

# BLUE 2016

It's been way too long,  
We've missed you, Canada!



**'Your Future is Calling'**

The Host Committee is proud to welcome the umpires of Softball Canada back to our beautiful province seventeen years after Blue 99 in Richmond, BC. The planning is finished and the work to make BLUE 2016 a highlight of your umpiring experience is

well underway. We look forward to seeing to you in March to not only take advantage of this world class umpire event but also to experience of the world's most beautiful cities, Vancouver and its warm west coast spring weather!

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*It ain't nothin' till I call it  
- Bill Kelm*

## Welcome from Softball Canada National Director of Umpires Jeff Whipple

On behalf of Softball Canada and the Officiating Development Committee I am please to invite everyone as Blue Convention returns to Richmond in beautiful British Columbia for 2016!

There is really no event quite like it! As the flagship event of the Softball Canada's umpiring program, Blue Convention stands unique amongst sports

officiating organizations across the country. Whether you have aspirations of international competition or simply want to better serve your local community softball, there is a place for you at Blue Convention 2016! From rookie teenagers to elite international officials, from coast to coast, everyone is invited! Especially you! See you at BLUE 2016!

## Planes, Trains & Automobiles and Beds!

The official hotel of BLUE 2016 is the SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL. Recently renovated, the hotel offers a Starbucks in the lobby (that other place is just down the street), free wifi throughout the hotel and a 1,200 square foot workout facility (umpires exercise too). The hotel also features a bar and bistro with updates to the rooms including plush beds & pillows<sup>1</sup> and 37" flat panel televisions. There is even a beer and wine store IN the hotel.

Book now for exclusive access to the BLUE 2016 nightly rate of \$119.00 per night available only until March 4, 2016 or more likely until all the rooms are sold out well before that date.

<sup>1</sup> For those of the appropriate age, all pillows are actually pillows. The rest of you go watch Planes, Trains & Automobiles.

Getting to a Blue Convention will be never easier than it will be for BLUE 2016.

Located only a short skytrain ride from Vancouver International Airport, the hotel also offers a free shuttle to and from the convention site.

In addition to the Vancouver Airport, you can also fly into Abbotsford on WestJet and be shuttled to the hotel in a luxury town car<sup>2</sup> by a BLUE 2016 volunteer.

The hotel is also easily accessible via automobile, train and bus.

<sup>2</sup> And by luxury town car, we mean a big white van stuffed with luggage and fellow umpires.



*Booking through the Sheraton's online tool grants you access to the exclusive BLUE 2016 nightly rate of \$119.00*

## BLUE 2016: NOT JUST FOR CANADIANS



*Convention registration includes getting to meet this guy!*

A Blue Convention is not complete without our friends from ASA and around the world!

You are all invited and we look forward to seeing our sessions filled with red shirts throughout the convention on Friday.

REGION 15 – WE ARE LOOKING AT YOU!!!



The goal you set must be challenging. At the same time, it should be realistic and attainable, not impossible to reach. It should be challenging enough to make you stretch, but not so far that you break.

(Rick Hansen)

## Our Keynote Speaker: Mr. Rick Hansen

BLUE 2016 is beyond thrilled to have, British Columbia's own, Mr. Rick Hansen as the keynote speaker for BLUE 2016.

To many, his name needs no explanation, for those not yet acquainted with this Canadian Hero who has raised more than 200 million dollars for spinal cord related injury programs, his inscription for the Order of Canada reads:

*Already a world-renowned wheelchair athlete, this British-Columbian fulfilled a dream of wheeling around the world to make others aware of the potential of the disabled and to raise funds for spinal cord research among other things. His 44,000 km. journey, recently completed, took him to four continents and 33 countries, inspiring people around the world to realize their potential and raising many millions of dollars for the cause.*

He is a member of the Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, a final torchbearer at the 2010 Winter Olympics, and even had a song written in his honor reach #1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

His message of hope and determination will change not only your officiating career but perhaps your life.



## REGISTER TODAY AT [SOFTBALL.CA](http://SOFTBALL.CA)

Or use the registration form at the end of the newsletter





# BLUE 2016 SESSIONS

## Technology

The world is changing – especially the way we interact with it and each other. With the development of hand-held digital devices information consumption and production is easy for everyone. Join us as we look at how web-based and mobile apps, video and other technology platforms can be used to grow and support your association and help individual umpires learn and progress.

## Program Growth

As softball prepares to launch a new growth phase across the country our umpire programs need to be able to grow with the sport. We will share development ideas and best practices to recruit, develop and maintain umpires.

## Base Mechanics

From inside out and rimming to leading edge and seeing the gap, we'll focus on the latest in being a great base umpire.

## Plate Mechanics

Plate umpires have a lot to do in the course of a game and we'll look at it all. Working the slot, framing the zone, GPA, release and trailing the runner and much, much more, you'll come away with new ideas – we guarantee it!

## Rules & Resources

Was that obstruction or interference? How do I find out how to rule on that latest crazy play? Our rules experts look at the resources available, how to use the rulebook and a few sticky examples to challenge your rules knowledge.

## First Impressions / Presence

"You only have one chance to make a first impression". Truth is, after that first impression you have to continually manage your personal brand as an umpire. Learn some of the tricks to make players, coaches, fans and supervisors believe YOU are the right person for the job!

## Personal Growth

While there are lots of people who can make an impact on your umpiring career, only YOU can manage your own development. Where should I start? How do I find your way to where you want to go? What are reasonable goals anyway? Can I really work the Olympics? Learn how to make, manage and reach your goals from those who have been there, done that!

## Fitness, Health & Safety

High-performance athletes demand high-performance umpiring. We are seeing increased demands on elite umpires to be physically fit and present a youthful and positive body image. Come here the latest ideas on fitness testing and how you can look after your health during that long season or tournament.

## Game (Management) Leadership

Above all, great umpires are great leaders. Whether your personality is quiet and unassuming or passionate and exuberant, you can learn how to leverage your strengths to



*"Your Future is Calling"*

## Instructor & Evaluator Clinic / Level IV Clinic / Junior Development Clinic

In addition to the BLUE 2016, Softball Canada will also be hosting an Instructor / Evaluator Clinic and a Level IV Clinic.

These I/E and Level IV clinics will run over two days – the Thursday, March 24 and Sunday March 27.

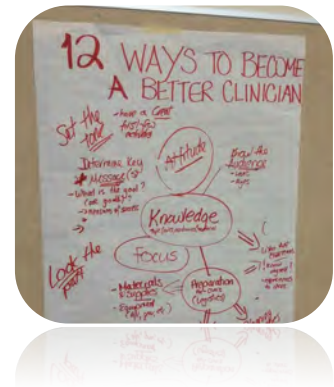
The Instructor / Evaluator Clinic gives the most up to date methods and information for instructing and evaluating the Softball Canada way.

The Level IV Clinic is for those Level III officials looking to progress to the next step in their

umpiring career. It focused on the mental aspects of officiating with a heavy emphasis on game control.

The Junior Development Clinic is for first and second year officials looking to improve their game. Taught by international certified umpires, this clinic aims to provide insight, tips and techniques to get you through the first years of an umpiring career.

For more information and to register visit [softball.ca](http://softball.ca).



*"I never questioned the integrity of an umpire. Their eyesight, yes."*

*-Leo Durocher*

*I never threw an illegal pitch. The trouble is, once in a while I toss one that ain't never been seen by this generation.*

*— Satchel Paige*

### SOFTBALL CANADA

223 Colonnade Road, Ste 212  
Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 7K3

(613) 523 3386



**"Your Future is Calling"**

BLUE 2016

[www.Blue2016.com](http://www.Blue2016.com)



@SCBlue2016



Blue Convention 2016





REGISTRATION FORM  
**BLUE CONVENTION 2016**  
**Richmond, BC**

**Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 - 2016**

**Ending with an awards banquet the evening of Saturday, March 26.**

**Level IV and IE clinic offered on Thursday, March 24 (full day) and Sunday, March 27 (1/2 day).**

Please Fill Out All Sections and Include the registration fee for the workshops.

Softball Canada accepts Certified Cheque, Money Order, Visa, Master Card or American Express. Payable to - Softball Canada

Name:	_____	Gender ( <i>Check one</i> ):	M <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
Address:	_____	City:	_____	
Prov./Terr.:	_____	Postal Code:	_____	
H - Telephone:	_____	W - Telephone:	_____	
Fax:	_____	Email :	_____	
Certification Level :	_____			
Shirt Size:	S <input type="checkbox"/>	FP <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	XL <input type="checkbox"/>
		SP <input type="checkbox"/>		XXL <input type="checkbox"/>

**Registration:** \$140 includes participation in your selection of workshops and the Blue Convention 2016 Golf Shirt and Pin, plus a welcome package.

You can download a copy of the Pre-convention package from the Softball Canada and official website at a later date. The package will contain the schedule, workshop selection form. The workshops are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. NOTE: Workshops will be presented in English with only the materials translated into French.

**You can also order a Canadian Indicator Club Banquet ticket at \$60.00 each. The banquet will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2016.**

**Would you be interested in purchasing extra golf shirts at a cost of \$40.00 each?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ **How Many:** 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ **Shirt Size:** S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐

Please Include Payment for Extra Shirts with Registration Fee

(Indicate Size)

_____ <b>EARLY BIRD</b> Registration Fee (before July 1, 2015)	<u>\$140.00</u>
_____ Registration Fee (after July 1, 2015)	<u>\$160.00</u>
_____ <b>EARLY BIRD</b> Registration Fee and <u>Level 4</u> <u>Clinic</u> or <u>I/E Clinic</u> ( <b>please specify which one</b> )	<u>\$255.00</u>
_____ Registration Fee and <u>Level 4 Clinic</u> or <u>I/E Clinic</u> ( <b>please specify which one</b> ) (after July 1, 2015)	<u>\$275.00</u>
_____ Additional Golf Shirts (@\$40.00 each)	Add _____
_____ Banquet Ticket (@\$60 each)	Add _____
	Total Enclosed _____

Please check one: Certified Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ RECEIPT REQUIRED ☐

Cardholder Name	_____	CVV	_____
Card Number	_____		
Signature	_____	Expiry Date	_____

***Deadline for Registration is March 1, 2016***

***Any refunds issued after February 1, 2016 will be subject to a \$50 Administration fee.***

To Be Returned To: Donna Ozarko, Softball Canada, 223 Colonnade Road, Suite 212, Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7K3

Tel: 613-523-3386, ext. 3101 - Fax: 613-523-5761 - [dozarko@softball.ca](mailto:dozarko@softball.ca)