

**Stittsville Minor Softball Association  
2011 Season  
Umpire Report**



**Scheduling**

This past season, we had 53 registered umpires plus two adults who also umpired some games. Out of the 53 registered umpires, the breakdown was follows:

17	Junior First Year
10	Junior Second Year
12	Intermediate First Year
4	Intermediate Second Year
7	Level 1 Certified
3	Level 2 Certified

Once again we used the E2E on-line system (Umpire Centre) to schedule our umpires. We scheduled 314 games including tournaments; this does not include games that were scheduled and then cancelled. The umpires were all very responsible for their assignments. The on-line system worked very well. Scheduling with the on-line system relies heavily on umpires entering their availability; however, with the changing schedules due to games being cancelled and rescheduled, it was a little more difficult this year for the umpires who played to keep their availability up to date.

It was a difficult season for scheduling umpires due to several factors:

1. The weather was rainy for most of the month of May so umpires were scheduled but had to be cancelled when games were cancelled. Cancelling games also removed the games from the Umpire Centre.
2. The Bantam and Midget (and sometimes the Peewee) teams all played on Sunday night. This made it very difficult to schedule umpires - we had to rely heavily on umpires who did not play and juggle those who did play around their schedules. We had 7 umpires who did not play this year:
  - Callum MacKay, Jordan McConnell, Scott McRae, senior umpires who made themselves available for most of the season;
  - Ian Smith, an adult umpire who umpired Sunday night Midget games only but he was not always available;
  - Neil Drummond, a senior umpire who was only available for the year-end tournament;
  - Bradley Walsh, an Intermediate Umpire, and Tate Adam, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Junior Umpire

3. There were a couple of occasions when I had to find a replacement umpire at the last minute. This proved to be difficult as most umpires were busy playing or practicing (or other reason) and not available and junior umpires did not have all the equipment they required to do the plate.

There were a few occasions where I had to go with only one umpire for a game. This is not the best scenario and most umpires do not like to do games by themselves. This should be avoided as much as possible or some form of compensation should be provided to an umpire who has to umpire a game alone.

## **Payment & Equipment**

All umpires have been paid in full. The equipment is in good shape for next year. We may need to order a few more shirts and caps depending on the registration next year. A survey of umpires at payment time indicated the majority would be back next year.

## **General**

Overall the umpires did an excellent job this season. On a couple of occasions umpires had to make tough calls about removing players or fans from the game, however, they handled themselves very well.

At the beginning of the year, we had hoped to send out feedback forms to coaches on a random basis to get their impression on how the umpires were handling the games. With the season off to a rocky start, we were never able to get this going.

Softball Ontario provided feedback this year during SMSA Tournaments. This appears to be the first evaluation in several years and they provided an evaluation report to the individuals along with verbal feedback. All our umpires received a positive rating with feedback being constructive in nature.

## **Recommendations**

The following should be considered for next year.

1. Equipment – Ensure that all umpires have all the equipment they need at the beginning of the season so that they can do either the home plate or bases when needed. While 1<sup>st</sup> year juniors normally do not do the plate at the beginning of the season, it is good for them to have the opportunity to do the plate once they are comfortable doing so.
2. Game schedule - Include the umpire scheduler in discussions on the schedule for the season so that he/she can advise where there might be problems getting enough umpires.
3. Payment - In the past we have always paid the umpires in cash. As the number of umpires and games played has increased, this means that we are carrying a lot of cash at

payment time (and so are some of the umpires). Suggest that umpires who have earned more than \$100 should be paid by cheque instead of cash.

4. Feedback – Implement obtaining feedback from coaches.
5. One Umpire Games – There should always be two umpires for each game, however, if something happens and an umpire must do a game alone, some consideration should be given to offering some compensation. I would suggest a stipend, i.e. not double pay or the same pay as the base umpire but perhaps a set amount of \$5 or \$10 extra.

Submitted by Claire Moore – September 2011