



# East Coast Umpires Association

## By - Laws

East Coast Umpires Association By – Laws Committee  
10/28/2008

# **EAST COAST UMPIRES ASSOCIATION BY – LAWS**

## **Article I – NAME**

The name of the association is East Coast Umpires Association.

## **Article II – MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the association will be to foster and perpetuate an adequate number of well informed and capable umpires, to promote cooperation with schools and the Florida High School Athletic Association, also in the recruitment, training and scheduling of registered officials.

## **Article III – MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1**

Regular official membership will be open to all persons of the age of eighteen (18) years or older who “meet all requirements for the Florida High School Athletic Association” (Officials Guidebook and the Jessica Lunsford Act) and have registered with the Florida High School Athletic Association and have paid the East Coast Umpires Association dues. Applications must be approved by the Executive Board.

### **Section 2**

Student official membership into this association shall be open to all persons sixteen (16) years or seventeen (17) years of age. Student officials must meet all requirements for the Florida High School Athletic Association (Officials Guidebook and the Jessica Lunsford Act), be registered with the Florida High School Athletics Association and have paid the East Coast Umpires Association dues. Student officials may not be assigned Varsity Contests. Applications must be approved by the Executive Board.

### **Section 3**

A member joining East Coast Umpires Association as a secondary association is not entitled to the following:

1. Voting privileges.
2. May not hold an elective office or serve as a committee member.
3. Not eligible for playoff crews according to the Florida High School Athletic Association Officials Guidebook.

## **Article IV – OFFICERS**

### **Section 1**

The elected officers of the association shall be:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Three (3) Members at Large

These elected officers will act as the Executive Board of the association.

### **Section 2**

The following non-voting positions will be appointed by the Executive Board.

1. Baseball Assignor
2. Softball Assignor
3. Baseball Training Coordinator
4. Softball Training Coordinator

### **Section 3**

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected for two (2) year terms at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the association. The office of President and Secretary will be elected in odd number years. The Vice President and Treasurer will be elected in even number years. The Members at Large will be elected for a three (3) year term, one Member at Large elected each year. Assignor(s) and Training Coordinator(s) will be appointed annually. Terms of office shall run June 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup> of the next year.

### **Section 4**

If a vacancy should occur during the term of any office (except the President), a replacement will be appointed by the Executive Board for the remainder of that term. The Vice President will fill the vacancy of the office of President, in the event of this office becoming open for the remainder of that term. In event the Executive Board cannot agree on an appointment, a special meeting will be called of the General Membership to hold an election of the open office. A two week notification of the meeting will be provided.

## **Article V – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 – President**

The President will be the chief executive officer of this association. He will preside at executive and general meetings of the membership. The President will prepare agendas, schedule meeting dates and represent the association in all communication matters with the Florida High School Athletic Association, the Palm Beach County School District, independent schools and coaching associations. The President will appoint a nomination committee and a chairperson. The President will promote better working conditions for umpires and foster friendly, professional relationships among officials, coaches, schools and the Florida High School Athletic Association. He will serve as chief recruiter for the association. The President will have signature authority for distribution of the association funds after receiving approval from the Executive Board.

### **Section 2 – Vice President**

The Vice President, in the event of vacancy or inability of the President to exercise the duties of the office, will become acting President of the association and assume all rights, privileges and powers, as if the Vice President had been duly elected to the office of President.

### **Section 3- Secretary**

The Secretary will have custody of and maintain all records of this association. The Secretary will act as Parliamentarian. The Secretary will record and report minutes of all Executive Board meetings and General Membership meetings. The Secretary will send out notices as directed by the President. The Secretary will maintain an accurate list of meeting attendance and membership.

### **Section 4 – Treasurer**

The Treasurer will have custody of all of the association's funds and financial records; and will be accountable for said funds utilizing a checking account for disbursements. The Treasurer will keep a complete accurate account of dues collected, disbursements, and render any accounting financial activities there of at each meeting. The Treasurer will have signature authority for distribution of the association funds after receiving approval from the Executive Board.

### **Section 5 – Member at Large**

The Member at Large (3) will function as a voting member of the Executive Board and assist in the leadership of the association as directed by the Executive Board.

### **Section 6 – Assignor**

The Assignor(s) (one (1) for baseball and one (1) for softball) will serve as a non-voting member(s) on the Executive Board. Upon receipt of the schedules, the Assignor(s) will schedule all Varsity and Junior Varsity games with umpires who the Secretary and the Treasurer have verified as members in good standing of the association. The Assignor(s) will manage all changes in the schedules, arrange for coverage and verify acceptance of the games. The Assignor(s) will be reimbursed for assigning and necessary scheduling expenditures. The Assignor(s) will be responsible to ensure compliance with all Florida High School Athletic Association and East Coast Umpires Association requirements for assigned officials. The Assignor(s) position shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

### **Section 7 – Training Coordinator**

The Training Coordinator(s) (one (1) for baseball and one (1) for softball) will chair the Evaluation Committee and serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Board. The Training Coordinator(s) will be responsible for the presentation and training instruction at all of the association meetings and clinics. The Training Coordinator(s) will work with as many of the members as possible and will be responsible for the overseeing the evaluation of each member. The Training Coordinator(s) will also act as the official interpreter for strict rule clarifications and mechanics. The Training Coordinator(s) will be responsible for scheduling preseason intra-squad games to facilitate training.

### **Section 8 –Executive Board**

The Executive Board will be charged with the management of the association’s business and will meet as required. The Executive Board will propose an annual budget including recommendations for dues and be responsible for approving the expenditure of all funds. The Executive Board will provide a schedule and programs that will include ten (10) training meetings, with a minimum of one (1) clinic for each sport. The Executive Board will appoint all committee members as required by the Florida High School Athletic Association and may appoint a non-voting advisor. The Executive Board must act in the best interest of the association.

## **Article VI – ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1**

The President will appoint a chairperson and a nomination committee of three (3) association members to bring nominations to the floor by the first meeting in March.

### **Section 2**

Said nominees will be contacted in advance and will have agreed to run for said office.

### **Section 3**

Additional nominations may be submitted from the floor prior to the last association meeting in the month of April.

### **Section 4**

Elections will be held at the last general meeting in April. If more than one (1) nominee exists for an office, a written ballot election shall be taken for that office. Signed and verified ballots will be accepted. No absentee votes or proxy ballots of votes will be accepted. If no nominees achieve a fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) majority vote of the association membership present, then a runoff election will be held between the two (2) nominees that have received the highest amount of votes.

### **Section 5**

Any nominee will have the opportunity to speak for themselves, or have a representative speak for them up to three (3) minutes the night of the election, prior to each office being elected.

### **Section 6**

Any nominee not selected for an office in a given election, may accept or decline automatic nomination for a successive office.

## **Article VII – QUORUM**

A quorum of the General Membership will be one (1) more than one-third (1/3) of the dues paying members. A quorum of the Executive Board will be four (4). A quorum will be necessary to conduct business requiring a vote. Amendment(s) and or Impeachments(s) will require a quorum.

## **Article VIII – AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1**

The Association By-Laws may be amended by affirmative vote of fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the paid membership present.

### **Section 2**

Proposed amendment(s) to these By-Laws must be submitted to the Secretary in writing, at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which it will be read to the membership for the first time. The Secretary must inform the membership of the reading of the amendment(s) in a timely manner.

### **Section 3**

Proposed amendment(s) must be read at two (2) consecutive General Membership meetings prior to the meeting at which the vote will take place.

## **Article IX – IMPEACHMENT / RECALL**

### **Section 1**

Any officer can be impeached if cause and reason is provided by a motion and seconded with discussion having been allowed and is approved by a majority of the Executive Board present is passed to request impeachment.

### **Section 2**

Said motion for requesting recall will then become an agenda item for the next General Membership meeting. At the next meeting where a quorum is present, the officer may be removed / recalled if two-thirds (2/3) of the quorum present vote in the affirmative.

## **Article X – REGULAR SEASON RANKINGS**

The Evaluation and Training Committees have set up the following process for the advancement of officials within the association, which includes field competency (an association ranking may not match state ranking). State ranking(s) do not include field work.

### **Junior Varsity Level (JV)**

#### **Section 1**

All newly registered officials to East Coast Umpires Association without a current Florida High School Athletic Association Varsity score will start at the Junior Varsity level regardless of prior experience. There are occasions when officials are moved immediately after Varsity test score(s) have been reported and they are known and confirmed to have qualities which are beyond this level.

#### **Section 2**

Those officials at the Junior Varsity level that are considered to be on the verge of moving to the Varsity level will periodically work Varsity game(s) supervised by a designated Evaluator. In the event there are shortages of officials for Varsity game(s), a Junior Varsity official may be assigned to low level / non district Varsity game(s).

## **VARSIITY**

### **Section 1**

There are four (4) levels that an official can be ranked: 1 being the highest level. Once an official is placed at the Varsity level they will remain a Varsity official. They are never considered a Junior Varsity official; however Varsity officials are expected to work Junior Varsity games if needed. On occasion, Varsity officials will be encouraged to work Junior Varsity games to aid in the development of Junior Varsity officials.

## **Article XI – POST SEASON ASSIGNMENTS**

The Executive Board will appoint a chair person and a Recommendation Committee of three (3) to five (5) members for both baseball and softball. This committee will report their recommendations for three (3) man playoff crews for each sport to the membership to be voted on no later than the last meeting prior to submission to the state. The Recommendation Committee(s) will include the appointment of a crew chief for each playoff crew. The crew chief may not necessarily be assigned to the plate for each game. The minimum requirements for playoff games at the district level and beyond include, but are not limited to the following criteria:

1. A minimum of three (3) years of completed service in the East Coast Umpires Association.
2. A minimum of eight (8) varsity level games worked in Baseball or Softball or a total of twelve (12) varsity games worked in both Baseball and Softball by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each season.
3. A ranking of one (1) or two (2) at the association and state level is required.
4. Officials must achieve a favorable three (3) man evaluation after participating at an East Coast Umpires Association three (3) man field clinic.
5. All requirements set forth by the Florida High School Athletic Association must be met.

Officials not meeting one (1) or more of the above criteria, who wish to be assigned to playoff competition, will apply in writing to the Executive Board for a hardship exemption to waive the selected criteria. Such letter must be submitted to the Executive Board before March 15<sup>th</sup> including specifics to be considered for any exemption.

## **Article XII – DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

### **Section 1**

Those who fail to follow the East Coast Umpires Association By-Laws and Florida High School Athletic Association Rules & Regulations governing conduct not only penalize themselves, but do a disservice to all other East Coast Umpires Association members. The By-Laws and the Rules & Regulation are not intended to in any way limit the

authority of the East Coast Umpires Association to impose disciplinary sanction that are deemed most appropriate to the totality of circumstances or personnel behavior.

## **Section 2**

It is the policy of the East Coast Umpires Association that discipline should be characterized as corrective rather than punitive, and that disciplinary actions are utilized as an element of an overall program to educate members of the East Coast Umpires Association to promote proper conduct.

## **Section 3**

The Executive Board will investigate any member(s) of the East Coast Umpires Association violating any Florida High School Athletic Association Rules and Regulations and/or East Coast Umpires Association By-Laws may be subjected to the following disciplinary steps up to and including immediate expulsion from the East Coast Umpires Association

1. Verbal warning in writing
2. Written warning and/or probation
3. Monetary fine (Amount determined by Executive Board)
4. Probation and/or Suspension (To be determined by Executive Board)
5. Immediate Expulsion

Nothing contained herein shall limit the right, power and authority of the East Coast Umpires Association to take whatever disciplinary action deemed appropriate under given circumstances. It is further provided that certain offenses are of such serious nature that immediate expulsion upon first offense is appropriate. After the above investigation, the member has the right to file a grievance. All fines must be paid within two weeks, with proceeds being placed in the Dale Haines Scholarship Fund. Failure to pay fines within the specified period will be grounds for immediate suspension.

# **ARTICLE XIII - MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

## **Section 1**

Members will not engage in conduct, on or off the field, which adversely affects the morale or efficiency of the East Coast Umpires Association, or engage in conduct, on or off the field, which may destroy public respect for a member and/or East Coast Umpires Association, and/or destroy confidence in the operation of East Coast Umpires Association.

## **Section 2**

To be a member of good standing the following elements must be satisfied;

1. East Coast Umpires Association application and dues accepted by the Executive Board.
2. No outstanding fines imposed by East Coast Umpires Association.
3. Not on probation, suspension or expelled by another sanction officials association.

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