



NATIONAL / PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL UMPIRES-IN-CHIEF MEETING

November 7 and 8, 2008
Fredericton, New Brunswick

ATTENDANCE:

ODC

Brian Van Os, Nat. Director of Umpires
Doug Cundall, Nat'l. Deputy UIC
Joyce Schroeder, Nat'l Deputy UIC
Jeff Whipple, Nat'l. Deputy UIC

Bonnie Gostola, Nat'l. Deputy UIC ~
Mark Gough, Nat'l. Deputy UIC
Murray Harvey, Nat'l. Deputy UIC

Provincial/Territorial UICs

Michael Track, BC P/T UIC
Moose Gibson, SK P/T UIC
Peter Kluszcznski, ON FP P/T UIC
Mike Néron, QC P/T UIC
Lou Davis, NS P/T UIC
Brenda Butt, NL

Grant Hood, AB P/T UIC ~
JoAnne Hodgkinson, MB P/T UIC
Jack Van Bynen, ON SP P/T UIC
Rick Russell, NB P/T UIC
Frank Hughes, PEI UIC

Other

Donald R MacDonald, Softball Canada
– Board Liaison
Donna Ozarko, Program Manager –
Officiating / Publications
Mike Hamm, Home Run Sports

MINUTES

1.0 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Introductions around the table

Brian Van Os opened the meeting with around the table introductions.

1.2 Meeting Guidelines and Rules of Order

Brian Van Os referenced Softball Canada as being “us” (ODC, Provincial/Territorial Associations, Provincial/Territorial UICs, etc). He advised not to refer Softball Canada as “you” and to use “us” instead, as we are united team and we all work together to form Softball Canada.

- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda
Agenda adopted.

- 1.4 Approval of Minutes of 2007 (background materials provided)
Approved.

2.0 WRITTEN REPORTS (background materials provided)
As written.

3.0 HOME RUN SPORTS

- 3.1 2008 Concerns & Suggestions

Mike Hamm from Home Run Sports joined the meeting.

Mark Gough presented the summary of the concerns as per the survey (summary attached).

Mike Hamm noted feedback is important but the consensus on issues must be a majority to be able to make changes. He also requested feedback about the Home Run Sports website and to include this on any future surveys. Mike advised that there will be a junior umpire kit available and confirmed hats will be available in size small.

Hat
Sizes

- 3.2 Umpire of the Year Awards (Prov. / Natl.)

Mike Hamm reported that only one Provincial/Territorial association took advantage of the Provincial/Territorial Umpire of the Year award. He advised the Provincial/Territorial Umpire of the Year award is a \$100 credit to be used by the Provincial/Territorial at their discretion.

clips
on
panels

Brian Van Os congratulated Geneviève Gaudreau as the National Home Run Sports / Softball Canada Umpire of the Year Award recipient for 2008.

4.0 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 4.1 2008 Experience-Bob Stanton Document (background materials provided)
In addition to the document, Brian Van Os noted we do not know team numbers until June and this makes it difficult to estimate how many umpires are required for each championship until June or later.

Brian reported an additional opportunity - "2009 Boy's U-19 Men's International Softball Championship" in PEI. He advised that every Provincial/Territorial association must send a team and an umpire. Brian added that the travel costs for the officials are the Provincial/Territorial responsibility. Brian advised that officials must be at least Level III with Level IV theory.

Brian Van Os reported that the "Canada Summer Games" in PEI is also an additional 2009 opportunity. Brian advised that officials must be at least Level III with Level IV theory. Brian noted there are specific requirements from the Canada Summer Games organization. These being, the provinces that may send an official must be from the eastern provinces specifically PEI, NS, NB and QC. Gender equity and bilingualism being other requirements. Brian noted the umpire nominations must be submitted to him by December 8th, 2008. Frank Hughes, PEI (UIC) and Lucie Carmichael, QC (DUIC).

4.2 Quality-preparation

It was noted that the experience for officials working a Canadian Championship must be positive. The ODC to work with the Provincial/Territorial UICs to ensure the outcome for the working official is positive. All were reminded that there are many different personalities and all must adapt to work with the personalities types.

Brian Van Os emphasized the importance of the Instructor/Evaluator (I/E) – clinic for all Canadian Championship UICs and DUICs. He added the I/E clinic is a criteria item when the selections are made for Canadian Championship UICs and DUICs. He added the evaluation skills are important to all UICs and DUICs.

4.3 SP problem-bat testing

Murray Harvey advised that illegal bat issues are more prevalent in Slo-Pitch tournaments than in Fast Pitch. He announced bat testing equipment provided by Softball Canada was introduced at the 2008 Canadian Championships resulting in approximately 15% of the bats being removed. Murray to continue to work with the Slo-Pitch focus group committee on a bat testing procedure to bring forward to the Canadian Championship committee for approval.

4.4 Senior Men FP

Mark Gough reported that the lack of respect towards officials primarily at the Senior Men's FP championships continues to be an issue. See agenda item 12.3 for the Softball Ontario "Respect My Game" initiative information.

4.5 Fill-ins

As in agenda item 4.1.

5.0 RULE CHANGES-QUESTIONS

5.1 Rules Forum procedure

Brian Van Os outlined the procedures at the AGM Rules Forum. He noted that Donald R MacDonald will chair the forum along with Brian Van Os,

Murray Harvey and Mark Gough. He added the UIC meeting will break for all to attend the Rules Forum.

6.0 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

6.1 2009 Opportunities

Brian Van Os advised all of a new "Selection Criteria" process. He noted it will be used for all future umpire selections for Canadian Championship UIC/DUIC and International appointments. He noted that all applicants will be scored as per a point-system of pre-determined criteria. Brian also added that all Level Vs applying for any appointment must also submit the new "Level V Umpire Annual Activity Self-Assessment" form with their applications. This information will be provided with the "Call for Applications" later in November 2008.

Potential 2009 international opportunities include: Canada Cup (Surrey, BC), ISF Senior Men's World Championship (Saskatoon, SK), Easton Foundation Youth Softball World Cup (Czech Republic), Pan American Championship (Guadalajara, Mexico) and Border Battle' featuring USA.

6.2 Selection Process

As in 6.1 and attached background materials.

7.0 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM / CLINICS / MECHANICS SCHOOLS

7.1 Level 4 Clinics

Potential 2009 Level IV clinics were requested by Newfoundland and Labrador (tentative dates – April 25 and 26), Ontario (tentative dates – May 2 and 3), Québec (dates TBD – clinic will be in French) and British Columbia (tentative dates – March 7 and 8).

7.2 Mechanics School

No provincial/territorial mechanics schools were requested for 2009.

7.3 Instructor/Evaluator

Ontario requested to host an Instructor/Evaluator clinic in 2009 (tentative dates in May 2 and 3).

8.0 RESOURCE MATERIALS & PUBLICATIONS

8.1 Level 1-2 Manuals

Doug Cundall reported the Level I and II Officiating Certification Manuals will be updated in 2009 as per the outcome of the Rules Forum at the 2008 Softball Canada AGM.

8.2 Level 3 Manual

Doug Cundall advised the Level III (FP and SP) Officiating Certification Manual will undergo extensive edits and be ready in 2010.

8.3 Rule Book

Donna Ozarko will revise/edit and layout the new 2009/2010 Softball Canada Rule Book. It will be available to the Provincial/Territorial associations by February 2009. Mark Gough is the ODC member assigned to work with Donna on the final rules for the rulebook resulting from the Rules Forum at the 2008 Softball Canada AGM.

8.4 Casebook

Jack Van Bynen requested the downloadable .pdf file of the Softball Canada Officiating Casebook be taken off the Softball Canada website. Final consensus from the Provincial/Territorial UICs and the ODC was to remove the Casebook from the Softball Canada website and the Provincial/Territorial websites. The hardcopy printed version will be available for the Provincial/Territorial associations only.

8.5 Exams FP and SP

Jack Van Bynen requested Provincial/Territorial UICs to remove national exam from their websites. Final consensus was to have national exams removed from Provincial/Territorial websites unless the access to the exams was password protected.

Murray Harvey reported the 2009 National Slo-Pitch exam was complete and ready for layout and print.

Bonnie Gostola assigned to 2009 National Fast Pitch Exam. Bonnie requested any submissions for questions from Level Vs must be emailed to her by November 20, 2008. Bonnie will complete the exam and will be ready for layout and print by the end of November, 2008.

9.0 WOMEN IN OFFICIATING

Bonnie Gostola is the ODC member assigned to the "Women in Officiating" program. Bonnie reported she is currently developing a focus group which will address any issues from grass-root officials all the way to elite officials. She noted the program will work along with recruitment and retention. Bonnie added she has been approached by the ISF to sit on the Women on Officiating committee.

10.0 BLUE CONVENTION

10.1 Moose Gibson – update

Moose Gibson provided an update on the organization of the 2010 Blue Convention. He reported the beginnings of the website are complete and

invited all to view (www.Blueconvention2010.com). The hotel has been selected and is the Regina Inn which is situated downtown Regina within walking distance to many attractions. The hotel rate is \$95 and to be eligible for the rate guests are to mention the Group Code: "Blue", Group Name: "Softball Canada Blue Convention" when making reservations. The hotel website is (www.ReginaInn.com). Moose added the host committee is working on several activities and dynamic guest speakers. Registration form is attached at the end of the background materials.

10.2 ODC Liaison

Brian Van Os informed all that Joyce Schroeder is the ODC liaison and will be reporting progress and updates.

10.3 Topics and speakers (input from ODC/Blue Committee)

Brian Van Os informed all that Doug Cundall is assigned to organizing workshop topics and speakers for the Blue Convention. Doug requested the Provincial/Territorial UICs give some thought and feedback on possible workshop topics. Doug advised that he would like to give speakers plenty of time to organize their workshops.

11.0 REGISTRATION

11.1 Brainstorming session led by Michael Track-BC

Background information on group breakout session attached (ROUGH NOTES).

12.0 PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

12.1 Registration fees Current (\$16/umpire)

Brian Van Os introduced the topic of a graduated fee structure and opened the table for discussion. He noted that any fee change proposal in 2009 would first have to go through the proper process and then voted on at the 2009 Softball Canada AGM. If passed by majority vote at the AGM it would be implemented in 2010.

Jack Van Bynen and Peter Kluszcznski outlined basics of new proposal for a graduated fee structure for Junior Development (JD) umpires from Ontario. They noted minor umpires are not registering due to the current fees. It was suggested that possibly other categories of memberships could be available for umpires who don't work on-field but want to remain involved (e.g. Associate Umpire).

Brian Van Os advised that additional revenue may be brought in from Ontario's JD Umpires (estimated 600 Ontario JD officials) – however – if the reduced fee for JD umpires was introduced Canada wide, would result in a

loss of revenue for the national officiating program as many provinces/territories register their JD umpires. Brian inquired if the Provincial/Territorial associations would ensure to register their JD officials if a National Junior Development program was implemented. The consensus from the P/T UICs was in favour of a National JD program. The ODC will form a committee to develop a new National JD program. Development of a fee structure remains in progress. Consensus from P/T UICs was to have the fee structure based on age rather than level.

12.2 Publications on the internet site

(As written in 8.4 and 8.5).

Ontario requested that all Provincial/Territorial associations remove the Umpire Casebook and National Exams from their website. Final round the table consensus was to remove these items from P/T websites unless the links were password protected to registered umpires only.

12.3 Ontario "Respect My Game" Initiative

Jack Van Bynen and Peter Kluszczynski outlined the "Respect my Game" initiative. Doug Cundall – ODC liaison. Background materials attached.

13.0 ODC COMMITTEES

Brian Van Os advised that members of all new committees will be selected based on a pre-written terms of reference. All members must be approved as in good standing by their Provincial/Territorial association.

13.1 FP Task Force

ODC member assigned to FP Task Force - Bonnie Gostola with Brian Sharples as chair. A task force committee will be developed.

13.2 SP Task Force

ODC member assigned to SP Task Force – Murray Harvey. A task force committee will be developed.

13.3 E-Learning and Between the Lines

Jeff Whipple ODC member assigned to "*Between the Lines*". Jeff reminded all that Level Vs are required to submit articles to "*Between the Lines*".

Jeff Whipple is the ODC member assigned to e-learning venture. Jeff informed all he is working with a company to develop an e-learning course. He noted that there would be a user fee for the on-line learning for the participant and the Provincial/Territorial and regional/zone administrators will be provided with free access. The user fee would be determined once the course materials developed. The program would be password protected and any user must be affiliated with their Provincial/Territorial Association and Softball Canada. Jeff requested the P/T UICs to advise their membership of

the e-learning service requested feedback which will be taken forward to the ODC meeting in January.

13.4 Casebook and Rulebook

As written in 8.3 and 8.4

13.5 Rule Interpretations - now and in the future

Brian Van Os reported that he will form a committee for Rule Interpretations. The new 2009/2010 Rule Interpretations as per the outcome of the Softball Canada Rules Forum will be posted on the Softball Canada website.

14.0 DATE & LOCATION OF 2009 MEETING Ottawa, Ontario - November