



**CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
(CCBUA)**

Constitution and By-Laws

Revised 3/17/2025

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Chapter I - Name of Association

The name of this Association shall be “Central Connecticut Baseball Umpires Association Co.” and/or “Central Connecticut Baseball Umpires Association” (“CCBUA”, “the Association”).

Chapter II - Association Objectives

The objectives of the CCBUA shall be to provide competent umpiring services for umpire crews, recreation officials and athletic directors; to further the knowledge and understanding of baseball rules and officiating mechanics; to recruit and develop novice umpires; to promote umpire advancement; and to continue affiliation with the Connecticut State Board of Approved Baseball Umpires (“CSBABU”).

Chapter III - Membership

Article 1 - Levels of Membership

There shall be four (4) levels of membership in the CCBUA.

- (1) **Probationary** - A member who:
 - Attains the minimum age of 18 on or before April 1st in the year of application.
 - Successfully completes the written exam and has attained a score of at least 80%.
 - Paid all required dues and fees in full.

- (2) Active - A member who:
- Attains the age of 21 on or before April 1st in the year of application, or; is a Probationary member that has been approved for Active membership by the Umpire Development Committee.
 - Paid all required dues and fees in full.

There shall be two classes of Active Membership.

Class A: Executive Board with voting rights.

Class B: General Membership with voting rights.

- (3) Inactive - A member who has relinquished membership by act of formal resignation or defaulting on annual dues. Inactive members may attend the annual banquet but at their own personal expense.

- (4) Honorary - A member who has:
- Served a minimum of 10 years with the CCBUA.
 - Served as an Officer or Executive Board member for more than one term.
 - Rendered meritorious service to the Association.
 - Received a nomination plus a 75% majority vote from Active membership.

Article 2 - Dual Board Membership

CCBUA members may hold a dual active membership with other boards/chapters of the CSBABU. CCBUA members who hold active memberships with other state boards are ineligible to serve as an elected Officer or Executive Board member with the CCBUA.

Article 3 - Transferred Membership

Any umpire from another board or association who seeks membership with the CCBUA must submit written evidence or testimony from their prior Association stating that he/she was a member in good standing and actively umpired baseball games in the season prior to transferring. All written information shall be reviewed by the Executive Board who will approve or reject the transfer. Active membership will be withheld pending annual dues paid in full by the transferring applicant.

Article 4 - Leave of Absence from Membership

Any member may request a leave of absence for up to one (1) full year. The request must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and receive approval from the Executive Board. Members who request and receive approval for a full-year's leave are not required to pay annual dues, nor will they be permitted to work any games for the CCBUA.

Umpires returning after a one-year leave may return as an Active or Inactive member. Umpires who take a leave of absence for a period less than one year shall have their annual dues prorated commensurate with their Active membership for that year. Umpires who take a leave of absence for a period longer than one year, shall re-apply for membership as a new candidate.

Chapter IV - Officers and Commissioners

Article 1 - Officers

Officers of the CCBUA shall include the President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, elected by a majority vote of the Membership at the first meeting of the year in which the offices expire. Newly elected Officers' terms commence at this meeting. Terms for all Officers shall

be for a period of two (2) years. The President and Vice-President shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in each respective office. The Secretary/Treasurer may serve an unlimited number of two-year terms.

Section 1 - Officer Duties

- (A) President:** The President shall preside at all meetings and call special meetings as the need arises; appoint all Standing Committees as specified in these By-Laws or otherwise established by membership vote, and; oversee all operations, functions and business activities of the Association.
- (B) Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President in his absence and act as the chapter's representative to the CSBABU. The Vice-President shall also assist in the recruitment and training of new umpires.
- (C) Secretary/Treasurer:** The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for all communications involving the Association and its membership; take the minutes at all Association meetings; keep attendance records; update and provide the membership roster as required; preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-President; handle all Association financial transactions including annual dues collection; keep an accurate record of Association revenues and expenditures; order and distribute rule books as required; organize an annual banquet for the membership, and; distribute an itemized financial report at the first and last meeting of each year. For such services, the Secretary/Treasurer shall be paid an annual stipend of \$450.

Article 2 - Assignment Commissioners

There shall be two Assignment Commissioner positions. The Spring Commissioner shall assign all games brokered by grammar schools, parochial schools, middle schools, high schools, prep schools and on occasion or if necessary, colleges. The Summer Commissioner shall assign all games brokered by amateur and recreational leagues of all age groups.

Assignment Commissioners shall be elected by majority vote of the membership and shall serve a term of two (2) years. Commissioners may be re-elected to serve an indefinite number of consecutive terms. The same individual may hold both Commissioner positions simultaneously.

Section 1 - Commissioner Duties

1. For their services, Commissioners will be paid an assessment that will constitute a percentage of each game assigned. That percentage shall be consistent with assessment percentages paid by all other CSBABU boards to their commissioners.
2. At no time shall the Commissioner delegate this responsibility to another CCBUA member.
3. Commissioners shall assign only CCBUA members to all games.
4. Any Commissioner who is unable to perform the required duties due to sudden emergencies, unforeseen events or extenuating circumstances, will be replaced on a temporary basis by a member

in good standing to be approved and appointed by the Executive Board.

Article 3 - Rules Interpreter

The Rules Interpreter shall be appointed by the Executive Board. The Rules Interpreter shall attend the mandatory CSBABU clinic each year; conduct training sessions and testing for the current membership as well as new candidates. Time shall be allowed at all meetings for the Rules Interpreter to discuss or answer questions regarding rules interpretation, play situations and mechanics.

Chapter V - Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be responsible for administrative and operational duties required to meet the objectives set forth in Chapter II. The Executive Board shall consist of all three Officers, all Commissioners, Rules Interpreter, the most recent past President and three Additional Members who are members of the Association in good standing. All members of the Executive Board shall pay 50% of the required membership dues during their tenure.

Article 1 - Executive Board Additional Members

The three Additional Members of the Executive Board shall be designated as Members "A," "B," & "C." These Members shall serve three-year staggered terms, such that their terms will expire on a rotational basis, thereby causing only one of the positions to be up for election in a given year.

Vacancies in the Additional Members positions shall be filled with nominations by, and majority vote of the Executive Board.

Chapter VI - Committees

Article 1 - Assignment Committee

The Assignment Committee shall consist of the Assignment Commissioners and the Vice-President. Where necessary, the Assignment Committee shall review, approve or reject assignments.

Article 2 - Auditing Committee

The Auditing Committee shall consist of the Additional Members of the Executive Board. The Auditing Committee shall review all relevant financial statements on an annual basis.

Article 3 - Better Officiating Committee

The Better Officiating Committee shall consist of the President, the Assignment Commissioners and the Rules Interpreter.

Section 1 - Training

The Better Officiating Committee shall be responsible for umpire training and development. The committee will do this by arranging training sessions with outside sources as well as by performing in-house clinics.

Section 2 - Evaluation

The Better Officiating Committee shall evaluate umpires whenever such action is required for umpire advancement or when such action is recommended by the CSBABU.

Article 4 - Budget Committee

The Budget Committee shall consist of the Association Officers. The Budget Committee shall develop an annual budget, prepare and submit all required tax forms and set amounts for all dues and fees collected by the Association.

Article 5 - Grievance Committee

The Grievance Committee shall consist of the Additional Members of the Executive Board. The Grievance Committee shall review all oral and written testimony submitted by members facing discipline or sanctions imposed by the Executive Board. In all situations involving disciplinary actions, the Grievance Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Board based upon its findings, for further action to be dispensed by the Executive Board.

Article 6 - Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Additional Members of the Executive Board and will make recommendations to the Executive Board for all positions that are filled by Executive Board appointment or voting.

Article 7 - Social Committee

The Social Committee shall consist of the Secretary/Treasurer plus any two other Executive Board members that volunteer to serve for a particular cause. These causes shall include, but not be limited to, awards, banquets, charitable causes, condolence or remembrance situations, parties, and events involving immediate families of membership.

Article 8 - State Board Committee

The State Board Committee shall consist of the Vice-President or his delegate, the Rules Interpreter and the Spring Assignment Commissioner. The State Board Committee shall collect and disseminate information and materials from the CSBABU meetings relevant to the Association. The committee shall also be responsible for communicating relevant Association information and issues to the CSBABU when necessary. The Vice-President shall represent the Association at all CSBABU meetings, but may defer to one of the other two committee members if there is a conflict.

Chapter VII - Meetings

Article 1 - Types of Meetings

There shall be a minimum of five (5) regular meetings, one of which will be the mandatory National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules clinic. The annual banquet itself shall not be considered a meeting, but a meeting may take place prior to the banquet. All meetings will be held at times, dates and locations established by the Executive Board.

Article 2 - Attendance

All active and probationary members are required to attend four (4) out of the five pre-scheduled meetings, with no exception made for the NFHS rules clinic meeting. Any member who cannot attend the Association's NFHS clinic is responsible for attending another chapter's NFHS clinic. Any member who attends another chapter's NFHS clinic is responsible for having that chapter's secretary confirm his/her attendance in writing with the Association's secretary.

Article 3 - Fines

Fines will be assessed to members who miss yearly meetings beyond the one excused meeting. Fines shall be assessed as follow:

- First missed meeting - \$15
- Second missed meeting - \$20
- Third missed meeting - \$25 and immediate suspension

All assesed fines become due and payable immediately upon the conclusion of the calendar year's final meeting.

Article 4 - Excused Absences from Meetings

Members shall be excused from meetings with no fines assessed under the following circumstances:

- Family member emergency or illness.
- The member has been assigned a game at a date and time that is in conflict with the Association's meeting.
- The Association's representative to the CSBABU attends a State Board meeting that is in conflict with the Association's meeting.

Chapter VIII - Constitutional By-Laws

Article 1 - Quorum

Fifty percent (50%) of the entire membership in good standing, shall constitute a quorum in all situations where voting is required.

Article 2 - Amendments to Bylaws

Bylaws may be amended at any meeting with a quorum vote of all members in good standing, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the President or Secretary/Treasurer no less than one week prior to the voting meeting.

Article 3 - Dues and Fees

Section 1 - Dues

Association dues shall be determined by the Budget Committee at the Executive Board's first meeting each year. Dues shall be set at a rate that creates sufficient revenue to satisfy the Association's financial obligations and all operational expenses. Notice for payment of the annual dues plus all assessed fines shall be sent to each member. Failure to pay this obligation by July 31st of the calendar year will result in a \$50 fine and may result in the partial or full loss of the following spring's schedule.

Section 2 - Fees

The Spring Commissioner will submit assessment invoices to membership in the first week of June each season, with fees payable by July 31st of that season. The Summer Commissioner will submit assessment invoices to membership no later than August 31st of each season, with fees payable by September 30th of that season. The CCBUA may impose a \$25 fine on members who are delinquent with assessment payments after these deadlines.

Section 3 - Refunded Dues

Any umpire who retires from the Association shall receive a full refund of his/her dues, provided that notice of the impending retirement is given to the Executive Board prior to July 31st of the calendar year. If notice is given after July 31st, the umpire shall receive a prorated refund, the amount of which shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Article 4 - Umpire Obligations

Section 1 - Umpire Testing

Every umpire must take the annual CIAC rules test and achieve a score of 80% or better. Umpires who fail to achieve a score of 80% may be required to attend a training clinic as directed by the Better Officiating Committee, then retake the test. Failure to take the annual test shall result in forfeiture of that spring's scholastic schedule.

Section 2 - Umpire Schedules

Umpires may choose to forego a spring schedule. Membership dues will not be prorated for umpires who choose to work a partial schedule. All umpires are required to accept a summer schedule of no less than ten (10) game assignments. Failure to provide at least ten open dates for summer baseball will result in the loss of summer tournament games as well as partial or full forfeiture of the following spring's schedule.

Section 3 - Arbiter Maintenance

CCBUA umpires shall maintain their availability schedules in the Arbiter systems in a manner that best and most accurately defines their availability at all times. Turnbacks shall be kept to a categorical minimum. A turnback is described as any game that gets declined within 72 hours of the scheduled game time, including games that had already been accepted. Umpires who turn back a game shall be fined as follows:

Annual Occurrences

1st Turnback - No fine

2nd Turnback - \$15 fine

3rd Turnback - \$20 fine

4th Turnback - \$25 fine

5th Turnback - \$30 fine and appear before the Executive Board

Fines will be waived in instances where the Executive Board has determined that a legitimate mitigating circumstance existed which warranted the turnback.

Article 5 - Suspension and/or Loss of Membership

Section 1 - Violations

The following infractions may result in umpire suspension or loss of membership. Such occurrences shall be arbitrated by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis.

- Violation of any Chapter, Article or Section of these By-Laws.
- Umpiring any game assigned by the Association for a fee less than that negotiated by the Association.
- Working any game assigned by the Association with an umpire that has not been certified by the CSBABU.
- Soliciting games.
- Unbecoming or reprehensible conduct that reflects poorly on, or negatively affects the Association.
- Transferring a game assignment to another umpire without receiving prior approval from the Assignment Commissioner.
- Public criticism or outward negative critique of a fellow Association member. Umpires found to be guilty of this violation shall be temporarily suspended pending an appearance before the Executive Board.
- Failure to pay dues, fees and/or fines.

Section 2 - Right to Appeal

Every umpire has the right to appeal any fine, suspension or termination. Appeals shall be submitted in an e-mail or written letter to the Association Secretary within fifteen (15) days of receiving notice of the infraction. Letters must state the reason for

the appeal as well as a justification for the reversal of whatever penalty has been imposed upon the umpire. The Grievance Committee shall review all appeals and will render a decision on the matter in a timeframe not to exceed two (2) weeks.

In all cases where a termination/loss of membership is pending, the appeal shall be brought before the Executive Board before any such action is executed. The umpire will receive an e-mail with a time and date for the meeting with the Executive Board.

Section 3 - Readmission/Reinstatement

Any former member who has been terminated or has resigned, may apply for reinstatement in the Association no sooner than one (1) year following the member's termination/resignation. Procedure for reinstatement is as follows:

1. Former member shall submit a letter to the Association President or Secretary requesting reinstatement.
2. Request shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board.
3. All financial obligations shall be paid immediately.
4. Former member will be reinstated as a new umpire, regardless of experience and prior years of service.

Article 6 - Umpire Evaluations

Umpires will be rated in terms of ability on the following scale:

- **100 Rated** - CIAC Master List umpires, eligible for all phases of state tournament play, varsity games and American Legion games.
- **125 Rated** - Varsity umpires eligible for early rounds of state tournament play, varsity games and American Legion games.

- **150 Rated** - Sub-varsity umpires. 150 Rated umpires shall not be eligible for state tournament games. 150 Rated umpires may work varsity games and American Legion games on an emergency-need basis.

125 Rated and 150 Rated umpires may make an appeal to the Better Officiating Committee for a rating upgrade at any point during the season. A fee of \$25 will be paid in advance by the umpire requesting the evaluation.