

Howard County Officials

2014 Initial Membership
Meeting



Howard County Officials, Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT STATUS

1. The purpose of joining **Howard County Officials, Inc.** (HCO) is to officiate softball and kickball games.
2. **HCO's** purpose is to provide umpires for softball and kickball games (leagues and tournaments) for properly sanctioned teams to participate in the games.
3. The undersigned **understands and acknowledges** that **HCO** is not his/her employer and therefore is not responsible for withholding federal and/or state income taxes or Social Security, etc. The undersigned **is not entitled** to receive Worker's Compensation coverage, or unemployment insurance and that his/her relationship with the **HCO** is that of an **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**.
4. **ACCIDENT & LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICIES** are the sole responsibility of the undersigned. Officials that submit their Umpire Registration fee **ARE** provided with the **ASA** Accident and Liability Insurance Policies.
5. In consideration for receiving and accepting the opportunities presented by the **HCO**, the undersigned **agrees to be bound by the policies of HCO**, including, but not limited to, Official's conduct on and off the field, job performance, training, and all disciplinary procedures levied by **HCO**.
6. All Members of **HCO** agree to furnish the requisite information. Your Social Security Number is required to file a **Form 1099** in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service regulations.

I Hereby Acknowledge reading and Ratify the "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT STATUS".

Also, I certify that the number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number.

Print Full Name

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Signature

Date

HCO Representative

Date



Maryland-DC Amateur Softball Association, Inc.

Jack Mowatt
Commissioner
2410 Springlake Court W.
Gambrills, MD 21054
Cell: 240 375-3184
Email: commissioner@mddcasa.org
www.mddcasa.org

January, 2012

RE: Background Checks, ASA's Minimum Criteria for Known Offenses

Background check results will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. An ASA committee evaluated certain background check issues and advised the ASA's Board of Directors of the committee's conclusions. Recently, the ASA's Board of Directors adopted a policy that states, at a minimum, any person who is known to have been convicted of any of the offenses described below warrants exclusion from any ASA youth program activities. This includes any participation as a coach, manager, official, umpire or participation in other capacity with respect to JO league or other youth program activities.

Different States adopt different laws and categorize different offenses. The list of offenses is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Maryland DC ASA may exclude any person from ASA youth program activities for any other offense that is deemed appropriately related to these issues.

All people observing any criminal conduct should immediately report the conduct to the police.

A conviction of any of the listed offenses on the back mandates exclusion from participation in any ASA Junior Olympic activity and / or program.

Mandatory Rejection includes the following:

1. Registered Sex Offender
2. Murder
3. Manslaughter
4. Robbery
5. Kidnapping
6. Aggravated Assault
7. Burglary
8. Arson
9. Reckless Homicide
10. Aggravated Domestic Violence
11. DUI - three or more in less than seven years
12. Contributing to Delinquency of Minor
13. Child Seduction
14. Criminal Deviated Seduction
15. Sexual Misconduct of Minor
16. Child Molesting
17. Child Solicitation
18. Rape
19. Felony and Class A / B Drug Offences
20. Sexual Assault
21. Embezzlement
22. Felony Theft
23. Injury to a Child
24. Child Pornography

In Maryland DC, background checks are now mandatory for all coaches, managers, umpires and all others that could possibly have direct contact with Junior Olympic players.

AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION - NOTICE OF BACKGROUND CHECK AND CONSENT

IMPORTANT –PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

The Amateur Softball Association of America and/or its local associations (collectively, "ASA") are volunteer driven not-for-profit organizations. One of ASA's objectives is to promote proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establish principles for ethical behavior in the sport of softball. You are already working with ASA or you have expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer with ASA. Consistent with promoting wholesome and safe competition, ASA may perform criminal background and/or motor vehicle record (or "driving record") checks on you pursuant to your written consent and instructions below. Accordingly, ASA may obtain reports on your criminal background and/or driving history from a "consumer reporting agency." The report may include information gathered from county, federal, statewide or other record searches, as guided by personal identifier information obtained through a Social Security Number trace, name address or other information. You may refuse to provide your consent to a background check, however, your refusal may affect your ability to participate in ASA programs. NOTE: Conducting a Social Security Trace does NOT access the subject's credit history nor affects the subject's credit score or credit rating. ASA has contracted with LexisNexis, a consumer reporting agency, to provide the consumer reports. LexisNexis may be contacted by mail at LexisNexis, P.O. Box 105108, Atlanta, GA, 30348, by telephone at 800-845-6004 or through the internet at <http://www.lexisnexis.com/> and/or <http://personalreports.lexisnexis.com/>

The consumer reports may contain information bearing on your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living. Please note that ASA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry. The types of information that may be obtained include but are not limited to social security number verification, sex offender registry checks, criminal records checks, inmate records searches, motor vehicle records, and court records checks. The information contained in these consumer reports may be obtained by LexisNexis from public record sources. The consumer reports will not include credit record checks. The nature and scope of the consumer reports are described above. Nonetheless, you are entitled to request a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of such reports by submitting a written request to LexisNexis at the address listed above. Additional notices for applicants in California, New York, Minnesota, Maine, and Oklahoma are attached to this form.

By signing below you are authorizing and instructing ASA to immediately obtain criminal background and driving record reports from a third party (utilizing a social security number trace or other information such as your name, address or driver's license number) as ASA deems necessary and appropriate. Moreover, you are allowing and instructing ASA to obtain those reports from a third party on an ongoing basis without any additional notice or consent for as long as you are a volunteer or otherwise associated with ASA. You may revoke this consent at any time by providing ASA with a written notice of revocation.

AUTHORIZATION, CONSENT AND INSTRUCTION

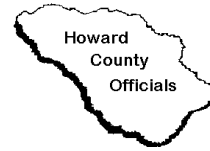
I acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Background Check and certify that I have read and understand that notice. I hereby voluntarily consent to ASA obtaining a background check on me and I authorize and instruct ASA to obtain criminal background and/or driving record reports from a third party (utilizing a social security number trace or other information such as my name, address or driver's license number) as ASA deems necessary and appropriate. This authorization and instruction will take immediate effect when I sign below, and will last throughout the duration of my involvement with ASA. Accordingly, ASA may obtain additional criminal background and/or driving record reports from a third party on an ongoing basis (i.e. annually or semi-annually) throughout my association with ASA without any further notice or additional warning. To this end, I hereby authorize without reservation any law enforcement agency, administrator, local, state or federal agency, information service bureau and/or the Social Security Administration to furnish any and all background information (including criminal history and/or driving records but not credit history) requested by any third party "consumer reporting agency", another outside organization acting on behalf of ASA, and/or ASA itself. I understand that if ASA makes a preliminary determination not to accept my application or to revoke my affiliation based on information contained in a consumer report, I will be notified and provided an opportunity to respond. I agree that a facsimile ("fax") or photographic copy of this Authorization and Instruction shall be as valid as the original.

Include a Legible Photo Copy of your Driver's License Attached to this document.

| | | | | |
|--|------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Printed Name (Full Legal Name) Last, Middle, First | | Date of Birth | Aliases or Former Names used in past ten years | |
| Signature | Date | | Email address | Phone Number |
| Current Residence, Street Address | | Driver's License # & State UMPIRE | Prior Residence (in last 5 years), Street Address | |
| Current Residence, City, State & Zip Code | | Desired Position w/ ASA | Prior Residence (in last 5 years), City, State, & Zip | |



HCO UMPIRES 2014 SCHEDULE



MEETINGS & RULES CLASSES

| Date | Time | Topic | Location |
|------------------------|---------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, January 29 | 7:00 PM | General Meeting | Roger Carter Center - Oella Room |
| Wednesday, February 5 | 7:00 PM | Rule 1 - Definitions Rule 2 - The Playing Field Rule 3 - Equipment | Howard County Recreation & Parks |
| Thursday, February 13 | 7:00 PM | Rule 6 - Pitching Regulations (Fast Pitch) General Fast Pitch Rules | Howard County Recreation & Parks |
| Wednesday, February 19 | 7:00 PM | Rule 6 - Pitching Regulations (Slow Pitch) Slow Pitch Plate Mechanics | Roger Carter Center - Rockwell Room |
| Wednesday, February 26 | 7:00 PM | Rule 4 - Players and Substitutes Rule 5 - The Game Rule 7 - Batting | Howard County Recreation & Parks |
| Wednesday, March 5 | 7:00 PM | Rule 8 - Batter-Runner and Runner | Howard County Recreation & Parks |
| Wednesday, March 12 | 7:00 PM | Mechanics | Howard County Recreation & Parks |
| Wednesday, March 19 | 7:00 PM | ASA Rules Test | Roger Carter Center - Oella Room |
| Wednesday, March 26 | 7:00 PM | General Meeting | Roger Carter Center - Oella Room |

Howard County Recreation & Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Roger Carter Community Center
3000 Milltowne Drive
(3000 Mt. Ida Drive)
Ellicott City, MD 21043

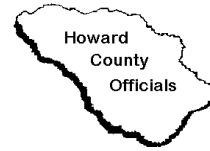
JO CLASSES

| Date | Time | Location |
|----------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Tuesday, February 11 | 7:00 PM | Kiwanis-Wallas Park |
| Tuesday, February 18 | 7:00 PM | Kiwanis-Wallas Park |
| Tuesday, February 25 | 7:00 PM | Kiwanis-Wallas Park |
| Saturday, March 8 | 9:00 AM | Kiwanis-Wallas Park |
| Saturday, March 15 | 9:00 AM | Kiwanis-Wallas Park |

Kiwanis-Wallas Park
3300 Norbert's Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042



HCO UMPIRES 2014 SCHEDULE



CLINICS

| Date | Time | CLINIC | Location |
|----------------|------|-----------------|------------------------|
| February 21-23 | | National School | Washington, New Jersey |

SEASON SCHEDULE

| Date | Pitch | What |
|---|-------|--|
| Early April | Fast | Beginning of HCYP League Play |
| Sunday, April 13 | Slow | Beginning of HCR&P League Play |
| May | Slow | Howard County Special Olympics |
| Early June | Slow | State Special Olympics |
| Saturday, June 14 Sunday, June 15 | Slow | Cedar Lane Classic (Men's and Co-Rec) |
| Saturday, July 12 Sunday, July 13 | Slow | Co-Rec League Play-Offs |
| Saturday, July 19 Sunday, July 20 | Slow | Men's League Play-Offs |
| Friday, September 5 Saturday, September 6 Sunday, September 7 | Slow | Fire Fighters (Men) |

GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT SELECTION

These guidelines pertain to all registered ASA umpires within Maryland-DC ASA and are effective as of January 1, 2014. In addition to the ASA National Contract, an umpire accepting an assignment to a National Tournament may be required to sign a Maryland-DC ASA contract agreeing to the criteria set forth below.

National Tournaments - Guidelines for Selection

- MEMBER OF ASA FOR THREE (3) YEARS
- NOMINATED BY THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION
- ATTENDED ASA NATIONAL UMPIRE SCHOOL OR ADVANCED CAMP.
- ATTENDED MARYLAND-DC ASA OR REGIONAL UMPIRE CLINIC PREVIOUS YEAR (PREFERABLY BOTH)
- ATTENDED MARYLAND-DC ASA OR REGIONAL UMPIRE CLINIC CURRENT YEAR (PREFERABLY BOTH)
- ATTENDED MD-DC ASA MECHANICS CLINIC CURRENT YEAR (if available)
- WORKED **50 ASA-SANCTIONED SLOW PITCH GAMES** PREVIOUS YEAR FOR SLOW PITCH SELECTION
- WORKED **20 ASA-SANCTIONED FAST PITCH GAMES** PREVIOUS YEAR FOR FAST PITCH/MODIFIED SELECTION
- ACTIVELY UMPIRING ASA-SANCTIONED GAMES IN CURRENT YEAR (YEAR OF THE NATIONAL) OR SELECTION COULD BE WITHDRAWN
- MUST HAVE WORKED GAMES IN ONE OF THE CURRENT YEAR'S STATE TOURNAMENTS. FAILURE TO WORK IN A STATE TOURNAMENT THE YEAR OF THE NATIONAL COULD RESULT IN THE SELECTION BEING WITHDRAWN.
- MUST BE RECOMMENDED BY MARYLAND-DC ASA UMPIRE STAFF or SELECTED BY STATE UIC
- MUST BE APPROVED BY MARYLAND-DC ASA COMMISSIONER

State Tournaments - Guidelines for Selection

- MEMBER OF ASA FOR THREE (3) YEARS
- MAY BE NOMINATED BY DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
- ATTENDED MARYLAND-DC ASA OR REGIONAL UMPIRE CLINIC CURRENT YEAR (PREFERRABLY BOTH)
- ATTENDED MARYLAND-DC ASA MECHANICS CLINIC CURRENT YEAR
- WORKED **50 ASA-SANCTIONED SLOW PITCH GAMES** PREVIOUS YEAR FOR SLOW PITCH SELECTION
- WORKED **20 ASA-SANCTIONED FAST PITCH GAMES** PREVIOUS YEAR FOR FAST PITCH/MODIFIED
- ACTIVELY UMPIRING ASA-SANCTIONED GAMES IN CURRENT YEAR

2014 MD-DC Fast-PitchTournament Schedule

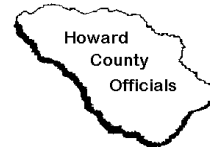
| DATE | EVENT | CLASS | LOCATION | Available yes/no | List days |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------|-----------|
| April 12/13 | MD Express Spring Thaw | 10-12-14 B | Ballenger Creek Frederick, MD | | |
| May 17/17 | Terror Fast Pitch Invitational | 10-12-14 B | Pinecliff Park Frederick, MD | | |
| May 31st | WHC Fever Eastern | 10U thru 18U | Western Regional Pk. | | |
| June 1st | National Qualifer | OPEN | Woodbine, MD | | |
| June 6/7 | Maryland Classic Open | 14-16-18 OPEN | Fairland Reg. Pk., Laurel, MD | | |
| June 14/15 | MD-DCASA State Class A | Class "A" All Ages | Fairland Reg. Pk., Laurel, MD | | |
| June 21/22 | MD-DC/Del./Va. ASA State Class B | Class "B" All Ages | Route 18 Park, Centerville, MD White Marsh, Centerville, MD | | |
| June 28/29 | 18 Gold Territorial National Qualifer | GOLD | Laurel Springs Park La Plata, MD | | |
| June 28/29 | Queen Anne County ASA Rec. B/C Tournament | 10-12 C 14-16-18-A | Rte. 18 Park Centerville, MD | | |
| July 29th | 10U B Eastern National | 10 B | Laurel Springs Park | | |
| Aug. 2nd | 12U B Eastern National | 12 B | La Plata, MD | | |
| Aug. 3/4 | 14U B Eastern National | 14 B | | | |
| Sept. 14/15 | Heartland College Showcase | 16-18 Open | Pinecliff Park Frederick, MD | | |

This list will be updated as needed. You may use this form when responding and e-mail back to me. **NOTE: Tournaments listed in green are not ours but we will be asked to send umpires by one or more. Your interest and availability will be helpful. Slots will be filled on an as-needed basis.** We want to remind you, you must follow your District guidelines and have notified the proper people of your intentions and the local assigner is aware of your interest and approves your commitment.

We will use this sheet to begin assigning tournaments. You will be notified by Arbiter re. your assignment. You will be expected to accept on Arbiter. You will then be blocked for that day[s]. Your actual schedule will still be received the old-fashioned way.

uicsteve@mddcasa.org

uicjudy@mddcasa.org



2014 Howard County Officials Financial Stuff

<http://www.howardofficials.org>

The Good

Payment per Game

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Adult SP Howard County Recs & Parks | \$30 |
| Adult SP APL | \$37 |
| Youth FP | \$50 |
| Travel Fee ** | \$15 |

* Any partial game is considered a game for payment purposes.

** A Travel Fee is paid if the League Rain Out number does not cancel the game(s) by the appropriate time; the official reports to site and the game is not started.

Payment will be made (assuming the Treasurer has money) approximately one week after the first of each month starting in June through the end of the season.

The Bad

Fees you owe

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| ASA State & National Fees | \$50 |
|---------------------------|------|

Make check payable to **MDDCASA** marked for ASA Registration.

If you have not made payment through HCO or made it known you have paid ASA dues through some others association, the no good treasurer will grab it from your pay.

| | |
|----------|------|
| HCO Dues | \$30 |
|----------|------|

Payment method - fee will be deducted from your payment.

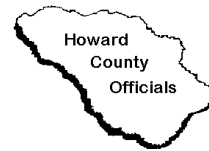
1099

Federal Law requires submission of a 1099 if earnings exceed \$600.

The Ugly

If there are any HCO money issues, feel free to contact the HCO Treasurer:

John Dye
 6887 Garland Lane
 Columbia, MD 21045-4616
 johndye@comcast.net
 (410) 290-6510
 Work: Not Applicable
 Fax: (410) 290-3777



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS SCHEDULER INFORMATION

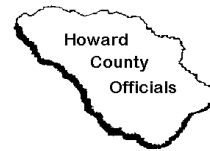
Scheduler

John Calamari
Home Email: jcalamari@comcast.net

Home Phone: 410-750-8302 (before 9:30 p.m.)
Work Phone: 410-765-9412
Cell Phone: 410-292-2101

Contact should be either the night of the game or the next day.

- 1) The field recording says the games are on, but you cancel them at the field
Provide your name, date of scheduled game(s), the field, and game time(s) of cancellations.
Also, notify if a game is started but stopped early. Completed game means all 7 innings, mercy rule, or time limit.
- 2) Two umpires show up at the same field.
Provide your name and the field. Also, check to make sure there is not another field where you are that is not being covered.
- 3) You cover a field where no umpire showed.
Provide your name, date, field covered, and time of game(s).
- 4) You have a forfeit.
Provide your name, date, field, game time(s), which team showed (assuming you have at least 1 team).



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS REPORTING INFORMATION

Contact Information

Ralph Eggen
7879A Tall Pines Ct.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Email: rweggen@cablespeed.com

Home Phone: 410-766-8403 (before 10:00 p.m.)
Work Phone: 240-373-0059
Cell Phone: 410-925-2031

Information For All Reports

Umpire name
Teams involved
Game information: Date, Time, and Field

Ejection Report (MUST CONTACT NIGHT OF THE GAME)

Ejected Player (be sure to include which team)
Reason for ejection

NOTE: All ejections must be reported. Disqualifications can be reported, but do not need to be.

Injury Report

Injured player (be sure to include which team)
Description of play where injury occurred
Actions taken (report filed at field, 911 called, etc.)

Protest Report (MUST CONTACT NIGHT OF THE GAME)

Game situation at time of protest
Score
Inning
Outs
Runners on base
Description of play and your ruling
What the team is protesting
Applicable rule(s)

When notification is required night of the game (ejection or protest) a phone call or email is sufficient for initial report.

Completed report form required within 24 hours of game.



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS, INC.
EJECTION FORM



Umpire: _____ Ejected Player: _____

Teams: _____

Date Of Game: _____ Time: _____ Field: _____

Reason For Ejection:

NOTE: All Ejections (except procedural) MUST be reported to the UIC (rweggen@cablespeed.com, 410-766-8403) NLT 6:00 a.m. the following day.



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS, INC.
PROTEST REPORT



Umpire: _____

Teams: Visitors: _____ Home: _____

Date Of Game: _____ Time: _____ Field: _____

Game Situation:

Inning: _____ Top Bottom Outs: _____

Score: Visitors Home

Runners: 1st 2nd 3rd

Description Of Play and Your Ruling:

What Team Is Protesting:

Applicable Rule(s):

NOTE: All protests MUST be reported to the UIC (rweggen@cablespeed.com, 410-766-8403)
NLT 6:00 a.m. the following day.



**HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS, INC.
INJURY REPORT**



Umpire: _____ **Injured Player:** _____

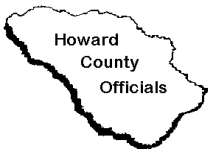
Teams: _____

Date Of Game: _____ **Time:** _____ **Field:** _____

Description Of Play:

Actions Taken (report filed at field, 911 called, etc):

**NOTE: All injuries requiring medical attention MUST be reported to the UIC
(rweggen@cablespeed.com, 410-766-8403) NLT 6:00 a.m. the following day.**



**HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS, INC.
EVALUATION FORM**



Umpire: _____ **Observer:** _____

Date Of Game: _____ **Time:** _____ **Field:** _____

Type: **Men** **Age:** **Adult** **Mechanics:** **1-man** **Position:** **Plate**

PREGAME: **Not Observed**

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Arrival Time: _____ | COMMENTS: |
| 1st Pitch Time: _____ | |
| YES NO | |
| Field Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Equipment Check <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conference <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | |

UNIFORM: **5-Excellent**

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Acceptable | Not Acceptable | COMMENTS: |
| Shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Pants | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Cap | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Ball Bag | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Mask | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

PLATE POSITION & MECHANICS: **5-Excellent**

FIELD POSITION & MECHANICS: **5-Excellent**

JUDGEMENT: **5-Excellent**

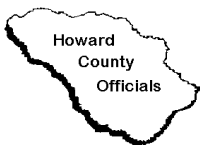
RULES KNOWLEDGE & APPLICATION: **5-Excellent**

GAME CONTROL: **5-Excellent**

PROFESSIONALISM: **5-Excellent**

OVERALL RATING: **5-Excellent**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS, INC. EVALUATION FORM GUIDELINES



I. Pregame

- A. If the observer arrives after the start of the game, or for the second game of a double header, mark not observed.
- B. Make note of the umpire's arrival time at the field. This should be when they are at the field ready to go, not when they pull into the parking lot and start getting ready.
- C. Note when the game actually gets started. If there are earlier games on the field that run long, in the comments section make a note of this along with when the earlier games end.
- D. Just note whether a field inspection, equipment check, and conference were done.
- E. The space for comments here is restricted. There probably won't be a lot of comments needed here. If more room is needed, put it with the additional comments after the Overall Rating.

II. Uniform

- A. Is the proper uniform being worn? This means the appropriate ASA logos (no blank hats, jackets or shirts, or with other logos).
- B. Is the proper ball bag being worn. Gray or blue with gray pants. Blue with blue pants or shorts. Must have ASA logo.
- C. The uniform should be clean and neat. Make note of parts that need to be cleaned (especially shoes).
- D. If this is a fast pitch game, make sure that plate shoes are being worn when needed. Also, note the condition of the mask. There also should not be any shin guards, or chest protectors that are worn outside.

III. Plate Position & Mechanics

- A. In addition to the usual options, the pull down on this has "0-not applicable". This should be used if evaluating the field umpire in a 2-man or 3-man game.
- B. Does the umpire have a proper "heel-to-toe" stance? This is prescribed for both fast and slow. If not using this, is the stance at least balanced?
- C. Is the slot being worked properly? Are they too far inside, or toward the middle of the plate? Are they also in the correct slot?
- D. Is a proper set position being used? Is the umpire staying too erect, or even getting too low in their set? Do they drop into their set at the appropriate time (start of pitching motion in slow, when pitcher separates their hands in fast)?
- E. Do they have good timing on the ball and strike calls? This includes not calling the pitches too soon. Also, is the timing even, or is it inconsistent?
- F. Are the proper signals being used and are they clear? This is for balls, strikes, foul balls, illegal pitches, and holding up play until the batter is set when appropriate. How is their body position when making the signals? Do they have a loud clear voice when making calls?
- G. Do they move from behind the plate when the ball gets put in play? Do they leave the plate area on the left of the catcher?
- H. Don't worry about positioning for fair/foul, or where they get on plays at this point. That will be covered with the field positioning.

I. Field Position & Mechanics

- A. Does the umpire hustle? Are they moving properly, or just running around aimlessly?
- B. Does the umpire get proper position for calls? Is the umpire down the lines, and on them, for fair/foul calls? Do they have a good angle on calls on the bases (and at the plate)? Do they get out for possible traps in the outfield?
- C. Are the plays anticipated, or is movement late?
- D. Is the umpire stopped when making the calls or still moving?
- E. Are signals clear and correct? Is the proper emphasis (or lack thereof) used? Is proper timing used on the calls? While anticipating the plays, make sure they are not anticipating the calls.
- F. Do they watch tag ups and advancing runners touching bases?

II. Judgment

- A. Does the umpire call the proper strike zone and is it consistent?
- B. How is the fair/foul and safe/out judgment?

III. Rules

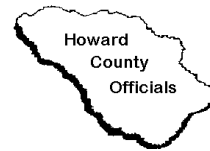
- A. Do they show a firm knowledge of both ASA and local rules?
- B. Major things to look for are placement of runners on overthrows, interference/obstruction, and illegal pitches.

IV. Game Control

- A. Does the umpire have an unbiased attitude and not show favoritism to one team?
- B. Do they keep the game moving, or allow things to drag? Particularly between innings, or batters.
- C. How are they at dealing with the coaches and players?

V. Professionalism

- A. How does the umpire react to pressure situations? This can be either tough calls, or when someone gets upset and wants to confront them.
- B. Are they interested in the game, or give the appearance they would rather be somewhere else? Do they keep their head in the game between innings?



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS PARK NUMBERS

Howard County Recreation & Parks Numbers

| | <u>Rain Numbers</u> | <u>Park Personnel</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Cedar Lane | 410-313-4453 | 410-530-2787 |
| Centennial | 410-313-4454 | 410-530-3693 |
| Meadowbrook | 410-313-2727 | |
| Rockburn / Waterloo | 410-313-4455 | 410-530-8384 |
| Western Regional | 410-313-4372 | |

HCYP Rain Information

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Wallis Park | RainedOut.com 410-461-7735 |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| APL Rain Number | 443-778-8088 |
|------------------------|--------------|



MDDCASA has two (2) dealers within the Maryland -D.C. area. If you need any merchandise you may purchase it from one of the following:

Paul Kemp
11917 Lynn Crest Road
Monrovia, MD 21770
(301) 865-5516 (Home)
(301) 639-8792 (Cell)
E-mail: Paul.H.Kemp@comcast.net

Judy Cole
7469 Towchester Ct
Alexandria, VA 22315
(301) 832-6581 (Cell)
E-mail: UICJudy@mddcasa.org

The above dealers should be able to help you obtain ASA merchandise. Please support our local dealers.



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIAL LIGHTNING POLICY

If thunder and/or lightning can be heard and/or seen, STOP your game and seek protective shelter immediately.

In situations where thunder and/or lightning may or may not be present yet you feel your hair stand on end and skin tingle, immediately assume the following crouched position; drop to your knees, place your hands/arms on your legs and lower your head. Do not lay flat.

In the event that either situation should occur, allow 30 minutes to pass after the last sound of thunder and/or lightning strike prior to resuming play. For HCRP games, when play is resumed you will try to finish the game you were in when play was suspended.

If you stop play on your field because of lightning, check the other fields in the complex. It is possible what you saw was behind your fellow umpire and they did not see it. Let them know that you have suspended play and why.

If you see play stopped on another field because of lightning, or you are told that play has been suspended on the other fields because of lightning, do NOT continue play. Bring the teams off the field.

The national weather service has stated that lightning can strike up to a distance of 10 miles, with storms traveling at a speed of 50 miles per hour. However, thunder can be heard only within a distance of 8 miles. Therefore, if you hear thunder and/or see lightning, you are in immediate danger and should seek protective shelter in an indoor facility at once! An indoor facility is recommended as the safest protective shelter. However, if an indoor location is not available, an automobile is a relatively safe alternative. If not available, the following guidelines are recommended. Avoid standing under large trees and telephone poles. If the only alternative is a tree, choose a small tree in a wooded area that is not on a hill. As a last alternative, find a ravine or valley. In all instances outdoors, assume the aforementioned crouched position. Avoid standing water and metal objects at all times (I.e.-steering wheel, bats, umbrellas, bleachers, etc.)

The most dangerous storm gives little or no warning: Thunder and lightning are not heard or seem. Up to 40% of all lightning is not accompanied by thunder and 20-40% of thunder cannot be heard because of atmospheric disturbances, thus the term “silent killer”. At times, the only natural forewarning of a strike is feeling your hair standing on end and skin tingle.

At this point, you are in imminent danger of being struck by lightning and should drop to the ground and assume the aforementioned crouched position immediately. Do not lie flat. Should a ground strike occur near your, lying flat increases the body’s surface area that is exposed to the current traveling through the ground.

A perilous misconception that it is possible to see lightning coming and have time to act before it strikes could prove to be fatal. In reality, the lightning that we see flashing is actually the return stroke flashing upward from the ground to the cloud, not downward. When you see the lightning strike, it has already hit. *It is a fact that you will never see the bolt that hits you.* If used immediately, the information provided can be used to minimize the risk of injury or death from lightning.

GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING SAFETY

(From National Web Site)

All individuals participating in or observing an outdoor softball event are responsible for their own safety and should monitor threatening weather conditions. Before each practice, warm-up time, or game, the home plate umpire should appoint an individual as the designated “weather watcher”. If the home plate umpire is the only official at the event, then the home plate umpire should be responsible for the duties of the “weather watcher”. The individual will make the call to stop play, remove individuals from the field, and announce a warning to the spectators.

The designated weather watcher should be aware of weather conditions at all times, including observing the conditions and keeping abreast of the weather forecast. As a means of monitoring local weather, the designated weather watcher can consult the National Weather Service for current information. All storm warning and storm watches should be heeded.

When the weather becomes dangerous, the designated weather watcher will announce that all play activities are suspended and all individuals, both players and spectators, should seek appropriate shelter. No place is absolutely safe from lightning threat; however, some places are safer than others. Large, enclosed structures (substantially constructed buildings) tend to be safer than smaller structures or open structures. In general, a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows rolled up tends to be safer than being outside so long as contact with metal surfaces inside and outside the vehicle is avoided. The following areas are not appropriate shelter and should be avoided:

Any area of higher elevation; wide-open areas such as sports fields, tall isolated objects such as flag poles, light poles, or trees; metal fences and metal bleachers, unprotected open buildings like dugouts, picnic pavilions, rain shelters and bus stops.

When determining whether or not to suspend play, the designated weather watcher should use his/her common sense and good judgment. If a thunderstorm appears imminent before or during an activity or contest (regardless of whether lightning is seen or thunder heard), postpone or suspend the activity until the hazard has passed. Signs of imminent thunderstorm activity are darkening clouds, high winds and thunder or lightning. Even storms that are miles away can pose a lightning danger. This may mean the appropriate decision is to suspend activities even before the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder.

All individuals should have the right to leave an athletic site or activity, without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safer structure or location if they feel they are in danger from impending lightning activity. Safety is the number one consideration, the activity can be made up later.

If activity has been suspended due to lightning, the designated weather watcher should wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or sound of thunder prior to resuming activity. Each time additional lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the minimum 30-minute waiting period should be reset. A clear sky or lack of rainfall are not adequate indicators for resuming play. The minimum 30-minute return-to-play waiting period should not be shortened. Play should not be resumed even after the 30-minute waiting period if any signs of thunderstorm activity remain in the area or if the weather forecast indicates the threat is not over.

NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES CAN GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SAFETY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PERSON TO BE AWARE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE SAFE. USE COMMOND SENSE AND GOOD JUDGMENT. PLAN AHEAD AND MAKE SAFETY YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

TECHNICAL OUT

Howard County Local Rules (3. Playing Rule, 3rd bullet):

Technical Outs: As a sanction against those teams or individuals whose behavior is unacceptable, but the umpire judges that ejection is too severe a penalty, the umpire may invoke the technical out against the offending team.

Offense: If the team at bat is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the umpire may enforce an out against them. If this is the first or second out of the inning, the game continues with the batters and base runners unaffected; an additional out is simply added to the teams total. If the technical out is the third out of the inning, the next inning will resume with the batter who would have batted had the out not been called. In this case the batter will begin with a fresh one-and-one count.

Defense: If the team in the field is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the umpire may invoke the technical out rule by giving them an out when they come to bat.

Two consecutive technical outs may not be assessed against the same team. At least one pitch (legal or illegal) must intervene. An ejection for any unsportsmanlike behavior must be accompanied by the charging of an out against the offending team

JEWELRY

ASA Rule:

Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.

This rule has historically caused confusion and problems because each umpire had their own interpretation of what they judged to be dangerous. As a result the board decided for this year to adopt a standardized rule.

HCO Jewelry Rule

No player will be allowed to wear exposed jewelry. The lone exception to this is a FLAT wedding band. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.

There are some of us that have normally used a more lenient rule. However, this is the rule which we all need to enforce. Make sure that you remind the coaches of this at your plate conferences.

Enforcement

Make sure and stress this at your plate conference.

The first person seen with jewelry once the game starts will be issued a technical out.

Any subsequent offense by any player will be disqualified.

NOTE: There is only one technical out per game. Not one per team.

The jewelry enforcement applies to all leagues that we cover. The technical out is ONLY used for HCR&P games. For all other leagues, give them one warning, then disqualify.

HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS FIELD DIRECTIONS

APL

From Route 32 take Cedar Lane/Pindell School Road exit (1st exit West of Route 29). Go South on Pindell School Road to 1st intersection. At the light this becomes Sanner Road. After Sanner Road makes a sharp right it will go up a hill. Field will be at the top of the hill on the left.

Alternate: From Route 32 take Route 29 South. Go to Johns Hopkins Road. Take Johns Hopkins Road West to Sanner Road. Turn Right on Sanner Road and follow to field which will be on your Right.

Cedar Lane Park

From Route 29 take Route 108 west toward Clarksville about 2 3/4 miles. Turn left onto Cedar Lane (across from Board of Education). Entrance to park is about 1/4 mile on the left.

Centennial Park North (Fields 1 and 2)

From Route 29 take Route 108 west toward Clarksville. Turn right at first traffic light onto Columbia Road. Turn left at next traffic light onto Old Annapolis Road. Turn left into park.

Centennial Park West (Fields 3, 4, and 5)

From Route 29 take Route 108 west toward Clarksville. Turn right onto Centennial Lane. Entrance to park will be on the right.

Meadowbrook Park

From Route 29 take Route 100 East. Exit onto Long Gate Parkway (1st exit). Turn left at top of ramp. Then bear left onto Long Gate Parkway. After Park & Ride lot turn left into park.

From I-95 take Route 100 West. Exit at Long Gate Parkway (Exit 1A). At top of ramp turn left. Turn right at stop sign onto Long Gate Parkway. After Park & Ride turn left into park.

Rockburn Branch Park (Main Area)

From Route 29 exit onto Route 103 east, Montgomery Road. Turn left onto Landing Road. Go to park entrance on the left.

From Route 1 go west on Montgomery Road. Turn right onto Landing Road. Go to park entrance on the left.

Rockburn Branch Park (Fields 7 and 8)

From Route 29 exit onto Route 103 east, Montgomery Road. Entrance to park will be on left just before Rockburn Elementary School. Follow drive around behind school. The drive will end at the parking lot for the fields.

From Route 1 go west on Montgomery Road. Entrance to park will be on right just beyond Rockburn Elementary School. Follow drive around behind school. The drive will end at the parking lot for the fields.

Savage Park

Take Route 32 to Route 1. Exit South on Route 1. Make right at first light onto Howard Street. Follow slight left turn onto Baltimore Street. Turn right at end of Baltimore Street onto Fair Street. Take Fair Street into park. The softball field will be on the left behind the tennis courts.

Western Regional Park

Take I-70 to Route 97 South. After crossing Frederick Road (Route 144) go about 1.3 miles (past Western Howard County Government Center) to Carrs Mill Road. Turn Right. Entrance to park will be about 0.3 miles on the right. Softball fields are in the back.

Wallace Park

From Route 29 get off at Route 40 west. The park is at the intersection of route 40 and Route 144.

To reach field 12 continue past first entrance and make next left. Drive to the end of parking area

2014 ASA Rule Changes with Comments as of November 20, 2013

NOTE: All changes below are **EFFECTIVE** January 1, 2014 unless otherwise noted.

Rule 2, Section 1 Table: The base distance for the Senior Slow Pitch Classification of play will be 70 feet.

Comment: Allows all Adult Slow Pitch to play with the base distance at 70 feet.

Rule 2, Section 1 Table - NOTE: Guidelines for base and fence distances for Men's Super Slow Pitch Championships Classification of Play to be established by the Executive Director.

Comment: Allows the Executive Director to establish base and fence distances, based on the host's location, in this reestablished Classification of Men's Slow Pitch.

Rule 3, Section 1A: Bats with the 2013 ASA Certification Mark are allowed in Men's Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boys Fast Pitch and Men's Modified Pitch Divisions of play.

Comment: Allows bats with the 2013 ASA Certification Mark to be used in Men's Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boys Fast Pitch and Men's Modified Pitch Divisions of Championship play.

Rule 3, Section 1A: If a bat is not marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL but has an ASA Certification Mark, meets Rule 3 Section 1 of the ASA Rules, is included on a list of approved models published by the ASA, and is not listed on the Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Mark it is allowed in ASA Championship Play.

Comment: Allows a bat without the words, OFFICIAL SOFTBALL on it to be used in ASA Championship Play.

Rule 3, Section 3E[3]: Remove Men's Adult Slow Pitch, Coed (Men), Men's Masters and Junior Olympic Slow Pitch from the table that shows the use of the 44/375. Seniors will stay in the table under the 44/375 ball.

Comment: The 52/300 12" ball will be the only 12" ball allowed in Men's Adult Slow Pitch, Coed (Men), Men's Master's Slow Pitch and Junior Olympic Boys Slow Pitch Championship Play, with the exception of Seniors.

2014 ASA Rule Changes with Comments as of November 20, 2013

NOTE: All changes below are **EFFECTIVE** January 1, 2014 unless otherwise noted.

Rule 3, Section 6 EXCEPTION: (Men's Class D Slow Pitch and Men's Class E Rec Slow Pitch) the only requirement is matching shirts with numbers.

Comments: Adds Men's D Slow Pitch Classification of Play to the uniform exception allowed in Men's Class E Rec Slow Pitch which requires only matching shirts with numbers.

Rule 4, Section 1C [3c]: Senior Slow Pitch (50-55-60) will have the option of having 11 or 12 players in the batting order or any number of players up to the total number of roster players present.

Comment: Allows the Senior Slow Pitch (50-55-60) Division of Play to bat the legal number of players present or any number up to the total number of roster players present.

Rule 4, Section 1C [3d]: Senior Slow Pitch (65-70-75) will have the option of having 12 or 13 players in the batting order or any number of players up to the total number of roster players present.

Comment: Allow the Senior Slow Pitch (65-70-75) Division of Play to bat the legal number of players present or any number up to the total number of roster players present

Rule 5, Section 8A-NOTE: Guidelines for home run limits in Men's Super Slow Pitch Classification of Play will be established by the Executive Director.

Comment: Allows the Executive Director to establish the home run limits, based on the host's location in this reestablished Classification of Men's Slow Pitch.

Rule 5, Section 9A [3]: Men's B Slow Pitch Classification of Play run ahead rule will be 20 after four innings and 15 after five innings.

Comment: Adds Men's B Slow Pitch Classification of Play to the same run ahead rule as Men's A Slow Pitch Classification of play.

Rule 5, Section 9A [5]: Guidelines for run ahead limit in the Men's Super Slow Pitch Classification of Play will be established by the Executive Director.

Comment: Allows the Executive Director to establish the run ahead limits, based on the host's location, in this reestablished Classification of Men's Slow Pitch.

2014 ASA Rule Changes with Comments as of November 20, 2013

NOTE: All changes below are **EFFECTIVE** January 1, 2014 unless otherwise noted.

Rule 5, Section 10C (Code 310 P 03): In all Junior Olympic Pool Play Class A 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under, 18-Under, 16-Under Gold and 18-Under Gold pool play and elimination play in fast pitch, no new inning shall start after a 1 hour and 40 minutes time limit. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning. **EXCEPTION:** There shall be no time limit in elimination play beginning with the winner's bracket final.

Comment: Adds a time limit to Junior Olympic Class A 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under, 18-Under, 16-Under Gold and 18-Under Gold elimination play except beginning with the winners bracket final.

Rule 5, Section 10D: (Code 310 P 03): In all Junior Olympic Slow Pitch pool play, the time limit shall be 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Comment: Reduces the time limit from 1 hour and 30 minutes to 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Rule 7, Section 1A, EXCEPTION: Men's Adult Fast Pitch and Men's Modified Pitch Divisions of play can use either on-deck circle.

Comment: Allows the on-deck batter in Men's Adult Fast Pitch and Men's Modified Pitch Divisions of play to use either on-deck circle.

Rule 7, Section 2D: Remove the Exception for Coed Slow Pitch Divisions of Play to skip a batter when batting out of order is discovered.

Comment: This removes the 2013 Exception requiring a team to "skip the next batter," when batting out of order is discovered.

Rule 7, Section 6B EFFECT: Batter is out, all outs count and all runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

Comment: Clarifies the currently enforced penalty when a batter completes their turn at bat after using an *Altered or Non-Approved Bat*.

Rule 7, Section 6C EFFECT: Batter is out, all outs count and all runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

Comment: Clarifies the currently enforced penalty when a batter completes their turn at bat after using an *Illegal Bat*.



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICIALS IMPORTANT WEB SITES

Arbiter:

<http://www.arbitersports.com>

ASA National:

<http://softball.org/>

Maryland-DC ASA:

<http://www.mddcasajo.org/>

Howard County Officials:

<http://howardofficials.org/>

Howard County Recreation & Sports:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/sports.htm>

Howard County Recreation & Sports Softball:

<http://www.eteamz.com/hcrpsports/index.cfm?subsite=1966900>

Howard County Recreation & Sports Kickball:

<http://www.eteamz.com/hcrpsports/index.cfm?subsite=3727839>

Howard County Youth Program:

<http://hcyp.org/>

Howard County Youth Program Softball:

http://hcyp.org/index.jsp?sport_id=297041

<http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=hcypfastpitchsoftball>

Certified Equipment Web Page:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment.aspx>

Uniform Order:

<http://www.officialgear.com/>

Rule Changes:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/About/Contact-Us/ASA-Code>

HCYP Rain Out Information:

<http://rainedout.com/>

https://www.rainedout.net/team_page.php?a=7dce3ee3c2cd92081fa6

