

SJUA

# The Relief Pitcher

## Behind The Plate by Gerard Malamisura, SJUA President

Believe it or not, the South Jersey Umpire Association's Cadet Class is right around the corner. We anticipate having a good crop of fresh new Cadets joining our group and bolstering our numbers. You may have seen our recruitment signs that the Executive Board in conjunction with the Recruitment and Retention committee have put out around the

Burlington County area in an effort get the ball moving. We have also put out other forms of recruitment such as social media and paper filers. Members of the executive board have had several meetings with Keith Hoffman at NJSIAA along with other umpire organizations in an effort to be able to work together to fill the gaps in assigning. Keith Hoffman has made this a

mandate to get all of the assignments filled at all levels in New Jersey. We are also making an effort to expand and get more summer baseball and weekend baseball. This is a long process and once we get these games, we hope that you will fill them. The holidays are here and I wish you and your family a joyous season. ⚾



### Important Dates

Register with NJSIAA	Now
Concussion Cert and take Diversity Course	1/1
First Meeting	2/26
HS Baseball Practices	3/7
Rules Interpretation	3/12
HS Scrimmages	3/17
Opening Day	3/24



**“The integrity of the game is the umpires. Nobody else. The entire integrity of the game is the umpires.”**

**Doug Harvey  
MLB Umpire**



**SJUA**

**Secretary’s Desk** by Matt Korang, Secretary

I hope everyone had a most excellent Thanksgiving holiday. As we head into the next holiday, now is a good time to take a look at your umpire gear and make an assessment as to your needs for 2025.

Using myself as an example, I know my base shoes are on their last legs. The heels on both shoes lost their grip nubs on one baseball field or another. Time for a new pair.

I also decided that this spring I need to invest in a couple of new shirts and possibly black winter jacket. I see a light blue shirt in my future also.

The benefit of assessing now is that any items needed can be added to your holiday gift list.

Our website has links to various umpire gear websites that you can offer to loved ones when they ask you for holiday gift ideas.

Of course, NJSIAA official shirts and jackets can be ordered through Ump-Attire.com.

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Please take time to register for the new season with NJSIAA and take the concussion course ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)) prior to

the end of the year. You will also need to complete the NJSIAA Implicit Bias Training Course prior to the start of the season. All three of these things are necessary to be in good standing. The Implicit Bias course is a one time thing. If you took it last Spring you do not need to take it again. The concussion course needs to be completed yearly as does the NJSIAA Registration.

Please email me your concussion course completion certificate to [mkorang@comcast.net](mailto:mkorang@comcast.net).

Hapy Holidays to all! 🎅

**The Bank Vault** by John Henderson, Treasurer

Treasurers Report		Assigner’s Fees	\$ (183.00)
<b>Opening Balance 8/1</b>	\$ 7,384.99	Office Supplies & Stamps	\$ (72.65)
<b>Money In:</b>		Board Meeting Costs	\$ (380.00)
Interest	\$ 0.78	Insurance Premium	\$ (653.26)
Assigner Fees received	\$ 40.00	NJSIAA Fees	\$ (121.36)
		Board Member Milage	\$ (138.66)
		Election Costs	\$ (30.00)
<b>Money Out:</b>		<b>Ending Balance 11/31</b>	\$ 2671.25
SJUA Year End Party	\$ (968.59)		
SJUA Umpire Fees	\$ (957.00)		
Recruitment Signs	\$ (1250.00)		

We now have an SJUA Venmo. As we advance, please make all payments to @SJUA-Treasurer. 🎅

**The A Position** by George Sanders, Vice President

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. The recruitment committee has been hard at work getting out the word on our upcoming cadet class. Multiple emails have been sent out to the 30+ inquires we have received, 75 signs have been posted throughout Burlington County and information has been

posted to social media. We still need everyone’s help in getting the word out. If you know of anyone who may be a good umpire candidate or a previous member who you think would be interested in coming back please make sure you reach out to them. Post the information that has been sent out to your social media

accounts. Baseball season will be here before you know it and we need a solid cadet class (Starts January 8th) to ensure we are covering all the games during the season and minimizing one man assignments. Have a great holiday season. 🎅

## Baseball Talk by George Joo, Supervisor of Officials

I hope everyone enjoyed their respective Thanksgiving holiday and are looking forward to a healthy and joyous Christmas holiday season. And speaking of looking forward, the 2025 baseball season is just around the corner. I hope you are enthusiastic about the arrival of the new baseball season and are planning ahead by getting in shape and reviewing the rules book.

Again, Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the 2025 Baseball Season.

**Rule Changes (2025):** Two rule changes regarding substances to enhance non-wood bat grips (1-3-2) and forfeited games (4-4-1) will be in effect during the 2025

season. More information to follow in the future.

**SJJA Policy:** Policies will be discussed at our next meeting.

**Training/Cadet Class:** Recruitment for next year should start now. We are in need of additional umpires. Talk to your friends, relatives, players, etc. and get them interested in umpiring for next year's class. The Executive Board has been working hard during the off season to recruit additional persons to be umpires. Please do your part to assist the Association.

**UNIFORMS:** Please keep your uniforms and equipment clean and ready to go for the new season. .

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Please continue to cooperate with the Assignor and block out your dates ASAP.

Please don't hesitate to provide any recommendations or baseball situations you feel would be beneficial for discussion. Good luck and best wishes to all for success in the 2025 baseball season!

**Laughter is the Best Medicine:** Where does the baseball player go when he needs a new uniform?..... New Jersey!

Happy Holidays! Looking forward to seeing all of you soon. 🎮

## Stay Sharp (answers on last page)

1. Davis starts the game as the player/DH, pitching and occupying the 3rd spot in the batting order. In the second inning, Johnson enters the defensive role as pitcher and Davis shifts solely to the DH spot. In the third inning, Davis returns to the mound. In the fourth inning, Keller bats for Davis. In the next half inning, Davis goes to the mound to pitch.
  - a. Legal. Davis still has one-time re-entry rights.
  - b. Illegal. Davis has already used his re-entry rights
2. With R3 on third and one out, B1 flies to deep left field. The third base coach grabs R3 and pulls him back to third to tag up. The ball falls in and B1 ends up at second.
  - a. R3 is out and B1 remains at second.
  - b. R3 is out and B1 is returned to first.
  - c. Both R3 and B1 are out.
  - d. The ball is dead immediately upon the coach assisting the runner.
3. The bases are loaded and one out when B1 hits a pop fly near first base in fair territory. An infield fly is called. R1 is several feet off the bag and tracking the fly ball instead of locating F3, who is about to make the catch. R1 unintentionally runs into F3, who still manages to make the catch in foul territory.
  - a. Only B1 is called out.
  - b. Only R1 is called out.
  - c. B1 and R1 are called out.



**“Umpires, like players, are expected to show constant improvement each season and at each level. Inconsistent plate work and the inability to handle situations are probably the two biggest problems that minor league umpires face.”**

**Jim Evans  
MLB Umpire  
1971 – 1999**



## Your Assignment by Gary Schmitt, Assigner

I begin this portion of the newsletter with a HUGE thank you to all those that helped cover assignments in October. For the first time in many years, we had game assignments for umpires in the fall, these assignments came in the form of assisting another association with a baseball tournament and then being asked to cover 2 softball games from another league which lead to being asked to cover a Halloween Tournament in Marlton which we did with an offer to cover their league next spring.

This morning, I arranged a meeting with the Athletic Director at Burlington Township High School to discuss the Joe McDyre Freshman Baseball Tournament. This meeting will be held on December 3. As they say, the ball is in motion. This is a long time in the making, but I can see the runner coming

around 3rd base to score. (Remember I am a Chicago Cub fan; I learned patience early)

I will be putting out game assignments last week in February. This will include scrimmages and the first month of the regular season, the NJSIAA has put out a list of dates for warnings of not completing all requirements for game eligibility. The secretary has posted those dates. Please update your availability for the season, this will include Saturday and Sundays' as we do have some Saturday games and also, we are looking at assisting with some independent tournaments as we did this fall.

In the December 2024 Referee magazine, there is an article titled "YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, UMPIRES CAN'T BE AFRAID OF TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS" To summarize the article, it references a few incidents

were umpires backed down from making the correct calls, only to have their partner intervene. Since we all know I like to call Balks, the following is directly from the article. "In a College World Series game, an umpire sent a team home by calling a balk on a pitcher who spun on his heel instead of stepping toward first on a pickoff move. Since there was a runner on third base, it scored what proved to be the winning run. Afterward, the coach was interviewed and, instead of blasting the umpire, said the pitcher had gotten away with it all year. But when you get to Omaha you get better umpires, and they'll call things right. That shows the level of respect most coaches have when we do the right thing even if it hurts their team. If we don't take of business, we hurt umpires who do." ⚾



## South Jersey Umpire Association

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

## Board Members

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## Stay Sharp Answers

1. NFHS - b (3-1-4)
2. NFHS - a (8-4-2s)
3. NFHS - b (2-19, 8-4-2g)