

January, 2019

My name is Rick DeGardner and I will again be assigning baseball/softball games for Gopher State Officials for the 2019 season. We will again be using the on-line assigning system GotOfficials for the upcoming baseball/softball season. GotOfficials will be the method in which you will indicate your availability, accept/reject assignments, contact schools and partners, receive informational notices, etc.

Check out our website (www.gopherstateofficials.org) to access pertinent information including upcoming meetings, pay rates, training resources, etc.

You must have your User Name and Password to access the GotOfficials website (www.gotofficials.com). If you can't remember your username and/or password you can click on the "Forgot Password" link on the sign-in page. If you have previously created a GotOfficials account you MUST NOT create another account. Send me an email (rickdeg@comcast.net) if you need help. If you are new to GotOfficials, please go to the GotOfficials website and click on the "New User Register" link.

Please log on to GotOfficials to indicate what days you are not available to work (Under "My Availability" section). This needs to be done by March 1, 2019. Also review/update your contact information under "My Profile" and add a photo of yourself if you haven't already done so. It is imperative that you keep your availability updated. Simply block/unblock dates as your availability changes. Since games typically don't start until at least 4:00pm, there is no need to block off mornings and early afternoons for each weekday on GotOfficials. (It's best to just leave dates completely open if you can work an afternoon or evening game).

The 2019 Umpire Information Sheet must also be completed (available on our website – www.gopherstateofficials.org). It's important that you answer every question. **Please be as complete as possible.** The more detailed information you provide me (ie. experience, preferred partner(s), willingness to travel, etc.) the better chance I have of preparing a schedule that fits your expectations. This form now has interactive capability so you can complete the form and email it back to me. Please return the completed 2019 Umpire Information Sheet to rickdeg@comcast.net or send via US mail to the address listed on the form by March 1, 2019. If you are new to Gopher State Officials you must also complete the Gopher State Officials Softball/Baseball Membership Application Form (available on our website).

To summarize, you need to log in to GotOfficials to update your availability **AND** send me the 2019 Umpire Information Sheet by March 1, 2019. I will not be able to assign you any games until **BOTH** items are taken care of. If you are no longer interested in working baseball/softball for Gopher State Officials, please email me so I can remove you from the distribution list.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!! Our Baseball/Softball meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 20th** at 6:00pm at the Brooklyn Park Community Center located at 5600 85th Ave North. The building is located two blocks East of Zane Ave, where the hockey arena is.

Dues this year are \$80 if they are paid before April 1, 2019. After that they become \$95. Umpires that end up working less than 15 games will be given a pro-rated refund of dues. Pay your dues at the March 20th meeting or send your check (payable to Gopher State Officials) to Bozo (6307 61st Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428). Any umpires still owing dues from previous seasons will not be assigned any games until dues are paid in full.

The best way to get a hold of me with any questions is via email (rickdeg@comcast.net). I check for email messages several times each day.

This letter is also available at www.gopherstateofficials.org

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