

ORGANIZED FOR
MORE UNIFORM AND EFFICIENT
OFFICIATING



ORGANIZED FOR
THE BETTERMENT OF BASEBALL
IN SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA BASEBALL UMPIRE ASSOCIATION MEETING
February 2, 2025
St. Joseph's Indian School - Chamberlain, SD

1. The meeting was called to order by President Matt Clark at 11:30AM. 34 members were present.
2. The 2024 Winter Meeting Minutes were reviewed.
Motion to approve: Rock Rockafellow Second: Connor Singhisen Approved.
3. The 2024 Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Scott Kortan.
Motion to approve with corrected Date: Johnny Kirchner Second: Jason Vaith Approved.
4. Announcements:
 - A. 372 Registered members for 2024. 84 new members in 2024.
 - B. 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees: Hall of Fame Committee: Fred Obermeier, Rock Rockafellow, Brock Sundall, John Witcraft.
 - Gene Bierle, Sioux Falls
 - Honorary: Joe Van Goor, Yankton
 - C. 2024 SDUA Dick Ruddell Scholarship Winner: Scholarship Committee: Bert Ready, Joe Schlimgen, Rock Rockafellow.
 - Riley Rothschadl, Tabor.
 - 10 Applicants in 2024.
 - D. 2024 State Champions:
 - Amateur: Dell Rapids PBR (B), Renner Monarchs (A)
 - American Legion: Elk Point-Jefferson Post 134 (B), Renner Post 307 (A)
 - Junior Legion: Lennox Post 174 (B), Rapid City Post 22 Expos (A)
 - VFW 16U: Canistota/Freeman (B), Madison (A)
 - High School: Dell Rapids (B), Sioux Falls Lincoln (A)
 - E. 2024 Sportsmanship Awards:
 - Amateur (Richard "Rock" Rockafellow): Dimock-Emery (B), Aberdeen Circus (A)
 - American Legion (Porter T. Talcott): Dell Rapids Post 65 (B), Watertown Post 17 (A)
 - Junior Legion: Martin Post 240 (B), Pierre Post 8 (A)
 - VFW 16U (Lou Thury): Canistota/Freeman (B), Vermillion (A)
 - F. American Legion "Big Stick" Winners:
 - Keaton Gale, Elk Point Jefferson Post 134 (B Sr.)
 - Teigan Munce, Harrisburg Gold Post 45, (A Sr.)
 - Talen Eich, Lennox (B Jr.)
 - Jehiel Aviles, Aberdeen Post 24, (A Jr.)
 - G. 2025 State Tournaments:
 - Amateur – Brandon: August 6-17
 - "A" Sr. Legion – Watertown: July 29-August 2
 - "A" Sr. Legion Reserve – Rapid City Post 22: July 31-August 3
 - "B" Sr. Legion – Milbank: August 1-5
 - "B" Jr. Legion – Milbank: August 8-10
 - "A" High School – Sioux Falls: May 23-24
 - "B" High School – Brookings: May 26-27
 - H. The State Tournament Umpire Application is live. The SDHSBA Postseason application is also live. The deadline for both applications is April 1, 2025.

I. 2025 Legion Regional Tournaments:

- "A" Senior: July 23-24
- "A" Reserve: July 23-24
- "B" Senior: Begins on July 22
- "B" Junior: Begins on July 28

J. 2026 State Tournaments:

- Amateur – Mitchell
- "A" Sr. Legion – Rapid City Post 22
- "B" Sr. Legion – Madison
- "A" Reserve – Sioux Falls Post 15
- "B" Jr. Legion – Redfield
- "A" High School – TBD
- "B" High School – TBD

K. PayPal: 227 members used PayPal to pay dues in 2024.

- 2025 Usage Fee: 3.49% + \$0.49 per transaction.
- Checks and cash are still OK.

L. High School Rulebooks (NFHS):

- Ordered 350 books through the SDHSAA @ \$8.00 per book. Retail is \$12.00 per book.
- Orders must be placed by March 2025 for the 2026 NFHS Rule Books.
- SDUA sold 80 Rulebooks to the SDHSBA at cost.

M. New Member Exam: 187 completed exams. The average score was 23/30.

N. Ejections: 45 reported ejections in 2024. Amateur (8), Legion (21), High School (10), A (1), VFW (5)

O. SDUA T-Shirts are available for purchase. Contact Matt Clark for details or visit the SDUA website.

P. SDUA Caps can be purchased at Dauby's Sports in Sioux Falls, Harve's Sport Shop in Mitchell, and online at ump-attire.com.

Q. Website – Keep visiting. Please confirm your contact information is correct.

R. The SDUA honored its 25-year umpires in 2024 with a commemorative plaque:

- Roger Metzinger, Redfield
- Mark Struck, Sioux Falls
- Future 25-year umpires:
 - ◊ 2025: Jesse Devine, Tim May, Bert Ready
 - ◊ 2027: Steve Krier, Tom Beck
 - ◊ 2026: Ryan Fuller, Chris Mercado, Yogi Millslagle

S. The SDUA honored Greg Warren from Belle Fourche as a 40-year umpire with a commemorative plaque and lifetime pass to the SD State Amateur Tournament and SD State Sr. Legion Tournaments.

- Future 40-year umpires: ◊ 2025: Joe Schlimgen ◊ 2026: Bryce Holter ◊ 2029: Matt Clark

5. Officer Reports.

A. President Matt Clark:

- Ejections:
 - ◊ We need to continue to ensure ALL ejections are reported. There were a few instances in which coaches self reported, but the ejecting umpire did not.
 - ◊ The SD Legion has modified their ejection rules and mandatory suspensions.
- State Tournament Umpires:
 - ◊ Discussion was held regarding the application and selection process. The SDUA reviews all applicants and sends a list of recommended umpires to the Legion and Amateur commissioners. The Legion and Amateur commissioners ultimately select the umpires for their state tournaments. High School baseball has its own application process. Umpires are selected by the SDHSBA.
 - ◊ The SDUA will try to notify all applicants when the umpires have been selected.

B. Vice-President Greg Warren: Discussed the situation with Mitchell Baseball and their legion season.

C. Treasurer Scott Kortan: No report – Financial report was discussed earlier in the meeting.

D. Secretary Jesse Devine:

- Reminded attendees to check their contact information on the SDUA website.
- Asked attendees to provide feedback and ideas to improve the SDUA. The officers run the association for the members and want and need participation from the members.
- Announced he would not be seeking another term as Secretary. He is very proud of the association and thanked the SDUA for its support during his tenure. He will continue to be an active member of the SDUA and will help the new officers as best he can.

- 6. Report from SD Amateur Baseball.
 - A. The SDABA will have their annual meeting on February 15.
 - B. League specific rules will be updated and posted on the SDUA website when available.
- 7. Report from SD Legion Baseball.
 - A. Ejections: See officer reports regarding better ejection reporting.
 - B. Discussion regarding how to apply for the National Regional Tournaments.
 - C. Legion Shirt patches are still being enforced. Patches are available using the links on the SDUA website. The patch design will remain the same and will not change as was proposed in recent years with the American Legion rebranding.
- 8. Report from High School Baseball.
 - See SDHSBA Meeting Minutes attached to the end of these minutes.
- 9. Old Business:

- A. Members of the Arbitrary (Appointed by President Clark):

- Joe Schlimgen: Term Expired in 2024. Joe was reappointed. Term Expires in 2027.
- Rich Kotrba: Term Expires in 2025.
- Doug Ruesink: Term Expires in 2026.

- B. District Umpires:

District	District Umpire	Term Expires
1	John Witcraft	2026
2	Brandon Carda	2024 2027
3	Austin Richey	2025
4	Ace Boschee	2026
5	Mike Carda	2025
6	Lloyd Jones, Jr.	2026

District	District Umpire	Term Expires
7	Dan Lund	2024 2027
7	Doug Ruesink	2025
8	Scott Hoeke	2025
9	Jesse Devine	2027
9	Johnny Kirchner	2026
10	Connor Singhisen	2026

- Brandon Carda was reappointed to District 2.
- Dan Lund was reappointed to District 7.
- Jesse Devine was appointed to District 9.

- C. Liability Insurance:

- Do we purchase for 2025? 2025 Premium is \$776.
- Motion to purchase insurance for 2025: Rock Rockafellow Second: Allen Stekl Approved.

- 10. New Business:

- A. SDUA By-laws review and update

- Discussion about how to handle updating the by-laws.
- President Clark will appoint a committee to review the bylaws and present their findings to the association for approval at the 2026 meeting.

- B. New Member Exam

- It has needed an update for several years.
- President Clark appointed Connor Singhisen, John Witcraft, and Jesse Devine to revise the New Member Exam.

- C. Current Member Recertification

- Discussion about whether a recertification is needed and if so, how?
- Other organizations do require a written test. Some are yearly, others have longer intervals.
- No motions made.

- D. SDUA Uniform Requirements

- Discussion about SDUA shirt patch requirements
- Discussion about a new SDUA hat design to replace the shirt patch requirements.
- No motions made.

E. UMP-O-GRAM Execution

- Discussion about how to execute future Ump-O-Grams (how often, what they should include, etc.)
- President Clark appointed Greg Warren as Ump-O-Gram Chairman. Greg will coordinate with the District Umpires and Officers to gather and compile content for the Ump-O-Gram.

F. Membership Anniversary Recognition

- Discussion about how to reward our longtime members such as what the award should be (commemorative pin, flipping coin, lineup card holder, etc.), and the award interval (3 years, 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc.)
- President Clark was asked by the members if the SD Legion Athletic Commission and the SD Amateur Baseball Association would agree to change the lifetime pass from 40-year members to 25-year members.
- Motion to purchase and distribute commemorative pins to all current 5-year members: Ace Boschee
Second: Joe Schlimgen Approved.
- Motion to buy UmpLife lineup card holders for all 10-year members: Connor Singhisen
Second: Allen Stekl Approved.

G. District Clinic Execution

- Discussion about our District Clinic format. We will continue with a format similar to the last couple of years with a committee to visit each clinic.
- No motions made.

H. Winter Meeting Execution

- The new meeting venue (St. Joseph's Indian School) and food (Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Roll, Cookie, Rice Crispy Bars, Pop, and Water) were both well received. We will meet here again in 2026. St. Joseph's does have a larger room if needed.
- The SDUA officers donated \$350 to St. Joseph's Indian School for usage of the venue.
- No motions made.

I. Open Floor

- Rock Rockafellow: The HOF banquet went much better than in years past. The HOF committee will continue working with SD Amateur Baseball HOF to continue working with them for future banquets. If anyone has someone that they feel would be a good candidate for the SDUA HOF, please reach out to the HOF committee.
- Allen Stekl: Addressed the current required probationary period for new members before they are eligible to be recommended for the State Senior Legion and State Amateur tournaments. The current probation is 3 years. Currently any member who forfeits their membership are subject to probation if they rejoin. The District Umpires will review this requirement at their next meeting.

11. District Umpire Meeting. The Spring Meeting will be Sunday, April 6 in Mitchell.

12. Election of Officers:

A. Vice-President

- Rock Rockafellow nominated Greg Warren, second by Yogi Millslagle
- With no further nominations, motion by Rick Coyle to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot, second by Mike Carda.
- Approved
- Greg Warren elected.

B. Secretary

- Greg Warren nominated Scott Kortan, second by Jason Vaith
- With no further nominations, motion by Connor Singhisen to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot, second by Dan Lund.
- Approved
- Scott Kortan elected.

C. Treasurer – to fill the newly vacant position previously held by Scott Kortan.

- Connor Singhisen nominated Jason Vaith, second by Doug Ruesink.
- Greg Warren nominated Mike Carda, second by Wade Stobbs
- With no further nominations, motion by Brock Sundall to cease nominations, second by Joe Schlimgen.
- Approved
- Mike Carda elected with 18 votes. This will be a 1-year term.

13. The 2026 Winter Meeting is set for February 1, 2026.

14. Motion to Adjourn by Rock Rockafellow, second by Dan Lund. Approved. Meeting Adjourned at 2:32 PM.

The SDUA Officers thank the attending members for their attention, participation, and dedication to the SDUA.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jesse Devine

Outgoing Secretary – SDUA

SDHSBA Points of Emphasis 2025
SDUA Annual Meeting

New for 2025-in NFHS Rule Book

Pine Tar/Sticky Substance (Rule 1-3-2c1)

Forfeitures (Rule 4-4-1c)

New for 2024

15-Run Rule (now in SDHSBA Manual)

Player/Coach Communication devices approved by NFHS (one-way from dugout to catcher)

Player Wristbands-only worn on player's wrist or forearm, not on their belt

Reminders:

Bats

BBCOR and/or wood and wood composite bats are now allowed

Baseballs

Need to have the NOSCAE stamp

Catcher's Helmet

NFHS requires catchers to wear a hockey-style mask—NO exceptions

Catchers chest protector also needs to be NOSCAE stamped

Pitch Counts-Potential Violations

A potential violation of the 105 maximum pitch count must be brought to the attention of umpires and opposing coaches before the actual violation takes place. At this time, coaches and scorekeepers will come to an agreement on pitch counts before the game resumes.

Coaches, it is your responsibility for making certain that your pitchers are complying with the pitching limitation rule. After each half inning those responsible for tracking pitches will confirm the number of pitches for that half inning. Any discrepancies need to be worked out at that time. If a dispute cannot be resolved, the number calculated by the home team will stand as the official number. Once the next inning has begun, the numbers from the previous half inning are final. Umpires will not be involved in tracking or confirming the number of pitches.

Reminder of the Line Up/DH options

Traditional DH-can DH for any position player and the position player and the DH are locked into that spot in the batting order and can never be in the game defensively at the same time.

Player/DH

Straight Nine-No DH

Coaching Helmets

Coaches are not required to wear a helmet; however, if a player is coaching a base, they must wear a double-flapped helmet

Jewelry

Jewelry is now allowed; however, a provision does remain that any jewelry an umpire believes poses harm or injury to the wearer or their opponent shall be immediately removed. 1-5-12, 3-3-1d

Umpire Requirement for regular season and post season

SDHSBA requires two registered umpires with the SDUA during regular season. Umpires for the post season shall be certified. So if looking for a partner, or assigning, take this into consideration.

Post Season Application Link will be on the SDUA website. Deadline to apply is April 1st, so that our Selection Committee can finalize selections and notify umpires with as much advanced notice as possible. Once you submit the application, you will receive an email confirmation.

We are planning to pay \$80/game (was \$70 in 2023) and \$1.00/mile one way and/or riding mileage of \$0.50/mile one way for umpires that ride together)

Super Regionals

Class A- 2 man crew each game (8 locations) May 16-17

Three options of when to play

Class B- 2 man crew each game (8 locations) May 18-22

State Tournament-3 man crew each game

Class A-May 23-24 @ SF Stadium (Same set up as Class B)

Class B-May 26-27 @ Brookings

Teams- Total of 66 Varsity Teams (59 Teams in 2024)

Class A-20 Varsity teams (in 2024 Class A-17 teams)

New teams: Aberdeen, Spearfish, and Watertown

Teams Lost: None

Class B-46 Varsity teams

New Teams

Irene/Wakonda/Gayville-Volin (Region 1)

Sisseton/Britton/Webster (Region 2)

Custer (Region 4)

Clark Area (back in) (Region 2)

Faulkton/Highmore-Harold/Miller/Wolsey-Wessington/Wessington Springs (back in, registered in 2024 but ended up folding before the season started) (Region 2)

Teams Lost: None

Player/Coach Ejection Form-Same as last year

The link is on the SDUA website. Please fill it out ASAP so that notifications can be made to the appropriate people. Last year we had 9 player and 1 coach ejections (10 player and 4 coach ejections in 2024).

3-arguing ball and strikes and/or language

4-arguing another call

1-throwing gear

1-malicious contact

1-unsportsmanlike conduct

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REPORT ALL EJECTIONS BY FILLING OUT THE EJECTION REPORT ON THE SDUA WEBSITE!!