

Southern Massachusetts Umpires Association



Constitution & Bylaws

As of September 1, 2010

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Article I ~ Name:

The name of the association shall be the Southern Massachusetts Umpires Association.

Article II ~ Object:

The object of the association shall be:

- Section 1. To promote within the umpiring association the highest type of professional practices, and ethics.
2. To unite in the membership of this association, all fully qualified baseball officials.
 3. To help develop among all baseball officials, a thorough understanding of the rules of the game, as adopted by Major League Baseball, & The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.
 4. To surround the game of baseball with the proper safeguards, and to aid, and assist with the spirit of sportsmanship, honesty, and fair play.
 5. To be responsible for the development, and proper handling of baseball games in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 6. To promote the professional, and social welfare of the members of the Southern Massachusetts Umpires Association.

Article III ~ Membership:

Section 1.

- A. Any person of good character, interested in officiating, and the development of baseball officiating, is eligible for Adult Membership, if said candidate has attained the age of eighteen (18), by the first of April, of the year they plan to enroll in the clinic, and have been out of high school for a period of one (1) year. Candidate for membership shall file their intentions with the secretary at a designated time, and place. A non-refundable fee of Ninety (\$90.00) dollars shall be paid by check, or money order. No cash should be accepted. Which includes a Twenty (\$20.00) dollar clinic fee, Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars exam fee, and Forty-five (\$45.00) dollars balance toward first year dues, must accompany each application, and must be paid to the treasurer.
 - B. For Junior membership if said candidate has attained the age of fifteen (15), by first of May, of the year they plan to enroll in the clinic, and are enrolled in school, Candidate for membership shall file their intentions with the secretary at a designated time, and place. A non-refundable fee of Sixty (\$60.00) dollars shall be paid by check, or money order. No cash should be accepted. Which includes ten (\$10.00) dollar clinic fee, fifteen (\$15.00) dollars exam fee, and Thirty-five (\$35.00) dollars balance toward dues, must accompany each application, and must be paid to the treasurer.
2. Membership in the Southern Massachusetts Umpires Association shall be of four (4) levels. Active, Inactive, Junior, and Honorary.

3. To qualify for active membership:
 - A. The candidate shall have passed the M.B.U.A. written exam, and field clinic.
 - B. Shall have served a probationary period of two (2) years, during which time they shall not umpire at the high school varsity, or junior Legion level. A waiver may be applied for, and issued by the Executive Board, for the purpose of working varsity games while on probation.
 - C. All probationary umpires must umpire a minimum of ten (10) games in their first year in the association, and a minimum of ten (10) games in their second year in the association. Said games must be assigned by the S.M.U.A. assigning coordinator.
 - D. All Junior members are exempt from their probationary period, until said Junior member has attained the age of eighteen (18), and has completed high school.
4. To qualify for Honorary membership, a person shall have rendered some distinguished service to the umpiring profession, or to the S.M.U.A., and has served as a active member of this association for a minimum of 20 years of active service. Shall be elected to the Honorary membership status by a 2/3 vote of the existing quorum at a meeting of the association. Honorary members are non-voting members of the association, however may attend all meeting, and functions sponsored by the association.
5. Only members in good standing shall be assigned games by this association.
6. To qualify for Junior Membership:
 - A. Must attain the age of fifteen (15), by the first of May, of the year the Junior Candidate plans to umpire, and must be enrolled in public, private, or home school, or have proof of high school graduation.
 - B. Must have a signed liability waiver from a parent or legal guardian, which includes proof of medical, and liability insurance coverage.
 - C. Must attend the S.M.U.A. sponsored baseball umpires clinics, and pass the written exam, and attend a field clinic.
 - D. Junior members are restricted to being base umpires, at the thirteen (13) year old level only, and they must work with an adult partner. If said partner does not attend the game, said game is postponed. At no time is a junior umpire to be the lone umpire, or work with an unqualified person, in any level game. A wavier may be issued by the Executive board, that would allow certain experienced Junior umpires to be scheduled to work behind the plate. Said Junior member must have attained the age of sixteen (16), have documented prior umpiring experience, & have their own plate umpire equipment.
All other restriction still applies to any Junior member that has been issued a waiver.
 - E. Junior members shall have voting rights, but may not run for any office of the S.M.U.A.

7. To qualify for transfer membership:
 - A. Any person that is a member of a sanctioned Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association board, May request transfer to the S.M.U.A., by submitting a letter of transfer, & a letter of recommendation from your prior board, to the Secretary of the S.M.U.A. The letter of recommendation must state years of service, and your status in that association. Only members in good standing will be allowed to transfer.
 - B. Any person that is requesting transfer from either outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the association they are a member of is not a sanctioned M.B.U.A. association. May request transfer to the S.M.U.A., by submitting a letter of transfer, & a letter of recommendation from your prior board, to the Secretary of the S.M.U.A. The letter of recommendation must state years of service, and your status in that association. Only members in good standing will be allowed to transfer. Shall take, & pass the M.B.U.A. written exam, and pay all associated cost, of this exam.
8. All members shall be subjected to an annual Massachusetts Sex Offenders Registry background check. Any member adjudged to be a Level 2 (moderate risk), or Level 3 (high risk) will not be allowed to work any youth baseball games assigned by the S.M.U.A.

Article IV ~ Officers & Committees:

- Section 1. The officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Assigning Coordinator, & a Rules Interpreter.
- A. The Rules Interpreter shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
 2. The Executive Board of this association shall consist of eleven (11) members.
 - A. Seven (7) board members shall be the five (5) elected officers, the Rules Interpreter, and the immediate Past President.
 - B. The Four (4) remaining Board members shall be elected, by the body at large. Two (2) of these shall be elected each year, for a term of two (2) years, and be known as Directors.
 - C. A majority vote in the affirmative shall be necessary for the board to favor any action.
 - D. The Executive Board will make any recommendation(s) to the body, by a motion duly made, seconded, & voted on.
 3. **Terms of office:** Any newly elected officers shall assume their elected office on the first of September of each year, at 12:01 A.M. The President & Vice-president shall be a term of two (2) years each. The Treasurer, Executive Secretary, & Assigning Coordinator shall be a term of three (3) years each. All special committees shall be appointed, and dissolved by order of the President, or shall terminate at the end of the President's term of office.

4. In the event of a vacancy of any office, except for the office of the President, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board. Said appointee shall serve only the remainder of the unexpired term, of the vacated office.
5. In the event of a vacancy of the office of President. A new President shall be elected by the membership at a special election. The special election shall be held at the next association meeting following the announcement of said vacancy. The newly elected President shall only serve the remainder of the unexpired term, of the vacated office.

Article V ~ Duties of Officers:

- Section 1.
1. The President shall preside over all meeting of the association, and the Executive Board. and shall perform all other duties usually connected with the office of President.
 2. The Vice-president shall perform all duties of the President, in the event of the President's absence, or incapacity. Shall be chairman of all special functions, or committees.
 3. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all documents, and records of the association. Shall keep written minutes of all meeting. Shall send notices, and prepare correspondences as required by the association. Shall co-sign all checks prepared by the Treasurer. Shall perform all duties of the President, in the event of the President's, and Vice-president's absence, or incapacity. Shall perform all other services usually associated with the office of secretary. Shall work in conjunction with the President, and Vice-president.
 4. The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds and other property of the association Shall pay by check all bills authorized by the association. Shall collect, or make arrangements for the collection of dues, fees, and assessments. Shall perform all other duties usually associated with the office of Treasurer.
 5. The Assigning Coordinator shall assign all games that are contracted through this association. Shall keep a record of umpires that work games. Shall report to the Executive Board on the progress of the umpires that are on probation. Shall negotiate with the contracted leagues, the amount of the game fees and assigning fees.
 6. The Rules Interpreter shall conduct the annual candidates clinic, and exam for prospective umpires. Shall conduct a annual mechanics clinic for the general membership, and hold discussions on situations that may arise during the current season. Shall be the final authority on any point of disagreement not specifically covered by the rules of baseball. Shall also discuss with the membership all rules changes approved by the M.I.A.A.

Article VI ~ Dues & Assessments:

- Section 1. Annual assessment: Annual dues, any special fees, fines or assessments shall be recommended by the Executive Board, and shall be submitted to the association for approval.
2. Annual dues shall be forty-five (\$45.00) dollars and are payable on, or before the first meeting in March. Failure to pay your dues by the due date. Shall result in a fine of five (\$5.00) dollars per week until your dues are paid. If dues, and fine are not paid by the second scheduled meeting. The member will be suspended automatically without a 2/3 vote by the membership.
 - A. Honorary Members are not required to pay annual dues, and can not be fined for any reason.
 - B. Inactive members will be assessed twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars annual dues.
 - C. Inactive members shall not umpire, or accept assignment of any games, at any level.
 - D. Junior member's annual dues are Thirty-five (\$35.00) dollars each year.
 - E. All members of the Executive Board are exempted from paying annual dues, while serving as an officer of this association.
 3. Any member whom applies for reinstatement after three (3) years of inactive status shall be required to pass an exam prepared by the Rules Interpreter. A reinstatement fee of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars will be assessed, before the exam is given.
 - A. A member can only remain on the inactive list for three (3) consecutive years, and a maximum of five (5) years total. Unless an approved waiver is issued by the Executive Board.
 4. A three hundred fifty (\$350.00) dollar stipend shall be paid to the Assigning Coordinator, and a five hundred (\$500.00) stipend shall be paid to each the Treasurer, and Secretary for each year of service. Stipends shall be paid from the general treasury. In addition, any expenses associated with the performance of their duties (i.e. postage, phone calls, office supplies), and any other expenses (with receipt) approved by a 2/3 vote of an existing quorum of the Executive Board.

Article VII ~ Suspensions & Fines:

- Section 1. Any member of this association may be suspended for misconduct with the approval of 2/3 of an existing quorum at a regular or special meeting of the association, provided such action has been recommended by the Executive Board.
2. A member may be suspended for misconduct for the following reasons:
 - A. Any discourtesy that may reflect upon this association. (I.e. smoking, intoxication, illegal drug use, fighting, or swearing), while in uniform, and or wearing the S.M.U.A., or M.B.U.A. Patch, or hat

B. Failure to wear proper uniform. Required uniform shall be:

Navy Blue pro style shirt with the S.M.U.A., or M.B.U.A. Patch affixed on the upper left pocket. Heather Grey dress pants (no jeans, chinos, sweats, or cargo pants, or shorts). Navy Blue pro style pullover jacket with the S.M.U.A., or M.B.U.A. Patch affixed on the upper left breast. Black, or Navy Blue socks, Black belt, Grey or Navy Blue ball bag. Black polished plate, or base shoes. Navy Blue sized plate, base or combo baseball style hat. Plate umpires must wear an Inside chest protector, Shin guards under the pants, Black Steel toed, & tongued plate shoes, A Protective face mask, both Catcher's style or Hockey goalie style are acceptable. If wearing a traditional style mask, a plate, or combo hat must be properly worn, goalie style mask do not require a hat. A count indicator, plate brush, & pen, or pencil. Optional items, red, cream, black, or powder blue pro style shirt (both umpire must wear the same colored shirt while working games), maroon or navy blue turtle neck shirt, plate jacket, or a American flag (may be worn on the left sleeve, or back of the collar). All protective equipment, except face mask, must be worn under the uniform.

Failure to wear proper uniform shall result in:

first occurrence: written warning. Second occurrence two-game suspension. Third occurrence loss of schedule.

- C. All active members are required to attend a minimum of four (4) association meetings per year. Any member that fails to attend four (4) association meetings, without excuse shall be suspended without a 2/3 vote of the membership. Request for meeting excuse must be submitted to the secretary in writing, before the start of the meeting that you are requesting excuse for. Excuses are accepted by postal, E-mail, and phone. Excuses received after the start of the meeting will not be accepted. No excuses will be accepted for the first meeting of the year, this is a mandatory meeting for all members, or for the Annual Field Mechanics Clinic.
- D. Any member that cannot fulfill their accepted assignment(s), must contact the Assigning Coordinator twenty four (24) hours prior to the game. In no instance shall the assigned umpire send a replacement. Failure to give notice could result is loss of schedule for both umpires.
- E. When an umpire receives their assignments, they must return immediately to the Assigning Coordinator any dates which they know they can not fulfill. In no instance shall the assigned umpire send a replacement. Failure to give notice could result is loss of schedule for both umpires.
- F. Any member found in violation of their probationary period, outlined in Article III, Section 3, shall be automatically suspended without the necessary 2/3 vote of the membership. Suspended probationary members must take the written exam, and pay the exam fee of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars.
- G. All suspended members will have their name posted on the S.M.U.A. web site. All area commissioners, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association notified of their suspension. Any suspended member may submit a request for reinstatement to the Executive Board, and must appear before the board. If the board accepts to reinstate the suspended member, they must pay a twenty-five (\$25.00) reinstatement fine.

Article VIII ~ Loss of Membership:

- Section 1. Any member, regular, honorary, junior, or inactive, guilty of violating the rules of this organization herein or hereinafter adopted, shall suffer loss of membership.
2. No member of this association shall work for a game fee less than the game fees voted by this association.
3. Members of this association shall not work games with non-members of this association, unless said non-member is a qualified patch member of another state recognized umpire's association. Permission to work in such a game must be granted by the Executive board, or the President.
4. No member shall knowingly work with any umpire that is under suspension, from this, or any other association, unless said member's application for reinstatement has been accepted by the Executive Board, and a 2/3 vote by the body of the association.
5. No member will be permitted to work for any team, or league serviced by this association, without prior approval of the executive board. Any special situation must be submitted for approval, and must carry a 2/3 vote in the affirmative, by the Executive Board. The association shall allow any member to work for any N.C.A.A., Cranberry League, Coastal League, Can-Am League, Cape League, or American Legion League without penalty.

Article IX ~ Meeting Requirements:

- Section 1. The association shall hold a minimum of six (6) meetings per year. The first three (3) shall be held in the month of March, and the last one (1) in May. The first association meeting of each year shall be a mandatory meeting. All members are required to attend this meeting. No excused absences will be accepted for this meeting. All meetings shall be held at a place, and time designated by the Secretary.
2. A quorum for a association meeting shall consist of thirty-three, and one third percent (33 1/3%) of the active membership. All business of the association shall be conducted by approval of a majority vote of the existing quorum.
3. A quorum for all meetings of the Executive Board shall consist of six (6) members there of.
4. A quorum for all Committee meetings shall consist of one (1) more than half of the committee's membership.
5. **Robert's Rules of Order, Revised**, shall be the authority on all questions of procedure not specifically stated in the Association's Constitution.
6. This association shall own two (2) copies of **Robert's Rules of Order, Revised**, with one (1) being in the custody of the President, and the other in the custody of the Secretary. Each shall bring their copy to each meeting.

7. The last meeting shall be the business meeting. All others shall consist of:
 - A. Meetings shall be called to order by the President, or highest ranking officer, and all reports read, and pertinent business transacted by the Executive Board.
 - B. Rules interpretations by the Rules Interpreter.
 - C. Agenda established by the Secretary, and or the Executive Board.

Article X ~ Amendments:

- Section 1. Any proposed amendments to this Association's Constitution, must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. If approved by the Executive Board they shall present this proposed amendment to the membership, together with their comments, and recommendations, at the next regular meeting. The membership shall vote on the amendment, provided there is a quorum present.
2. The Constitution, or the bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the quorum.
 3. All amendments, or by-laws that have been accepted by the membership shall take effect on the first of September following the vote of said amendment, or by-law change.

Article XI ~ Association's Bylaws:

- Section 1. In the case of an association member, or a member of their immediate family, who is injured, or hospitalized for any period of time. A expenditure for flowers, fruit, or other gift, may be made at the discretion of the Executive Board, in behalf of the Association.
2. An expenditure may be made at the discretion of the Executive Board in the behalf of the Association in the case of the death of an Association member, or of their immediate family.
3. Once a year the Executive board shall review this Constitution, and make recommendations they feel are necessary, or are in the best interest of the Association.
4. Election of officers:
- A. Any active member of the Southern Massachusetts Umpires Association may choose to be considered for a position on the Executive Board, as long as said members meets the following requirements. Shall be a member in good standing. Shall have been a member of the S.M.U.A. for a minimum of four (4) continuous years. Is not either a Inactive or Junior Member. Shall have completed their probationary period (Worked 20 games in 2 years, assign by the S.M.U.A. assignor).
- B. The President shall appoint a election committee, consisting of three (3) members, on, or before the first meeting in March.
- C. It shall be the duty of the election committee to conduct the association's election, on a high plane, by means of a secret ballot.
- D. Nominations for office shall be held at the second regular meeting.
- E. Election shall be held annually, at the third regular meeting.
- F. Any unopposed candidate for office. The President shall direct the Secretary to cast one (1) vote for said candidate. In the case of the Secretary's office the President shall cast one (1) vote for said candidate.
- G. All officers and directors, elected or appointed to the executive board shall be an individual member of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), for the duration of their term on the executive board.
5. The association may remove any member of the Executive Board for cause, by a vote of the majority of a quorum present, at a meeting called for the purpose provided. However such removal shall not occur until after said member of the Executive board shall be given reasonable notice, and the opportunity to be heard before the body proposing to remove said member.