

St. Louis ASA Umpire's - March Newsletter

St. Louis ASA Umpires,

February was a wonderful month! Thank you to all those who came out and supported our association and put in the time to improve your umpiring, or get ready for the upcoming season! A special "Thank you" goes out to Roger Berry, Mel Pinkley, and Bill Rosner for their help and support in hosting and attending our clinics.

March means we are closing in on the beginning of the softball season. We have plenty of things in store for you! And you have plenty of things you should be doing to get yourselves ready for the first games of the season! **One of the very best things you can do to prepare for the season is get into the "Manual" portion of the rule book! You will become a much better umpire if you are familiar and practice the items discussed from pages 220 – 275 of the 2012 ASA Rule Book! "Rookies" and "Veterans" alike can benefit from reviewing the topics on these pages!**

HERE IS LARRY'S "TIP OF THE MONTH!" ALWAYS ARRIVE ON TIME! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

- **SLOW PITCH GAMES – NO LATER THAN 20 MINUTES BEFORE GAME TIME!**
- **FAST PITCH GAMES – NO LATER THAN 30 MINUTES BEFORE GAME TIME!**

March Clinics: There are NO Clinic Fees – However, umpires Must Be Registered & Paid With St. Louis ASA!

There are two Slow Pitch Clinics scheduled in March. Bring your ASA cap & indicator!

The first is Saturday, March 10th beginning at 9:00 am, at the Soulard Market Building – 2nd Floor Gym (730 Carroll Street, St. Louis, MO 63104) Metered & Free Parking On The South Side off Lafayette Ave.

The second is Saturday, March 24th beginning at 10:00 am at Forest Park – Aviation Fields. This will be an **OUTDOOR CLINIC – DRESS APPROPRIATELY!** You will be umpiring games and receiving feedback! We will be using one, two, and later even three umpire systems.

If you plan to umpire slow pitch this year, and have not made it to any of the other clinics, please try to make at least one of the remaining two slow pitch clinics. **Please arrive at least 20 minutes early to register & sign in.**

There is a Fast Pitch Clinic scheduled at NOON, on March 11th at ABC Park, St. Ann.

This clinic will be an indoor and outdoor clinic! Bring your ASA Cap, Mask, Indicator, & any other protective gear you feel you need. We will have a pitching available at the clinic, along with base mechanics practice.

Uniforms: ASA Uniforms (caps, shirts – S/S and L/S, jackets, ball bags, & brush / indicators) will be available at ALL of the above clinics. In addition, we have plain umpire shirts in powder and navy for you to purchase. We can also order you Plain Navy Hats!!! They may be worn in other leagues, or for high school & college. Prices are very reasonable (cheaper than local sporting goods stores - even their "inexpensive" brands)!

If we do not have something in stock for you, we can order it for you! Take a look at uniform options available to you at: www.officialgear.com. We can save you money on your purchase, and every purchase you make from St. Louis ASA helps put money into our association!

Here is how that works:

- < \$10 Item – purchase from us at cost
- \$10 - \$20 Item – purchase from us at cost, plus \$1.00 Shipping
- \$20 - \$60 Item – purchase from us at cost, plus \$2.00 Shipping
- >\$60 Item – purchase from us at cost, plus \$3.00 Shipping

ASA has a red leisure wear shirt that may be worn off the field to honor our Veterans! It is a great way to show your support for our troops, and many businesses promote wearing red on Friday's. In addition, if you would like to wear this shirt for the Veteran's Slow Pitch Tournament (Only) this summer – that will be allowed!

Uniform items can be picked up at any of the clinics after you have been notified they are in, or arrangements must be made to get them within two weeks of their arrival. **You must pay for them when you receive them, and Checks Are Preferred!**

Availability: Be sure to contact the scheduler of the leagues you want to umpire this season!

St. Louis City **Slow Pitch** Leagues: Roger Berry – W) 314-289-5378

St. Louis County **Slow Pitch** Leagues:

- **Complete Availability Form – Forms Page On Website & Send To Scheduler**
- Above Hwy 40/I – 64: Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, & Ferguson
 - Tom Schomaker – C) 314-504- 9516 or E) StLASAD5UIC@gmail.com
- Below Hwy 40/I – 64: Kirkwood & Sunset Hills
 - Homer Griffith – C) 636-399-5057 or E) StLASAD7UIC@gmail.com

SLU **Fast Pitch** Leagues: Greg Pohl – W) 314-687-5203 or E) StLASAUIC@gmail.com

M.A.A. **Fast Pitch** League: Homer Griffith – C) 636-399-5057 or E) StLASAD7UIC@gmail.com

If you want to umpire Fast Pitch Leagues in Illinois, please contact – Greg Pohl for details!

ASA **Slow Pitch Tournaments:** Contact “Scheduler” listed on Tournament Schedule Form

- Reminders will be sent out 2-4 weeks before tournament begins so you can give your availability!

ASA **Fast Pitch Tournaments:** Contact “Scheduler” listed on Tournament Schedule Form

- Reminders will be sent out 2-4 weeks before tournament begins so you can give your availability!

Finally,

A few people have paid for the optional insurance provided by ASA called the “Sports Officials Insurance Plan for ASA Umpires.” This insurance is in addition to that which is already provided through ASA Registration. The benefits of the plan are:

- Accident and Liability coverage for ASA umpires officiating other sports.
- Game Fee Reimbursement – Up to \$200 per week for lost officiating or umpiring game fees
 - Up to \$2500 maximum reimbursement
 - 7-day waiting period
 - Covers any sport you officiate*
 - * **Does not cover non-ASA softball, except High School, Junior College, & College.**

In order for coverage to take place, St. Louis must have at least 10 umpires enrolled in the program. If you officiate other sports, or you umpire high school, and/or local colleges, then the insurance is a great deal! If you plan to umpire other association’s leagues or tournaments, then the coverage will not cover you for those games. For more details on the coverage’s provided, check out our website for details on the Forms Page. If you are planning to get this additional coverage, I must have your payment by the end of March.

I hope to see many of you in March!

Greg

Greg Pohl – UIC – 2371 Seven Pines Drive #5, St. Louis, MO 63146 – www.StLMSUA.com