

ISSUE NO. 1

BLUEZ' NEWS

ALBERTA SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION / FEBRUARY 2017 / VOLUME 1

Welcome to the First Issue of the ASUA Bluez' News

Welcome to all our ASUA members, fellow Softball Canada Umpires, and softball umpires from around the world that may be reading this from around the planet.

This is a one of the new initiatives that have come out of our recent PUDC (Provincial Umpire Developments Committee), on January 21st, 2017, in Airdrie.

We will be covering some of those initiatives in this issue of the newsletter. The plan is to have these out as often as required in the pre-season, but once the season gets into full swing, more often. More details later in the issue



PUDC Meeting

PUDC Members in Attendance : (from Left to Right) - Terry Richter behind the camera, Daryl Helmer, Jason Clarke, Les Yuen, Gerald Tomko, Chris Harper, Mike Semchuk.

Missing from the photo - Bonnie Gostola, Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon, Jim Portman.



LOOK FOR UPDATES ON THE WEBSITE AND THE FACEBOOK PAGE Website address is www.asua.ca and on facebook search for Calgary Softball Umpires Association for more updates.



ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW PICTURES As the season gets into swing we will be needing new photos of our fellow umpires on and off the diamond. send them to spectros@mac.com



GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN There is still some spots available for the Level IV Theory Clinic, Mechanics Clinic, and the Nothern Alberta Softball Umpire Academy. Contact Terry Richter.

Umpire Development and Training

Upcoming in the next few Months

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This is looking to be a really great year, for ball in Alberta.

I know it's still a few months away until our local clinics, and the start of our season. This year however, our Umpire in Chief, the rest of the Executive, and the Provincial Umpire Development Committee want to give all of us the best opportunities to advance our skill, our abilities, to better ourselves as umpires.

We will get into each of these incredible opportunities later in this issue of Bluez' News.

The first one is the Northern Alberta Softball Umpires Academy, which will be scheduled for a couple of hours

every Sunday between 11am - 1pm. This Academy will be starting on February 26th, and going for the next 4 weeks. In Edmonton

Level 4 Theory Clinic. There may still a few spots left. It will be on

the long weekend in February 18-19. In Airdrie

Mechanics Clinic. This will be on March 25-26. In Red Deer. This will be an asset for anyone that has aspirations to do Provincials and beyond in the years to come.

AROUND THE DIAMOND



There has never been a more exciting pre-season here in Alberta. With all the clinics and courses happening right in your backyard.

Reach new heights in your career. Take advantage of the training available this year. To take your game to the next level. If you want to get to a Canadian Championship make an investment in yourself.



NEW RECOGNITION: UMPIRES OF THE WEEK/MONTH



Once the season starts up, we want each zone to send in their umpire of the week. A short blurb as to what makes he or she the umpire of the week in your zone, and a photo of them if you have one.



From those umpires of the week, the Executive will choose an Umpire of the Month. We are looking into some sort of prize for that umpire, to show off that they are an ASUA Umpire of the Month

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ABOUT ME



Time: 11am-1pm on
Sundays

Dates: Starting Feb 5th

Location: Massive Sports

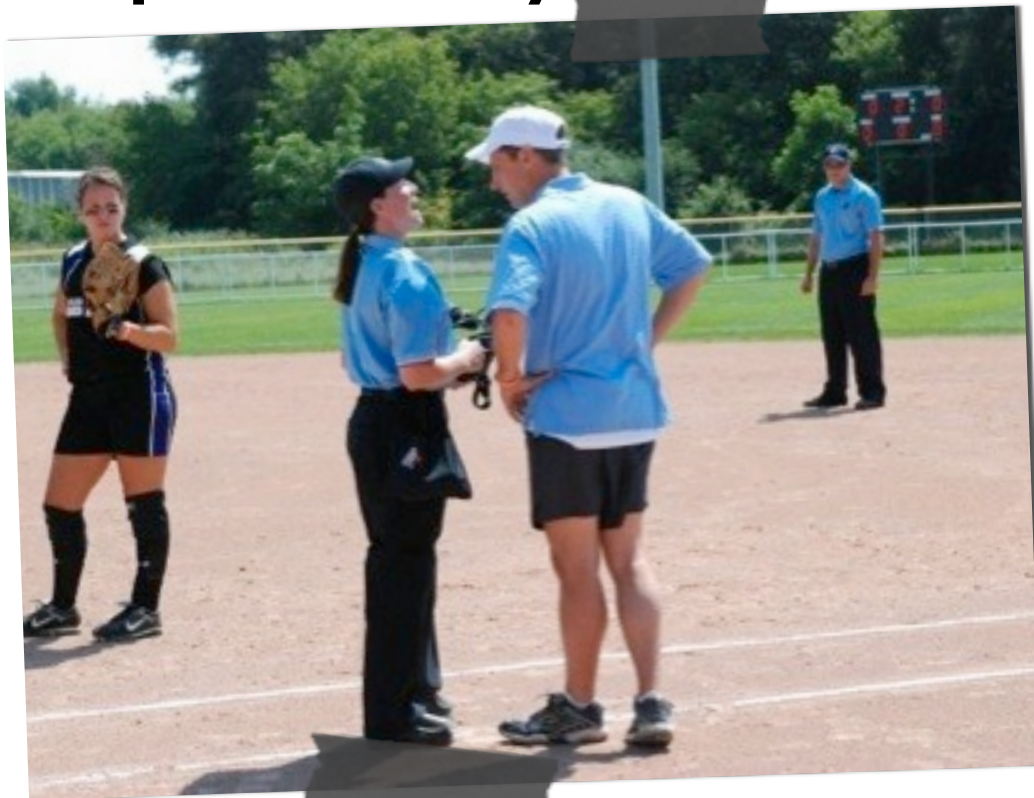
City: Sherwood Park

Who is it Directed too:

Anyone wanting to go to
Provincials, Westerns,
Canadians, this year and in
the future

Cost: \$20/Session - \$120/
for all sessions

Northern Alberta Softball Umpire Academy



Starting on Sunday February 26th at 11 am. This is a project to bring our umpires to the top of their game. Going to a championship, and want to get a head start on the season. Want to perfect your hobby, your passion, your craft.

This is a weekly get together, that will be 4 Sunday's. Taking on topics that have come up from the survey sent out in the fall. It will be at Massive Sports in Sherwood Park. #55 - 100 Broadview Drive.

Upcoming Dates

Mark those Calenders

Northern Alberta Softball
Umpire Academy -
Sundays Starting Feb 26

Level 4 Theory Clinic
Feb 18-19

ASUA Spring Meeting
Mar 18

Mechanics School Mar 25-26

Session Topics

1. Mechanics Refresher, Rules Discussion, Fitness
2. 2 Umpire system, running through slo pitch and fast pitch scenarios
3. 3 Umpire system, running through scenarios, and field coverage
4. Plate Mechanics

That is just the start. Join us. Contact Terry Richter if you are interested in being a part of the Academy.

umpire-in-chief@softballalberta.ca

ABOUT ME



Dates: February 18-19

Location: Airdrie, AB

Cost: \$175.00

Level 4 Theory Clinic



In order to attain Level 4 and attend a Canadian Championship you need to attend this clinic. These clinics are not always held in the province. The last one in Alberta was in 2006. The cost of the clinic is \$175.00.

There are still a few spots available.

Aside from helping you get to that next level as an umpire. It also is a step in helping you learn how you can be a leader in your association, your province. Learn how you can give back to the sport that you love.

Instructors for this clinic, are Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon, and Aaron Poulin.



ABOUT ME



Dates: March 25-26

Location: Red Deer, AB

Cost: \$50

Softball Canada - National Mechanics School



Program is designed to develop and enhance the on-field knowledge and skills of participating umpires. It is relevant to umpires at any age, experience, or certification level and involves active instruction and application of fundamental and advanced umpiring mechanics.

Anyone that has applied for a Provincial, Western or Canadian should be attending. Aside from those going to learn. This is also an opportunity for anyone that has already taken the Instructor/Evaluator Clinic, to instruct and get evaluated.

It is going to be at the Collicutt Center, in Red Deer

From Les Yuen:



To all Softball Umpires: One of the most important parts of being an umpire, is to have a solid understanding of the mechanics and rotations, of the Softball Canada umpire! The A.S.U.A., will be holding a Mechanics Clinic in Red Deer, March 25 & 26, to teach you these skills! ALL LEVELS of umpires are encouraged to take this clinic, to help you become the best you can be as an umpire! Umpires that have applied or going to apply in the future, for Provincials, Westerns, or Canadians, are strongly recommended to take this clinic, to help them be the best prepared for these events!!! The clinic cost is only \$50.00, not including travel or accommodations. For a more detailed outline of the clinic, check the link on the A.S.U.A. website.

ABOUT ME



Umpire of the Week

Each Zone Chooses: |

Umpire of the Month

Chosen from all of the
Umpires of the Week

Umpire of the Week - Month



New Initiative of the ASUA is to recognize the every day efforts of our umpires.

The plan is for each zone to nominate an umpire from their area, as an Umpire of the Week. Each umpire will be featured in a future issue of Bluez' News. You can be nominated for whatever your association thinks makes you special that week.

From all of the Umpire's of the Week, each month will go into a chance to become the ASUA Umpire of the Month.

Details are still being worked out, but there could be an award for each Umpire of the Month.

If you are selected please have your association do a write up why you were selected, and if they have a picture of you on the diamond or from your clinic in the spring that would be great to add to the article in the Bluez' News.

Also if you wish to impart some words of wisdom that would be wonderful too, on whatever you would like to tell the other umpires of the province.

ABOUT ME



Taken I/E Clinic: If you took it and want to start being an evaluator in more than your local association

Survey: Fill out the survey coming soon

Evaluator Opportunities



If you've taken the Instructor/Evaluator Clinic, and are looking to become more involved in that capacity provincially and eventually this is a good year to be letting the ASUA know it.

There will be an application form coming out soon, that will be like the forms we fill out when we are applying for championships.

This form will list the different tournaments GPLS, and other larger tournaments that the ASUA is hoping to use to Evaluate Evaluators.

From those we will be looking at starting to bring new faces in as the UICs and Evaluators at the U16 girls provincials, Senior B provincials, Westerns that are in Alberta, and start you on a path that may have you being an UIC/DUIC at a Canadian Championship.

Keep your eyes open for when this application form comes out, and start sharing the knowledge you have gained as an umpire and teaching the next generation of up and coming umpires in Alberta.

ABOUT ME



Spring Meeting: March 18th

Location: Red Deer

Association Clinics:
Starting in April check the website

Location: All over the Province

ASUA Spring Meeting - Association Clinics



The Annual ASUA Spring Meeting is coming up on March 18th, 2016. It is going to be in Red Deer again this year. The location is still being locked down. All association representatives will be there, but any umpire can come and sit in on the meeting, and often times will be part of the discussions.

This is where we set our path for the year, from these meetings we take back our directions for the clinics we will be running.

As this is a new rule book year, it is important to be a part of this meeting if you can make it, and even more important to be at your local clinics in April.

Check the website for dates and locations for all the clinics coming up in April. If you aren't able to make it to your associations weekend. Contact you local executive, and let them know if you can make someone else's clinic, and ask them to help make the arrangements for you to attend another clinic.

FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you enjoyed this first issue of the ASUA Bluez' News. Any feedback on how to improve it, or articles you would like to submit, photos you wouldn't mind being in the newsletter. Please email them to me. Keep your eyes open for Umpires of the Week, lets make our province the best officials out there, in any sport.

Email me at spectros@mac.com

Mike Semchuk

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VOLUME 01

Any comments or suggestions, ways to make the newsletter more relevant to you., Photos of you or your fellow umpires on and off the diamonds. Send to:
spectros@mac.com