

Midcoast Umpires Association
Draft Minutes Fall 2015 Business Meeting

Medomak Middle School
Waldoboro, ME

Sunday Sept. 27, 2015
10 am

- Call to Order and Roll Call: 10:00am. 20 members present.
- Nomination and Election of the 2016 MUA Executive Committee Officers: All terms 2 years with exception of 2 Ethics Comm. vacancies, 1 year. Nominations may be made from floor.

Slate of Officers: Secretary: Chris Ferguson, unopposed.
Treasurer: Dave Bailey, unopposed.
Assignor: Dennis Wooster, unopposed.
Baseball Interpreter: Dennis Wooster, unopposed.
At Large Member: Fred Merrifield, unopposed.
Ethics Comm.: Alex Arau, Bill Kulbe, both stand, unopposed.

Motion by Greg Dugal, second by Mike Stailing, to cast one ballot for slate of unopposed officers. All in favor, none opposed. Officers unopposed elected.

SB Interpreter: Mike Stailing, Ed Hastings nominated. Mr. Hastings not present, sent text message, asked if accepts nomination. No answer, election tabled to end of meeting.

- Presidents Report: Paul Berube: No school complaints. Game time changes were an issue. Middle School ejections, bat tossing, foul language. Per Busline request, would prefer we restrict players to dugout prior to ejection if possible. HS will be requesting SOP of warning, restriction, ejection for 2016, unless direct ejection warranted.

Dennis Crowe compiling MPA database for all officials in Maine for all sports.

Finger print, background checks coming ~\$75, good for 4 years, will be in next SMUA contract.

Push for black to be primary color for BB. Primary uniform is still dark blue.

Looking for input for future SMUA business meeting's agenda.

Decision to update MUA By-Laws to reflect what we are doing now, with online changes, Arbiter updates, online Ratings, online testing, Play Dates, etc.

- Secretary's Report: Chris Ferguson: Accept Spring 2015 Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion by M. Stailing, 2nd by Scott Gove. No discussion, all in favor. Minutes Approved.
We had 32 Active Umpires, the same as 2014. We had 9 dual umps, down 1 from 2014.
We had 26 BB umps, up 2 from 2014. We had 17 SB umps, down 1 from 2014.
1 Ump retired, 1 became a coach, and 2 were on medical leave. We had 3 new umpires, and 1 moved back to the area and rejoined the Board.

Ratings for both BB and SB were online this year, via Arbiter. Secretary no longer the Ratings Officer. Assignor has Administrative access to evals on Arbiter, and is now the Ratings Officer. Anyone wishing to know who umpired playoff games will no longer ask the Secretary, but ask the Assignor. (*Change to By-Laws, if approved*)

Proposed By-Law Changes were emailed to the entire membership at least 10 days in advance of today's Fall Business Meeting, in keeping with our By-Laws, so changes may be discussed and voted on. Changes require a 2/3 affirmative majority to take effect.

Top 25% and complete BB, SB Rosters were sent to respective members on time at the beginning of the season.

MUA did achieve 501-c-3 status thanks to the help of Greg Dugal, Dave Bailey, Chris Barstow. We have hired attorney David King to file the annual paperwork, no charge, except to pay the state fee. Executive Committee Members have signed the documents.

- Treasurers Report: D. Bailey (Absent, Fishing)
(Full Treasurers Report attached via email) Starting Savings Balance: \$800. Closing Savings Balance: \$800. Starting Checking: \$1744.15. Closing Checking: \$1131.97
(Net decrease -\$612.18) Starting Total: \$2544.15. Closing Total: \$1931.97.

- Assignors Report: Dennis Wooster: 416 games, 1 no show, 2 late arrival games. Playoff 7 BB ump, 6 SB ump BB Regional Finals: Dennis W., Paul B. State Championship Game, Paul B; Ed Hastings did SB Regional Final.

Learned how to utilize Arbiter more fully. Not able to send attachments with group emails from Arbiter. 370 evals done online. Everyone completed evals. SB Interpreter et al made decision not to include Middle School SB games. Probationary ump, don't complete evals by SOP.

2016 will be able to view peer eval comments, anonymously. Will be able to view block-out dates next year. Custom fields utilized this year. ***Will delete custom fields within next week, so if you want to view peer eval scores, print soon.*** Will start setting up for 2016 soon, and have to wipe clean to begin 2016 info, scores, etc. Gets 2016 season schedule in mid November.

"Ejection Report" available on Arbiter now. On right, under "Game Reports", write in <NOTES> goes to Arbiter, notify Dennis so he can look at report.

Added Babe Ruth Assigning on Arbiter as test for 2015, will utilize in 2016 for Babe Ruth, cost free. Only cost is if we add Babe Ruth ump who are not already on MUA board. Will use Don Shields to fill vacancies if needed. Can also use for LL All Stars if desired. "Swan Lake" is Belfast Team, but can't use Belfast HS or HS is billed for game, so labeled <BHS "BR"> for Babe Ruth. They use alternate BB field.

We pay \$8/ump to get assignments x 40 = \$320. No cost to add AD's, Contacts, only costs to add ump. Have 32 active, gives buffer to add new ump in Spring. Will economize as needed. Middle School SB games will be rated in 2016. Discussion: majority want MS SB games to be rated/peer evals used. MUA no longer has enough HS games to omit MS. Newer ump need more evals to improve. Some suggest if evaluate MS then include HS playoffs evals as well.

- BB Interpreter: Dennis Wooster: SMUA met last week in Bangor. Neoprene sleeves back in rule, can wear if dark, and solid color. 2017 may see pitch count rule in HS. Rule Book is Varsity rule book, and JV rules may change. ***Request made to review glove rules in Spring.***

- SB Interpreter: Mike Stailing. no major complaints. One jewelry issue. One issue with MUA ratings points, Exec. Comm. dealt with, clear in SB Ratings that absences excused, but no points given. MUA board in top 3 % of exam scores in state.

- SMUA Report: Dennis W., Paul B. Next spring, our SMUA rep asked to talk with SMUA to ask if we can assign 3 umpers for big games in regular season, get 85% of fee. Currently not in contract. Would like flexibility.

Schools can black ball up to 2 umpers. Last year 25 umpers were black balled by schools.

- ASA Report: Mark Potter: Rule 3.36 DP/Flex may be revised in 2016. Emphasis on strike zone, and pitching pause. New ASA hats for SB only umpers. Ed Hastings represented us at Regional Final game. Not treated well since not from Western ME Board. Mark will inquire.

- Old Business:

Action regarding Adoption of Proposed By-Law Changes: C. Barstow:

Rationales for changes outlined in email sent, brings By-Laws up to date with actual practice. Bring policy separate from By-Laws for easier changes without 2/3 vote. May move Fall Bus Mtg to first Sun. in Oct. to avoid fishing and soccer Mtgs. No change to ARC membership. Want to make Spring Bus Mtg mandatory, not attend 1 of 2. Have option to miss Fall. Points for ratings was an issue this year. May get excused, and still ump, but won't get ratings points. Need letter in advance to Exec. Comm. if will miss Spring Mtg. Not fair to give points to those who are absent, when those who attend get no benefit. Prep, review, refresh for season is vital. Need to pay dues, sign background check consent, attend Spring Bus Mtg.(or get written waiver), attend MPA clinic, take exams to ump.

Spring Bus Mtg first Sunday in March 6, 2016. (6pm, Hampton Inn, Rt. 1, Thomaston)

Verbal or written summary of Ratings questionnaire requested: Increased membership input sought in updates to policies. Ratings would become a Policy, not part of By-Laws. Members felt current peer eval ratings piece not useful, lukewarm that they were used to assign games, peer evals not used as constructive tool to help umpers improve. Shall we hire independent evaluators who are not working with partners? i.e. Assessors similar to soccer? Retired umpers who know rules and mechanics? BB and SB felt 2 ratings systems should not be same, but separate and autonomous. (C. Barstow will compile results and send to membership.) Survey Monkey is free but there is fee to export survey results in report form. Discussed option to pay for survey summary report. (FYI: Policies were sent out to entire membership for review well in advance, with input sought before meeting. No one responded.) Survey was for Ratings Review Committee to use as guide. By-Laws voted on by entire membership, suggestions made by Exec. Comm., amendments can be made from floor during discussion. Need 2/3 affirmative vote to pass changes. Ratings are work in progress, and evolve based on input from members. Ratings will be used for 2016 season. 2015 will not use MS SB games evals.

Motion by C. Barstow, 2nd by Greg D. to adopt Amendments to By-Laws.

(Suggestion we print Ratings Policy, Assigning Policy, and By-Laws and have hard copies for everyone <35 copies> at 2016 Spring Bus Mtg.)

18 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain. Motion passes, with 2/3 majority. By-Laws approved.

Ratings Changes: BB emphasis on Spring Mtg. added weight for clinics, training, rules changes more than Assoc. mtgs.

BB and SB ratings both have policy on availability points, point deductions. BB used SB model to deduct points for turnbacks/declined games.

If ump not get ratings, will they get peer eval points or not? Request that if won't get points, put in policy. MS SB games will be evaluated for 2016.

Want to review how to make peer evals, for consistency among ump*s**, i.e. start with a 4 or 5 and work up or down. Must make written comments for 1, 2, 5. ***Will Review in Spring clinics.

Assessments are separate from ratings, peer evals. Game fee paid to Assessor.

Trying to take a subjective concept and make it objective system.

BB, SB Play Dates will be reviewed for 2016. Either increase fee, reduce games, assignments challenging. Pay the ump's a game fee and do away with ratings points?

Assigning policy removed from By-Laws, turned into Policy.

No job description for Ratings Officer. Changed who appointed by.

- New Business:

Letter from Walt White: "likely resignation" due to appeals process for ratings points and excusal for missed 2015 Spring Bus. Mtg.

Tabled Elections: No reply from Ed Hastings. Nominate Mike S., motion by Chris B, 2nd by Scott Gove. Discussion : request that only SB ump's vote for SB Interpreter. (By-Laws do not distinguish, may want/need to amend By-laws to separate BB and SB votes). Currently only 1 candidate up for election. Request that BB only ump's abstain, and in future SB- only ump's abstain if BB vote. Request that vote be made by paper ballot.

7 in favor, 6 opposed, 6 abstain. Mike elected 2016 SB Interpreter.

- Motion to Adjourn at 1117. All in favor.

Mandatory Spring Business Meeting first Sunday in March 6, 2016, time and venue TBA. (6pm, Hampton Inn & Suites, 190 New County Rd (Rt. 1) Thomaston, ME, 04861)

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Ferguson, MUA Secretary