

South Dakota Baseball UMPIRES ASSOCIATION  
Affiliated with the S.D. Amateur Baseball Association  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.  
(Name)

- Section 1. The name of this association shall be the South Dakota Baseball Umpires Association.
- Section 2. This association shall be affiliated with the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association, American Legion Baseball, VFW Baseball, Class A Baseball, and South Dakota High School Baseball.

ARTICLE II.  
(Purpose)

- Section 1. To formulate, foster, and develop an organization of recognized baseball umpires in the State of South Dakota.
- a. To uphold and promote the standards of good officiating.
  - b. To encourage and promote and improve the growth of baseball in South Dakota.
  - c. To examine, qualify and maintain candidates for membership in the South Dakota Baseball Umpires Association.

ARTICLE III.  
(Charter Members)

The charter members of this association shall be:

Darrell Anderson, Yankton, South Dakota	Marvin Humpal, Bonesteel, South Dakota	Emil Schnitzgrunt, Redfield, South Dakota
Glen Baker, Jr., Scotland, South Dakota	James Klassen, Redfield, South Dakota	Chester Sorenson, Wakonda, South Dakota
Jack Beard, Rapid City, South Dakota	Steve Kostel, Yankton, South Dakota	Joe Stahl, Huron, South Dakota
Derold W. Bogenrief, Watertown, South Dakota	Ben J. McKeague, Rapid City, South Dakota	Howard Taplett, Tyndall, South Dakota
Gordon Brusie, Watertown, South Dakota	Lawrence Mohr, Hosmer, South Dakota	Francis Tennyson, Rapid City, South Dakota
Ernest J. Carlson, Menno, South Dakota	Ronnie Peterson, Renner, South Dakota	Etan Tomscha, Madison, South Dakota
Bob Forsythe, Northville, South Dakota	Harry Pressler, Selby, South Dakota	C.L. Trainor, Madison, South Dakota
Eddie F. Fredette, Mobridge, South Dakota	Dick Rudell, Spearfish, South Dakota	Arthur Tullis, Madison, South Dakota
Melvin Geist, Hillsview, South Dakota	Richard Schnaible, Selby, South Dakota	Roy N. Wahl, Columbia, South Dakota
Pat Hartnett, Scotland, South Dakota	Harold V. Settje, Scotland, South Dakota	Joe W. Walter, Freeman, South Dakota
Lee Hopkins, Ipswich, South Dakota	Marvin Settje, Corona, South Dakota	Dale Weick, Plankinton, South Dakota

George White,  
Freeman, South Dakota

Joe Wolf,  
Rapid City, South Dakota

Frank Wurnig,  
Winner, South Dakota

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ARTICLE IV.  
(Membership)

Section 1. Membership in this association shall consist of charter members named in Article III and additional members who qualify for membership. Method of qualification hereinafter prescribed.

Section 2. To be a member in good standing in the association, members must:

- a. Pay dues. Dues must be received by April 1<sup>st</sup> to maintain consecutive years of membership and be eligible for post-season games. Dues received from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> will reset years of membership to one (1).
- b. Attend a minimum of one (1) district clinic
- c. Wear the approved SDUA uniform
- d. Treat all members with respect
- e. Adhere to all the provisions covered in these by-laws

Section 3. Membership in the association is open to residents of South Dakota and to residents of bordering states who wish to umpire in South Dakota. Members are encouraged to attend the annual winter business meeting

Section 4. Membership in this association shall be obtained by the following procedures:

When an annual fee has been received by the secretary of the association, the following procedure shall be followed:

- a. The District Umpire and/or any officer of the South Dakota Baseball Umpires Association shall administer a written test on the rules of baseball, the duties of an umpire and the responsibilities of an umpire. If an umpire misses a year's dues the umpire must retake the umpire's exam. The written test shall be a standardized test prepared by the officers of this association.
- b. Uniform:
  1. The umpire will have a one-year grace period from the time of his acceptance to purchase the following proper attire as prescribed by this association:
    - (i) Shirt with patch.
    - (ii) Pants
    - (iii) Plate and Base Cap. Cap may be plain Black/Blue or have the SD emblem.
    - (iv) Black, navy blue, or blue socks.
    - (v) Black base shoes.
  2. If after the expiration of the grace period, the umpire has not purchased and/or not wearing the proper attire as in Section 4 b.1., they shall not be considered an active member of this association or a member in good standing. Failure to wear the prescribed uniform will result in the members' immediate suspension from being eligible for post-season games.
  3. Once the suspended member, for the reasons of Section 4 b.1, complies with the approval of their District Umpire and/or any officer of this association, umpires shall be reinstated with full membership.
- c. When an umpire has met requirements for membership. They shall be qualified as a member of the association by paying annual dues. If accepted the umpire shall remain fully qualified as a member of the association by paying their annual dues by April 1<sup>st</sup>, late fees will be added to members that pay after the deadline. When dues are paid, the member is entitled to all rights, privileges, responsibilities and any other prerogative of the association.

- d. An umpire will forfeit their membership in this association by non-payment of dues. In case of unforeseen unusual or mitigating circumstances, they may appeal to the officers of this association for reinstatement.

Section 5. There shall be two categories of umpires.

- a. Registered umpires are umpires who meet the requirements set out in Section 2 above.
- b. Certified umpires are Registered Umpires who have attended the annual District Umpire clinic for the current year. If a member in good standing moves and discontinues membership in the SDUA, then moves back to the area, they may be eligible for post season games if they have maintained a similar certification in another state and complete all the requirements of first-time members of the organization for the year before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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ARTICLE V.  
(Dues)

Section 1. Annual membership dues shall be the sum set by this association payable annually from January 1 to April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dues must be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for post-season games. Dues will be accepted from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> for the current season dues. No dues will be accepted from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

ARTICLE VI.  
(Meeting)

Section 1. The annual meeting of this association shall be held during the winter months, namely, January, February, or March, of each year at a time and place to be designated by the president.

- a. The officers of this association shall hold at least one meeting each year.
- b. The president of this association shall have authority to call a meeting of the officers of this association whenever he/she deems necessary.

ARTICLE VII.  
(Government)

Section 1. The government of this association shall be in the duly authorized hands of its elected officers, and all members in good standing.

Section 2. The officers of this association shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer who shall be members in good standing of the association. The president and treasurer will be elected to a two-year term starting at the 2008 winter meeting and must be voted on by all members present. Election will be held on even numbered years.

The vice president and secretary will be elected on odd number years starting in 2009 and must be voted on by all present members during winter meeting for a two year term.

If an officer cannot complete his/her term, the President will appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy until the next scheduled general meeting, at which time a special election will be held to fill the vacancy to complete the term. If this special election vacates a second office, then a special election will be held during the same meeting to fill the second vacancy to complete the term. All offices will be filled before the general meeting can be adjourned."

Section 3. Any of the duly elected officers may also represent their respective districts as the District Umpire.

Section 4. No officer or District Umpire of this association shall receive any compensation for his services except:

- a. The membership may authorize whatever expenses it may deem advisable in carrying out the business of this association.
- b. The membership may authorize the officers of this association to approve necessary expenses for the association between annual meetings.
- c. The Secretary will receive an annual fee set by the association.

Section 5. The business of this association shall be conducted by a majority vote of those duly qualified members present at a regular meeting unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE VIII.  
(Duties of Officers)

- Section 1. The president of this association shall act as chairman of all association annual meetings and duly authorized meetings of the District Umpires. The president shall set the time and date of the annual meeting within the limits prescribed elsewhere in the Constitution. The president shall appoint such committees, both standing and temporary, as he/she deems necessary to properly conduct the affairs of this association.
- Section 2. The vice president shall attend all association meetings and meetings of the District Umpires and shall assume all duties of the president whenever the president is absent or unable to carry out presidential duties.
- Section 3. The secretary shall attend all meetings of the association and meetings of the District Umpires. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings in good order and form. The secretary shall maintain a list of members of the association and their number of years of membership. The secretary shall maintain and update the association's website.
- Section 4. The treasurer shall attend all meetings of the association and meetings of the District Umpires. The treasurer shall keep the financial records of the association and prepare an annual financial report for the annual meeting of the association.

ARTICLE IX.  
(Duties of the District Umpires)

- Section 1. The District Umpires shall be appointed by the SDUA President. The District Umpires shall be appointed to alternating three-year terms. The District Umpires shall have the only authority to act for the association in their respective district on all affairs pertaining to decisions arising in their district as it relates to all levels of baseball the SDUA has agreements with. The District Umpire's geographical jurisdiction shall be determined by the District Umpires and Officers of this association. The District Umpire shall be expected to act prudently and wisely in conducting the affairs of the association. The District Umpire shall have the power to make all necessary decisions in the best interest of the association so long as they are not in conflict with this Constitution and By-laws or previous decisions made by the membership at large. The District Umpire shall make certain the proper steps are taken to ensure the expeditious resolution of all problems. Three men appointed by the president to serve alternating three-year terms shall make up the arbitration board. The arbitration board is the last resort for solving a dispute.

ARTICLE X.  
(Duties of Members)

Each member has rights, duties and responsibilities; having voluntarily joined this association is obligated to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit upon themselves and the association.

- Section 1. Registered Members may attend the annual meeting of the association and are required to pay their dues in accordance with these by-laws. Certified Members are required to be Registered Members and attend an annual District Umpire's clinic each year.
- Section 2. Members shall pay annual dues from January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> to maintain consecutive years of membership and to be eligible for post-season games. Dues will be accepted from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> for the current season dues. No dues will be accepted from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ~~Section 3.~~ Members shall dress like an umpire as prescribed in Section 4b.1. Umpires shall wear their South Dakota Amateur Baseball patch on the left shoulder. If an American Legion patch is worn, it must be below the SDUA patch. The SDUA patch is required for all post-season games. The American Legion patch is required for all Legion post-season games. SDUA patches are free to paid members and can be obtained from the secretary or district umpires. American Legion patches are not provided.
- Section 4. Members shall receive one rule book free and shall review the rules of baseball periodically in order to know the rules more thoroughly.
- Section 5. Members shall not criticize their fellow umpire in public. What needs to be said should be said in private or in closed umpires' sessions.
- Section 6. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner which always reflects a positive image on the South Dakota Baseball Umpires Association and baseball in general.

ARTICLE XI.  
(Meeting Procedures)

- Section 1. The meetings of this association shall be conducted in accordance with procedures as outlined in Roberts Rule of Order.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 1960

SIGNED: Harry Pressler  
Secretary-Treasurer, S.D.B.U.A.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 1991

SIGNED RICHARD ROCKFELLOW  
Secretary- S.D.B.U.A

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2008

SIGNED Bryce Holter  
Secretary-S.D.B.U.A.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2011

SIGNED Brad Schramm  
Secretary – S.D.B.U.A.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2019

SIGNED Jesse Devine  
Secretary – S.D.B.U.A.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2020

SIGNED Jesse Devine  
Secretary – S.D.B.U.A.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023

SIGNED Jesse Devine  
Secretary – S.D.B.U.A.

THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED  
ON THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

SIGNED Scott Kortan  
Secretary – S.D.B.U.A.