

St. Louis ASA Umpire's – May Newsletter

St. Louis ASA Umpires,

The first month of the season is over and done!

How did you do?

What did the teams think?

As umpires, we must constantly be self-evaluating “Our Game” to insure we are doing what is expected of us. That must come from within us, and shine through in our efforts and performance on the field. It is understood that people chose to umpire for various reasons; whether it is to become the best they can in ASA, get outside for exercise, stay close to the game, earn extra income, or whatever else motivates us. There are almost as many reasons as there are umpires! The fact is – whatever our reason, we have a responsibility not only to ourselves, but the game, it's players, and the fans to go out each game and do our best! It's easy to say we “did our best” out on the diamond, but if we look at it from a larger angle, can we truly say our best was given?

As St. Louis ASA Umpires, I would encourage you to look at umpiring from a slightly bigger angle than maybe you have in the past. Are you properly preparing yourself for your games? **When do you think about umpiring?** On the field? When you're walking to the field? Driving to the field? The day of your game(s)? The day before? **Are you reading the rule book, or talking to other umpires about plays?** Do you look like an ASA umpire when you are out on the diamond? Are your shoes & uniform clean? Are your pants pressed? What about that ball bag? Is that hat from this decade? Conscious umpires keep these things in mind all the time. They plan for what is coming up – whether its cleaning their uniform, reading the rule book, studying case plays, completing their paperwork, or just “thinking” umpiring! If you want to improve “your game” inside the fences, then put more time into “your game” outside the fences.

One of the very best things you can do during the season is get into the “Manual” portion of the rule book! Talk to other umpires and discuss situations! 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!

ASA Umpire Social – May 27th – Helen Fitzgerald's, 3650 S. Lindbergh, 63127

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM (or longer).

The Association will start off with Appetizers

– Drinks & Additional Food Is On Your Own.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come out and meet staff members, and others like yourself that are out in the trenches each week. Bring your significant other, and your “WHAT IF?” plays, and let's talk softball!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING UMPIRES WHO WILL BE REPRESENTING ST. LOUIS ASA THIS YEAR AT ASA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Michael “Mick” Cohen – 16U Northern Territory – North Platte, NE

Paul Jacoby – 16U Northern Territory – North Platte, NE

Norvin Porter – Boys & Men's 23U USA – Rolla, MO

Roy Shoffner – Boys & Men's 23U USA – Rolla, MO

In addition, Shannon Kamp & Robert Nicholas will be representing St. Louis ASA in Oklahoma City at this year's 14U Hall of Fame National Qualifier.

Good Luck To You All!

HERE IS LARRY'S "TIP OF THE MONTH!" - YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION!

Umpires, I would love to hear some of your fondest memories as an umpire! Is there something that stands out in your career as an umpire that you would like to share with the entire crew? In the next few weeks, please feel free to send me your story, and I would be happy to share it with others!

WHAT'S THE CALL?

PLAY: B1 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to F3. The throw is high and F3 jumps to catch the throw. F3 jumps up totally in fair territory to get a thrown ball and comes down with their foot only on the orange portion of the bag. In this case, the defensive player, with the exception of their foot, and the ball are all in fair territory.

(Find the answer at the end of the newsletter)

PAYMENTS:

SLOW PITCH LEAGUES: UMPIRES NEED TO SUBMIT THEIR SCORE SHEETS TO EITHER ROGER BERRY (CITY LEAGUES), OR GREG POHL (OTHER LEAGUES) AT THE END OF THE MONTH FOR PAYMENT. WE WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO GET THE CHECKS WRITTEN AND IN THE MAIL WITHIN 3-5 BUSINESS DAYS.

TOURNAMENTS: UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE TOURNAMENT, THE UIC MUST SUBMIT A "POST TOURNAMENT PACKET" TO ME WITHIN THREE DAYS. AFTER REVIEWING ALL THE INFORMATION, I WILL ATTEMPT TO WRITE OUT CHECKS AND GET THEM IN THE MAIL NO LATER THAN THE FOLLOWING FRIDAY.

Umpire 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 **If you are Available on Thursday's – please let Roger Know!**

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

- **Complete Availability Form – Forms Page On Website & Send To Scheduler**
- **Above Hwy 40/I – 64:** **Chesterfield & 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

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 1-2 weeks before tournament begins so you can give your availability!

Uniforms: ASA Uniforms (caps, shirts – S/S and L/S, jackets, ball bags, & brush / indicators) are still available for purchase! If you need something, please email Greg Pohl at: StLASAUIC@gmail.com and we can get it to you!

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 - \$19 Item – purchase from us at cost, plus \$1.00 Shipping
- \$20 - \$49 Item – purchase from us at cost, plus \$2.00 Shipping
- ≥\$50 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 either my home, or the ASA office, once you have been notified they are in, or other 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! (Make Payable To: St. Louis ASA Umpire Association)**

WHAT’S THE CALL ~ RULING:

RULING: Rule 8, Section 2M[5]: *On an errant throw pulling the defense in foul ground off the white portion of the base, the offense and defense can use either the white or contrasting portion of the base.*

Three things the umpire must consider to rule on this play.....

1. Was this an errant throw? In the example given, the defensive player had to jump to catch the ball. This act would make the throw an errant throw.
2. Did the throw pull the defensive player into foul ground? The answer here is yes, after jumping to get the high throw, the defensive player came down on the contrasting color portion of first base which is completely in foul ground.
3. Did the defensive player have control of the ball in his possession and were they in contact with that base before the batter-runner reached first base?

If the answer to all three questions is yes, the batter-runner is out.

Greg