

# SOFTBALL UMPIRES OF MARYLAND

Websites: [mdumps.com](http://mdumps.com)  
State: [www.usssa1.com](http://www.usssa1.com)  
National: [www.usssa.com](http://www.usssa.com)

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January 21, 2018

To: All Maryland State FastPitch Tournament Umpires  
From: John Dye, State UIC  
Re: 2018 USSSA FastPitch Softball Season

Happy New Year! Welcome to USSSA FastPitch Softball. As far as 2018 tournaments go, they start March 24 and it again be a busy year. Pretty much the same schedule.

**Clinic:** We are asking all Umpires to reserve the **First Saturday in March (March 3)** for our annual clinic. We will be holding our clinic from 9:00am to 1:00pm at a **NEW LOCATION** for this year. It will be at the Gary Arthur Community Center within Howard County Western Regional Park. The address is 2400 MD-97 (Roxbury Mills Rd.), Cooksville, MD 21723. It is about 1.5 miles south of Interstate 70 next to the Howard County Glenwood Library. If you are bringing a new recruit, we will have an introductory session. We plan on the usual class room sessions with stimulating information.

**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 attached and on [mdumps.com](http://mdumps.com). There is an online Umpire registration however you are encouraged to registration through SUM. 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 2018 season. All Umpires are welcome. The classes will be held at CCBC Catonsville. They will be Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The Informational Introductory Session for new Umpires was January 13. The Training Classes will start January 20 and run Jan 27, Feb 3, 17, 24. Please Contact John Rimmell at 443-623-8554 or email him at [famrem5@aol.com](mailto: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 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 some 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, [mdumps.com](http://mdumps.com).

**Uniforms:** Boombah ([www.boombah.com](http://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 provides a black pullover jacket. Since a lot of you have red jackets, we will allow mixing of red and black jackets on the field for at least one more year. In addition, the USSSA short sleeve pullover (tucked in) is authorized at the State level. 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. We will have New Era hat samples at the March Clinic. You can try and order there. We also will have the system 5 mesh hats at the clinic.

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, we have umpired indoor youth RBI 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 20 until the end of February. We plan to have UICs at these sessions for constructive help if requested. John Remmell will be scheduling these via Arbiter. So make sure your January and February Saturday blocks are up to date.

**Pre-Season Playday:** Due to the many unsuccessful attempts in previous years, we are not planning on holding a preseason scrimmage for field instruction and evaluations.

**Nationals:** USSSA East will again be hosting Nationals in Salisbury and Sterling VA. There will again be three sessions at Salisbury (July 11-15; July 17-22; and July 23-28) and the “C” Nationals at Sterling (July 25-29);. So there will be Umpire assignments. There are other National opportunities as USSSA has many throughout the country. Sites and dates are posted at usssa.com. Umpire berths will be based on performance, attitude, appearance, knowledge of the rules, test results and attendance at the clinics. Contact me, dye@mdumps.com, if interested.

**Test:** As in past years, National will be producing a test for this year’s rule changes and this years points of emphasis. It will be a take home test. All Umpires planning on working the USSSA tournament schedule and to be eligible to be recommended for Nationals will be expected to take the test.

We plan on having another test session sometime after the State clinic. Details to follow.

**Websites:** the Maryland Umpire Page is mdumps.com. It links to and the National Umpire Information Page (mdumps.com/FPUmpires), the Maryland/Delaware website (www.usssa1.com, and the National USSSA site (usssa.com). For those of you who like to plan ahead, the 2018 summer schedule is posted.

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

State Clinic Flyer

New Umpire Clinic Flyer

Summary of Rule Changes for USSSA Fast Pitch 2018