had a relatively quiet season for umpires and baseball this year. Only a handful of games played in Balcarres and Yorkton. We had 28 umpires register, but not all umpires worked games.

Murray Bucsis
Zone 4 Umpire Director

Zone 5 Report

Not much to report on this year. It was fairly quiet in my zone. Areas like Muenster, Humboldt and Watrous had some ball that was umpired by locals. I didn't check in with Martensville on their numbers.

Doug Jackson

Zone 6 Report

This year, despite the unpredictable challenges that arose from COVID-19 and strict guidelines, the 2020 season was quite successful all around. Saskatoon Baseball player membership remained relatively high which meant that the demand for umpires still remained. Double headers at the 15U diamonds were scheduled for evenings which allowed many junior and senior umpires to accept assignments that were not always possible in the year before with earlier start times. Most AAA level games in the city was able to have a 2-person system where many new or novice officials got plenty of opportunities to work these levels with an experienced umpire.

Unfortunately, the spotlight this year for unacceptable behaviour was on the 11U – 15U age groups, in addition to a few individuals at the AAA 18U and AA 18U (SPBL) levels. This season, umpires experienced an increase in poor coach and parental behaviour at our youngest divisions; a great concern for how this may impact teams and officials in the long-term. Mentors at the 11U and 13U levels were required to intervene in a few situations where parents were mocking, belittling and/or essentially passively bullying officials. This unacceptable behaviour is being taken seriously and Zone 6 Executive plan to create signage for the 2021 season to be placed at diamonds (“Zero Tolerance Policy”), in addition to conversations with SBCI about these concerns to find some solutions. A few of these incidents involved

following umpires off the diamond and approaching them directly or indirectly to share their opinion on the official's competency.

As for the AA 18U SPBL league, it's come to our attention that many teams are not aware of the league's rules, thus creating many issues with Home Teams attempting to play by "Home Rules." It is crucial that for the 2021 season, they provide an official set of rules to govern their league, otherwise umpires will strictly enforce Baseball Sask Rules in accordance with Baseball Canada. There was one incident involving an umpire.

Saskatoon (Zone 6) played a major role in getting online materials for the 2020 online clinics. Thank you to Aaron Roberts, Scott Mills, and all others who assisted in creating materials. As a result of clinics being online, not having a tracking method or grading system, plus the sudden timing due to COVID-19, many umpires had significant gaps in their development/ability; this was expected. In response to poor behaviour by many participants/spectators, Zone 6 recommends that clinicians ensure YC/Ejection training is emphasized during 2021 clinics.

Level 1 & 2 registrations totaled 80 in 2020. Including levels 3 & higher, Saskatoon's membership just barely reached the 100 mark. That being said, there were some registrants who chose not to officiate this season due to personal/family health concerns. Furthermore, some first and second year officials registered but did not work any games. Realistically, only about 2/3 of Zone 6 membership officiated baseball this season resulting in periodic strain on assignors filling assignments. We look forward to the 2021 season in hopes that our membership will grow. The online registration process was effective once again.

This year, our zone's award winners are as follows:

Most Promising Umpire of the Year: Brady Birdsall & Brayden Keen

Most Dedicated Official of the Year: Kelly Mills

Most Improved Official of the Year: Chris Lehmann

For the Love of the Game Award: Heath Muggli and Maris Brons

This year, with the help of Craig and Bonnie Stevenson, we've introduced the Inaugural "For the Love of the Game" Quinn Stevenson Memorial Award. Quinn was an umpire in Zone 6 and at a young age his life was taken in a tragic drunk driving accident. In the past few years, executive and the Stevenson family have wanted to create an award in Quinn's name that would encompass his attitude, effort and spirit towards sport. As a result, the "For the Love of the Game" award was created and will be given to an extraordinary individual who brings fun, laughter and positivity to the diamond. This individual is viewed by the membership as an individual that people look forward to working with due to the experience, warmth and genuine enjoyment that is certain to exist. This person truly officiates for the love of the game while maintaining a willingness to learn. Craig and Bonnie Stevenson have agreed to have two recipients for this year; we are proud of the two individuals listed above!

Zone 6 has nominated the following individuals for Junior and Senior Official of the Year: Maris Brons for Junior Official of the Year.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the mentorship program was quite successful. Near 90% of all 11U games had a mentor while other senior officials were able to mentor some youth officials at 13U and 15U. Larry Orth led mentors with over 11 nights dedicated to helping at 11U diamonds; thank you Larry! Thanks to Blake Thille for assigning mentors this season.

This marked a special year in Saskatoon as the 15U diamonds (Nutana) now have a completed umpire dressing room; officials have given nothing but positive feedback to this new development. At 11U, 13U, and 15U dressing rooms/PUPs, SDBUA executive provided cleaning materials to go with any shared equipment, as well a sign up sheet to assist with the tracking required from COVID-19. All seemed to go smoothly. SBCI and SDBUA teamed up to purchase 3 sets of umpire protective equipment at the 15U diamonds. This equipment will likely last for many years and we are grateful to the SBCI for assisting in covering these costs to help invest in our young and developing officials!

No Provincial/National Championships were played – nothing to report.

The 2020 season will certainly be one to remember due to COVID-19. That being said, it should also be remembered as a year that proved the importance of volunteerism, the strength of our local executive, and perseverance that teams, officials and Baseball Sask experienced resulting from coming together through sport. Zone 6 is fortunate to have such passionate volunteers who share a common goal of improving baseball within Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. As always, the executive plans to work through the winter on new and exciting projects with the purpose to enhance baseball locally and provincially.

X Matthew Schule

Matt Schule
Zone 6 Director

Zone 7 Report

2020 was a very different year for the zone. In February, the zone was very pleased to host the first Sask-Alta super clinic in Lloydminster. The turnout was great. I would like to thank everyone that came and helped with this top notch event. After that weekend everyone had high hopes for the season. Umpire numbers were strongest they have been for a long time, with some good young umpires coming up in the system. Then it happened.

Covid 19 put a hold and difficulties on the baseball season. Once we go the go ahead to register and do online clinics it was a struggle. Numbers dropped drastically for the young umpires and it was hard to get any interest. We did get a few but the hand full of sr guys carried the work load to make sure games had umpires.

I would like to thank everyone that put in the hard work this year to get the online clinic up and running. I think that it is a good tool and could be very useful in the future to tweak the clinics a bit. Thanks to everyone that helped out with the super clinic. From helping with ideas, opinions, and everything in between.

Here is hoping that next year we can get back to somewhat normal.

Brad Biermann

Zone 7

Zone 8 Report

Zone 8 had a quiet season for umpires and baseball this year. We only had a few register as umpires and only a few games within the zone. Overall, not much to report.

Zone 8 Director
Adrian Bourgeois

Notes:

