

TO: College Baseball Umpires
FROM: Rich Fetchiet
DATE: July, 2010
SUBJECT: 2011 CBUA Registration

NEW FEE AND NEW EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR 2011

This is a lengthy communication with a lot of new information for 2011—it is vital all umpires read and understand the information contained in this memorandum.

If you are interested in being a part of the Collegiate Baseball Umpires Alliance (CBUA) for 2011, **please read all of the information in this memorandum** and then respond promptly by completing a registration form and returning it with your \$125 check no later than October 1, 2010. Feel free to share this information and a registration form with other qualified college baseball umpires.

As you know, last year was the first time the NCAA requested a registration fee from college officials. The fee was mandatory for any umpire wanting to be considered for post-season play. In its introductory year (2010) the fee was \$100 for D-I officials and \$50 for others and it was optional for umpires not desiring post-season consideration. The NCAA fee for all umpires in 2011 will be \$100.

Last year we did not mandate that our CBUA umpires pay the optional \$100 to the NCAA because we were unsure of the overall value of the benefits package associated with the fee. We also knew that all of our CBUA members were already paying our 2010 CBUA fee of \$80. However, many of our members also registered with the NCAA in 2010, which resulted in them paying \$180 in total registration fees.

Those umpires that chose to register with the NCAA benefitted from the online rules testing program, instructional videos and, of course, eligibility for post-season assignments. Last year for the first time in the history of the CBUA, with the exception of those umpires who also registered with the NCAA, we did not mandate completion of the preseason rules test (because it was only available to NCAA registered umpires). Similarly, last year was the only time in our organization's history that we did not strongly encourage attendance at an annual NCAA clinic and CBUA meeting—our reasoning/rationale for this decision last year was based on a combination of no NCAA meeting being held in our general geography and the tough economic times.

Over the course of the 2010 season it was clear that our umpires missed out on opportunities because of not taking or not passing the test, not seeing the latest video updates, not staying abreast of the rules interpretations, etc. We had several umpires slated for D-II and D-III post-season assignments who were removed from consideration for not registering with the NCAA.

There were several outcomes last year that were troubling to us as members of one of college baseball's leading umpire organizations. The CBUA has long been recognized as one of the pioneers in collegiate sports officiating consortiums. As many of you know, particularly those of you who also officiate another college sport, officiating alliances/consortiums are the future of our avocation and many have been modeled after the CBUA. As a leading organization, we need to learn from last year and step forward for 2011. If we're not constantly maturing as an organization, we will go backwards . . . status quo is never good enough. Our commitment to our mission of recruiting, educating/training, and assigning the most deserving college umpires cannot be stagnant. Even the one-year hiatus from testing and clinic/meeting attendance negatively impacted us a group. Additionally, in meetings this summer with conference representatives it has become increasingly clear that they are supportive of umpires being registered with the NCAA. My expectation is that enrolling all of our umpires with the NCAA will put us just ahead of the curve and position all of our umpires appropriately if/when conferences require registration.

Because of this we have initiated several changes for 2011. Included in our \$125 registration fee for each CBUA member will be:

- ✓ full payment of the NCAA's \$100 registration fee for 2011 (DO NOT PAY THE NCAA DIRECTLY—WE WILL REGISTER ALL OF OUR CBUA MEMBERS IN EARLY OCTOBER AND PAY FOR OUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP),
- ✓ invitation to the CBUA rules/mechanics meeting to be held in conjunction with the NCAA meeting in Chicago,
- ✓ invitation to NCAA national umpire meetings,
- ✓ consideration for regular season assignments,
- ✓ consideration for conference tournaments,
- ✓ consideration for NJCAA, NAIA, and NCAA post-season assignments,
- ✓ networking opportunities with numerous assignors,
- ✓ use of CBUA's Arbiter Sports assigning web site,
- ✓ CBUA gift,
- ✓ NCAA Rule Book,
- ✓ CCA Mechanics Manual,
- ✓ CBUA web-based Guidebook,
- ✓ CBUA web links to conferences, Arbiter Sports/NCAA Central Hub, Umpire organizations, etc.
- ✓ 10% discount on all umpire-related purchases from Honig's.

Please consider this your invitation to register with the CBUA for the 2011 baseball season.

While several conferences and college assignors utilize our CBUA roster exclusively when filling assignments, REGISTERING DOES NOT GUARANTEE ASSIGNMENTS. A tentative list of schools utilizing the services of the CBUA can be seen on our web site at: www.vspn.com/cbua/

Assigning will begin in the fall and continue throughout the season. If you already have closed dates because of other assignments, work schedules, personal commitments, etc., you will be given an opportunity early this fall to update your availability on Arbiter.

You should also know that among our CBUA registrants are numerous assignors from all levels of college baseball, as well as several assignors affiliated with some of the leading summer/amateur baseball programs. We not only welcome these assignors in the CBUA, we encourage them to use our CBUA members—we are not the type of organization that restricts our umpires from taking assignments from other assignors.

The registration fee for 2011 will be \$125. **If you are interested in registering with the CBUA for 2011, please complete the application form and return it to me with your \$125 check (made payable to CBUA) to: 4083 Lake Forest Drive East, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 no later than October 1, 2010.**

NCAA Umpire Meetings will be held in four locations across the United States during January of 2011. In 2011 we will have a CBUA meeting tied to the Chicago, January 29, NCAA meeting. Our CBUA meeting will be held Sunday morning, January 30, 2011. Please do not make plans to depart Chicago any earlier than 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, as we will have a very full morning of meetings/clinic.

If you cannot make the meeting in Chicago, we encourage you to attend one of the other NCAA meetings.

2011 NCAA meeting schedule is below:

January 8
Nashville, TN

January 15
Philadelphia,

January 22
Phoenix, AZ

**January 29 & 30
Chicago, IL**

The following D-I conferences will meet in Chicago as part of the NCAA meeting/CBUA meeting/clinic: Big 12 Conference, Big East Conference (west side), Big Ten Conference, Conference-USA, Horizon League, Mid-American Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, as well as all non-D-I conferences associated with the CBUA.

Hotel information, registration details, meeting agendas, etc. etc. will all come at a later date.

Two closing thoughts about registering with the CBUA . . . first and foremost, while I personally believe the value and benefits you receive for your CBUA registration fee make it well worth the investment, I encourage you to think hard about your decision to register with the CBUA. Look carefully at the schools/conferences we serve and those served by our affiliated assignors—if you are not geographically appropriate for the CBUA or don't believe we are positioned to help you now or in the immediate future, please save your fee. By no means do I want to mislead you into believing that registering with the CBUA automatically qualifies you for college-level umpire assignments. You should also know that I do not foresee dramatic expansion relative to the Division I conference staffs that I currently supervise.

Second, if you are the type of official that prefers not to attend a NCAA meeting, or that thinks annual rules tests are a waste of time, or that makes a habit of canceling assignments, or that shows up late for games and/or pre-game meetings, or prefers your own uniform to that of the CBUA when working our assignments, or prefers your own mechanics rather than those specified by the CCA and NCAA, or that needs to use tobacco on the field or around the stadium or locker room, or that has serious personal issues with illegal drugs, alcohol, or gambling, please DO NOT register with the CBUA.

If you need to contact me, I prefer email. If you need to telephone me, call me at my office—I am available most weekday mornings.