

Constitution and By-Laws

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

Article I Name

Section A The name of this organization shall be the Chautauqua County Baseball Umpires Association, Inc..

Article II Purpose

Section A To study the appropriate rules and to discuss their intent for uniform interpretation and to progressively improve the quality of athletic officiating through the study of approved techniques.

Section B To establish, promote, and maintain a code of officiating ethics and to conduct each athletic contest as an instrument of character, good sportsmanship, and high type of American citizenship.

Section C To co-operate with the appropriate National and State rules making bodies in the advancement of the sport of baseball as a recognized and wholesome form of physical development and recreation.

Section D To progressively improve and elevate the officiating standards of the Chautauqua County Chapter and to maintain the integrity and high standards of the Chapter.

Section E To render a more efficient service to the various schools and organizations of the area through co-operative efforts and the development of the correct professional attitudes toward their athletic programs.

Article III Membership

Section A A senior candidate member shall be any person 18 years of age or older who desires to affiliate with this chapter for the purpose of becoming a certified

baseball umpire and who possessing the necessary qualifications, is accepted as a candidate member of this chapter by the membership committee.

Section B A probationary member shall be a former candidate member who has passed the New York State written and practical examination. At the last regular meeting of the year, the membership committee shall decide on the candidates' status in the organization, and recommend one of the following to the membership for the purpose of voting upon:

1. Accept as a fully certified member.
2. Accept as a certified member on a conditional basis. If accepted conditionally, the member would need to attend any number of umpires' classes as prescribed by the membership committee the following year.
3. Elevated to any status. If so, may be required to attend additional classes as prescribed by the membership committee
4. Dropped entirely from the association. If dropped entirely from the association, the candidate has the option of retaking the school.
5. If the candidate is dropped from the association a second time, after retaking the school, the candidate will be permanently ineligible for membership in the association.

Section C A certified member shall be a former probationary member or a candidate member who has passed the written and practical examinations, and after acceptance by the membership committee, is accepted as a certified member at the last regular meeting of the year, by majority vote of the certified members present.

Section D Any candidate 15 through 17 years of age is eligible for junior membership if they fulfill the requirements of a certified member. At age 18 the candidate may become a certified member upon recommendation of the membership committee and a sustaining vote by the entire membership.

Section E A certified member may change his status to that of inactive member for a maximum of two years by notifying the association, in writing, no later than the first regular meeting of the year and submitting a payment of \$5.00 per year. If his dues have already been paid in full the difference will be refunded or credited towards his dues for the following year. An inactive member may resume his status as a fully certified member anytime within two (2) years by notifying the association in writing, and paying the necessary dues. A former

certified member no longer in inactive status can be reinstated at the level determined by the membership committee

Section F After the first meeting of the year no refunds will be made to any member desiring to:

1. Discontinue membership in the organization
2. Change to inactive status

Section G To maintain oneself as a certified member in good standing a member must:

1. Make the 5 point plan, which is:
 - a. Observe the constitution and by-laws of the local and state organizations.
 - b. Attend the interpretation meetings and clinics of the local organization each year.
 - c. Give satisfactory evidence of proficiency in the mechanics of officiating and of competent performance related to the sport.
 - d. Pass the National Federation, State or approved rules examination
 - e. Are listed with the New York State Public High School Sports Association

2. To be certified to work high school varsity games each member must:
 - a. Fulfill the meeting requirements of the previous year.
 - b. Work a minimum of eight (8) games the preceding year.
 - c. Must annually pass the current NFHS test. The passing grade to be determined each year by the interpreter.

Article IV Fees, Dues, and Assessments

Section A All members, both senior and junior, shall pay dues, fees, and assessments as voted on by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any called meeting. The officers, members of the executive committee, and the interpreter of this organization shall be exempt from dues. Dues will be based on the varsity fee +

10% rounded up to the next \$ 5 increment. The extra amount will be used to establish a contingency fund. All members will be required to pay the extra amount. Exception: All fines levied by the Grievance Committee in the performance of their prescribed duties.

Section C All fees, dues, and assessments shall be paid by September 30th for the upcoming season. Such fees, dues, and assessments will be accepted up to the date of the first regular meeting of the following year with the inclusion of a \$25.00 late fee. Members who have not fulfilled this obligation can be dropped from the association. Under no circumstances will a member be assigned ballgames until all fees, dues, and assessments are paid in full.

Article V Officers

Section A Officers of this organization shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, High School Assignor, Treasurer. The President shall appoint assistants, as necessary, to handle the affairs of the organization.

Section B All officers of the organization shall be certified members.

Section C The term of office of the above named officers shall be for two(2) years with terms staggered. All offices shall be filled by election at the last regular meeting of the year.

Section D The duties of each officer shall be those pertinent to the office and ordinarily performed by each such officer, or as may be directed by the President of the chapter.

Section E Election of Officers

1. Nominations for office must be made from the floor one (1) regular meeting before the election or on the night of the election.
2. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot and a majority vote of those certified senior members present shall elect. Probationary members cannot vote.

3. In the event of the need to replace an officer during his term of office the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

Section F The above named officers, immediate past president, and the interpreter shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall conduct all necessary business of the chapter between regular meetings.

Section G No financial obligation relative to the chapter activities shall be incurred by any officer or any committee, except as may be specifically authorized by the Executive Committee or a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

Section H No officer or committee shall be held financially liable for expenses incurred which have been authorized by the chapter.

Section I Installation of newly elected officers shall take place at the first Executive Committee meeting after the banquet.

Article VI Voting

Section A Each certified member shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

Section B Majority vote shall prevail unless otherwise stipulated in the constitution or by-laws. The president shall vote, but his vote shall be held separate, and used in case of a tie vote.

Article VII Amendments

Section A The constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting, provided the said amendment be presented at any previous regularly scheduled meeting, discussed, tabled, and then voted upon at the next meeting.

Section B Any exceptions or omissions in the constitution shall be governed by the constitution of the New York State Baseball Umpire's Association.

Article VIII Meetings

- Section A Members shall be expected to attend all meetings. Members shall attend the interpretation meeting which will be mandatory and then required to attend four (4) other meetings. A clinic would be considered as a double meeting and a mandatory meeting make-up.
- Section B Special meetings may be called at any time by order of the president or the Executive Committee.
- Section C The Grievance Committee could fine a member a maximum of \$10.00 per meeting for unexcused absences.
- Section D To be excused from attending a regularly scheduled meeting, a member must submit a written excuse to the Grievance Committee within fourteen (14) days following the missed meeting.

Article IX Suspension and Expulsion

- Section A A member may be suspended or expelled for not attending required mandatory or regular meetings.
- Section B A member may be suspended or expelled for action detrimental to the chapter. Such action must remain within the Chapter to be presented to the Grievance Committee for its' recommendation and be sustained by a two-thirds majority of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- Section C Conduct of Due Process Hearing
1. The entire membership will handle all hearings related to the appeal of any grievance or charges of misconduct received by the association against a member.
 2. The Secretary of the association will inform all interested parties of the date and time of the hearing which shall be scheduled and held at the next regular business meeting of the association. The President will attempt to schedule the meeting within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appeal if there are no meetings scheduled.

3. Interested parties may include all of the following but is not intended to be inclusive:
 - a. Coaches of activities
 - b. Students
 - c. Students' parents or guardians
 - d. Any other concerned person
4. The hearing will be conducted similar to a trial with each side presenting their position. Legal counsel may be used by either party and will be provided by themselves. Both the appealing party and the members of the association will have the right to:
 - a. Be present
 - b. Present evidence
 - c. Confront and present witnesses
 - d. Question witnesses
 - e. Be given a decision in writing in a reasonable length of time
5. The results of the hearing will be put in writing and copies sent to all concerned parties.
6. If the accused party is not satisfied with the findings, an appeal may be made to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Article X Transfer of Membership

Section A An individual who is not in good standing as a certified member of a chartered chapter cannot be accepted as a transfer into the membership of this chapter. In the case of a member in good standing of another chartered Chapter changing his residence to the jurisdiction of this chapter, he will be accepted into this as a certified member. This acceptance must be substantiated by a letter from the secretary of the members' former chapter stating that the member is in good standing. He will be expected to pay the required fees of this chapter.

Article XI Committees

Section A All committee members must be certified members of this chapter. The President will appoint all committee chairmen unless specifically stated in the

Constitution. The President may serve on all committees, except the Grievance Committee, as an ex-officio member.

Section B The Grievance Committee shall consist of five (5) members, two (2) to be appointed by the President and three (3) to be elected annually by the membership at the last regular meeting of the year. No member of the Executive Committee shall serve on this committee. The duties of this committee shall be:

1. To sit in judgment of any member whose conduct may be detrimental to the reputation and integrity of the Chapter.
2. To sit in judgment of any member who has violated any provision of the Constitution or By-laws of this Chapter.
3. To levy such fines as are considered justified in such cases or to recommend to the membership for their sustaining vote that such member be suspended or expelled.
4. To sit in consideration and hand down the final decision when any member appeals what he considers an unfair ruling by any officer or committee of the Chapter.
5. Hearings shall take place no later than two (2) regularly scheduled meetings after written notification.
6. The final appeal of any matter not resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned shall be submitted to the body for final deposition.

Section C The President will annually appoint an official interpreter to serve the Chapter for the upcoming season.

Section D The Assigning Committee shall consist of the High School Assignor who shall be chairman, plus four (4) other members, two (2) to be elected at the last regular meeting of the year and two (2) appointed by the President. It is recommended that geographical representation be taken into consideration by the President when making these appointments. It is further recommended that the chairman appoint an assistant from the opposite end of the County to assist in notification of cancellations and reassignments. The duties of this committee shall be to meet with the proper authorities and act with them in the assignment of game officials.

Section E The Membership Committee shall consist of the Interpreter and five (5) other members elected by the body at the last regular meeting. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

1. To investigate, screen (as to desirability), and recommend admittance of candidate members.
2. To arrange and conduct field clinics for both certified and candidate members.
3. To conduct the New York State or National Federation exam.
4. To observe probationary and candidate members under actual game conditions.
5. To conduct written exams for candidate and probationary members.
6. To collect and review candidate and probationary members rating cards.
7. To recommend to the membership at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year which candidate or probationary members are qualified to advance to certified membership.
8. Rate officials for the Section 6 playoffs.

Article XII Assignments

Section A No member shall accept any game assignment except through the Assignment Committee or from any duly approved assignor for non-high school assignments.

Section B All games shall be assigned with the cooperation of the officers of the various leagues or authorities involved. All exhibition games must go through the Assignment Committee or approved league assignor. No individual transferring from another chapter shall be assigned any games until his transfer is complete.

Section C Any member accepting an assigned game and not fulfilling his assignment shall be subject to a fine not to exceed the price of a ball game, at the discretion of the Grievance Committee. If for any reason a member cannot do an assignment he shall notify the assignor at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to game time.

Section D No member shall solicit games or contact coaches, managers, or directors for personal or Association games unless directed by the Executive Committee.

Article XIII Fees for Officiating

Section A All fees for officiating shall be determined in a joint conference with the representatives of the Chapter and the sponsoring agencies. No member shall officiate a contest for less than the specified fee.

Article XIV The Uniform

Section A The uniform of the Association is as follows:

Fecheimer , Cliff Keen, or Smitty Heather gray pants. A Cliff Keen #U126 navy or light blue or red shirt (100% polyester micro mesh), either long or short sleeved with embroidered NYSBUA emblem centered on the left breast pocket. This must be the old style (non-dry fit). Black shoes or commercially made shoes predominately black in color with logo and/or trademark of white only. Black socks. Navy blue fitted hat with the NYSBUA logo. Navy blue or gray ball bag. Black belt. Black, navy blue, or gray mask (straps and padding to be black, navy blue, gray, or tan/natural). A hockey style mask must be plain navy blue or black. Any visible undergarment must be navy blue or red under the dark blue shirt. A long sleeve, navy blue turtleneck shirt may be worn under a jacket, but not under a short sleeve shirt. Equipment must be black or navy blue with the exception of the inside protector which may be any color. Inside chest protector and shin guards must be worn under the uniform. No jewelry shall be worn (except wedding bands). Medical bracelets must be covered if they are visible. The covering can be the uniform jacket or other material the same color as the uniform.

Section B The jacket of the Association is manufactured and available through Anaconda Sports, Inc. It is a navy blue pullover jacket with zippered turtleneck collar, waist band and cuffs and navy blue knit with navy/red/white trim, embroidered NYSBUA emblem with no pockets. The American Flag will be embroidered into the center back shoulder area of the jacket.