



# The Ground Rules

The monthly e-newsletter of the  
Amateur Baseball Umpires' Association

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## NCAA postseason, USA baseball assignments announced

The ABUA would like to congratulate and give best wishes to the following umpires who have been given or have already worked assignments this summer for the NCAA and USA Baseball. With each USA baseball assignment, the plate umpire is listed first.

### NCAA postseason

**CWS:** Dave Buck, St. Joseph, MI; Scott Graham, West Chester, PA; Paul Guillie, Mandeville, LA; Bob Homolka, Salina, KS; Gus Rodriguez, Sunnyvale, CA; David Rogers, Pearland, TX.

**CWS alternate:** AJ Lostaglio, Miami, FL.

**Super Regional:** Mike Conlin, Lansing, MI; Kevin Daugherty, Chandler, AZ; Ken Eldridge, Dallas, TX; Jim Garman, Torrance, CA; Randy Harvey, Sanford, FL; John Kleis, Lovettsville, VA; Dan Mascorro, Highlands, TX; Frank Sylvester, Philadelphia, PA; David Wiley, Buda, TX; Bryant Woodall, Cary, NC.

**Super Regional alternate:** Tony Gisondi, Middletown, NJ; John Magnusson, Gainesville, FL; Greg Oros, Kingwood, TX; Steve Ricciarini, Pittsfield, MA.

**Regional:** Jay Asher, Lexington, KY; Warren Bumpus, Liverpool, NY; Tim Catton, Indianapolis, IN; Mark Denzin, Bollingbrook, IL; Bryan Donnelly, Louisville, KY; Mike Droll, Tipton, IA; Nelson Graham, Kenner, LA; Harry Greer, Philadelphia, PA; Robert Hefner, Duluth, GA; Scott Inman, Hanover, IN; Steve Mattingly, Peoria, IL; Dennis McComb, Deland, FL; Dan O'Connell, Florissant, MO; Mike Rust, Chandler, IN; Doug Williams, College Station, TX.

See next page for info  
on Florida camp!!!

### USA baseball

**All games in Durham, N.C. unless noted:**

USA vs Canada, June 23 7:00 PM

John Haggerty, Reid Churchill, Randy Dulin

USA vs Canada June 24 7:00 PM

Steve Sanders, Gerald Trexler, Bryant Woodall

USA vs Canada June 25 7:00 PM

Greg Street, Tom Baldinelli, Andy Cook

USA vs Canada June 26 7:00 PM

David Mabe, Glenn Barham, Henry Stancil

USA vs Canada June 27 4:00 PM

Darren Sealey, John Kleis, Bill Slish

USA vs Canada June 29 7:05 PM

Myrtle Beach, SC

Barry Chambers, Mike Parnell, Randy Dulin

USA vs Chinese Taipei July 15 7:00 PM

David Pritchett, Dave Yeast, Barry Chambers

USA vs Chinese Taipei July 16 7:00 PM

Greg Street, Steve Sanders, Dave Yeast

USA vs Chinese Taipei July 17 7:00 PM

Dave Yeast, John Kleis, Junior Creech

USA vs Chinese Taipei July 18 7:00 PM

John Kleis, Bryant Woodall, Randy Dulin

# ABUA-IBAF announce seven-day Florida camp

The Amateur Baseball Umpires' Association (ABUA) and the International BAseball Federation (IBAF) will sponsor a seven-day umpire camp for amateur baseball umpires Sunday, October 31 through Saturday, November 6, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The host for the camp will be Playball Baseball Academy.

The ABUA-IBAF Umpire Camp will feature individual instruction for each student, with emphasis on positioning, timing, movement, voice and signals; developing a consistent strike zone (lots of cage work with videotape and live-game action); plate and base mechanics in 2-, 3- and 4-man systems; and an emphasis on philosophy, mental approach, handling situations appearance and equipment.

ABUA staff members instructing at this camp bring more than 150 years of umpiring experience to the camp. These instructors — Dick Runchey, Jim Garman, Gus Rodriguez, John Kleis, AJ Lostaglio, Kyle McNeely and Doug Ricciardi — have umpired at the professional, international, collegiate and high school levels. They are deeply committed to umpiring and to making you a stronger umpire.

Click on the following link to access an online brochure for the ABUA-IBAF Umpire Camp:

<http://www.umpire.org/flcamp.pdf>

You can access a registration form by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.umpire.org/flcamp-reg.pdf>

For ABUA members, the cost of the camp is \$1,000. The cost for non-ABUA members and all international umpires is \$1,200. The cost includes everything BUT your transportation to and from South Florida. All instruction, games, meals and hotel accommodations are included in the cost! A \$250 deposit is required to hold your reservation. Camp attendance will be limited to the first 50 registered

## Toledo camp gets raves!

Here are just a few of the comments from a camp held in March for the Independent Umpire Association in Toledo, Ohio:

Dave Caig (20-plus years experience): "The Independent Umpire Association and their officers should be commended for bringing such a clinic to northwest Ohio. Nothing like this has ever been available before."

Seth King (new umpire): "I have played baseball since I was 9, and I never realized how much detail goes into umpiring a game."

Dave Schielbein (new adult umpire): "I felt nervous at first, because I didn't know the first thing about the mechanics of umpiring, but in 6 hours I received an invaluable amount of information."

And finally, from John Meyers, who organized the clinic with the ABUA: "I was pleased to see some of the umpires who attended the clinic actually using some of the tips they were given the very next week. It has really improved our organization as a whole."

The instructors at the camp were Dick Runchey, Kyle McNeely and John Bennett.

For information on having an ABUA clinic for your local association, e-mail Ted Breidenthal at [ted@umpire.org](mailto:ted@umpire.org).

umpires.

If you have any questions about the camp, contact Dick Runchey at [RRunch6050@aol.com](mailto:RRunch6050@aol.com). I hope you can take advantage of this outstanding learning opportunity.

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## The Ground Rules

A monthly electronic publication of the Amateur Baseball Umpires' Association.

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## THE ABUA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Ted Breidenthal

PRESIDENT: John Magnusson

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Kyle McNeely

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: John Kleis

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT: Doug Ricciardi

## Tip of the Month...

### The pickoff at first

One of the toughest calls in baseball is the pick-off at 1st when working the two-man system.

Watching for a balk, the quick throw to 1st, the quick tag, the blocking of the base all can be a part of this picture.

A good rule of thumb is ONLY call the runner out when you are absolutely sure he is out.

If you are unsure, go with the safe call.

-- Dick Runchey

## Tell us what you want...

Do you have a suggestion for a tip of the month?

Any exciting news to share?

Questions you want answered by the ABUA Board?

Send an e-mail to [ted@umpire.org](mailto:ted@umpire.org) and we'll do our best to give you what you want!

## Beating the heat!

The Fourth of July weekend brings baseball tournaments all across the country! Courtesy of the American Red Cross, here are a few things you can do to beat the heat this summer:

### **Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.**

Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. Nothing beats those light blue and cream colored shirts in the middle of the day!

### **Drink plenty of water regularly and often.**

Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty. Water is the safest liquid to drink during heat emergencies.

### **Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine in them.**

Those cokes can make you feel good briefly, but make the heat's effects on your body worse. This is especially true about beer, which dehydrates the body.

### **Eat small meals and eat more often.**

Avoid foods that are high in protein, which increase metabolic heat.

### **Avoid using salt tablets.**

The only time you should use them is if directed to do so by a physician.

On the field, don't forget to take your coolers of water and Gatorade. And you might want to put a towel in that cooler. As your ice melts, it makes for a nice, cold, wet towel to use either during or after games!



**One of the benefits of ABUA membership is a 10 percent discount for ordering from Honig's!**

The Fall 2004 catalog for Honig's has been mailed and Honig's has everything you need for baseball and every other sport! If you didn't get one, go to [Honigs.com](http://Honigs.com) and get on the mailing list today!