

Summary of March 7, 2022 Umpire Advisory Team Meeting

On March 7, 2022 the Umpire Advisory Team (UAT) held a periodic meeting. UAT members in attendance were Bryan Richter, President, Joe Holonich, Secretary, Damon Williams, Rick Morris, and Joann Brickwedde.

The meeting was called to order by Bryan Richter. Topics discussed included:

- Review of Action Items

It was noted that only one action currently remained from previous meeting. The item was to develop an exchange page so umpires could list used equipment and umpires looking for equipment could see what was available.

Joe Holonich reported that he attempted to establish such a page in the Softball of Maryland (SUM) Facebook page. However, it was not successful. He reported that he would be trying again.

It was suggested by Bryan Richter that Joe could ask another SUM member for help. Joe agreed with the suggestion and said he if did not have success this time he would solicit help.

Completing the equipment exchange page or getting help was an action for Joe Holonich from the meeting.

- Discussion of March 5, 2022, Annual SUM Meeting

UAT members thought that Rick Morris introducing the UAT and having them stand for recognition was helpful in fellow umpires knowing who they could contact. In addition, it was agreed that Rick providing a quick definition of what the UAT does was helpful in other umpires knowing what the responsibilities of the UAT were.

The UAT discussed the information provided by Andy Wisk on the size of tournaments. Mr. Wisk reported that, unlike previous years where tournaments rose and dipped during the early season, this year, the tournaments were consistent in participation. The UAT noted there were more teams and more games but fewer umpires to cover those games.

Rick Morris did report that there were 15 new recruits joining SUM. Still, that did not replace the number of umpires lost since 2020.

The UAT discussed the possibility of experienced SUM umpires becoming mentors for the new recruits. The SUM Executive Committee and the UAT would determine how umpires interested in mentoring could be identified. As an initial process, the UAT members all agreed they would be willing to mentor. Plus, it was recommended that previous Umpire of the Year awardees be considered.

One aspect of being a mentor would be to work a field with the recruit who you were mentoring. In addition, it was expected that the mentor would be available to discuss rules and game situation with the recruit if they had questions.

This year, if the mentoring program is approved, it is happening after formal training. It was suggested that next year, if there is a mentoring program, volunteers be solicited before training.

Rick Morris took an action from the meeting to discuss mentoring with John Dye. Joe Holonich took an action to assemble the list of Umpire of Years recipients.

- UAT Staffing

With the departure of John Calamari, the UAT discussed his replacement. A name was offered and supported by all UAT members. Joe Holonich took an action to contact the potential new UAT member.

- Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next UAT meeting should be a mid-season check. Bryan Ritcher took an action to schedule the meeting.

- Actions

Rick Morris will talk with John Dye about the mentoring program

Joe Holonich will: 1) develop an equipment exchange page or contact other SUM members for help; 2) complete a list of previous Umpire of the Year recipients; and 3) contact the potential UAT replacement for John Calamari.

Bryan Ritcher will schedule the mid-season check meeting.