

BAFHA UMPIRES REPORT 2005 AGM For the 2004 Season

Once again it is time for me to review the past season. Although progress has been made each year, I remain dissatisfied with where we are. Each season we have teams that do not provide umpires, we have umpires who do not know the rules, and we have umpires who are unable to maintain a safe environment on the field.

I suppose that would be the bad news. The good news is that each year we have more and more well qualified umpires in the league, and each year we have players and teams putting out extra efforts to improve the umpiring of the league. I think special recognition should be given to Vasu and Jules from Palo Alto and Andreas from Cal who have all stepped in numerous times to help umpire matches when the assigned umpires were not available.

The problems, as I see them are the following:

1. Individual umpires who are not of sufficient level to correctly umpire and control the game
2. A shortage of well qualified umpires
3. Some teams fail to fulfill their umpiring obligations
4. Teams that are not well disciplined on the field, and by the very nature of their behavior create unsafe playing conditions

This year we conducted a survey of all of the BAFHA members. In this survey, players rated umpiring as the most important thing for us to work on improving. In addition, many of the comments that people added to the survey related to concerns over the quality umpiring.

I believe it is time that we draw the line and really try to fix the umpiring this season. My goal is for the members of the league to see significant improvement this year.

Proposals for the new season:

1. We will add a Head Umpire position in the league
 - a. The head umpire will provide the league with guidance on umpiring issues (new rules, rule interpretations, etc.)
 - b. The head umpire will certify that people are of suitable ability to umpire matches
 - c. The head umpire will provide training and mentoring for umpires
 - d. The head umpire in exchange for their services during the season will have his/her airfare paid to attend the USFHA Umpiring Meeting
2. We will change the pay scales for umpiring:
 - a. Novice/Trainee \$10 per match
 - b. Skilled \$20 per match
 - c. Sectional or Above \$30 per match
3. There shall be awards for umpires
 - a. Umpire of the Year award
 - b. Most Improved Umpire award
4. There shall be a procedure for removal of umpires
 - a. Teams may request that an umpire not be allowed to umpire until they receive further training

- b. Request is reviewed by the umpiring committee
- 5. If teams do not wish to provide umpires, they may elect to pay an opt out fee at the start of the season
 - a. This fee will cover the cost of finding additional umpires to cover that team's matches.
 - b. The amount of the fee was set at \$200

The above actions will help us to meet our goal of significantly improving the umpiring in the league. However, we are still dependent on the full cooperation of each team to make sure that this league is safe and enjoyable for all players and umpires.