

# WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS BASEBALL

## UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

#### ARTICLE I NAME AND CHARTER

Section 1: This association shall be known as the Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association by virtue of the Charter No. 16873, granted, filed and recorded by the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 19, 1951, and according to the Certificate verified according to law by Russell H. Brassard, the President, that this name has been in use since April 10, 1950.

#### ARTICLE II PURPOSES

Section 1: The purposes of the Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association are:

- a) To form an Association of all qualified umpires.
- b) To provide qualified baseball umpires for all Amateur, Schoolboy, and semi-professional baseball.
- c) To instruct and assist all umpires in the knowledge of the game of baseball.
- d) To develop and continue the high ideals of sportsmanship which have been the fundamental principles of baseball.
- e) To promote and protect the mutual interests of all members and to develop a greater cooperation and a sense of fellowship among the members of the Association.

#### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association shall consist of members in good standing as set forth in the following sections.

Section 2: Membership in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires association heretofore recognized as the WMBUA shall be designated as Probationary, Active, Inactive, Honorary, Lapsed, Military, and Charter.

#### PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

Section 2a: All applicants for probationary membership shall be of good character, and at least eighteen (18) year of age.

Each applicant must file with the Secretary a form of Probationary Application by the Clinic Meeting of the WMBUA. In addition to the probationary application, each applicant shall be required to include the following with his or her application form:

- 1) An application fee as set forth by the WMBUA.
- 2) Proof of successful completion of a written examination and field test with a passing grade established by the WMBUA. The written examination is to be given by the examination committee on a date selected by the Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association. Applicants who fail to appear on the prescribed test date will forfeit their application fee.
- 3) Probationary members are eligible for game assignments up to High School Junior Varsity.
- 4) A probationary member shall be so classified for a period of two (2) years, after which time he or she will become an Active Member by vote of the membership at the first meeting held in the calendar year following examination.

### **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2b: An Active Member of the WMBUA is one who:

- 1) Shall be of good moral character.
- 2) Conforms to the Constitution, By-Laws, rules and regulations of the Association.
- 3) Has met all financial obligations of the Association.

### **INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2c: An Active member of the WMBUA may become Inactive upon written statement to the Secretary of the Association, said statement to be read by the Secretary to the membership at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Request for Inactive status should be declared no later than the May meeting for that particular calendar year and shall be continued in subsequent years unless the Inactive member desires to return to Active status. The member desiring a change in status should so state in a letter to the Secretary.

An Inactive member shall have no voice or vote in Association business.

An Inactive member of the WMBUA is one who:

- 1) Shall be of good character.
- 2) Has met all financial obligations to the Association.
- 3) The fee for Inactive Members shall be at 50 percent of the total fee for Active membership.
- 4) After three (3) years of Inactive status, any member wishing to return to Active status must attend the preseason probationary classes as determined by the Executive Board.

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2d: Life membership may be conferred upon any umpire who has rendered valuable service to the Association by a majority vote of the membership at a regular scheduled meeting.

A Life Member WMBUA is one who:

- 1) Will retain all privileges of Active Membership.
- 2) Will be exempt from payment of dues and assessments.

### **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2e: The Association may elect any individual to Honorary Membership who has been outstanding in the service of the game of baseball and/or to this Association.

An Honorary Member of the WMBUA is one who:

- 1) Is not eligible to hold office in the Association.
- 2) Shall have no vote in the Association business.
- 3) Will be exempt from the payment of dues and assessments.

### **LAPSED MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2f: Any member who has allowed his or her membership to lapse up to one year may at the Executive Board's direction, be reinstated to Membership after he or she has met all financial obligations to the Association. If his or her membership has lapsed for more than one year, they shall be treated as a probationary member.

### **MILITARY MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2g: Any member of the WMBUA who enters the military service of the United States shall be retained whatever status of membership he or she enjoyed prior to entering the service, and shall be exempt from the payment of dues assessments during said period of service.

## **CHARTER MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2h: All members of the WMBUA who become affiliated with this Association prior to and during the month of April of the year 1952 shall be so classified as Charter Members.

## **ARTICLE IV CONDUCT**

Section 1: Any member, whose conduct is harmful or contrary to the objectives of the WMBUA or damaging to the character of the Association, shall be suspended from Active Membership until such time as he or she meets with the Executive Board of the Association to answer such charges of misconduct.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall investigate all such cases of misconduct within fourteen (14) calendar days of the reporting of said incident. The Board shall bring its findings and recommendations before the entire membership, at a duly constituted meeting for final disposition. A majority vote of the membership present and in good standing is required in all cases of misconduct brought to the Association.

Section 3: A member charged with misconduct will be afforded the opportunity to be heard in his own defense before the Executive Board, and Membership of the Association. Failure to appear before the Executive Board, except for good cause and sufficient reason(s) acceptable to the Board, shall be construed as an unwillingness to testify. Any action then taken by the Association shall be final and binding on said member.

## **ARTICLE V UMPIRE PROTECTION**

Section 1: Any umpire who is struck, molested, or required by rule to eject a trainer, manager, coach, player, or anyone connected with the team shall:  
Notify the President and/or the Secretary of the Association by telephone immediately following the incident, and with a follow-up written report of said incident within twenty-four(24) hours. Copies of the written report are to be forwarded to the Principal and Athletic Director of the School in question.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall, within seven (7) calendar days of the incident, meet to discuss the action(s) to be presented to the membership for final disposition.

Section 3: The penalties for violation of Section 1 of this Article V as stated are:

- a) That no Umpire of the WMBUA work in any game in which a player(s) or persons as specified in Section 1, take(s) an active part for a period of to one year from the date of the incident.
- b) That prior to meeting with the Executive Board, the Board may execute the ban on said player(s) or persons for a period of time not to exceed one week.
- c) That bans longer than one week must be acted upon by the membership at a regular meeting or a special meeting called by the President. A majority vote of the membership is required to lift a ban on longer than one week.
- d) That a player(s) or person(s) involved in said ban shall be notified by the Secretary and may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Association.

Section 4: If the offended umpire makes no complaint to the Association, and if the incident is brought to the attention of the Association, in any way those procedures as specified in Section 1, Section 2, and Section 3 above shall be followed, as well as disciplinary action against the umpire.

## **ARTICLE VI RULES**

Section 1: All members of this Association shall uphold and abide by the rules of baseball as contained and determined by the Official Rules of Baseball published annually in the Official Baseball Guide, and any applicable local league rules.

## **ARTICLE VII**

- Section 1: A quorum for all meetings of the Association shall consist of twenty (20) percent of the active members.
- Section 2: The Association will hold regular meetings as stipulated by the Executive Board.
- Section 3: The clinic meeting shall be held on a date to be determined by the Executive Board. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory. Any Active Member not present shall be suspended if he or she fails to furnish good and sufficient reason, in writing, for his or her absence to the Secretary, prior to the clinic. Any Active Member absent from the mandatory clinic will be required to satisfy clinic attendance by selecting and completing one of the alternative options established by the Executive Board of the WMBUA. Failure to comply will result in a suspension from Active Membership for a period of one (1) year.
- Section 4: No member will be allowed to miss any scheduled meeting without sufficient reason acceptable to the Executive Board. If you have a valid reason for missing the meeting, you are required to give, where possible, 24 hour, written notice (e-mail) to Secretary explaining reason for absence. A fine of \$20.00 per missed meeting will be levied against all members who miss meetings without good cause. An annual review of the fine schedule will be updated by the membership at its last regularly scheduled meeting.
- Section 5: The Secretary or his delegate shall take attendance at every meeting. He shall also notify those members not in attendance of their fines for non-compliance with Section 4 above.
- Section 6: The President for the purpose of disposing of urgent business may call a special meeting. In addition, the President may convene a special meeting only upon the written request of ten (10) Active Members.
- Section 7: All meetings of this Association shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, revised Parliamentary Procedure.

## **ARTICLE VIII DUES**

- Section 1: Annual dues and any accumulated fine or assessments shall be payable to the Treasurer by check or money order on or before the date of the banquet, for the succeeding year.
- Section 2: Any member who has not met his/her financial obligations to the Association by October 1st will be so notified by letter. He or she will also be informed that if these monies are not remitted by October 15th, he or she will be assessed a ten (\$10.00) fine for late payment. If a member's dues are still in arrears as of November 1st, he or she will again be notified by letter of the outstanding obligations and also informing him or her that dues still not paid by November 15th will be assessed and additional twenty dollar (\$20.00) fine. Any member who has not satisfied his or her financial obligations to the Association by December 1st will be recommended for suspension by the Executive Board at the first meeting of the Association. Any member who has extenuating circumstances and feels that he or she cannot meet his or her obligations or who disputes the assessment of fines must so notify the Executive Board in writing by October 1st.
- Section 3: The Secretary shall notify each member in writing of their financial obligations at least two weeks prior to the due date.

## **ARTICLE IX ELECTED OFFICERS, DUTIES**

- Section 1: The Officers of this Association are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Rules Interpreter.

Section 2: DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 2a: PRESIDENT

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Association and shall preserve order therein: he shall appoint an Executive Board, consisting of the Immediate Past President as Chairman, the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Rules Interpreter, the Parliamentarian, and three (3) Active Members; he shall appoint all Committees not provided for in this Constitution and By-Laws; he shall perform such other duties as naturally fall to this office. The President shall not serve for more than two terms in this office.

Section 2b: VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence, resignation, or suspension of that officer, he shall also discharge the duties of the President when called upon by the President.

Section 2c: SECRETARY

The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all regular and special meetings of the Association in a book for that purpose. He shall notify all members of their election to office or appointment to committees and shall perform such other duties as required of his office.

Section 2d: TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect all dues and monies of the Association and keep a complete record of all financial transactions of the Association. He shall pay out no monies unless authorized by the Executive Board and/or the Membership.

Section 2e: RULES INTERPRETER

The Rules Interpreter shall interpret all questions of baseball rules and his decision shall be final. He may appoint an Assistant Rules Interpreter to assist him in his deliberations.

Section 2f: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board, three (3) members appointed by the President and three (3) members elected by the membership shall serve as an advisory board to the Association. It shall deal with and investigate all matters pertaining to the Association so that the disposition of business may be facilitated at the regular meeting of the Association. The Board shall also perform an annual audit of the Treasurer's books before the last meeting of each year.

The Executive board shall present its decisions and recommendations on all matters and in every instance at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Association, the members shall indicate by majority vote acceptance or rejection of the Board's actions and/or recommendations. An affirmative vote on the actions and recommendations of the Board shall be construed as final.

Officers will not pay dues while in office. Past Presidents will also be exempt from paying dues.

Official representatives of the Association to meetings of the Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association (MBUA) and other meetings that are deemed essential to the welfare of the WMBUA shall be reimbursed for travel expenses (\$25.00 payable to the driver).

**ARTICLE X  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- Section 1: Nominations for the elected offices as specified in Article IX Section 1, shall be made at the last regular meeting of the year.
- Section 2: Eligibility for nomination to an elected office is limited to Active and Life Members of the Association.
- Section 3: The President will appoint a nominating committee of three Active Members for the purpose of seeking out qualified candidates for all elected offices in the Association. This committee is to commence their work one month prior to the meeting at which the elections are to be held. This committee shall render its findings at the last regular meeting of the year.
- Section 4: The President will entertain nominations from the floor in accordance with parliamentary procedure at the election meeting.
- Section 5: The procedure to be used in the election of officers shall be by Australian ballot wherein the successful candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast. All Active, Probationary and Life Members are entitled to vote.
- Section 6: All officers shall hold office for two (2) years from the date of election or until their successors are elected or appointed.
- Section 7: The President shall appoint an election board to take charge of the election. They are to see that the ballots are properly distributed, collected, and tallied. They are to report their findings to the general membership.
- Section 8: All candidates for office must be present at the election meeting in order to be eligible to run for office.

**ARTICLE XI  
FEES**

- Section 1: Fee schedules for all contests will be established by mutual agreement between the WMBUA and MSSPA and/or MIAA.
- Section 2: All assignments of Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity High School, and above High School Varsity shall be made from the Active Membership of the Association.
- Section 3: In all instances above, no less than two umpires shall be assigned to each ball game.
- Section 4: In all instances if one pitch is thrown, full fee must be paid. In the event that an umpire report to the field, and the game is called before one pitch is thrown, one half fee must be paid.

**ARTICLE XII  
WORKING CONDITIONS**

- Section 1: No member of this Association shall work with a non-member under any circumstances. The WMBUA shall recognize members of other Associations and will permit members to work with these umpires. The penalty for violation of this section will be suspension with the length of time to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2: No member of this Association shall work alone, except in a genuine emergency. Penalty as in Section 1.

Section 3: All umpires will report fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of a ball game in standard umpiring equipment and uniform listed below:

**EQUIPMENT**

- a) Mask
- b) Shin guards
- c) Chest Protector
- d) Clicker/Indicator
- e) Brush

**UNIFORM**

- a) Umpires Hat
- b) Blue Blazer
- c) Gray slacks
- d) Black shoes
- e) Navy blue shirt
- f) Black/blue sox
- g) MBUA patches
- h) Navy blue sweater

Section 4: Failure to abide by the working agreements is sufficient cause for suspension by the Executive Board.

Section 5: It shall be sufficient cause to prefer charges against any member of the Association, who having personal knowledge that another member has violated any of the rules of this Association, fails to notify the Secretary of the particulars within forth-eight (48) hours.

Section 6: In order for any member of the Association to be eligible to accept any assignment to work a High School Tournament game, Western Mass Tournament, or State High School Tournament, he or she must have worked at least eight (8) high school varsity games during the regular season immediately preceding (April to June of the year) said tournament game. Penalty: The penalty for any member who accepts a tournament assignment without having fulfilled the above requirement, shall be indefinite suspension from the Association. Such suspension shall be for a period of time of not less than one year, at which time the suspended member may petition the Association for reinstatement.

Section 7: All active members of the WMBUA must take and pass a take-home, open book, preseason rules exam given under the supervision of the rules interpreter and/or the Executive Board before they can accept any assignments in that season. Passing grade for the exam shall be 86% and one retake will be allowed. Members will be given a deadline to turn in exams. Failure to turn in exam by deadline will result in a \$20.00 fine.

**ARTICLE XIII**

Section 1: Any member of this Association, who serves as an Umpire-in-Chief/Assignor for any league recognized by the WMBUA, must be in good standing for a period of not less than one (1) year.

Section 2: Any member of this Association who is an Umpire-in-Chief is a representative of this Association to that League. is places a responsibility on that member of living up to all rules, regulations, By-Laws and Constitution of this Association. Failure to do so will result in his suspension as an umpire and will also mean that other members cannot work in the league in question, in which he retains his connection with the leagues as Umpire-in-Chief, unless the suspension is lifted.

**ARTICLE XIV  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

Section 1: Special assessments may be levied by the President of the Association upon a majority vote of all members present at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

**ARTICLE XV  
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association may be presented in writing at any regular meeting and must be read at said meeting. A second reading shall be given at the next regular meeting at which time a vote shall be taken. A favorable vote of those members present and voting and in good standing in the WMBUA shall make the proposed amendment a part of the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.

**ARTICLE XVI  
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Section 1: The Association recognizes the order of business to be the following at regular meetings, special meetings, and meetings of the Executive Board.

1. Call to order
2. Report of the Secretary
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the President
5. Report of Standing Committees
6. Bills and Communications
7. Old business
8. New business
9. Role Call of the Membership
10. Rules interpretations
11. Good and Welfare
12. Adjournment

Section 2: The President may amend the order of business at regular meetings, special meetings, and meetings of the Board of Directors, subsequent to an approved motion to that effect by the membership of the Association.