



The Relief Pitcher

Presidents Message

Welcome to The Relief Pitcher! This will become our monthly newsletter to be able to engage the SJUA membership in happening during the year. The executive board has been hard at work this offseason putting a plan in place to move the SJUA forward. We have put committees in place and through this newsletter, you will be able to hear what is going on within those committees and the executive board.

During this offseason, you will see a comprehensive effort in recruiting new umpires and shoring up the SJUA footing.

We hope to engage through this newsletter and bring SJUA into being a more interactive group.

-Gerry Malamisura

Treasurer's Report

Each month until the start of the season, I will be using this space to give you an update on the financial situation of the organization.

For the month of Oct:

Opening balance - \$7,735.10

Deposits - 0

Interest earned - \$0.30

Payments Insurance premium - \$(659.26)

Gerry Malamisura - \$(24.00) - reimbursement

Closing balance - \$7,058.14

-John Henderson

Sunshine Committee

SJUA would like to congratulate John Henderson and his wife on the expected birth of their child.

SJUA would like to congratulate Bruce Lazaruk on his recognition from the South Jersey Hot Stovers!

(If you know of anyone who has lost a family member or knows of an upcoming birth of a child, please text or email Gary Schmitt to be added to the newsletter)

Secretary Report:

Please begin to register for the upcoming season. To register, please go to NJSIAA.org and complete your registration along with your background check. Secondly, please complete your Concussion Recertification by going to NFHSlearn.com

-Gary Schmitt



IMPORTANT NJSIAA DATES

First Practice:
3/14/2024

First Scrimmage:
3/21/2024

Opening Day:
4/1/2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERVISOR OF OFFICIALS



Hello and welcome to the first of many baseball articles for our umpires. Although it is out of season, these articles will hopefully inspire and motivate you to start thinking about baseball. The season is just around the corner!

First, this “Newsletter” will begin to mentally prepare you for the season and get you to think Baseball!
Second, I hope it will stimulate you to physically prepare for the season by working out and obtain a physical exam by a professional caretaker.

This section of the *Newsletter* will address a few areas that will assist you as an umpire for the upcoming 2024 season. Rule Changes, Rules Interpretation, Peculiar Plays, Umpire Mechanics, and Cadet Class Information will be the topics covered by me. If you have any ideas, topics, or questions that you would like me to address, just send me an email at gtj2963@comcast.net .

RULE CHANGES:

Player/Coach Communication Equipment: Non-electronic wristbands with various codes for offense or defense are permissible provided they are a solid color and worn on the wrist or forearm. (Pitchers cannot wear the item on the pitching arm and cannot be the color white or grey.) First violation: Team Warning to coach; second violation: Ejection of offender along with head coach.

One-way electronic communication devices are now legal from the dugout area to the catcher while on defense only for the purpose of calling pitches! The coach must be in the dugout/bench area when using the device. First violation: Team warning to coach; second violation: Ejection of offender and head coach.

Umpire-In-Chief will may forfeit game for prescribed infractions by coaches, players, or team/bench personnel. (The word spectators has been removed) Umpires have jurisdiction over the confines of the field, players, coaches, and bench personnel. Any issues with spectators must be dealt with by game management personnel.

Cadet Class: As of this writing, we have six cadets signed up to start on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Classes will be every Thursday evening at the Riverside Fire Station from 6:30 - 9:30. Classes are expected to end on February 29, 2024. Please urge anyone thinking about becoming an umpire to contact an Executive Board member or complete the on-line registration process at sjumps.com.

(I feel this *Newsletter* will be a valuable tool to assist the SJUA maintain contact with the members. Please don't hesitate to provide any recommendations you feel would be beneficial. Good luck and best wishes.)

-George T. Joo



Happy Thanksgiving

Assignor's Corner:

Welcome to the newsletter. By the time you read this, more than likely the candy from trick or treating is long gone and the turkey is just a pleasant memory. To wit, I bid one and all the best wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season.

For now, please start to think about blocking the dates that you do not wish to work. Important dates like Birthdays, anniversaries, trips etc. Make sure those go in early.

We will be using crews this year in order to help eliminate some of the issues of last year. How the crews will look, the amount of people on a crew, are still in the planning stages. More on this later.

-Joe Rosenberg

News & Notes:

Seeking greater flexibility for member schools to schedule games over a longer period of time, the NJSIAA passed an initial proposal at Wednesday's virtual Executive Committee meeting that shifts future sports calendars for the fall and spring seasons.

"I think this is another giant step in the right direction," NJSIAA executive director Colleen Maguire said during her presentation. "It's a good middle ground to provide flexibility and consistency that our leagues and conferences need."

Wednesday marked a first reading and vote of the proposal by the full Executive Committee. It needs to pass a second reading at the Dec. 6 meeting to take effect.

The biggest change is that the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the governing body for high school sports in the state, will no longer set a competition start date – except for football – and will give schools the flexibility to start playing regular-season games at their own discretion provided that six days of practice and one rest day have been observed.

Instead, the NJSIAA will set a competition end date for most fall and spring sports (again, football is separate) and allow flexibility for each sport's state tournament, giving each sport three weeks on the calendar to play postseason games, while Maguire noted that most only need two.

The max number of games for each sport will remain the same.

For the 2024-25, the proposed practice start date for football and girls tennis is Aug. 12, with other sports starting practice Aug. 19.

Hypothetically, a North Jersey soccer program could skip scrimmages and schedule regular-season games after one week. But once a team plays a regular season game, it can't go back and play scrimmages.

(courtesy of nj.com 11/20/2023)

COMMITTEE REPORT :

The [Recruitment and Retention Committee](#) have met twice. Some of the items we have completed or are working on include redesign and ordering of yard signs, recruitment brochure that can be used with social media and posting in local businesses, working on a list of different associations that we can send recruitment emails, created a QR code to be used on advertisements, formulated a list on in-active umpires to reach out to. If anyone has any ideas or would to participate in the committee please reach out to George Sanders (Committee Head).

[Grievance Committee](#) has 3 members.

Ken Shugars, 609-744-3613, cardinal853@gmail.com (Committee Head)

Mark Checki- markachecki@gmail.com

Sam Robinson- srobinson1018@comcast net

If you have a grievance, please reach out to the committee.

[Social Media Committee](#): (Committee Head Matt Korang)

We need new action photos. The cadet forms have been updated and we are getting applications. We need new officer photos, especially the assignors. We have 35 cadet registrations since April 1 2023.

[Election Committee](#): (Committee Head Tom Wajda)

No updates at this time.

[Bylaws Committee](#): (Committee Head Curt Weller)

No updates at this time.