



The Blue News

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

JANUARY 2010

CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE

The Board has significantly upgraded our website since last year. The site now includes sections on meetings, Interpreter's and Commissioner's corners, 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: hartfordumpires.com.

Bob Williams, Secretary/Treasurer

MEETING DATES FOR 2010

Most 2010 regular meetings will be held in the auditorium of the L.P. Wilson Community Center, 599 Matianuck Ave., Windsor, Connecticut. **However, the Feb. 8th meeting will be held in the Windsor High School Auditorium.** Meeting dates and times for 2010 are as follows:

- **Monday, February 8, 2010 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, March 1, 2010 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, March 15, 2010 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, April 5, 2010 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, May 10, 2010 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, June 7, 2010 7:00 pm**
- **Monday August 16, 2010 7:00 pm**

The March 15th 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 15th meeting,, you may attend another board's rules clinic instead. Contact Bob Williams to get the times and dates of the Rules Interpretation Clinics given by the other 8 boards in the state.

OTHER KEY 2010 DATES

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Train Class Starts	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Jan. 13	6:30 pm
Hot Stove	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Feb 25	7-9 pm
Equipment Sale	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Feb. 10	5:30 pm
Rules Review	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Feb 18	7-9 pm
Rules Review	S. Windsor Comm. Ctr.	Mar. 4	6:30 pm
Coaches' Clinic.	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Mar 10	7-9 pm
On-Field Train.	Baseball City	Mar 24	7-9 pm
On Field Train.	Trinity College	Mar 31	7-9 pm
Bases Mechanics	Windsor H.S.	Mar 28	1-4 pm
3 Man Mech	South Windsor	May 22	TBD

2010 FEDERATION RULEBOOKS AND EXAMS ENCLOSED

The 2010 Federation Rulebook, exam and answer sheet are enclosed with this newsletter. Members have the option of completing the exam on their own and submitting it to Bob Williams by the end of the Annual Rules Interpretation Clinic, on March 15th, or you may satisfy this requirement by attending a rules review session. Rules review sessions are interactive and are probably the best way to refamiliarize yourself with the rules. Barry Chasen and Bill Tatelman are hosting sessions this year. Please see the box above for the dates and locations of these events. **Please complete the exam before you come to a session.**

If your test is not turned in by March 15th, you will not be assigned any high school games!

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Welcome to another year of umpiring Hartford area amateur baseball! We are entering our sixth season of using *TheArbiter* as our assignment software system. Last season's relatively seamless transition from a privately owned business to an NCAA acquisition has proven to be a beneficial one for all involved. I hope that you'll enjoy the recently introduced enhancements and that you'll find *TheArbiter* tutorials regarding the enhancements helpful.

I look forward to sharing as much information as possible regarding the assignment process and providing as much guidance as possible regarding the use of *TheArbiter* at our February meeting. This early season gathering should continue to provide an increased understanding of *TheArbiter* and the overall assignment process, which in turn, should promote improved working relationships. Please make every effort to attend this meeting, as it will be beneficial to all, and should provide a solid basis for a successful season.

We had another large recruiting class last year and as our numbers continue to grow, the competition for assignments gets tougher. Understanding this concept should serve as a motivating factor when preparing yourselves for the upcoming year. We were fortunate enough to add some additional leagues last year, but our overall average of assignments per umpire decreased for the second consecutive year. This current trend is certainly beneficial to the leagues and teams that we service, but may not be for individual umpires who were used to a slightly different environment in the past.

Please keep in mind that in addition to availability, the best way to serve the board and the leagues we service is through rules knowledge, proper uniform attire and wearing proper equipment. These basic areas of preparation, along with a strong positive demeanor on the field, will make you a better official and benefit the board. Please consider attending a rules review session after completing the refresher exam on your own, in addition to updating your uniforms and purchasing acceptable new or experienced equipment.

The season will be upon us before we know it, so please don't delay in preparing for it. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have about the assignment process and the use of *TheArbiter* at our February meeting. I hope that you enjoyed the off season and that you'll enjoy a successful year of umpiring as well.

Please use my home phone (763-3095) in the evening, my cell phone (798-5270) during the day, or my drbrockway@cox.net email address if you need to contact me this season. I look forward to seeing all of you in February.

Dale Brockway, Commissioner

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



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



2010 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

EXECUTIVE

Barry Chasen – President
Brian Kurnik - Vice President
Bob Williams - Secretary/Treasurer
Brian McKeown - Past President
Dale Brockway – Spring/Summer
Commissioner
Rit Forcier – Fall Commissioner
Bill Tatelman - Interpreter
Stephen Dygus – At Large
Jim Callahan – At Large

GRIEVANCE

Adam Leonard
Rich Graef
Dan Hoagland
Bob Meyers

HONORARY

Steve Dygus
Len Caruso
Paula Forcier
Scott Milas
Ed Vaughan

AUDITING

Evan Proulx
Joe Carta
Allison Spradley

STATE BOARD

Brian Kurnik

NOMINATING

Brian McKeown
Jeff King
Ken Roback

SOCIAL

Rit Forcier
Paula Forcier
Mike Mistretta
Spencer Moore
Bill O'Brien
Mario Saccoccio
Jerry Shemanskis
Al Sidlovsky
Alison Spradley

TRAINING

Ed Hoyer
Jim Callahan
John DeGirolamo
Bill Haflin
Bob Meyers
Steve Sanderson
Dave Tarracciano
Lew Wilby

ASSIGNMENT

Dale Brockway
Rit Forcier
Mark Fontanella
Neil Kelsey
Brian McKeown
Ed Peruccio
Tom Pivonka
George Yates

EVALUATION

Barry Chasen
John Bennett
Hector Colon
John DeGirolamo
Rod Dixon
Bill Haflin
Tony Letizio
Bob Meyers
Shawn Rychling
Steve Sanderson
Jerry Shemanskis
Dave Tarracciano
Lew Wilby
John Young

TRAINING NOTES

The Training Committee has been holding new candidate training classes every Wednesday evening since January 13th. Classroom sessions will be held at the LP Wilson Community Center each Wednesday from 6:30 – 9:00 pm from January 13th until March 17th. The last two training sessions will be practical or on-field experiences and will be held at Baseball City in Hartford (March 24th 7-9 pm) and at the Trinity College field house in Hartford (March 31st) respectively. *In addition, there will also be an on-field clinic at the Windsor High School fields on Sunday, March 28th from 1-4, for first, second, third and fourth year members, or anyone else who would like some additional hands on instruction in base mechanics and two man coverage.*

USED EQUIPMENT SALE

The board will sponsor a used equipment tag sale on February 10th at LP Wilson Community Center, starting at 5:30 pm. This will be a great opportunity to upgrade your equipment at less than full retail price or retire your good used stuff. Everyone is invited to come to either buy or sell.

SCHOLASTIC FEES FOR 2010

The following fees have been announced for the 2010 spring scholastic season:

Junior Varsity/Freshman	\$ 53.58
Varsity	\$ 82.43*
Playdown/Quarter-final	\$ 92.29
Semi-final	\$ 99.77
Final	\$110.01

* Add \$10 for 9 inning games

HOT STOVE SESSION

Bill Tatelman will conduct one Hot Stove session this year. It will be held on February 25th, 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.

3 MAN MECHANICS CLINIC

Bill Tatelman will also host a clinic on three man umpiring mechanics. This session will be Saturday, May 22nd in South Windsor. The rain date will be May 23rd. The time and exact location will be announced at a later date. 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.

2010 FEE SCHEDULES FOR SUMMER/FALL LEAGUES

	<u>Summer</u> 2010
<u>American Legion</u>	
Summer Sr. Legion	\$66
Summer Jr. Legion	\$61

<u>TD BankNorth</u>	
Sr. Division	\$61
Jr. Division	\$56
Prep Division	\$53

UBA	\$66
Twilight League	\$70
CCBL	\$70

<u>AAU</u>	
16-18	\$75
14-16	\$70
12-14	\$70

NABA	\$70
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	<u>Fall</u> 2010
<u>American Legion</u>	
Fall Sr. Legion	\$61
Fall Jr. Legion	\$56

<u>Age Group Fees</u>	
Above 18	\$70
16-18	\$61
14-16	\$56
12-14	\$53

Note: The fee schedule is based on 7 Innings. If games start after 7 pm, increase the fee by \$5. If the game is scheduled for nine innings, increase the fee by \$10.

2010 DRESS CODE UPDATE

Once again, the dress code will be a point of emphasis this year, both on the state and local levels.

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. Hats may have the red or white ^H _B logo in front or may be plain – both umpires must wear the same style hat i.e., logo or plain. NO other logos, pins or patches are permitted on the hat. Black hats may be worn with black shirts only in any season. Note: Red logoed hats will become the only board approved hats in 2011.
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 previously approved by the board may be worn. State patch on left breast pocket and American Flag patch on the left sleeve. You are encouraged to acquire and wear the jacket approved last year by the Executive Board – the BA605 from Lester’s Upstate Sports. However, this is in no way mandatory.
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 2010 season! The season is almost upon us. We should all be looking forward to another exciting year on the diamond. Our board made tremendous strides last year, especially in training and evaluation. We expect continued growth individually and collectively this season as well. We have been complimented by the groups we service for our efforts, and it is due to all of you working hard every time you take the field.

Board members have been hard at work in the off-season in many areas. The Executive Board met in September, October and January. A number of issues were discussed and acted upon. We have changed the web page and strongly encourage you to visit it often. Also, as a result of feedback, we will change the attendance taking procedure to quicken the process, so we can start meetings sooner. Since the main focus of our meetings should be baseball rules/mechanics/game management related, we will lessen the time spent on committee reports by having each committee chair post a report on line prior to the meetings. Any questions you may have regarding any report will be answered at the meeting, but having reports ahead of time, as we did last season with the state board report, should allow us more time for baseball related issues.

By the 2011 season, all Hartford Board umpires will be required to wear either the navy or black hat with red letters. All other hats will not be in line with the dress code, effective in 2011. You can still enjoy your plain and white lettered hats this season, although all hats purchased for the 2010 season were those with red letters only.

This is the last year of our contracts with all leagues we service. We will be forwarding new contracts to our clients next fall. Keep in mind that the key in formulating the contracts was ACCOUNTABILITY by both parties. We have to hold up our end, just as we expect them to hold up theirs.

I also would like to re-emphasize the importance of getting to the games so you allow yourself time for a pre-game meeting with your partner. Try to get on the field five minutes before the scheduled starting time, if not sooner, so that you can have the pre-game meeting with the coaches and start as scheduled. Schools we service during the spring season have been asked to establish starting times based on travel distances, as we did in 2009. We also must contact our partner prior to the game, and fill in the game report if it is our responsibility. In addition, update your calendars on a regular basis to help the commissioners in their assigning duties. Please **open more dates**, especially in the summer and fall seasons, and do what you can to expand your travel limits. Last, remember that we are umpires and no matter what game we are assigned, we have to do it with the same enthusiasm on a regular basis. Give it your maximum effort each time out, as that is what those we service should and do expect from us. Treat all game personnel with respect. Unfortunately, we had a few incidents in 2009 where that was not the case. We need to represent ourselves and the board in a professional manner.

The Training Committee is holding classes for new umpires from January 13th through March 31th. The first ten weeks are at L.P. Wilson and the last two will be held at Baseball City and Trinity College. Baseball City will be for plate mechanics and Trinity will be for field mechanics. In addition, an outdoor mechanics clinic will be held at Windsor High School on Sunday, March 28th, from 1-4 p.m. All umpires in their first, second or third year on the board should attend this valuable session. All other umpires are invited to attend. Anyone interested in either indoor session should contact Ed Hoyer.

This year the three man mechanics session will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, with the rain date of May 23rd. The program will be conducted by our Board Interpreter, Bill Tatelman, and will be located in South Windsor, location to be determined. The program is open to all members, but is especially recommended for those who have worked state high school tournament or state Legion playoff games, or those who think they will be selected for those games. In addition, Bill will be hosting a Hot Stove session in February at L.P. Wilson.

Test review sessions will also be offered once again this season. I cannot emphasize enough the value of attending one of these sessions. The interaction is invaluable and everyone benefits. Just taking an open book test and turning it in to be graded does not do anything to help you grow as an umpire. Please make every effort to attend one.

I also want to emphasize that your attendance at board meetings is very important. The State Board recommends suspension for not making the minimum number of meetings. We are a bit more lenient. This past year's meetings were ones in which much was accomplished and a lot of good baseball rules/mechanics discussions took place. To the veteran umpires, I ask that we set a good example for the newer umpires.

Other activities which took place during the off-season will be discussed at our meetings. Do not forget that we added a February regular meeting, so the first meeting is Monday, February 8th at 7 p.m. at the **Windsor High School Auditorium**. The focus will be on the use of *TheArbiter*.

I look forward to working with all of you again in 2010, and say one last thanks for your cooperation and hard work in 2009. If there is ever a need for you to contact me about any board related matter, feel free to do so. As good as 2009 was, let's pledge to work together to make the 2010 season our best one yet, as we continue to add members and grow together through the many programs we offer!

Barry Chasen, President