

The Blue News

Published annually for members and friends of the Hartford Chapter of the Connecticut Board of Approved Baseball Umpires, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2011

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

The Board has significantly upgraded our website. The site now includes sections on meetings, Interpreter's and Commissioners Corners, President's Corner, a "What's New" section for breaking news items, and even a link to *TheArbiter*. Our hope is that the website will become a vehicle to keep members current on board activities and developments as well as a magnet and link for non-affiliated people wanting information and an entrée onto the board. However, these goals can only be met if everyone routinely accesses the site. So if you haven't done so lately, *check it out*. The address is: www.hartfordumpires.com.

Jim Kayan, Secretary/Treasurer

MEETING DATES FOR 2011

All 2011 regular meetings will be held at the L.P. Wilson Community Center, 599 Matianuck Ave., Windsor, Connecticut. Meetings will be held in the auditorium, unless otherwise notified. Meeting dates and times for 2011 are as follows:

- **Monday, March 7, 2011** **7:00 pm**
- **Monday, March 21, 2011** **7:00 pm**
- **Monday, April 4, 2011** **7:00 pm**
- **Monday, May 9, 2011** **7:00 pm**
- **Monday, June 6, 2011** **7:00 pm**
- **Monday, Sept 12, 2011** **7:00 pm**

The March 21st meeting is the Annual Rules Interpretation Clinic. Attendance is mandatory. An unexcused absence is subject to a varsity game fee fine and no assignments in the CIAC tournament.

If you cannot attend the March 21st meeting, you may attend another board's rules clinic instead. Contact Jim Kayan to get the times and dates of the Rules Interpretation Clinics given by the other 8 boards in the state.

OTHER KEY 2011 DATES

Meeting	Site	Date	Time
Hot Stove	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr	Feb 24	7-9 pm
Rules Review	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Mar 1	7:00 pm
Rules Review	Farmington Sports Acad	Mar. 3	7:00 pm
Coaches' Clinic.	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Mar 9	7:00 pm
(Snow date for Coaches' Clinic)		Mar 10	
Rules Review	S. Windsor Comm Ctr.	Mar. 10	6:30 pm
On-Field Train.	Baseball City	Mar 23	6:00 pm
2 Man Mechanics	Windsor HS	Mar 27	1-3 pm
On Field Train.	Trinity College	Mar 30	6:00 pm
Jamboree Day	Various locations	Apr 2	
Mentor Meeting	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr	Apr 4	6:15 pm
3 man Mechanics	Windsor HS	May 21	9-11 am
(rain date for 3 man Mechanics)		May 22	1-3 pm
Umpire Apprec	New Britain Stadium	Aug 24	

2011 FEDERATION RULEBOOKS AND EXAMS ENCLOSED

The 2011 Federation Rulebook, exam and answer sheet are enclosed with this newsletter. Members MUST complete the exam on their own and submit to the host of the Annual Rules Interpretation Clinic or Rules Review session PRIOR TO the beginning of the review. Rules Review sessions are interactive and are probably the best way to refamiliarize yourself with the rules. Barry Chasen, Bill Tatelman and Rit Forcier are hosting sessions this year. Please see the box above for the dates and locations of these events.

If your test is not turned in by March 21st, you will not be assigned any high school games!

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Hello all! Given the winter we are experiencing this year, it is hard to fathom that baseball season is just around the corner, but it is! Opening day will be here before we know it, so before we blink and find that it's April, I'm asking each and every member undertake a few preparatory items in anticipation of the assignment process.

As you are already aware, a large portion of our data was deleted from TheArbiter. Thankfully, the good folks at TheArbiter were able to retrieve some of the information, however to ensure accuracy, I am asking that each member log onto TheArbiter at some point over the next 7 days and verify that all of your personal information is correct (address, e-mail, telephone numbers, etc.) If anything is incorrect, or missing, please make the appropriate changes as soon as possible.

The next thing to do is to address your own scheduling parameters. A key component to TheArbiter is the ability for each member to customize their parameters with partial or full day blocks, team blocks, site blocks and mileage limits. Please adjust these as you would like them for 2011 and then please check the box signifying that you are ready to be assigned games. I would ask that all members complete this by March 1st.

I would like to thank everyone for electing me your Spring and Summer Commissioner. I am truly excited to serve the Board, and all of the fine schools, teams and leagues we service. I am planning to be as accessible as possible, and encourage you to contact me should you have any questions, comments or concerns. My cell phone is 860-508-5627, my home phone is 860-224-9414 and my e-mail is briankurnik@comcast.net<mailto:briankurnik@comcast.net>. I'll see you all in March!

Brian Kurnik, Commissioner

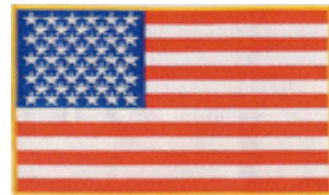
STATE PATCHES

The board supplies two free board patches to each new board member. Additional patches may be purchased from Jim Kayan for \$2.50 each.



AMERICAN FLAG PATCHES

The board also supplies two free American flag patches to each new board member. Additional patches may be purchased from Jim Kayan for \$2.50 each.



2011 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The first person listed for each committee serves as the chairman!

EXECUTIVE

Barry Chasen – President
Tony Letizio - Vice President
Jim Kayan - Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Kurnik - Spring/Summer
Commissioner
Rit Forcier – Fall Commissioner
Bill Tatelman – Interpreter
Jim Callahan – At Large
John DeGirolamo – At Large
Stephen Dygus – At Large

GRIEVANCE

Joe Carta
Rich Graef
Dan Hoagland
Bob Meyers
Glenn Terlecki

HONORARY

Steve Dygus
Len Caruso
Paula Forcier
Scott Milas
Ed Vaughan

AUDITING

Evan Proulx
Mike Criniti
Jim Foley

NOMINATING

Bob Williams
Mike Funaro
Ken Roback

SOCIAL

Rit Forcier
Mike Barile
Paula Forcier
Mike Mistretta
Spencer Moore
Steve Morda
Bill O'Brien
Bob Quagliaroli
Allison Saccoccio
Mario Saccoccio
Jerry Shemanskis
Al Sidlovsky

TRAINING

Ed Hoyer
Jim Callahan
John DeGirolamo
Bill Haflin
Bob Meyers
Steve Sanderson
Dave Tarraciano
Lew Wilby
George Yates

ASSIGNMENT

Brian Kurnik
Rit Forcier
Bruno DeNovellis
Gary Dickens
David Downes
John McCarthy
Dave Minacci
Mike Satagaj
Bob Rametta
Al Sidlovsky

EVALUATION

Barry Chasen
John Bennett
Jim Callahan
Hector Colon
John DeGirolamo
Rodney Dixon
Bill Haflin
Tony Letizio
Bob Meyers
Kerry Rutledge
Steve Sanderson
Jerry Shemanskis
Lew Wilby
John Young

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR NEW CANDIDATES

The Training Committee will be holding new candidate training classes every Wednesday evening starting January 12th. Classroom sessions will be held at the LP Wilson Community Center each Wednesday from 6:00 – 9:30 pm from January 12th until March 16th. The last two training sessions will be practical or on-field experiences and will be held at Baseball City in Hartford (March 23rd) and at the Trinity College field house in Hartford (March 30th) respectively. Contact Jim Kayan or Ed Hoyer if you have a candidate you'd like to refer.

3 MAN MECHANICS CLINIC

Bill Tatelman will also host a clinic on three man umpiring mechanics. This session will be Saturday, May 21st at Windsor High School from 9 -11 AM. Rain date is May 22nd (1-3 PM). Although this clinic will be open to all, it is intended for those who expect to work either the high school or legion state tournament this year where a three man system is employed.

HOT STOVE SESSION

Bill Tatelman will conduct one Hot Stove session this year. It will be held on February 24th, from 7-9 pm at the LP Wilson Community Center. This clinic will encompass game management, mechanics, and rules and is a great opportunity to shake off the winter rust. Anyone is welcome to attend.

SCHOLASTIC FEES FOR 2011

The following fees have been announced for the 2011 spring scholastic season:

Junior Varsity/Freshman	\$ 54.65
Varsity	\$ 84.08*
Playdown/Quarter-final	\$ 94.26
Semi-final	\$101.74
Final	\$112.24

* Add \$10 for 9 inning games

2011 FEE SCHEDULES FOR SUMMER/FALL LEAGUES

	<u>Summer</u>		<u>Fall</u>	
	<u>2011</u>		<u>2011</u>	
<u>American Legion</u>		<u>American Legion</u>		
Summer Sr. Legion	\$66	Fall Sr. Legion	\$61	
Summer Jr. Legion	\$61	Fall Jr. Legion	\$56	
 <u>TD BankNorth</u>		 <u>Age Group Fees</u>		
Sr. Division	\$61	Above 18	\$70	
Jr. Division	\$56	16-18	\$61	
Prep Division	\$53	14-16	\$56	
 MTL	 \$66	12-14	 \$53	
 Twilight League	 \$70	 <u>Enfield Dream Bats:</u>		
CCBL	\$70	Senior	\$66	
GHIBL	\$70	Intermediate	\$63	
 UConn Club Baseball	 \$75	Junior	\$60	
 <u>AAU</u>		 CT Sr. Men's BB	 \$70	
16-18	\$70			
14-16	\$65			
12-14	\$63			

Note: Fee schedule is based on 7 innings. Games starting after 7 pm, add \$5. If the game is scheduled for nine innings, add \$10.

2011 fees (with the exception of AAU) are unchanged from 2010. 2012 and 2013 fees will increase \$3.00 per year each year.

2011 DRESS CODE UPDATE

Once again, the dress code will be a point of emphasis this year, both on the state level and the local level. Violations of the dress code will be handled on an individual basis by the Executive Board.

Shoes	Primarily black - some white striping or accents is acceptable. Shined for each assignment.
Socks	Black
Pants	Heather gray slacks are the default; dark or charcoal gray pants are optional if worn by both partners.
Belt	Black
Hat	Navy is the default color - preferably fitted. The ONLY board approved hat for 2011 contains the red HB in front – both umpires must wear the same. <u>NO</u> other logos, pins or patches are permitted on the hat. Black hats may be worn with black shirts only in any season.
Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy blue short or long sleeve pullovers with white and red trim is the default uniform shirt and must be worn in all CIAC tournament games.• Powder blue, delta blue or black short or long sleeve pullover shirts have been approved as alternate shirts for non-tournament spring games, provided all umpires on the field wear the same color shirt. These shirts may also be worn in the summer.• Red short sleeve pullovers may be worn in the summer only. <p>There is to be nothing hanging below the short sleeve. If it is cold, wear a jacket. Do not wear the short sleeve shirt over a long sleeve undershirt.</p> <p>Red is the default color for T-shirts.</p> <p>T-shirt to be worn under the powder blue shirt should be navy.</p> <p>T-shirt to be worn under the red shirt should be navy or red.</p> <p>T-shirt to be worn under the black shirt should be black, cream or white.</p> <p>In cool weather a turtleneck or mock turtleneck may be worn underneath the jacket or plate coat. Turtleneck or mock turtleneck should preferably be navy blue. Also may be powder blue, black, red, white, or gray.</p>
Jacket	Any jacket recently approved by the board may be worn. State patch on left breast pocket and American Flag patch on the left sleeve.
Plate Coat	Navy blue with State patch on left breast pocket and American Flag patch on the left sleeve.
Ball Bag	Ball bags may be navy, black or heather gray.
Patch	The official State patch must always to be worn over the left breast
American flag	Patch (3" x 2") is recommended but not required to be worn on the left sleeve, 3" below the shoulder line.
Equipment	Mask, chest protector and shin guards may be black, royal blue, navy blue, gray or tan. Also, have an indicator, plate brush, pen or pencil to write on lineup cards, supporter, and cup.

Please keep your equipment in good shape, and remember to press your uniform and shine your shoes!

Message From the President

Welcome to the 2011 season! We should all be looking forward to an exciting year on the diamond. We made great strides last year, especially in training, mentoring and evaluating. We expect that growth to continue this season. We have been complimented multiple times by the groups we service for our efforts, and it is due to all of us working very hard, every time we take the field. What seems to stand out to our clients is our professional approach to our work.

Board members have been working hard in the off-season. The Umpire Mechanics DVD was filmed in October at Memorial Field in Simsbury and is being prepared for distribution. The new Executive Board met in December and January. In addition, the Board handled some matters via e-mail. The Umpire Manual Committee and the Constitution/By-Laws Review Committee, each held meetings also. We strongly encourage every umpire to visit the web page often. There you will find all committee reports prior to each meeting, as well as a President's, Commissioner's and Interpreter's Corner. Since the main focus of our meetings should be baseball rules/mechanics, play situations, game management, etc., posting the reports on the web page, will allow for more time for baseball issues. Any question(s) you may have regarding any report will be answered at the meeting, by the respective committee chairperson.

As of the 2011 season, all Hartford Board umpires will **be required** to wear either the navy or black hat with red letters and white trim. All other hats will not be in accordance with the dress code.

New contracts have been sent to our present clients. They have also been sent to potential customers, who have expressed an interest in using our services.

Based on feedback from our clients, and a discussion at the October State Board meeting, I would like to emphasize the importance of getting to the games at least **thirty minutes** before game time, to allow you and your partner time for a pre-game meeting. Try your best to be on the field **ten minutes** before the scheduled starting time, so that you can have the pre-game meeting with the coaches, and start as scheduled. Schools we service during the spring season have again been asked to establish starting times based on travel distances.

Please **open more dates**, especially in the summer and fall seasons, and expand your travel limits, if possible.

I look forward to working with everyone in 2011. Feel free to contact me about any board related matter. Let's pledge to work together to make the 2011 season a positive experience for all, as we continue to grow individually and collectively, through the many fine programs we offer. Have a wonderful 2011 season umpiring!

Barry Chasen, President