



The Blue News

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

JANUARY 2013

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

The Board is continuing the process of significantly upgrading our website. While the site now includes sections on meetings, Interpreter's, President's and Commissioners Corners, a "What's New" section for breaking news items, and even a link to *ArbiterSports*, there have been major upgrades to date and more forthcoming (including board-only member access). Our continued 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. 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.

MEETING DATES FOR 2013

All 2013 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 2013 are as follows:

- **Monday, March 4, 2013** 7:00 pm
- **Monday, March 18, 2013 *** 6:30 pm
- **Monday, April 1, 2013** 7:00 pm
- **Monday, May 13, 2013** 7:00 pm
- **Monday, June 3, 2013** 7:00 pm
- **Monday, Sept 9, 2013** 7:00 pm

*The March 18th meeting (*snow date March 19th at 6:30 PM) is the Annual Rules Interpretation Clinic at Sage Park Middle School cafeteria in Windsor. 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 18th 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 2013 DATES

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Train Class Starts	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Jan. 9	6:00 pm
Hot Stove	South Windsor Comm.Ctr	Feb 14	7:00 pm
Hot Stove	South Windsor Comm.Ctr	Feb 21	7:00 pm
Equipment Sale	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr	Feb 6	5:30 pm
Rules Review	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Feb 28	6:30 pm
Rules Review	Farmington Sports Acad.	Mar 7	7:00 pm
Rules Review	Snow Date (Farm Sports)	Mar 12	7:00 pm
Rules Review	SW Community Ctr	Mar 21	7:00 pm
Coaches' Clinic.	LP Wilson Comm. Ctr.	Mar 20	7:00 pm
Coaches' Clinic. (snow date)	LP Wilson	Mar 21	7:00 pm
On-Field Train.	Baseball City	Mar 20	7:00 pm
On Field Train.	Trinity College	Mar 27	7:00 pm
Jamboree Day	Various locations	Mar 30	Various
3 man Mechanics	Windsor HS	May 11	9:30 am
3 man Mechanics	Windsor HS (alt. date)	May 19	4:00 pm
Umpire Apprec	New Britain Stadium	Aug 21	7:05 pm

2013 FEDERATION RULEBOOKS AND EXAMS

The 2013 Federation Rulebook will be mailed to each member (NFHS rules test via e-mail). Members should complete the exam on their own and show proof of completion to the host of a Rules Review session PRIOR TO the beginning of the review. Rules Review sessions are interactive and are the best way to re-familiarize yourself with the rules. Barry Chasen, Bill Tatelman and Bill Haflin are hosting sessions this year (see dates and locations above). If a member does not attend a Rules Review session, he/she MUST submit the exam to the Secretary-Treasurer PRIOR to March 18th (*failure to do so will result in the member not being assigned any high school games!*).

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

2012 (2013 update coming soon)...

Hello everyone! With the warm weather we've been having, it is easy to turn one's thoughts to baseball, and the high school baseball season will be here before we know it!

Last year was certainly a learning year for me in my first year as commissioner, and I look forward to building on all that I learned last year to make 2012 even better!

The two main issues for me from last year were weekend availability and keeping The Arbiter updated. During the summer season we seemed to struggle a bit to provide coverage for all of the Saturday and Sunday games. On any given weekend day, we may have up to 60 games to cover, yet on several weekend days, less than 100 of our members were available. I realize that weekends provide precious free time for us and our families, however if we want to continue to service all of the leagues and teams we are contracted with, we will definitely need to increase our availability on Saturday's and Sunday's.

The other area that could use some improvement is members keeping their blocks and travel limits up to date. Many, many times I would assign a game to an umpire on an open date, only to have that umpire turn back the game because they "should have blocked that day out." Ideally, you should be in The Arbiter daily and your blocks should constantly be updated.

I would like to get the spring schedules out to everyone a bit earlier this year, therefore, I'm asking that all members have their spring parameters (blocks, travel limits, etc.) in place **no later than February 20th**.

I look forward to providing another year of outstanding service to both the schools, leagues and teams we service, and to our members. Once again, I am stressing an open line of communication, 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. Thanks.

Brian Kurnik, Commissioner

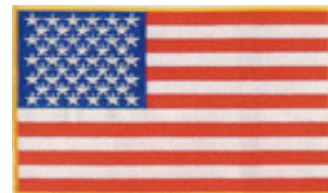
STATE PATCHES

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.



2013 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
Dave Bindas – At Large
Bob Meyers – At Large
Stephen Dygus – At Large

GRIEVANCE

Dan Hoagland
Rich Graef
Neil Kelsey
Bob Meyers
Glenn Terlecki

HONORARY

Steve Dygus
Len Caruso
Paula Forcier
Gary Iannone
Ed Vaughan

AUDITING

Evan Proulx
Mike Criniti
Jim Foley

NOMINATING

Bob Williams
Mike Funaro
Ken Roback

SOCIAL

Mike Barile
Paula Forcier
Rit Forcier
Andy Garretto
Rick LeMay
Mike Mistretta
Bill O'Brien
Allison Saccocio
Mario Saccoccio
Al Sidlovsky

ASSIGNMENT

Brian Kurnik
Rit Forcier
Mike Comeau
Bruno DeNovellis
Gary Dickens
Tim Hannan
Michael Krawczyk
Dave Minacci
Al Sidlovsky
John Young

STATE BOARD

Tony Letizio
Brian Kurnik, Alt. Rep

EVALUATION

Barry Chasen
John Bennett
Jim Callahan
Bill Haflin
Ed Hoyer
Tony Letizio
Bob Meyers
Kerry Rutledge
Bob Williams
Lew Wilby
John Young

TRAINING

Ed Hoyer
Bill Haflin
Bob Meyers
Steve Sanderson
Dave Tarraciano
Lew Wilby
George Yates

UMPIRE APPRECIATION NIGHT

Wednesday August 21st: New Britain Stadium (recognition ceremony prior to the game).
New Britain Rock Cats vs. NY Yankees AA affiliate Trenton Thunder.
Tickets \$10.00 each (Hartford Umpire Board gets \$4.75 for each ticket we sell).
No meal deal available . Come and have a wonderful evening.

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR NEW CANDIDATES

The Training Committee will be holding new candidate training classes every Wednesday evening starting January 9th. Classroom sessions will be held at the LP Wilson Community Center each Wednesday from 6:00 – 9:00 pm from January 9th until March 13th . The last two training sessions will be practical or on-field experiences and will be held at Baseball City in Hartford (March 20th) and at the Trinity College field house in Hartford (March 27th) respectively.

HOT STOVE SESSION

Bill Tatelman will conduct two Hot Stove sessions this year. They will be held on February 14th & Feb 21st from 7-9 pm at the South Windsor Community Center (rooms 205/207). These clinics 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 2013

The following fees have been announced for the 2013 spring scholastic season:

Junior Varsity/Freshman	\$ 55.61
Varsity	\$ 85.56*
Playdown/Quarter-final	\$ 96.03
Semi-final	\$103.51
Final	\$114.25

* Add \$10 for 9 inning games

USED EQUIPMENT SALE

The board will sponsor a used equipment tag sale on February 6th 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.

3 MAN MECHANICS CLINIC

Bill Tatelman will also host a clinic on three man umpiring mechanics. This session will be Saturday, May 11th at Windsor High School at 9:30 AM (alternate date Sunday, May 19th at 4:00 PM). Although these clinics 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.

2013 FEE SCHEDULES FOR SUMMER/FALL LEAGUES

Summer 2013

American Legion

Summer Sr. Legion \$72

Summer Jr. Legion \$67

(note...\$5 less for Giansanti Tourney)

TD BankNorth

Sr. Division \$67

Jr. Division \$62

Prep Division \$59

MTL \$72

CCBL/GHIBL \$76

AAU **

16-18 \$76

14-16 \$71

12-14 \$69

Fall 2013

American Legion

Fall Sr. Legion \$67

Fall Jr. Legion \$62

Fall CLUB BB \$75

Age Group Fees

Above 18 \$76

16-18 \$67

14-16 \$62

12-14 \$59

Fee schedule is based on 7 innings. If game is scheduled to start after 7:00 PM, increase the fee by \$5. If the game is scheduled for nine innings, increase the fee by \$10.

** Includes Enfield Dream Bats

2013 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	Gerry Davis charcoal gray slacks are mandatory for all CIAC games (including state tournament). Heather gray pants are acceptable for non-CIAC games provided each umpire wears the same color.
Belt	Black
Hat	Black is the default color. The ONLY board approved hat contains the red HB in front – both umpires must wear the same. NO other logos, pins or patches are permitted on the hat. Black hats may be worn with black shirts and powder blue shirts (black trim on collar) in any season.
Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black is the default color for all CIAC games.• Powder blue, delta blue or red short or long sleeve pullover shirts have been approved as alternate shirts for non-CIAC games, provided all umpires on the field wear the same color shirt (with the same trim). 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</p> <p>Turtleneck or mock turtleneck should be black for CIAC games. Powder blue, black, red, white, or gray may be worn for non-CIAC games.</p>
Jacket	Black jacket (with black and white trim). State patch on left breast pocket and American Flag patch on the left sleeve.
Ball Bag	Black.
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 2013 baseball season. We expect another exciting year! The Board has continued to make progress in training, mentoring and evaluating. That growth should continue this season. We have received positive feedback from the groups we service for our work. What stands out to them is our professionalism, a real tribute to the entire membership.

Board members have been working hard this off-season. The Executive Board met multiple times to deal with numerous items. In addition to our meetings, the board also handled some matters via e-mail. We strongly encourage all of you to visit our web page often. There, you will find all committee reports prior to each meeting, as well as information from the President, Commissioners and Interpreter. Since the main focus of our meetings is baseball rules/mechanics, play situations, game management, etc., posting these reports has allowed that to occur. Any questions regarding any of the reports can be posed, and will be answered at the meeting, by the respective committee chairperson.

. Please open more dates, especially in the summer and fall seasons, and expand your travel limits, which will allow you more chances to receive games. The commissioners will benefit from and appreciate your cooperation.

I look forward to working with everyone in 2013. I wish to thank the membership for electing those of us on the executive board, trusting us to move the board forward in a positive direction. We have a good group of people on this board, and to be as successful as we would like to be, we need everyone to make a contribution. Feel free to contact me or any executive board member about board related matters. Let's work together to make the 2013 season a great experience for everyone, as we continue to grow individually and collectively, through the many programs we offer. Have a wonderful season umpiring, and enjoy every moment!

Regardless of the assignment on any given day, let's understand that to the participants, that is the most important game of the day. Let's not let our ego get in the way of any game we work, so that the teams receive our top effort each time we take the field. Good luck in 2013!

Barry Chasen, President