

BAFHA UMPIRES REPORT 2006 AGM For the 2005 Season

Once again it is time for me to review the past season. Although progress has been made each year, I remain dissatisfied with where we are. Each season we have teams that do not provide umpires, we have umpires who do not know the rules, and we have umpires who are unable to maintain a safe environment on the field.

I suppose that would be the bad news. The good news is that each year we have more and more well qualified umpires in the league, and each year we have players and teams putting out extra efforts to improve the umpiring of the league.

Progress we have made this past season:

- We created a head umpiring position.
- We changed the umpiring fees to encourage stronger umpiring.
- We allowed teams who were unable to fulfill their umpiring obligation to opt out and pay an opt-out fee.

The continuing problems, as I see them are the following:

1. Individual umpires who are not of sufficient level to correctly umpire and control the game
2. A shortage of well qualified umpires
3. Some teams fail to fulfill their umpiring obligations
4. Teams that are not well disciplined on the field, and by the very nature of their behavior create unsafe playing conditions

This year we will try to address the above problems through the following:

We will fill the Head Umpire position with a very active person who has time to focus on his/her role:

- The head umpire will provide the league with guidance on umpiring issues (new rules, rule interpretations, etc.)
- The head umpire will certify that people are of suitable ability to umpire matches
- The head umpire will provide training and mentoring for umpires

In addition to the above items, the Umpiring Committee will play a more active role in identifying those teams not fulfilling their league obligations.