



BLUEZ' NEWS

ALBERTA SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION / APRIL 2017 / VOLUME 1

The Beginning of the Season is Around the Corner - Are you Ready?

It's Clinic season, do you know when your local clinic is. Have you started working out, and getting your legs ready to call that first game.

It's now April, clinics have already started, and the first pitch of the season for most of the province will be flying into the catcher's glove in May.

In this issue we get reports on the Level 4 Clinic, the Alberta Umpire's Academy, the Mechanic's School. 2017 Championship Selections, Clinic Dates



Local Clinics are This Month

Be the best umpire you can be. There have been many opportunities this season to start the season on the right foot, and get some training in, and get ready for the season. One more chance is coming with your local clinic. Get involved and take the next step in being the best umpire you can be.



LOOK FOR UPDATES ON THE WEBSITE AND THE FACEBOOK PAGE Website address is www.asua.ca and on facebook search for Alberta 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 If you ever wanted to be a UIC/DUIC at a Provincial Evaluator, or Western, your executive should have the application form to fill out contact them and send it in for consideration.

Level 4 Clinic Report

by: **Tonya Ribalkin Zanon**

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On Family Day Weekend this year, twelve umpires from Alberta and one from Saskatchewan attended the Level IV theory course offered in Airdrie. Participants were actively engaged and appreciated the course content that focused on game management and giving back to the program.

Head Instructor was Aaron Poulin from Hope, BC with Tonya Ribalkin Zanon from Calgary as his Co-Instructor. Rounding out the presenters was "Slo Pitch Expert" Jason Clarke from Turner Valley Alberta.

Lots of great discussion ensued throughout the weekend, along with a few stories and many laughs. In true Blue Family Style, the group enjoyed dinner at a

local pub Saturday evening and new friendships were made.

Huge congratulations to the following Alberta Blue who wrote and passed the online test after the clinic and are now Level IV Theory Certified:

Andrew Palmer
Chris Hennig
Kristen Hutchison
Bryan Evans
Shane Skora
Bill Kelland
Eugene Korosi
Wayne Miller - SK
Shawn Miller
Kyle Muise
Charles Baker
John Bauer

And, without the support of the Alberta Softball Umpires Association and namely Daryl Helmer who organized the clinic and supplied space at his company to hold it, this clinic could not happen. Thank you, Daryl!

All umpires are now eligible to attend a Canadian Championship to earn their full Level IV and we wish them luck as their careers ensue.



LEVEL IV THEORY: INSTRUCTORS



From Left to Right:

Jason Clarke - Turner Valley

Tonya Ribalkin Zanon - Calgary

Aaron Poulin - Hope, BC

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Alberta Umpire Academy Report

by Terry Richter

The 2017 season seen the inaugural beginnings of the Alberta Umpire Academy.

With a focus on improving skills of our umpires, we started with game management, game control, base mechanics, 2 and 3 umpire system, and plate mechanics. The academy was for any umpire that wanted to improve or sharpen their skills. With the first session on Feb. 26, 2017, we had 14 officials and ran people thru rule changes, angles and distances, fitness, obstruction, and interference.

As we moved into March we had a few challenges with weather and the attendance did slip a bit. We were still able to attract on an average of 12 people for each session. The sessions were held in Sherwood Park on Sunday mornings at a facility called Massive Sports. With the focus on

AROUND THE ACADEMY



Attendees and Instructors of the first session of the Academy



Giving instructions on the importance of fitness, and how that can impact your game, and season both on and off the diamond.

improving the umpires we focused our efforts on base mechanics and plate mechanics. A big thanks goes out to Kelly Porter, and Mike Semchuk for their assistance as instructors. Thanks to all that came out and supported the Academy. We look forward to expanding this to the rest of the province for the 2018 season, and

hope you will be able to attend. Looking forward to the 2017 season and having the academy assist you in your efforts.

Elite Players Deserve Elite Officials

Upcoming Dates

Mark those Calenders

Local Clinics all Month Long
Each Weekend in April
except Easter Weekend

Check p.8 for more details



Setting up a drill for what to look for on potential Obstruction/Interference possibilities



One of the plays we talked about where the umpires weren't paying attention to runners coming across the plate, and how important it is to always have the 4 elements in front of you

Mechanics School

by **Terry Richter**

ASUA Umpire in Chief

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On March 25/26 the ASUA held a Softball Canada Mechanics Clinic in Red Deer. The topics in the clinic included Base Mechanics and Plate Mechanics for both Slo-pitch and Fast Pitch. In these sessions we had the participants going thru mask & indicator control, stance, calling strikes, calling balls, and establishing a strike zone. In addition they were involved in drills going through the 3 and 4 umpire system.

We had 38 participants from all umpire branches ranging from Level II to Level IV. It truly was an amazing thing to see all of the participants get involved and take in what the instructors were teaching. Along with the 38 participants we had 14 instructors, which we were able to evaluate 8 of them. Would like to thank the instructors that made themselves available for this

TAKING YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL



Attendees of the first Softball Canada Mechanics School run in Alberta since 2006



There were upwards of 40 umpires of all ages that had an intensive weekend looking to bring their game to the next level in Red Dee, Alberta

event and putting up with the last minute changes. Thanks goes out to Brad Lyon, Chris Harper, Kris Hartley, Pat Babott, Jason Clark, Geoff Larson, Les Yuen, Mike Semchuk, Adrian Gaudet, Trevor Stoyko, Ken Jones, Jim Portman, and Daryl Helmer.

As this was the first time we have held this since 2006, we felt that it was a success and will be looking at hosting it every 2 years. Again thanks to all that came out and supported the growth and education of the Alberta Umpire Program.



The instructors of the Mechanics School, that were passing on their knowledge and love of the game.

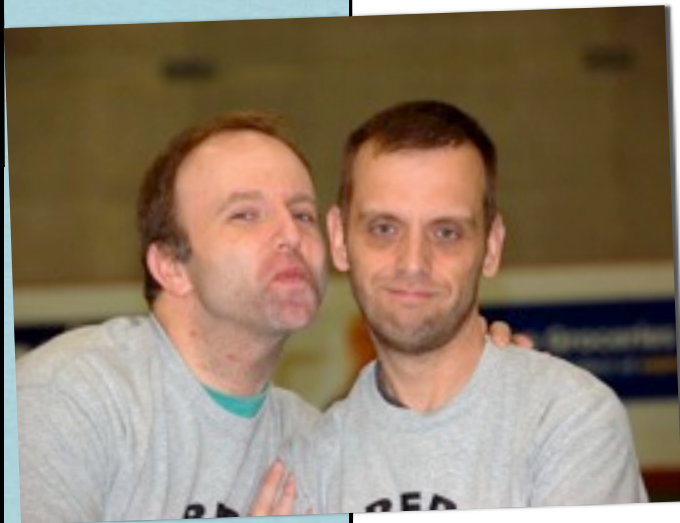


A high paced drill to simulate good mechanics, and tracking the ball for fair/foul call on first touch



Working on GPA (Good Pelvic Alignment), for plate stance. Also being able to tell which eye dominance you have and how it can affect your plate stance and how well you see the ball

Photos from the Mechanics School Weekend



ASUA 2017 Championship Selections

by ASUA Executive and the
Selection Committee

...

THE ASUA ANNOUNCED THE
FOLLOWING UMPIRES WERE
SELECTED FOR PROVINCIAL,
WESTERN, AND CANADIAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2017

Congratulations to the following
umpires whom were selected to
represent their Associations, and
the Province at the following
championships this season.

CHAMPIONSHIP	UMPIRE	ASSOCIATION	NOTE
Provincials			
Senior Women's SP	Kristen Hutchinson	EDSUA - Zone 6	Fillers will be needed
Senior Men's SP	Chris Hennig	EDSUA - Zone 6	Fillers will be needed
U16 FP	TBD		Pre-Provincial evaluation is needed!!

CHAMPIONSHIP	UMPIRE	ASSOCIATION	NOTE
Westerns			
U14 FP	Tim Hubert	Zone 7	North Battleford, SK
U16 FP	Kyle Muise	CMUA - Zone 3	Brandon, MB
U18 FP	Mike Moyen	Calgary Adult - Zone 3	Richmond, BC
U21 FP	Adrian Gaudet	Fort Vermillion - Zone 8	Irma. AB Fillers will be needed



ASUA 2017 Championship Selections - Continued

by ASUA Executive and the
Selection Committee

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CHAMPIONSHIP	UMPIRE	ASSOCIATION	NOTE
Canadians			
U16 Girls FP	Colin Hammermeister	Blue Crew - Zone 6	Delta, BC
U18 Girls FP	Julie Ann Dron	Blue Crew - Zone 6	Lloydminster, AB Fillers will be needed
U18 Boys FP	Mark Taylor	CMUA - Zone 3	O'Leary, PEI
Canada Summer Games Women's FP	Emma Jerome Smith	CMUA - Zone 3	Winnipeg, MB
Canada Summer Games Men's FP	Chris Harper	Red Deer - Zone 4	Winnipeg, MB
Senior A Women's FP	Bonnie Gastola	Calgary Adult - Zone 3	Brampton, ON
Senior A Men's FP	Daryl Helmer	Calgary Adult - Zone 3	Saskatoon, SK
Senior Women's SP	Shawn Miller	Calgary Adult - Zone 3	St. Bruno, QC
Senior Men's SP	Gary Barnes	EDSUA - Zone 6	St. Bruno, QC

ABOUT ME



Zone Clinics in April

Photos from Zone 4

**Clinic which already
happened Apr 1st-2nd**

Clinic Dates from Around the Province



Below is the List of the Umpire Clinics happening this month. It is important to try your best to make it to a clinic this year, and if you can't make your local one for whatever reason here are the rest of them from around the province.

Local clinics are being taught and organized by instructors that have attended the Softball Canada Instructor/Evaluator Clinic.

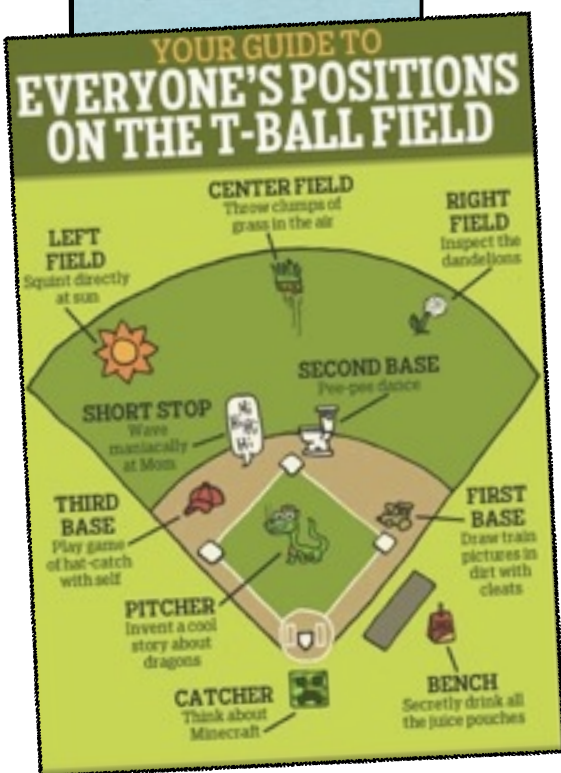
These clinics will be teaching the most up to date mechanics, and all the new rules that have come out in this Rule Change Year.

Red Deer - Zone 4 had their clinic this last weekend on April 1st and 2nd, and rumor has it that they had over 60 umpires both new 1st year umpires, and ones that have significantly more years under their belts.

Great job Zone 4, way to set the tone for what is undoubtedly going to be a record breaking year.

See on the next page a list of the remaining clinics from around the province and do your best to make your way to one of these clinics.

If you can't make your local one, make sure to let your president know and that you will be attending a different one, and give their local contact a heads up so they know to expect you.



Zone Clinic Listings

BRANCH	DATE & TIMES	LOCATION	HOST CONTACT
Zone 3 Adult	April 8-9 (8:00-4:00 both days)	Nexen Building 801-7 Ave. SW, Calgary	Daryl Helmer 403-804-4212
Zone 3 Minor	April 8 (8:30-4:30) April 9 (8:30-2:00)	Nexen Building 801-7 Ave. SW, Calgary	Jim Portman 403-801-8439
Zone 5	April 22 (9 am - 5 pm) April 23 (9am - 1pm)	Toe field Ball Diamonds/ Hockey Arena 4748-53 Ave, Toe field	Cam Tordoff 780-278-0031
Zone 6 Adult	April 22 (9 am - 4 pm) April 23 (9am - 1pm)	Rosslyn School 13215-113 A St. Edmonton	Kelly Porter 780-554-3106
Zone 6 Minor	April 8 (begins 9:00am) April 9 (beings 9:00am)	St. Alphonsus School 11624-81 St., Edmonton	Ken Jones or Julie Dron ken@thebluecrew.ca julie@thebluecrew.ca
Zone 7	April 22 (9 am - 5 pm) April 23 (9am - 1pm)	Toe field Ball Diamonds/ Hockey Arena 4748-53 Ave, Toe field	Doug Rayfield 780-974-3872



BLUEZ' NEWS

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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

FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you enjoyed this second 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