



SOUTH DAKOTA BASEBALL UMPIRE ASSOCIATION MEETING
January 30, 2022 11:30 AM
Arrowwood Cedar Short Report
Oacoma, SD

1. The meeting was called to order by President Matt Clark at 11:30. 24 members were present.
2. The 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed. The 2021 meeting announcements were reviewed.
 - A. Motion to approve: Rock Rockafellow. A. Motion to approve: Johnny Kirchner.
 - B. Second: Mike Carda. B. Second: Doug Ruesink.
 - C. Approved. C. Approved.
3. The 2020 financial report was presented by Treasurer Steve Leber. The 2021 financial report was presented by Treasurer Steve Leber.
 - A. Motion to approve: Rock Rockafellow. A. Motion to approve: Greg Warren.
 - B. Second: Mike Carda. B. Second: Joe Schlimgen.
 - C. Approved. C. Approved.
4. Announcements:
 - A. 310 Registered members for 2021. 59 new members in 2021.
 - B. 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees:
 - i. Kerry Wenbourne, Aberdeen Hall of Fame Committee: Fred Obermeier, Rock
 - ii. Honorary: Jay Bentz, Dell Rapids Rockafellow, Brock Sundall, John Witcraft.**Fred Obermeier was appointed to replace Gene Bierle. Brock Sundall was appointed to replace Duane Miller.
 - C. 2021 SDUA Dick Ruddell Scholarship Winner: Benjamin Laufman, Mitchell. Scholarship Committee: Bert Ready, Joe Schlimgen, Mike Carda.
 - D. 2021 State Champions:
 - i. Amateur: Dell Rapids Mudcats (B), Renner (A)
 - ii. American Legion: Tabor Post 183 (B), Renner Post 307 (A)
 - iii. Junior Legion: Redfield (B), Brookings (A)
 - iv. VFW 16U: Tabor (B), Dakota Valley (A)
 - v. High School: Dell Rapids (B), Harrisburg (A)
 - E. 2021 Sportsmanship Awards:
 - i. Amateur (Bob Deming): Dimock/Emery.
 - ii. American Legion (Porter T. Talcott): Vermillion Post 1 (B), Sioux Falls Post 15 East (A)
 - iii. Junior Legion: Belle Fourche Post 32 (B), Sioux Falls Post 15 East (A)
 - iv. VFW 16U (Lou Thury): Faulkton-Highmore (B), Beresford (A)
 - F. American Legion "Big Stick" Winners:
 - i. Kaleb Kubal, Tabor Post 183 (B Sr.)
 - ii. Ryan Hammerstrom, Sioux Falls Post 15 East and Zachary Ridl, Renner (A Sr.)
 - iii. Ethan Bartles, Winner Post 169 (B Jr.)
 - iv. Jack Smith, Sioux Falls Post 15 East (A Jr.)
 - G. Jake Samp (State Amateur) was awarded an Umpire shirt for his first State Tournament selection.
 - H. Jeff Gudahl passed away in December 2021. Jeff was an SDUA Hall of Fame Member and former SDUA treasurer.
 - I. Echo Rockafellow passed away in November 2021. While not a member of the SDUA, she was a fixture in the South Dakota baseball community and strong supporter of the SDUA.

- J. 2022 State Tournaments:
- i. Amateur – Mitchell: August 3-14, 2022
 - ii. “A” Sr. Legion – Rapid City: July 27-31, 2022
 - iii. “B” Sr. Legion – Gregory: July 29-August 2, 2022
 - iv. “A” Jr. Legion – Sioux Falls: July 28-31, 2022
 - v. “B” Jr. Legion – Clark: August 5-7, 2022
 - vi. “A” High School – Sioux Falls: May 28, 2022
 - vii. “B” High School – Sioux Falls: May 30-31, 2022
- K. The State Tournament Umpire Application is live and online. Deadline to apply is April 1, 2022. Please note, the High School Postseason application is a separate application.
- L. 2022 Legion Regional Tournaments:
- i. “A” Sr. Legion – Highest Seed Hosts: July 22 & 23, 2022. Rain date, July 24.
 - ii. “B” Sr. Legion – Sites TBD: July 19-24
- M. American Legion Central Plains Regional Tournament: Rapid City: August 3-7, 2022
- i. SDUA donated \$200 to the 2021 tournament.
 - ii. Motion by Doug Ruesink to donate \$200 to the 2022 Tournament.
 - iii. Second: Brandon Carda.
 - iv. Approved.
- N. 2023 State Tournaments:
- i. Amateur – Mitchell:
 - ii. “A” Sr. Legion – Yankton
 - iii. “B” Sr. Legion – Redfield
 - iv. “A” Jr. Legion – Harrisburg
 - v. “B” Jr. Legion – Lennox
 - vi. “A” High School – Sioux Falls
 - vii. “B” High School – Sioux Falls
- O. PayPal: 146 members used PayPal to pay dues in 2021.
- i. 2021 Usage Fee: 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction (Dues: \$30 x 2.9% = \$0.87 + \$0.30 = \$1.17).
 - ii. Checks and cash still OK.
- P. High School Rulebooks (NFHS):
- i. Ordered 145 books through the SDHSAA @ \$7.00 per book.
 - ii. Orders must be placed by March 2022 for the 2023 NFHS Rule Books.
 - iii. SDUA officers will place order for appropriate amount.
 - iv. SDUA sold 80 Rulebooks to the SDHSBA at cost.
- Q. New Member Exam:
- i. Online: 137 completed tests
 - ii. Hard Copy: 10 completed tests.
 - iii. Average Score was 22/30.
- R. SDUA T-Shirts are available for purchase. Contact Matt Clark for details or visit the SDUA website.
- S. SDUA Caps can be ordered online and via phone through Dauby’s Sports in Sioux Falls.
- T. Website – Keep visiting.
- U. The SDUA honored its 25-year umpires in 2021 with a commemorative plaque:
 Cam Corey, Watertown Mike Held, Huron Kelly Meiners, Winner
 Future 25-year umpires:
- 2022: Jim Drotzmann, Tracy Fuerst, Dave Beste
 - 2023: Tony Beste, Al Hansen, Brad Tucker, Mark Zalme
 - 2024: Ray Johnson, Roger Metzinger, Mark Struck
- Future 40-year umpires:
- 2022: Ace Boschee
 - 2023: Scott Deutsch, Brad Peters, John Witcraft
 - 2024: Greg Warren
5. Officer Reports.
- A. Secretary:
- i. Check your contact information on the website. Lots to keep track of, easy to make mistakes.
 - ii. Please provide feedback on the website or anything else that will make us a better association.
 - iii. We/SDUA are always trying to improve, but we must accommodate 300+ members of all levels of umpiring ability.
 - iv. Officers receive lots of comments/complaints about our members. The most common are:
 - 1. Our umpires are not wearing the proper uniform (No patch, wrong cap, shirt not tucked in. etc.)
 - 2. Situation handling. Umpire lost his cool or made a situation worse because they didn’t know how to apply a rule.
- B. Treasurer: No report.
- C. Vice President: No report.
- D. President: Echoed his frustration with umpires not wearing proper SDUA uniforms.

6. Report from SD Amateur Baseball (Joe Schlimgen):
 - A. State Tournament went well.
 - B. Ejected players must leave field before play resumes.
 - C. Solid color uniform shirts only. No camouflage.
7. Report from SD Legion Baseball:
 - A. Ejections.
 - i. All ejections result in a 1 game suspension in addition to the game in which they were ejected.
 - ii. All ejections are to be reported to the SDUA and SD Legion Athletic Commission. SDUA to post ejection report template on the website.
 - B. Jewelry is now allowed in Legion Baseball. If umpire judges certain jewelry to be a safety issue, the umpire may have it removed. Otherwise, jewelry is OK to match the National Legion rule.
 - C. National Anthem standoffs are strictly prohibited and should be heavily enforced by umpires.
8. Report from High School Baseball (Brock Sundall):
 - A. BBCOR and/or wood and wood composite bats are now allowed
 - B. Baseball MUST have the NOSCAE Stamp.
 - C. Catcher Chest Protectors MUST have the NOSCAE Stamp.
 - D. Catchers MUST wear Hockey-Style helmets
 - E. Hybrid Pitching position still allowed.
 - F. 3 batting lineup options. Straight 9, Traditional DH, and Player/DH.
 - G. Coaches not required to wear helmets in coach's box. Players as base coaches must wear double ear-flap helmets.
 - H. High School Postseason application will be posted on SDUA Website. Deadline is April 1.
 - I. Postseason
 - i. \$70 per game. Mileage will be \$1.00/mile one way.
 - ii. Class A- 3 man crew each game (4 locations) May 21
 - iii. Class B- 2 man crew each game (8 locations) May 23-25
 - iv. State Tournament-3 man crew each game
 1. Class A-May 28 @ SF Stadium
 2. Class B-May 30-31 @ SF Stadium
9. Old Business:
 - A. Members of the Arbitrary (Appointed by President Clark):
 - i. Rich Kotrba: Term Expires in 2022.
 - ii. Steve Bertrand: Term Expired in 2020. Doug Ruesink was appointed. Term expires in 2023.
 - iii. Joe Schlimgen: Term Expired in 2021. Joe was reappointed. Term expires in 2024.
 - B. District Umpires:

District	District Umpire	Term Expires
1	John Witcraft	2023
2	Brandon Carda	2024
3	Austin Richey	2022
4	Ace Boschee	2023
5	Mike Carda	2022
6	Joe Schlimgen	2023

District	District Umpire	Term Expires
7	Dan Lund	2024
7	Doug Ruesink	2022
8	JaColby Anderson	2022
9	Al Hansen	2024
9	Johnny Kirchner	2023
10	Connor Singhisen	2023

- Brandon Carda was appointed to District 2.
- Dan Lund was reappointed to District 7.
- JaColby Anderson was appointed to District 8.
- Al Hansen was reappointed to District 9.
- Johnny Kirchner was appointed to District 9.

- C. Liability Insurance:
 - i. Do we purchase for 2022?
 - ii. 2022 Premium is \$750. Same as 2021.
 - iii. Motion by Doug Ruesink to purchase insurance for 2022.
 - iv. Second: Austin Richey
 - v. Approved.

10. New Business:
 - A. Officer Election Cycle:
 - i. VP and Secretary were due in 2021.
 - ii. President and Treasurer are due in 2022.
 - iii. Motion by Joe English to elect VP and Secretary to 1 year term at today's meeting, and to elect President and Treasurer per SDUA By-laws.
 - iv. Second: Jason Vaith.
 - v. Approved.

- B. 2 Umpire and 3 Umpire Mechanics Review/Updates. Jesse Devine presented CCA Mechanics and his recommendation that the SDUA adopt these mechanics.
- i. Motion by Scott Kortan to adopt CCA mechanics.
 - ii. Second: Joe English
 - iii. Approved. SDUA to update the mechanics diagrams and review them at our District Clinics.
- C. SDUA Uniform Requirements. The SDUA Uniform survey results were presented. Results are included at the end of these minutes.
- i. Motion by Rock Rockafellow to continue Powder Blue as our Primary Shirt. Navy to be removed as a Second Primary Shirt.
 - ii. Second: Joe Schlimgen.
 - iii. Approved.
 - iv. Motion by Doug Ruesink to continue Navy Cap.
 - v. Second Mike Carda.
 - vi. Approved.
 - vii. Motion by Mike Carda to continue Navy Jacket.
 - viii. Second: Steve Leber.
 - ix. Approved.
 - x. Motion by Brock Sundall to review these requirements in 3 years (2025 Meeting)
 - xi. Second: Rock Rockafellow
 - xii. Approved.
- D. Certificate of Deposits (CD's):
- i. SDUA currently has one CD. It matures yearly on August 16.
 - ii. Discussion was had regarding ways to earn higher interest and/or money markets options.
 - iii. Motion by Rock Rockafellow to leave CD in place as is.
 - iv. Second: Brandon Carda
 - v. Approved.
- E. Annual Dues: Discussion to leave Dues at \$30 for 2022. No motions.
- F. PayPal Fees. PayPal has increased their usage fees for our Dues payment.
- i. 2022 Usage Fee: 3.49% + \$0.49 per transaction.
 - ii. $\$31.25 \times 3.49\% = \$1.09 + \$0.49 = \1.58 per transaction. SDUA nets \$29.67 ($\$31.25 - \$1.58 = \29.67)
 - iii. Motion by Mike Carda to increase PayPal Fee to \$32.
 - iv. Second: Joe English
 - v. Approved. $\$32 \times 3.49\% = \$1.12 + \$0.49 = \$1.61 = \$30.39$ to the SDUA per transaction.
- G. Mileage Rates for State Legion Sr. Tournament Umpires
- i. 2022 Federal Rate = \$0.585/mile, South Dakota State Rate = \$0.42/mile
 - ii. Motion by Greg Warren to set mileage rate at \$0.50 per mile each way (1 trip).
 - iii. Second: Joe Schlimgen
 - iv. Approved.
- H. Umpire Training and Development. Discussion regarding advanced clinics, with moving sites to maximize interest and attendance. Do we hire outside resources (NCAA, MLB umpires, etc.)? Do we schedule along with SDHSBA coach clinics?
- I. District Clinic Format. Request by members to keep a consistent format at all District Clinics. Uniform statewide message.
- J. Player and coach Ejections: SDHSBA and SD Legion Baseball require all player and coach ejections to be reported.
- i. Motion by Johnny Kirchner that ALL ejections (Amateur Baseball, VFW, Class A, etc.) be reported to the SDUA. SDUA to then direct ejection reports to appropriate League officials.
 - ii. Second: Joe English
 - iii. Approved. SDUA to post ejection report template on the website and discuss at District Clinic.
- K. Umpire Recruitment and Retention. The average age of officials continues to rise. Fewer young umpires. Veterans need to help younger members on and off the field.
- L. Open Floor:
- i. Rock Rockafellow expressed his gratitude for the thoughts and prayers for his late wife Echo.
 - ii. Members in attendance expressed their appreciation for the meal that was served (Fried Chicken, Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Potato Salad, Coleslaw) and thanked the chef. We will try to continue this menu option for future meetings. we will also continue to use the RSVP system for future meetings.

M. 2022 District Clinics/Meetings (Tentative Dates): See the website for official dates/times.

Date	District	Location	City	Time	Contact
March 9, 2022	3	American Legion	Winner	6:30	Austin Richey
March 10, 2022	10	DakotaDome	Vermillion	6:30	Connor Singhisen
March 13, 2022	5	Huron Community Campus	Huron	3:00	Mike Carda
March 16, 2022	4	Aberdeen Parks and Rec Building	Aberdeen	7:00	Ace Boschee
March 19, 2022	1	Rapid City Post 320 Hitting Shed	Rapid City	9:00	John Witcraft
March 23, 2022	7	Buffalo Wild Wings	Watertown	7:00	Dan Lund
March 23, 2022	9	Sanford Pentagon, Room 2508	Sioux Falls	7:00	Al Hansen
March 27, 2022	6	Blarney's Pub	Mitchell	12:30	Joe Schlimgen
March 27, 2022	8	Cubby's	Brookings	12:00	JaColby Anderson
March 27, 2022	2	Matthews Training Center, Joe Foss Building	Pierre	1:00	Brandon Carda

11. District Umpire Meeting. Set for April 24th at 12:00 in Mitchell.

12. Election of Officers:

A. Vice-President

- i. Rock Rockafellow nominated Greg Warren, second by Bruce Meyer.
- ii. Motion by Joe Schlimgen to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot, second by Rock Rockafellow.
- iii. Approved.
- iv. Greg Warren elected.

B. Secretary

- i. Mike Carda nominated Jesse Devine, second by Doug Ruesink.
- ii. Motion by Joe Schlimgen to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot, second by Brock Sundall.
- iii. Approved.
- iv. Jesse Devine elected.

C. Treasurer

- i. Doug Ruesink nominated Steve Leber, second by Ace Boschee.
- ii. Clyde Millslagle nominated Scott Kortan, second by John Witcraft.
- iii. Motion by Joe Schlimgen to cease nominations, second by Johnny Kirchner.
- iv. Approved.
- v. Scott Kortan elected. The SDUA thanks Steve Leber for his years of service as our Treasurer. Thanks Steve!

D. President

- i. Doug Ruesink nominated Matt Clark, second by Fred Obermeier.
- ii. Motion by Bruce Meyer to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot, second by Mike Carda.
- iii. Approved.
- iv. Matt Clark elected.

13. 2023 Winter Meeting will be Sunday, February 5th, 2023.

14. Motion to Adjourn by Ace Boschee, second by Austin Ritchey. Approved. Meeting Adjourned at 2:37PM.