



Safe at Home

With Shelbey

Editors Notes

With this being the first newsletter for the 2021 season, you guessed it, we have LOTS to cover. From information on clinics, welcomes, congratulations and goodbyes, the only thing we're missing are original comics!

Want more? Check out the "Between the Lines" publications for more interesting stories!

Have a story? Got questions?

Send it to me, at

shelbeyanne@gmail.com

Mark your Calendars

APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28: Zoom Elite Clinic

APRIL 15: Last day to register for AGM

APRIL 18, 19, 20: Zoom Level 1-2 Clinic

APRIL 23: Zoom Umpire Annual General Meeting

APRIL 24: Zoom Softball Sask. AGM

APRIL 30: Deadline for Ed Bitz Scholarship

For more information on clinics and the AGM's continue reading!

April Workout Challenge

Get in shape and qualify to win some great prizes! Simply snap a pic of yourself during or after your workout and post it to Instagram, Twitter or Facebook with the hashtags *#softballcanada* and *#umpirefit*. Every posting during the month of April gets you an entry into our prize draw of some great Softball Canada swag!

For inspiration and simple workout ideas, check out our new umpire pre-season fitness training videos on our YouTube channel.

Search for *Softball Canada Umpires* at YouTube.com and don't forget to subscribe!

Workout along with the Plate Stance

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czp7QC8TUiE>

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Farewell from Moose

Outgoing Softball Saskatchewan Umpire in Chief Moose Gibson

As I begin my last month as UIC for the Softball Saskatchewan I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the umpires of the province who have supported me over the years. I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the ride serving as a DUIC or the UIC on the Umpire Development Committee for a total of 18 years.

It is with great pride that I am proud of what we have accomplished over the years, that is no small part due to the dedication of the District Umpire in Chiefs and my fellow members of the UDC. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



I would like to thank our President Gary MacDonald and the Board of Directors for Softball Saskatchewan for their support of the umpire program.

A special thank-you to Melissa and Jacqueline in our office for all their assistance and patience with my requests over the year. They play an important role that maybe everyone is not aware of in support of the Saskatchewan Umpire Program.

I have so many people to thank for being a part of my development and support over the years, I do not have enough space to name them. Yet, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Gary Skjerven, Brent Chadwick, Brian Van Os, Doug Cundall, Leon Rice, Jeff Whipple.

Finally, I would like to thank Guy Jacobson, our Executive Director for his years of guidance, patience, undying support and most importantly his friendship.

I may have left the park, but I will always remain a member of the best team on the diamond. All the best to everyone no matter where your umpiring career takes you.

Moose

We've updated our selection policy for Western and Canadian Championships. Find it at softball.sk.ca; Under "Umpire Policies"!

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Registration

Online Registration is Open!

Notice the exam must be completed **BEFORE** registering. **SAVE YOUR TEST SCORE.**

To Register:

Log in to your Softball Sask. Account. Complete the online exam.

Under: Programs Click "Umpires"

Click "Registration"

Click on appropriate level to add to cart

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE STEPS CAREFULLY.

Note: Waivers must be signed and sent into the office to complete registration

Level 1 and 2 Clinic

Running on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of April is the Level 1-2 clinic. We ask that anyone registering for their first or second year of umpiring to attend this online clinic.

With a strong lineup of local instructors, as well as the setup of sessions you're sure to stay engaged.

These sessions include:

Role of the Umpire/Dress Code by: JR Simpson, Moose Gibson

Basic Rules by: Dave Moore, Duane Bakken

Inference/Obstruction/Pitching by: Steve Hartmann, Brent Chadwick

Lineups, Qualities of a Good Umpire and Fundamental Plate set up by: Lorry Wilson, Gary Skjerven

WBSC 1&2 Umpire Systems by: Brendan Moat, Bob Clothier

Elite Clinic

Running on Wednesday evenings throughout the month of April is the Elite Clinic. Mandatory for all officials planning on attending a Western or Canadian Championship in 2021, the UDC was able to put together a powerhouse of instructors with an array of topics fitted to many areas of Championship tournaments. **This clinic is only available to selected officials.**

These sessions include:

WBSC 3&4 umpire Systems/Rotations
Presented by: Susan Stratford

Goal Setting by: Frankie Billingsley
Preparing for a Western/Canadian by: Terry Klein
Supervisor Thoughts by: Gary Skjerven

Plate and Base Mechanics by: Scott McLaren

Game Control and Handling Protests by: Brent Chadwick

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As the winter dragged past, we said farewell to Terry Schneider as District 4's UIC, and welcomed Darren Rokochoy as the newest member of our DUIC.

Spending many years as a catcher, Darren is used to being behind the plate and with several major tournaments played in, you could say that Darren already has some experience when it comes to Western and Canadian Championships.

"I played Senior A in Saskatoon in the prime of my career attending Nationals and a few westerns, [we won] a Western Canadian Championship with Prince Albert Aalcann where I had the chance to play in the Territories; I also played for Regina Wheat Country Motors at the ISC tournament in Appleton Wisconsin."

Currently registered as a Level 2, Darren has plans to continue working forward and moving through the levels. Previously, Darren had worked the U16 provincials in preparation for the U16 Westerns in Alberta, unfortunately, COVID had other plans and no Westerns or Canadians took place. With 2021 looking promising, Darren is planning on attending the U19 Men's Westerns in Richmond, "[It's] very cool as it was the last place my team was able to attend before my daughter graduated out of minor softball as a player."

Yet, Darren does not only have a reputation as a player but also as a coach. "I had the opportunity to coach my daughter in Melfort and it's there that I founded and began the SPIRIT Softball Program, which is still going strong."

Through out it all, Darren said his favourite memory would have to be his first time playing in Gordie Howe Park. "My dad played for the Saskatoon Playboys back in the day and I always dreamed of playing in the shrine I call Gordie Howe. Well, when I started in 1st division men's in Saskatoon my 1st opportunity to play at Howe park my parents were there. I hit a 2-0 home run off a left-handed pitcher with the last name of Gallagher. My teammates knew the passion I had for this day so when I rounded 3rd coming to home plate, they were all there to meet me including my Dad, he hopped the fence to meet me at home plate; it was a truly emotional moment. I still have the ball today so it was truly a moment to remember."

From all of us, Welcome!



Thank you! To all our members and a HUGE thank you to everyone who worked so hard to get the clinics in order!

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Softball Saskatchewan AGM

With the Annual General Meetings right around the corner its important to shed some light on the significance of our memberships' participation. With two UDC positions coming up for election, it's imperative that all of our membership gets a say. And, thanks to technology and COVID, it's pretty easy. This year, we will be hosting both the **Umpires AGM (held on the 23rd at 7:00pm)** and the Softball Sask. AGM (Held on the 24th) via Zoom.

To register for the Umpires Meeting:

Go to "<https://Softball.sk.ca>"

At the top; Under "About" Click: "Annual Meetings"

Scroll down to the Umpire AGM Click "Register now"

Fill out the form and hit save.

While you must be a member in good standing (Registered in the year 2020) to vote, you are still able to participate in the meeting.

As, we get closer to the date, more information will be sent out to those who are registered, including an orientation on how the voting will be done.

To Register for the Softball Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting:

Follow the same steps as above. Scroll Down to Annual General Meeting Click "Register Now"

Continue the above steps.

Congratulations to everyone who was selected to work a Western or Canadian Championship!

Thank you to everyone who applied!