

SJUA

The Relief Pitcher

Behind The Plate by Gerard Malamisura, SJUA President

The South Jersey Umpire Association executive board has been working diligently over the offseason. We have had several meetings with NJSIAA, NJUCA, and other umpiring groups. This has all been part of an initiative by NJSIAA to increase the numbers of officials for baseball and to make sure that all games have 2 officials working.

The Executive Board increased our efforts this offseason to bring in more

Cadet Umpires to try to solve this issue. We had our largest outreach program this year ever with over 75 inquiries into our Cadet program.

We have had conversations with organizations about taking on more baseball and increasing our work load for the season.

The South Jersey Umpire Association is taking steps in the right direction for its members.

Our Cadet classes are underway and there will be on-field mechanic sessions starting on 2/6/2025. We will be starting our member-ship meetings on 2/26/2025.

We have an exciting season ahead and we know that the South Jersey Umpire Association is going to be up to the challenge. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. ⚾



Important Dates

| | |
|---|------|
| Register with NJSIAA | Now |
| Cadet Inside Field Work—Spec Serv Sch | 2/6 |
| Cadet and 2-3 year Inside Field Work | 2/13 |
| Inside Field Work - Open to All | 2/20 |
| First SJUA Meeting All-Sports Officials On-site | 2/26 |
| HS Baseball Practices | 3/10 |
| SJUA Meeting Rules Interpretation | 3/12 |
| HS Scrimmages | 3/17 |
| Opening Day | 3/24 |
| SJUA Meeting | 3/26 |



SJUA presents the First Annual Joseph McDyre Invitational Freshman Baseball Tournament

Saturday May 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
at Burlington Township High School
Participating teams - Burlington Township, Northern Burlington, Delran, Rancocas Valley Regional



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

**Doug Harvey
MLB Umpire
1962-1992**



SJUA

Secretary’s Desk by Matt Korang, Secretary

Spring is around the corner and so is baseball season. Are you ready?

All members of the executive board are working hard to get as much baseball as possible for our members. In addition to High School ball, there will be plenty of after work games coming from youth tournaments to softball leagues.

In other words, SJUA needs you to be available to work as many games as you can.

Our Assigner promises to work with you to get as many games as you want, when you want

them. Work with him and he'll work with you.

As we close in on our first membership meeting (2/26), you need to get all your ducks in a row.

If you have not, please take time to register for the new season with NJSIAA and take the concussion course (www.nfhslearn.com). Send me your concussion certificate after completion (mkorang@comcast.net.)

You will also need to complete the NJSIAA Implicit Bias Training Course prior to the start of the season. Several

emails have been sent with course schedules from NJSIAA. If you haven't attend this mandatory course last year or this month, make sure you sign up. NJSIAA tracks attendance to this, so let me know if you are not sure if you attended already.

Lastly, reach out to the Treasurer to see where you stand financially with the association. Money surprises can be the worst when you are on the short end.

All Sports Officials will be on-site for our first meeting 2/26. See everyone in a few weeks! 🌐

The Bank Vault by John Henderson, Treasurer

Treasurers Report

Opening Balance 12/1 \$ 2671.25

Money In:

Interest \$ 0.14
School Assigner Fees received \$ 1628.00
Cadet Fees \$ 1,671.39

Money Out:

Hot Stovers Banquet Tickets \$ (100.00)
Refund Cadet Fee \$ (125.00)

NJSIAA - Rule Books \$ (824.00)
NJ Annual Fee \$ (30.50)
NJUCA Dues \$ (60.00)
Church of the Holy Eucharist \$ (50.00)

Ending Balance 1/31 \$ 4,781.28

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

The A Position by George Sanders, Vice President

This year's cadet class has started. We had about 75 inquiries with 25 registering for the class. We started with a total of 18 students that showed up for the first night. In addition, we have several veteran umpires returning this year. We are in the process of formulating a refresher class for those students and anyone who wants

help preparing for the upcoming season and state examination. Please make sure you take some time to look over what equipment needs to be replaced and get your concussion certificate completed.

For anyone who has interest in joining one of the

committees following is list. Please email me or the President if you would like to join a committee.

Recruiting
Elections
By-Laws
Training
Grievance
Social/Sunshine 🌐

Baseball Talk by George Joo, Supervisor of Officials

The 2025 baseball season is basically here! I hope you are enthusiastic about the arrival of the new baseball season and you are planning ahead to get in shape and review the rules book to pass the NJSIAA certification exam. Don't forget about the "Concussion In Sports Course". Send your successful completion certificate to the Secretary.

2025 Rule Changes:

1-3-2c(1): Wood and non-wood bats may use a substance (pine tar/spray/etc.) on the bat handle to enhance the grip. The substance cannot exceed 18 inches from the base of the knob. Penalty: NFHS-batter is out if he steps into the batter's box and bat is removed, otherwise just remove the bat. Independent Ball: Replace the bat - batter is not out!

4-4-1c: Forfeited Game - The umpire may call a forfeit (terminate the game) should a coach or team fail to comply with an umpire's instruction in a timely manner. The umpire will file a Termination of Game Form with the NJSIAA.

SJUA Policy: Any ejections, disqualifications, or termination of game must be immediately reported to the Secretary and Supervisor of Officials.

Training/Cadet Class: At this time we currently have 16 recruits attending the cadet class.

UNIFORMS: Please keep your uniforms and equipment clean and ready to go for the new season. . If you need any equipment or uniforms, I would recommend "All Sports

Officials", telephone 215-860-3571 or 877-776-7870. Mention you are with the SJUA for a possible discount. I anticipate a vendor representative will attend one of our SJUA meetings.

ASSIGNMENTS: Please continue to cooperate with the Assignor and start blocking 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 success in the 2025 baseball season!

Laughter is the Best Medicine: What do male cattle use to write?.....Bullpens! ⚾

Stay Sharp (answers on last page)

1. With the bases loaded and one out, F1 balks as he delivers to B1. B1 doubles scoring all runners, but B1 misses first. The defense properly appeals the missed base:

- a. The balk is ignored.
- b. The balk is enforced.
- c. B1 is awarded first.

2. With R2 on second and one out, B1 singles as R2 attempts to score. F2 misses the tag on R2 as R2 slides and misses the plate. B1 tries for second and is thrown out as F2 forgets about R2. R2 has entered

the dugout.:

- a. R2 may return and touch home after the subsequent play on B1.
- b. R2 may not return and touch home after the subsequent play on B1.
- c. R2s missed base cannot be appealed after the subsequent play on B1.
- d. R2s run counts unless it is appealed.

3. With an 0-1 count, B1 strides and swings at a pitch. He nicks the ball, which goes directly into the catchers mitt and is caught. When B1 made

contact with the ball, the heel of his left foot was in the batters box and the toes of his left foot were touching home plate:

- a. This is a foul tip and a strike on the batter.
- b. B1 is out because his foot is touching home plate when he made contact with the ball.
- c. Because the batters foot is not entirely out of the batters box, there is no penalty.
- d. This is a foul ball and a strike on the batter.



“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

The season is fast approaching. As mentioned by the Secretary, now is the time to complete your registration, concussion certification, test, and implicit bias training. My hands are tied, and I CANNOT assign you any high school games if all of this is not completed.

My intention is to start publishing assignments around February 19 at least one week before our first meeting.

My Commanding Officer favorite quote in Iraq was

"Plan Early, Plan Often". I have maintained the same theory in my personal and professional life, this also includes my umpiring life. I would like to ask the same from you. I understand things change in our lives, from work assignments to family commitments, that is why I ask that you communicate with me. Block your schedules now, if you need assistance ask. Many of you know that if you text me, 609-864-4238 I respond right away.

Now for the good

news. April 11, 12, 13 we have accepted a spring softball tournament in Marlton and their softball league. The tournament is slightly larger than the tournament we did in October. We have agreed to umpire the Medford baseball league and tournament as we have in the past years. ⚾



South Jersey Umpire Association

www.sjumps.com

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Stay Sharp Answers

1. NFHS - b (5-1-1k)
2. NFHS - d (8-2-6d2)
3. NFHS - b (7-3-2 Pen.)