

SJUA

The Relief Pitcher

Behind The Plate by Gerard Malamisura, SJUA President

We are at the end of the season and I really appreciate how you have worked with the Assignor and kept your schedule up-to-date as best as possible. This association covers a lot of games and we really work hard for the schools and the kids to give them the best experience possible. We have covered an in-season tournament and now we are going to be covering a tournament that has meant a lot to the people in SJUA for a long time. We have tried to get it off the

ground for a long time and finally this season it is going to happen. The Joe McDyre Freshman Tournament is the realization of a lot of effort from many different people over the years. The South Jersey Umpire Association has finally been able to get this running and are able to recognize a member of our group who meant so much to our organization. Joe McDyre was someone that gave a lot to the game of baseball and the kids in schools by his

efforts on and off the field. I want to thank our sponsors that have helped us realize this journey and thank you for the effort you put in in making this happen for SJUA.

Right around the corner, we will start to go into the summer and we will start to work some other tournaments in independent baseball. I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you all soon. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. 🌟



Important Dates

SJUA Meeting	6/4
Marlton Softball Tournament	6/21–22
Year End Party	TBD

The A Position by George Sanders, Vice President



"I've been hit with mudballs and whiskey bottles, and had everything from shoes to fruits and vegetables thrown at me. I've been hospitalized with a concussion and broken ribs. I've probably experienced more violence than any other umpire who ever lived."

**Joe Rue
MLB Umpire
1938 to 1947**

Dealing with coaches can at times be a difficult task. We all have had our situations where the coach has gotten upset over a particular call and things have gotten heated. The following information is some points I pulled from the internet. Hopefully this helps in dealing with a coach in the future.

Umpires and coaches in baseball often have interactions that range from friendly communication to heated arguments, and it's crucial for umpires to handle these situations effectively. Umpires should prioritize maintaining a calm and professional demeanor, using non-verbal cues like eye contact and posture to show they are listening and engaged. They should also be willing to explain calls and rules, and consider consulting with their umpiring staff to de-escalate situations. Ultimately, the goal is to manage conflicts constructively and prevent them from escalating, potentially leading to ejections.

Here's a more detailed look at how umpires can manage interactions with coaches:

1. Maintaining a Calm and Professional Demeanor

Non-verbal communication: Umpires should be mindful of their body language, maintaining good

posture and eye contact to convey confidence and approachability.

Tone of voice: A calm and even tone can help de-escalate tense situations.

Avoidance of confrontation: Umpires should strive to avoid appearing confrontational, even when faced with difficult situations.

2. Explaining Calls and Rules

Clear communication: Umpires should be prepared to explain calls and rules in a clear and concise manner.

Open to discussion: While not arguing, umpires should be open to discussing the specific circumstances of a call and potentially explaining how the rulebook applies.

Focus on the present: Discussions should focus on the current situation and not dwell on past calls.

3. Utilizing Umpiring Staff and Seeking Assistance

Teamwork: Umpires can rely on their umpiring staff to assist with de-escalating tense situations, especially if they feel overwhelmed.

Veteran support: Veteran umpires can mentor younger umpires, teaching them how to handle conflicts effectively.

Knowing when to step back: Once a situation is under control, the umpiring staff should step back and allow the primary umpire to continue managing the game.

4. Understanding the Authority of an Umpire

Ejection authority: Umpires have the authority to eject players, coaches, or managers for unsportsmanlike conduct or for excessive arguing. ⚾

The "five P's": Ejections are often warranted when a coach's behavior involves physical (contact in anger or threatening), personal (i.e., "you're a bad umpire"), or persistent arguments that are disruptive to the game.

5. Preventing Ejections:

Early intervention: Addressing potentially problematic situations early can prevent them from escalating into ejections.

Remanding coaches to the dugout: In some leagues, umpires can send coaches back to the dugout to calm them down and prevent further issues.

Focus on solutions: The goal should always be to find a resolution to the issue without resorting to ejections.

6. Understanding the Culture of Baseball

Tradition of arguing: Arguing with umpires is a tradition in baseball, but it's important for umpires to manage it effectively.

Manager's role: Managers often step in to argue on behalf of their players, and it's important for umpires to understand this context.

(Continued on page 4)

Baseball Talk by George Joo, Supervisor of Officials

With the exception of state tournament games, the 2025 high school baseball season is almost complete. It's amazing how time goes by! Congratulations to those members selected to officiate a tournament game.

2025 Rule Changes:

Being that the high school season is almost complete, and independent ball will be the majority of available games the rest of the season, please remember the difference between high school and independent baseball rules.

SJUA Policy: Any ejections, disqualifications, or

termination of game must be immediately reported to the Secretary and Supervisor of Officials.

Training/Cadet Class:

Based upon several evaluations from experienced umpires, I am pleased to report the first year cadets are progressing very well. Their attitudes, performance, and willingness to accept recommendations have been outstanding! Continue to assist them with their endeavors to be good umpires.

Uniforms: Please keep your uniforms and equipment clean and ready to go for the season.

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

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 continued success in the remainder of the 2025 baseball season!

Laughter is the Best

Medicine: Why are some baseball games played at night? Because bats are nocturnal. And why are frogs such good baseball players? Because they catch flies!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting and year end party! ⚾



"Why is it they boo us when we call a foul ball correctly and they applaud the starting pitcher when he gets taken out of the ballgame?"
Jerry Neudecker
MLB Umpire
1966 to 1985.

The Bank Vault by John Henderson, Treasurer

Opening Balance 3.1	\$9100.38	Closing Balance 4.30	\$10740.54
<u>Deposits</u>			
Mar Assigner Fees	\$1939.28	Opening balance 5.1	\$10740.54
Tournament Donation	\$250.00	<u>Deposits</u>	
Interest	\$0.42	Tournament Donations	\$250.00
<u>Withdrawals</u>		GVA A Deposit	\$1000.00
Gym Rental for Training	-\$400.00	John Cobb Medford Deposit	\$4000.00
Cadet Refund	-\$125.00	Assigner Fees	\$1401.24
Closing Balance 3.31	\$10765.08	Interest	\$0.36
		<u>Withdrawals</u>	
Opening Balance 4.1	\$10765.08	Website Hosting Fee	\$226.70
<u>Deposits</u>		Assigner Fee paid	-\$2508.78
Tournament Donations	\$500.00	Tournament Tee-shirts	-\$1515.00
Assigner Fees	\$68.47	Fruit Basket for Dave Wentz	-\$70.13
Interest	\$0.45	Annual Report for State	-\$30.50
<u>Withdrawals</u>		Closing Balance 5.31	\$13041.03
Riverside Fire Co Donation	-\$100.00		
Stamps	-\$13.70		
Website Domain Name renew	-\$479.76		

Your Assignment by Gary Schmitt, Assigner

Thank you for all your flexibility during this very chaotic high school season. From March 1 to May 28 a total of 1,192 games were scheduled, with a large tournament to be scheduled for May 28-June 1. All high schools were manned with 2 umpires at each level with only a few exceptions, but the game

was still able to be played, this is because of YOU and your willingness to help me, and more importantly the association with your dedication to allow the kids to play.

At this time, I would ask that you update both Zebraweb and Arbiter blocks. Effective July 1, all

games will be coming through Arbiter.

As games become available, I will be assigning them accordingly and again, if you know of anyone needing umpires, please direct them to me.

Play Ball! ⚾

South Jersey Umpire Association

www.sjumps.com

(Continued from page 2)

Respect and professionalism: Despite the tradition, umpires should maintain a professional demeanor and expect respectful conduct from coaches.

7. Coaches' Responsibilities

Respectful communication: Coaches should approach umpires respectfully and clearly explain their concerns.
Understanding the umpire's perspective:

Coaches should be aware that umpires are also human and can make mistakes.

Teaching players respect: Coaches should teach their players to show respect for umpires, regardless of the calls made. ⚾

Scenes From The McDyre Tournament



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