

SOFTBALL UMPIRES OF MARYLAND

Websites:

State: www.usssa1.com

National: www.usssa.com

Umpire In Chief - John Dye

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January 7, 2016

To: All Maryland State FastPitch Tournament Umpires
From: John Dye, State UIC
Re: 2016 USSSA FastPitch Softball Season

Happy New Year! Welcome to USSSA FastPitch Softball. As far as 2016 tournaments go, it looks like it will be as busy as last year. Pretty much the same schedule.

Clinic: We are asking all Umpires to reserve the **First Saturday in March (March 5)** for our annual clinic. We will again be holding our clinic at CCBC Catonsville (Community College) from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We will be in Building SSRV (old Building K, our usually location) and be using the Gym (Building WELL). If you are bringing a new recruit, we will have an introductory session. We plan on the usual class room sessions along with significant mechanic practical training in the gym for all - from rookies to grizzly veterans. Please have gym shoes and masks ready.

Registration: The registration fee which includes all USSSA national, state and clinic fees is still \$70. We will reduce the fee by \$5 if your payment is received by March 1. If you wish to take advantage of the optional USSSA All Association insurance, there is an additional \$25 charge. Registration forms are included. There is an online Umpire registration however you are encouraged to registration through the state. Because of processing fees, the online registration fee is greater.

Umpire Orientation / Training Classes: Our new Umpires orientation for those individuals who wish to learn the rules, association position on dress, conduct on and off the field. This is a comprehensive review of each rule and will cover not only the rule itself but the intent of the rules. It is recommended that all Umpires who have been in the association less than two years attend the classes scheduled in preparation for the 2016 season. All Umpires are welcome. The classes will be held at CCBC Catonsville. They will be Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The Orientation Session for new Umpires will be January 16. The Training Classes will start January 23 and run through February. There will be a field session at the end on March 20 at Lansdowne High School. Please Contact John Rimmell at 443-623-8554 or email him at famrem5@aol.com.

Arbiter: As you all know, we use the Arbiter on line assignment system. Thanks to John Calamari, John Rimmell and Al Palmer for all their help in getting it going. We will continue to use Arbiter this year. Although we do not plan on having Arbiter training as a formal part of our March 5 clinic, Al, John, John will be there for individual help.

Rules: There will NOT be a new printed rule book this year. The plan is to print the rule book every two years. There are NO rule changes this year. In addition to the Case Book and Clarifications and Interpretation which are on-line, there are a couple of Maryland generated documents on USSSA rules and rule differences on the Maryland website, usssa1.com/umpires/umpires.shtml.

Uniforms: Boombah (www.boombah.com) is the Official supplier of USSSA licensed Umpire Uniforms. Remember no old shirts with the circle USSSA logo and the red billed hats.

Boombah is only providing a black pullover jacket. Since a lot of you have red jackets, we will allow mixing of red and black jackets on the field. Note the Blue pullovers on the site are Director/UIC/casual jackets and not for use when Umpiring.

Boombah does stock the black billed USSSA but only in Flex Fit (S/M 6 7/8 – 7 5/8; L/XL 7 1/8 – 7 7/8). New Era does have sized & Flex Fit (stretch). However they need to be ordered from New Era in bulk. There is a New Era order form attached. If you return that to me by Valentine's Day with a check for \$18 per cap, I should be able to have them at the March 5 Clinic. I plan on having samples at the State Clinic if you wish to see them before ordering.

We are planning on having uniform sales at the state clinic. We also will have general Umpire merchandise available.

Pre-Season Tune-up: For the past several years, Jake has scheduled the indoor youth fastpitch scrimmages sponsored by Catonsville Community College. Again this year we will be using them for instruction as well as pre-season tune-up. They have a six week Saturday schedule starting January 23 until the end of February. We plan to have UICs at these sessions for constructive help. Contact Jake, 443-250-6506, if interested.

Pre-Season Tournament: We are participating in a preseason scrimmage scheduled for Sunday March 20 at Lansdowne High School. We would like everyone possible from rookies to veterans to attend as we will need on field mentors and evaluators. We will be giving on field instruction and evaluating for World Series and Championship assignments. We plan on working not only two umpire mechanics but also three umpire mechanics. We will schedule umpires so that you do not need to be there all day. Contact John Remmell at 443-623-8554, famrem5@aol.com to sign up.

Nationals/World Series: Maryland/Delaware will again be hosting Nationals in Salisbury. There will again be three sessions (July 13-17; July 19-24; and July 25-30). So there will be Umpire assignments. There are other World Series opportunities as USSSA has many World Series throughout the country including Sterling VA "C" Nationals; two weeks of World Series at ESPN/Disney (July 9 –23). Sites and dates are posted at usssa1.com. Umpire berths will be based on performance at tournaments, attitude, appearance, knowledge of the rules, test results and attendance at the clinics. Contact me, john.dye@usssa.com, if interested.

Test: As in past years, we will be updating the test for this year's rule changes. Once again we plan on making it a take home test. All Umpires planning on working the USSSA tournament schedule will be expected to take the test.

Websites: The Maryland/Delaware website is: www.usssa1.com. For those of you who like to plan ahead, the 2016 schedule is posted. That links to the Maryland Umpire Page (usssa1.com/umpires/umpires.shtml) and the National Umpire Information Page (usssa1.com/FPumpires). The National USSSA site is usssa.com.

Finally, all of us on the state staff look forward to working with you this year. Our goal is to continue to provide the many USSSA teams with the best Umpires possible. Good luck from the state staff on a successful season.

Enclosures:

Registration Form
New Umpire Clinic Flyer

State Clinic Flyer
New Era Order Form