



# Hey Blue!

The Voice of BC Umpires



## FALL 2004

BC Baseball Umpires Association

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## Annual General Meeting 2004

**10:00 AM Sunday November 28 , 2004**

**at Douglas College, 700 Royal Avenue**

**New Westminster BC**

**Lecture Theatre 2201**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT - John Berry

It is time to say thanks for a terrific year in umpiring and in baseball. On a personal note, my first year as your association president has been smoother than I could have asked. The main reason is that this association has the strong support of a committed board. And it is a board that is working well with each other, and with many of our partners.

We've had our challenges, and our successes. We have been able to rejoin Baseball BC as full members. We have over the past several years improved our financial position. At the same time, we have had to cope with a drop in support from Baseball BC as that organization faces its financial challenges. Nevertheless, we sent 7 umpires to national tournaments this year, and one to an international tournament.

Discipline is an ongoing concern, mainly with respect to coaches and players, but also with respect to umpires. We continue to encourage leagues and association to establish fair and consistent discipline processes and practices. I think we have seen progress on that front, but a good deal more remains to be done before we have a unified, consistent approach that everyone in our sport supports. We have a sound process in this association, but it has needed some improvement, too, and we are very open to suggestion. This year, we have improved transparency and are working on timeliness. But as you might expect, the integrity and maturity shown by umpires mean that we receive very few complaints.

Our umpire development has really made strides this year. We have tried some different approaches with clinics, and the well-received evening clinics will be offered in more areas next year. SuperClinic was another success, with good attendance and good content. As I write this, we are hoping to have it next year in the Okanagan, although arrangements haven't been confirmed. We're doing more with supervisors and evaluators, and have plans to do even more.

One of our challenges has been Hey Blue. We lost a great editor when Dave Kennedy had to resign. While Jerry Tregaskis and Danny Huzar have stepped forward, this is only a temporary solution. They've done a great job, but they have other important roles, and can't do everything. Please let Jerry, Danny or me know if you want to volunteer, or know someone who might be willing to join Hey Blue's editor/publisher team.

We plan to reinforce the encouragement to leagues, associations and umpire allocators to book umpires who are members of this association. As carded umpires, we bring to the field a personal and collective commitment to a code of conduct, to ethical behaviour and to constant learning and improvement. We want to work together with associations and leagues throughout our sport to make baseball the best that it can be. We enjoy the support of most associations, and of Baseball BC, in making sure that baseball games are officiated by qualified, carded umpires.

So, attend a clinic and renew your membership early in 2005!



# Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT

John Berry  
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## VICE-PRESIDENT

Steve Boutang  
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Danny Huzar  
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## TREASURER

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## PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR

Howard Chapman  
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## You MAKE THE CALL #1

1. R2 is on second with no outs. F1's pitch to right handed B2 is inside, but B2 does not move and the pitch does not hit him. R2 is attempting to steal 3rd base as B2 takes ball 4. B2 does not move immediately toward 1st base and F2 has to throw around the batter. Has B2 interfered?

Answer on page 8

**BE SURE TO ATTEND  
SuperClinic 2005  
February 19 & 20, 2005  
Mt. Boucherie Senior  
Secondary Westbank,  
(Kelowna) BC  
SEE YOU THERE!!**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

In response to the random surveys, which were completed by our membership in 2003, the membership committee is currently drafting some recommendations for the board of directors. These recommendations will address the various issues and concerns that we discovered during the surveys, particularly for those members who reside outside of the Lower Mainland.

Any recommendations that are approved will be brought forward at our Annual General Meeting at the end of November.

Steve Boutang, Committee Chairman

## AREA DIRECTORS

### AREA 1-Vancouver Island South

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### AREA 9-Northern B.C.

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## DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

There were 4 complaints made against our membership during the 2004 baseball season.

- In the first case, a complaint was made against a member from the Lower Mainland for his actions during a Midget AAA game. For various reasons this investigation is still incomplete and a hearing has not yet been held in the matter.

- A complaint was made against one of our members from the Lower Mainland for his actions during a Midget Premier League game. It was alleged that the member used unprofessional language towards a coach which was audible to the entire ball park. The complaint was withdrawn prior to the investigation being completed and no action was taken against the member.

- In the third instance, a complaint was made against a member from the Lower Mainland. It was alleged that the umpire had purposely called a player out in an effort to bait a coach. After a preliminary investigation it was determined that no further action on this complaint was necessary.

- In the final situation a member from the Thompson Okanagan region was accused of using unprofessional language and acting improperly during an argument with a coach at the Jr level. After an investigation was completed it was concluded that both the coach and umpire acted improperly. The umpire was suspended from September 1 until April 30 of next season, which incorporated a significant number of fall and spring baseball games that the umpire would have worked. The BCBUA also sent a letter to the Jr Baseball League asking that the conduct of the coach be reviewed. The coach had been suspended for 2 games prior to our letter and there was no word on whether further action would be taken.

In short, any reader of these excerpts can tell that the thing which upsets coaches and players alike, and which subsequently leads to complaints, are umpires who use unprofessional language on the field. Language which would normally result in an ejection of a player or coach if they had used it towards us. As a reminder, umpires are accountable for their actions on the field in the same way that players are. If you use foul language towards a player or coach, loud enough that people in the stands can hear, the

Discipline Committee has no choice but to reprimand or suspend you.

Steve Boutang, Committee Chairman



## NOTICE OF MOTION TO CHANGE BCBUA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### PROPOSED CHANGE TO PARAGRAPH 12

#### Current wording is:

(1) Honorary Life Membership may be bestowed upon any current or past member or Director of the Society for distinguished service or provided exemplary services to the Society and its membership over a period of at least five (5) years.

(2) Nominations for Honorary Life Membership may be made by any member of the Society and such nomination shall be submitted, in writing, along with the reasons for the nomination to the Registered Office of the Society at least eight (8) weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

(3) Upon receipt of any nomination for Honorary Life Membership the nomination and supporting documentation shall be reviewed and considered by the Directors of the Society who may recommend to the membership of the Society that a person nominated for Honorary Life Membership be considered for Honorary Life Membership at an Annual General Meeting of the Society;

(4) Honorary Life Members shall have full voting privileges at all general meetings of the Society.

(5) Honorary Life Members shall be elected by a single majority of the members in attendance at a quorate Annual General Meeting of the Society.

#### The following are the proposed changes:

(a) Paragraph (1) to remain unchanged.

(b) Paragraph (2) to have wording changed which shall now read:-

"(2) Nominations for Honorary Life Membership may be made by any member of the Society and such nomination shall be submitted, in writing, along with the reasons for the nomination to the registered office of the Society".

(c) Paragraph (3) to have wording changed which shall now read:-

"(3) Upon receipt of any nomination for Honorary Life Membership, the nomination and supporting documentation shall be reviewed and considered by the Directors of the Society Approval of the nomination will be vested with the Directors and shall require a seventy-five (75%) percent acceptance vote of the Directors.

(d) Paragraph (4) to remain unchanged.

(e) Paragraph (5) to be deleted in its entirety.

### PROPOSED CHANGE TO PARAGRAPH 9

#### Current wording is:

All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his current annual membership fee (due no later than May 31) or other subscription or debt due and owing by him to the Society and he is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid. Such a member shall not be eligible to officiate in Provincial and higher tournaments.

#### The following is the proposed change:

All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his current membership fee (due no later than April 30) or other subscription or debt due and owing by him to the Society. He is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid. Such a member shall be ineligible to participate in Provincial or higher tournaments until the debt is repaid (absolutely no later than May 31).

## Annual General Meeting POSITIONS FOR ELECTION

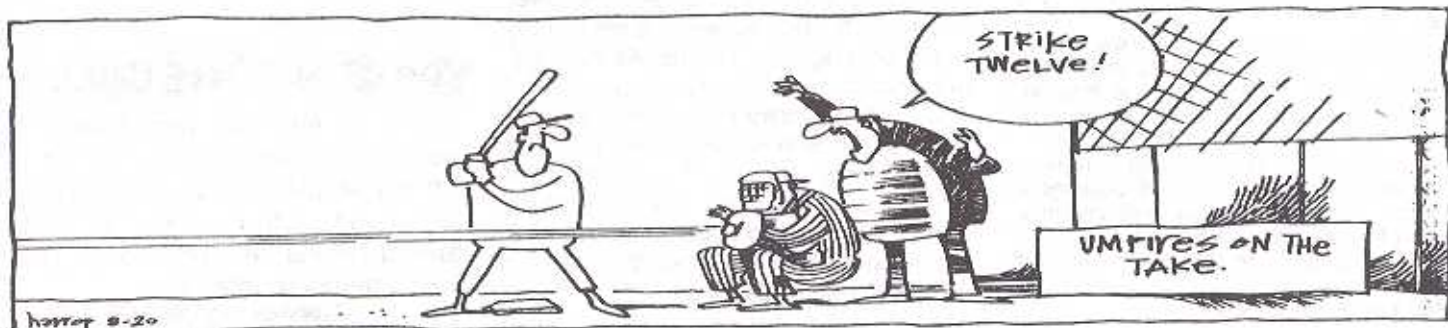
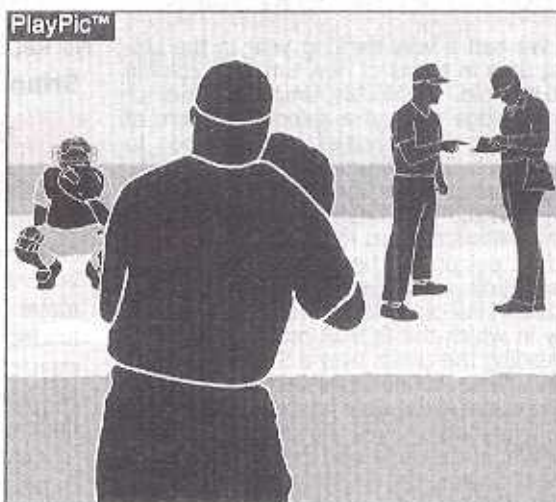
The following positions are up for election at the AGM:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Area Directors as follows:
  - Area 2 - Vancouver Island North
  - Area 4 - Lower Mainland West
  - Area 6 - Thompson-Okanagan
  - Area 8 - Kootenays

**Please be sure to come and vote for these positions and for the changes to the constitution.**

## Getting Help in Tracking Warmups

One of the plate umpire's duties is to record substitutions. Depending on how many substitutes the coach is reporting and how quickly the reliever gets to the mound, the pitcher may be warming up well before the umpire is finished with the coach. In that case, the base umpire can count the warmup throws instead. When the reporting process is complete, the plate umpire need only glance at the base umpire to catch up. By flashing fingers, the base umpire can let his partner know how many throws the pitcher has remaining.





## LEVEL 3 REPORT

No Report

Bill Mac Millan  
Level 3 Coordinator

## REPORT - AREA 1 Vancouver Island South

Greetings from Vancouver Island South. For Area 1, clinics were held in Victoria, Duncan, Ladysmith and Nanaimo and for the first time, we held one in Lake Cowichan. Although numbers varied more last year, our membership increased slightly. Thanks to all the clinicians and clinic coordinators for their support. This year, I also served on the committee for the selection of umpires for provincial tournaments. This year, tournaments in our area were hosted by Nanaimo and by West Shore (Victoria).

Our most recent board meeting was attended by Eric in my absence. Thanks. See you at the AGM.

**Chet Masse, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 2 Vancouver Island North

No Report

**Eric Toneff, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 3 Lower Mainland-East

We had a very exciting year in the LM-East area in terms of new umpire's coming into the fold. Bill Murtagh, Umpire in Chief for Maple Ridge created a splendid system of introducing new umpire's and managed to recruit over 80 new umpire's.

We had clinics in Chilliwack, Port Moody/Port Coquitlam/Coquitlam, and Maple Ridge/Mission. I was fortunate to be part of a clinic put on by the Maple Ridge/Mission association, which was coordinated by Dan Huzar. This clinic, which may become the way in which the BCBUA provides clinics is spreading the clinics over a 5 or 6 week period. There will be more details about this new system in the near future, but suffice to say, everyone enjoyed the clinics.

We, in this area also enjoyed the privilege of hosting the AA Midget Provincials at Larry Walker Park, which was supervised by Richard Spittle. Well done Richard! We also hosted the AAA Pee Wee Provincials in Coquitlam at the Town Center, which was supervised by Brian Wheatley. Again...well done Brian!

We wish to extend a big Thank you to Bill Murray for all his hard work at organizing the umpire's for Maple Ridge and Mission. We hope that we can expand our clinics to include Abbotsford in the Spring of 2005.

Thank you to all our wonderful umpire's for making this great game of baseball a real joy. We hope that you will continue to grow in our organization and some day, bring up your game to the higher levels of baseball.

**Eddy Lang, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 4 Lower Mainland-West

This was my First Year as Area Rep for Lower Mainland-West.

I look forward to meeting all of you in at this Years AGM in November.

Please feel free to call me or email with anything about the area that you would like to improve.

Thank you again to the board and John Berry for all of your Support this past year.

**Rob Grey, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 5 Lower Mainland-South

It's hard to believe that the season is over, but it was a very successful one for our area. We held a large number of clinics and showed the largest increase in membership of all the areas, with a total increase of 33 members.

We hosted a number of provincial Championships including, Premier Midget (North Delta), Bantam AAA (Newton), Babe Ruth 16 year old (White Rock), Pee Wee AA (Tsawwassen). A substantial number of our umpires worked in these and other Provincial Championships including, Junior (Burnaby), Pee Wee AAA (Port Coquitlam), Midget AA (Ridge Meadows).

**Jerry Tregaskis, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 6 Thompson Okanagan

No Report

**Brian Allan, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 7 -Okanagan South

Lot's of ball was played locally over the past year, and I expect local umpires will be even busier next year. Steve Boutang's move from the Okanagan left a big hole among senior umpires, though he did manage to make some guest appearances. Lorne Raymond did a masterful job of finding umpires to plug those holes.

Last year, BCBUA made a commitment to move SuperClinic around the province. SuperClinic is to be the only advanced clinic in the province, and was held in New-Westminster in 2004. The next 2 years, SuperClinic is to be held outside the lower mainland. In 2005, SuperClinic will be held in the Okanagan!! The details have yet to be finalized, but the dates being looked at are late February or the first weekend in March. BCBUA is committed to making this a success. Further information on the location and instructors will be provided asap. Start making plans to attend, and enjoy some Okanagan hospitality as well.

**Ralph Jolley, Area Rep**

## REPORT - AREA 8-The Kootenays

2004 was a pretty good year in the Kootenays. We had some exciting House ball and 3 major tournaments. Trail hosted the Babe Ruth 13 yr old Provincials won by the team from Fraser Valley and the Sr. Provincials won by Burnaby. Cranbrook hosted the North Idaho American Legion Districts won by Lewiston....again.

Local umpires were involved in all 3 tournaments and did well throughout. The 13 year olds were done entirely by local umpires while the Legion Districts were worked by locals, 2 imports from the US and myself and Kelly Lawrence (from Alberta). I worked 1 game of the Seniors and then went to the coast but I understand that Howard and his crew did as well as can be expected for guys from the Coast and the Kootenays....heh heh.

I know of no problems in the Kootenays this year and I know of only 1 ejection. The only ejection report I received was from.... me! If you dump a player or coach you MUST fill out an ejection report and send a copy to the league involved and a copy to me and keep a copy for yourself. If you don't, even if it was only a routine transgression, then the next time they do it will be the 1st time!! If it is not in writing, it never happened. In order to get ejected they must have done something so let's start recording this stuff and maybe it will decrease.

The only black spot on our year in the Kootenays was CLINIC ATTENDANCE. If you are reading this then you are one of the few that attended clinics in our Area this year. I understand that registration throughout baseball is down but we need you to encourage your friends and people who were involved before to get back involved. For the older guys who have been around for awhile I thank you for your efforts but if it is time for you to step back a little please ensure a competent replacement before leaving! Don't leave a vacuum.

There is an important issue at this year's AGM (details elsewhere in this issue) regarding Mail in Balloting and your right to select your own Area Rep. You can only vote on this if you attend the AGM so please get down there and vote!!

I hope everyone has a good winter and I will see you in the spring.

Bill Mac Millan  
BCBUA Area Rep

## YOU MAKE THE CALL #2

R1 is on first with right handed F1 working from the stretch. F1 has his left leg off the ground as R1 takes off for second. Can F1 wheel his left leg toward second base rather than home in an attempt to retire R1?

**Answer on page 8**



## REPORT - AREA 9-The North

We again started the year with Level 1-2 clinics in Prince George, Quesnel and Terrace. The instructors and assistants at the above clinics were Brad Gunnlaugson, Jim Sagert, Andre Jean and Adolph Jede. The numbers have dropped badly again this year, especially in Terrace. Certainly the poor economy and resulting declining population generally and schools particularly has meant a decline in numbers across the board for everything. The lack of good quality tournaments in the area and extensive travel required has decreased the level of interest for umpiring generally. Three of our Senior umpires attended the Super Clinic in New Westminster this spring and were able to pass on material at both the clinics and game situations. Also, some of our Senior umpires worked games in the B.C. Junior Baseball League, attended tournaments in Revelstoke, Kamloops and one attended the B. C. Summer Games in Abbotsford.

In the coming year, I would strongly encourage all umpires in the North to apply for any Provincial tournaments both in your area and others across the Province. Think seriously about traveling to other areas to improve your umpiring skills and have someone evaluate and coach you. It is a tremendous experience for all of us who have done this over the years.

**Adolph Jede, Area Rep**

## SuperClinic 2005

As previously announced, the Super Clinic venue will be rotated between the Okanagan, the Island and the Lower Mainland. In 2005 the Okanagan will be hosting this prestigious event.

Super Clinic will be held in Kelowna on Saturday, February 19, 2005 and Sunday February 20, 2005. The agenda is still in its formative stages.

The registration fee will be \$165.00 which includes your \$75.00 membership fee and lunch on the Saturday. If you are a Level 4 or 5 umpire or wish to write your Level 4 exam the registration fee is \$195.00 which includes the \$30.00 Baseball Canada membership fee. The registration deadline is January 31, 2005. A registration form is published in this edition of Hey Blue! and should be forwarded along with your cheque or money order payable to BCBUA to:

Danny Huzar  
9 Creekstone place  
Port Moody BC V3H 4L7

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS 2004

### INTERNATIONAL

**Womens World Cup** - Edmonton  
-Robert Allan - Maple Ridge

### NATIONAL

**Senior** -  
- Kevin McDonald - Victoria  
**Junior** -  
-Troy Carmont - Surrey  
**Canada Cup** - Brian Cargnelli - Merritt  
**Midget** -  
-Danny Huzar - Port Moody  
-Fred O'Rourke - Vancouver

**Bantam** -  
-Bill Mac Millan - Trail

**Peewee** -  
Ed Lafleur - Courtenay

### PROVINCIAL

**SENIOR** - Trail

**W/Supervisor**-Howard Chapman  
- Burnaby  
-Steve Boutang - Creston  
-Brian Cargnelli - Merritt  
-Ossie Chavarria - Burnaby  
-Bill MacMillan - Trail  
-Chet Masse - Victoria  
-Don Violette - Coquitlam

**JUNIOR** - Burnaby

**Supervisor**-Richard Christie - White Rock  
-Mark Bodwell - Surrey  
-Troy Carmont - Surrey  
-Don Hass - Richmond  
-Danny Huzar - Port Moody  
-Eddy Lang - Port Moody  
-Jerry Tregaskis - Delta  
-Don Violette - Coquitlam

**MIDGET PREMIER** - North Delta

**Supervisor** -Jerry Tregaskis - Delta  
-Tom Brock - Burnaby  
-Ossie Chavarria - Burnaby  
-Scott Eckardt - Victoria  
-Rob Grey - West Vancouver  
-Eddy Lang - Port Moody

**MIDGET AAA** - Kamloops

**W/Supervisor**-Chet Masse - Victoria  
-Rob Grey - West Vancouver  
-Rob Kloster - Kamloops  
-Matt Lowndes - Kamloops  
-Rob Grey - West Vancouver  
-Eric Toneff - Courtenay  
-Doug Weaving - Vernon

**MIDGET AA** - Ridge Meadows

**W/Supervisor**-Richard Spittle - Maple Ridge  
Chuck Bertrand - Sechelt  
Bruce Faulkner - Surrey  
Bill Keegan - Surrey  
Robert Olszowiec - Delta  
Matt Spittle - Maple Ridge  
Kyle Williams - Port Moody  
Ted Williams - Port Moody  
Adrien Wright - Courtenay

**BABE RUTH 16 YEAR OLDS** - White Rock  
**W/Supervisor**-Jerry Tregaskis - Delta,  
-Ossie Chavarria - Burnaby  
-Arne Pederson - Surrey

**SUMMER GAMES** - Abbotsford

Supervisor-Eddy Lang - Port Moody,  
-Chuck Bertrand - Sechelt  
-Allen Buchannon - Courtenay  
-Pat Jean - Kitimat  
-Bob Munn - Surrey  
-Robert Olszowiec - Delta  
-Steve Rosner - Quesnel  
-Yaman Simpson - Campbell River  
-Herb Van Horne - Surrey  
-Ted Williams - Port Moody  
-Brad Woof - Delta

**BANTAM AAA** - Surrey

**W/Supervisor**-Ted Williams - Port Moody  
-Chuck Bertrand - Sechelt  
-Gary Johnson - Surrey  
-William Keegan - Surrey  
-Les Maerov - Vancouver  
-Jim Train - White Rock  
-Herb Van Horne - Surrey  
-Matt White - Surrey  
-Kyle Williams - Port Moody  
-Tyler Williams - Port Moody

**PEEWEE AAA** - Port Coquitlam

Supervisor-Brian Wheatley - PoCo  
-Gordon Ballard - Port Coquitlam  
-Ken Conrad - Port Coquitlam  
-Cole Crocker - Port Coquitlam  
-Bill Keegan - Surrey  
-Kyle Williams - Port Moody  
-Ted Williams - Port Moody  
-Tyler Williams - Port Moody

## Help Wanted - Staff Writer

In an ongoing effort to improve the way we disseminate information to our members, and make the articles more diverse and interesting, Hey Blue is adding the position of staff writer to our publication. The individual that we seek need not be a member, but should possess exceptional writing skills, and have competent computer skills.

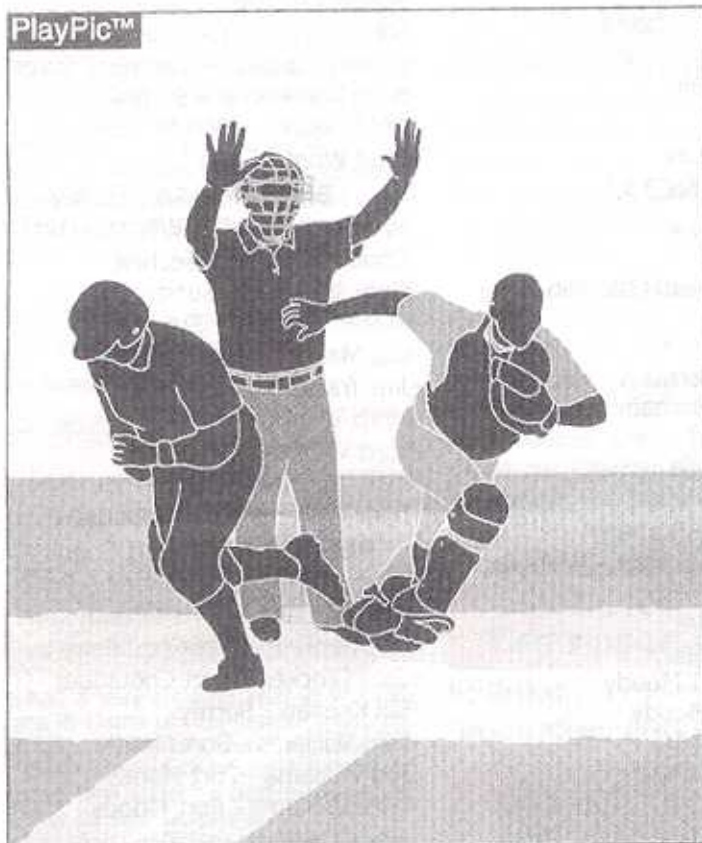
If you are interested or know of someone who would be willing to assist us, please contact Danny Huzar or Jerry Tregaskis.



## 'Foul Means Foul'

In the play depicted, the ball is dead and the batter is charged with a strike even though the umpire erroneously declared a foul ball. The rule applies whether the ball was hit on the ground or in the air.

PlayPic™



## YOU MAKE THE CALL #3

R2 is on second with one out when B1 singles to center field. F8 throws to F2 at the plate as R2 tries to score. F2 fields the ball on one bounce while on his knees about four feet from home on the 3rd base foul line. R2 avoids the tag by diving over the top of F2 and landing on the plate. Has F2 obstructed R2? Has R2 committed an infraction?

**Answer on page 8**



## Major League Baseball - Umpiring Crews for the 2004 Playoffs

### Crew A

Tim Welke - cc  
Gary Cederstrom  
Jim Reynolds  
Andy Fletcher

### Crew B

Ed Montague - cc  
Jerry Layne  
Jerry Meals  
Paul Schrieber

### Crew C

Tim McClelland - cc  
Fieldin Culbreth  
Tony Randazzo  
Jim Wolf

### Crew D

Rick Reed - cc  
Ed Rapuano  
Ted Barrett  
Alfonso Marquez

### Crew E

Dale Scott - cc  
Brian Gorman  
Bill Miller  
Ron Kulpa

### Crew F

Joe Brinkman - cc  
Tim Tschida  
Jeff Nelson  
Marty Foster

### Crew G

Jerry Crawford - cc  
Brian O'Nora  
Phil Cuzzi  
AAA fill-in

### Crew H

Mike Reilly - cc  
Chuck Meriwether  
CB Bucknor  
Eric Cooper

### Crew I

Gary Darling - cc  
Bill Hohn  
Brian Runge  
Mark Carlson

### Crew J

Joe West - cc  
Terry Craft  
Mike DiMuro  
Paul Emmel

### Crew K

John Hirschbeck - cc  
Wally Bell  
Lazaro Diaz  
Bill Welke

### Crew L

Dana DeMuth - cc  
Jim Joyce  
Kerwin Danley  
Marvin Hudson

### Crew M

Charlie Reliford - cc  
Jeff Kellogg  
Doug Eddings  
Dan Tassogna

### Crew N

Gerry Davis - cc  
Larry Poncino  
Greg Gibson  
Bruce Dreckman

### Crew O

Randy Marsh - cc  
Larry Vanover  
Sam Holbrook  
Paul Nauert

### Crew P

Larry Young - cc  
Angel Hernandez  
Mike Everitt  
Mark Wegner

### Crew Q

Bruce Froemming - cc  
Mike Winters  
Hunter Wendelstedt  
Tim Timmons

**cc= Crew Chief**

Courtesy Major League Baseball







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1. B2 has not interfered. Specific acts that constitute interference include leaning over the plate, stepping out of the box or any other movement that impedes the catcher. If the batter stands still after the pitch, he is absolved from responsibility for whatever follows. **Pro 6.06c**
2. F1 may do this as long as his natural pitching motion has not committed him to pitch and his free foot has not gone beyond the back edge of the rubber and come forward. **Pro 8.01b 8.05a**
3. Under Pro rules, no violation has occurred by either party.



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(Please use UPPER CASE only)

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<b>Signature</b> _____	<b>DATE:</b> <u>MM/DD/YYYY</u>



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(enclose your cheque for \$50 Level 2 & under, \$75 Level 3 & above)

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