



The Relief Pitcher

Presidents Message

The Executive Board has a lot of stuff going on right now as we gear up for the season. We continue to have board meetings, meet with tournament representatives, and talk with different baseball club facilities in an effort to get us some time to go over mechanics and see live pitching.

I am very encouraged by the start of the Cadet Class that has started at the beginning of January. This will not only increase our overall numbers, but it will give the flexibility for the Assignor to be able to do his job effectively.

I am looking forward to the start of the season. Keep a look out for updates from the new crew system.

-Gerry Malamisura

Treasurer's Report

Here is the Treasurer's Report:

For the month of December:

Opening Balance: \$5,483.45

Money in:

12/31/2023 Interest Paid \$0.23

Money Out:

12/1/2023 John Fiorilla \$49.25
Reimbursement for posters

End-of-Month Balance: \$5,434.43

As we begin the 2024 season, I will begin to accept payments for dues, and any assigner fees deposits you would like to make.

SJUA will accept the following forms of payment for 2024.

VENMO - @John-Henderson-3.
Please label as dues or assigner fees

ZELLE - the phone # is 267-978-5708

CHECK - accepted in person at meetings or mailed to my address

John Henderson
605 Linden Ave
Riverton NJ 08077

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Sunshine Committee

There is no Sunshine this month.

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

Secretary Report:

Happy January. As I type this, snow is falling. I guess in retrospect it is better than rain. I hate rain outside. As we get closer to the season, I have received the rule books and case books. I will try to have them at the Riverside Firehouse for pick up on a weekly basis. As I have said in the past, now is the time to register and complete your background checks, you can do this through www.njsiaa.org and complete your concussion course www.nfhslearn.com.

Working alongside the assignor, by completing these two tasks helps him immensely with assigning members to games.

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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



Treasurer Report: (Continued)
CASH - accepted in person only

Please reach out to me if there are any questions or concerns

John Henderson - SJUA Treasurer
267 978-5708
hendersonj263@gmail.com

-John Henderson

Secretary Report: (Continued)

If you know of any member sick/injured that needs assistance or any member who may have lost a loved one, please contact me.

Play Ball, Doc

Hello and Happy New Year! The 2024 season is close. Please get your physical exam by a professional caretaker before the season starts.

Since the last "Newsletter" article, there were no additional Rule Changes. The NJSIAA scheduled a Rules Interpretation meeting on Monday, January 29, 2024 that I will attend. Remember, if you have any ideas, topics, or questions that you would like for me to address, just send me an email at gtj2963@comcast.net .

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RULE CHANGES: (PREVIOUSLY FROM DECEMBER)

Player/Coach Communication Equipment (1-6-1; 1-6-2 and 3-2-5) and Umpire-In-Chief **may** forfeit the game for prescribed infractions by coaches, players, or bench personnel. Issues with spectators will be referred to site management personnel. (10-2-3h)

Points of Emphasis: Please be concerned and attentive to the following topics during the game:

Malicious Contact: Contact or a collision is considered to be malicious if (1) the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or (2) there is intent to injure.

Profanity: There is no excuse for foul language, either direct or indirect, on the baseball field. Penalties will include: (1) verbal warning to offender; (2) written warning that warrants the restriction to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game, or (3) eject the offender for a major offense.

Pace of Play: Baseball games can be more efficient with a focus on time and time management. Pace of play involves several factors that include: 20-second time limit between pitches; time between half-innings; batter repeatedly stepping out of the box, excessive player conferences, and umpire's time management skills.

Cadet Class: Training classes have started and (19) cadets are attending. Please urge anyone thinking about becoming an umpire to contact an Executive Board member or complete the on-line registration process at sjumps.com Second year cadets are encouraged to attend as a refresher course.

Please don't hesitate to provide any recommendations you feel would be beneficial. Good luck, best wishes, and a Happy Holiday season to all!

George T. Joo



Big News Announced Later in the Newsletter

Assignor's Korner:

Training of the Cadets is under way. Now is the time for everyone to open the books and start familiarizing yourself with the rules and proper mechanics. Remember the test will open shortly.

This leads to my points below:

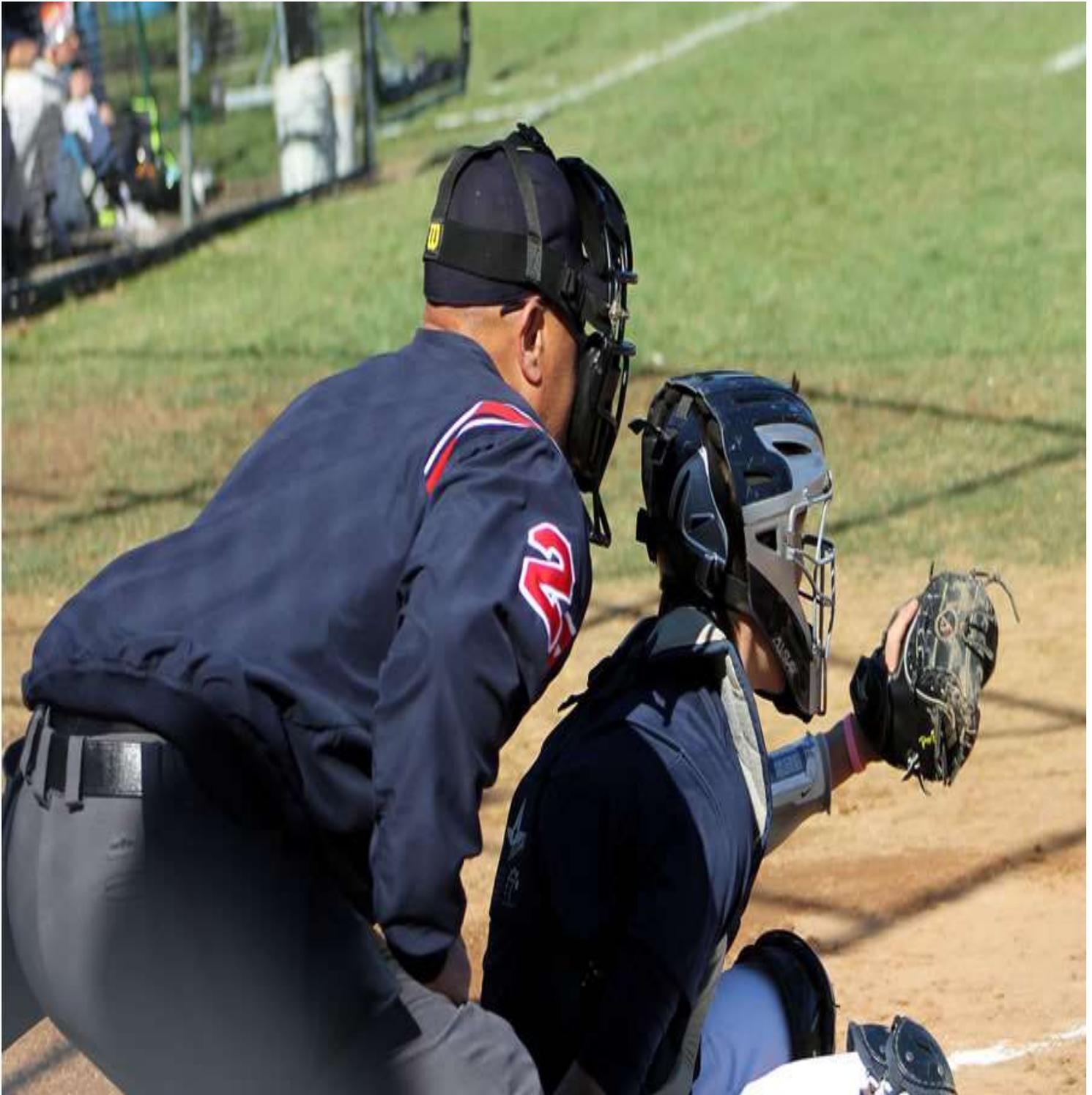
1. Know the rules and mechanics of the competition you are calling. We do more than one set of baseball rules. You are expected to use the rules and mechanics of the governing association. NFHS rules/mechanics are different than Pro.
2. Your focus is on the field of play, not the spectators. If you are having problems with spectators, let the onsite administration deal with it.
3. To the above, don't look for trouble, it will find you soon enough.
4. Call the game by the rules. Don't invent rules. While we may not like all of the rules we have to enforce, we cannot pick and choose.
5. De-escalate, use game management skills. Listen to the coach. If he is asking a question there is no harm in saying to him, "Coach, are you asking me if his foot was in the batter's box?" You can use your own words back to him/her so you both understand what is being requested. Once he/ she agrees that is what the request was, you can make your ruling. If a rule question, use rulebook terminology. Try to use a calming tone. You are the bastion of calm among the chaos. This is a very difficult thing to do.
6. If the coach asks you for help, you have a choice. You don't have to go. But consider the situation and play. Example, you are in the C position by the shortstop and the ball is hit towards you and the throw goes across the diamond. There is movement of the foot by the first baseman and you judge the runner out. The coach now questions your call. Would this be a "Stick with the play" or do you ask your partner if the foot was pulled.
7. Profanity by you as an umpire to a coach or a student is not a path we should walk. The scholastic field is also a classroom. It needs to be treated as such. We do not put up with it from the student or coach, they should not put up with it from us. That said, this is a reminder as it has not happened.
8. Remember, you are being watched. Everyone has a phone. What you do on field will be on the internet within hours.
9. Your only friend out there is your partner. Coaches are not your friends. Pregame at your car or locker room. Arrive on field together, inspect the field together, and leave together.
10. We all blow calls. Within that, if you think you have misinterpreted a rule, first point is to ask your partner, especially if the game is still on. Try to get it right. If this still bugs you, when you get home, look it up. You can also contact your crew chief and talk it over. Lastly, ask the association interpreter. We can also use this as a group learning opportunity as it can be brought up at an association meeting.

-Joe Rosenberg

News & Notes:

The SJUA Executive Board is happy to announce the creation of a new position: Training Coordinator.

We are happy to announce that SJUA Umpire Bruce Carter will be taking on the role. Bruce Carter is a valued and tenured member of SJUA. Bruce Carter is in the process of putting together a training team that will be involved directly with the SJUA Cadets and the training of the SJUA membership. Look out for information on training activities.



Membership Meeting Dates Announced:

Membership Meetings will be held on the following dates. Meetings will be Wednesday evenings starting at 7:15 p.m.

Location - 50 Springside Rd, Westampton, NJ 08060

2/28 - [All Sports Officials](#) will be on-site for your umpiring equipment needs!!!!

3/13

3/27 - Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting

4/10

4/24

5/8

5/22

6/12

6/26

(More information to come on specific meeting topics)

SJUA Gear:

The SJUA executive board has created new performance wear shirts and they are available to be ordered. The cost is \$20 per shirt. Add \$2 for XXL and \$3 for XXXL. The color is blue. Money will be due to the Treasurer when the shirts come in. If you have any questions, please refer them to SJUA President.

We are also gauging interest in the creation of an SJUA hat that would be worn for casual use. If we get enough interest, we will make a purchase.

Donations:

If you have a donation or have lightly used equipment that you would like to sell to a Cadet, please contact the SJUA president to set up a time and date for the connection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS :

Recruitment/Retention Committee: (Committee Head George Sanders)

The cadet recruitment effort seemed to be successful. We had almost 50 people inquire about the class and 25 registered. Currently we have 17 that are attending (we lost 8 to drop outs and no shows). This is a much higher rate than we have in the last few years. Thanks to the team for all their hard work. We are currently working on a list "Lost Umpires". These are members we lost for one reason or another. We would like to see if we can pull some of these experienced umpires back. If you know of anyone please email the committee so we can put them on our list. If anyone has any ideas or would like to join the committee please reach out to George Sanders.

Grievance Committee: (Committee Head Ken Shugars)

No updates at this time. If you need to get in contact with the Grievance Committee, please contact Tom Wajda.

Social Media Committee: (Committee Head Matt Korang)

The website has been updated with the latest important information for members of SJUA. Check out the members section for new pictures of Bruce Laz receiving a prestigious honor from the Hot Stovers. The schedule of meetings is also on the website with the latest and prior editions of the SJUA Newsletter. Finally, be sure to check out the Important Docs section for a large archive of Rules interpretations Questions and Answers going back to 2010! These are perfect prep for this year's test. Most of the questions on the past tests have been directly from these rules interpretation Q&As. Email mkorang@comcast.net if you have any comments or recommendations on the website or our Facebook group.

Election Committee: (Committee Head Tom Wajda)

No updates at this time. If you need to get in contact with the Election Committee, please contact Tom Wajda.

Bylaws Committee: (Committee Head Curt Weller)

No updates at this time. If you'd like to get in contact with the Bylaws Committee, please contact Curt Weller.