



Tuesday, May 5, 2020

To: All **NEW** and **RETURNING** Baseball Sask Umpires
From: Scott Mills – Baseball Sask Provincial Umpire Supervisor
Re: 2020 Online Umpire Clinics

This is a lengthy email, but it contains important information regarding the registration and training of umpires for the 2020 baseball season.

As we are now into May and the reopening plan for Saskatchewan has been unveiled, there is growing optimism that there may actually be a Baseball season in Saskatchewan. I am sure many players and coaches are already chomping at the bit to get started once Baseball Sask gives direction and clearance for baseball activities to begin. Whatever season we do end up having in Saskatchewan will not be able to be played without umpires. So, this year, the Baseball Sask Umpires Division has developed a plan for registering and training umpires in the new Covid-19 reality so when we can get back on the field there are umpires ready to allow games to be played.

Here is how the process is going to work for all Level 1 and 2 umpires in Saskatchewan. The plan for Level 3 umpires will be outlined after the Level 1 & 2 plan.

Level 1 and 2 umpires would normally have attended a clinic in their local community. All new and returning umpires must register to be a certified umpire. If you are a new umpire or a second-year umpire who attended their first level 1 clinic last year, you will register for a LEVEL 1 clinic. If you have attended at least 2 years of Level 1 clinics or you have previously attended 1 or 2 level 2 clinics (so you are a 3rd, 4th or 5th year umpire) you may register for a Level 2 clinic.

Here is what you will need to do to get registered as a Level 1 or 2 umpire this year:

1. Go to the Baseball Sask website and go through the list of scheduled umpire clinics and find the clinic you would have attended had the clinic been held. (<https://www.baseballsask.ca/programs/nocp-umpires/clinics>). **If you do not find a clinic in that list that you would have attended, go to #2.** Some of you may be contacted by one of the clinic hosts to register. If you have not, contact the clinic host and register with them. Your registration information includes your First & Last Name, mailing address with Postal Code, Phone Number, Email address and what level of clinic you are registering for. If you previously had registered for that clinic, please contact the host again to make sure they have your information. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the Level 1 workbook, a Baseball Sask Handbook and/or a rule book for completing your clinic, instead of using the digital copies, please include that information with your registration so that a copy can be sent to the clinic host for you and then the host can arrange to get that to you. Level 2 umpires only have the option of the digital copies of the workbook as

they were not printed prior to the Covid-19 shutdown, but if you want a copy of the Baseball Sask Handbook or a rulebook, please inform your clinic host.

2. If there is no clinic scheduled for your local area, please contact your Umpire Zone Director (<https://www.baseballsask.ca/programs/nocp-umpires/umpire-contacts>) and provide them your registration information which includes your First & Last Name, Full Mailing Address with Postal Code, Phone Number, Email address and what level of clinic you are registering for. Your zone director will then give you information about how to arrange for payment of your \$30 Baseball Sask registration fee. Keep a record of this payment as you may be able to apply for reimbursement from your local baseball association that may normally pay that for you when they host a clinic. Please contact your zone director if you have any questions regarding registration. If they cannot answer your question, they will get an answer for you.
3. Once you have registered you will now be expected to complete your virtual umpire clinic. You can find the materials for Level 1 and 2 clinics under the heading of 2020 Online Umpire Clinics on the Baseball Sask website in the Umpires (NOCP) section (<https://www.baseballsask.ca/programs/nocp-umpires>). The clinics will take some time to get through as they involve videos as well as working through a workbook, just like you normally would at an umpire clinic. You do not have to complete the clinic in one sitting, you can break up the learning into several smaller pieces if you wish. The expectation is that you complete the material before the season begins. This is important for your development as an umpire and so you can excel on the field. Course conductors in the province worked very hard to develop these materials for your learning, so please complete them.

Level 3 Umpires – If you have not yet been contacted by your zone director with this information, here is how you register.

If you have completed all 3 years of Level 2 clinics or have previously registered as a level 3 umpire, you are eligible to register as a level 3 umpire in 2020. Go to <https://umpire.baseball.ca/> and click on the member sign in at the top right-hand corner. There you will be prompted to complete your registration and you will pay your \$100 registration fee to gain access to the Level 3 Study Guide and Exam. Once you register, your registration will be sent to the Provincial Supervisor (Scott Mills) for approval. Once approved, you will get access to the exam. The deadline for completing the Level 3 exam is June 15. If you have questions regarding Level 3 registration, contact Scott Mills or your zone director. Contact information link is above in #2. 2020 was supposed to be a Level 3 clinic year So at this time the plan is to have Level 3 clinics in 2021, so if you register as a level 3 this year, the expectation is that you will attend a clinic next year. If you do not attend that clinic next year, you will not be eligible to register as a level 3 umpire until the next clinic year cycle in 2024 and you will be required to attend Level 2 clinics every year to stay registered as an umpire until 2024. There are no extra responsibilities or expectations on a level 3 umpire, but you will only have to attend a clinic every 3 years. You are also eligible to receive an evaluation at an evaluation tournament of an appropriate level for your ability if requested. Registering as a level 3 umpire makes you eligible to work Western Canada Championships and if you aspire to become a level 4 umpire and enter the national program, this is a steppingstone for that.

Have a great season and please reach out to fellow umpires, zone directors or course conductors if you have any questions regarding the registration or clinic materials.

Yours in Baseball,

Scott Mills
Baseball Sask Provincial Umpire Supervisor