

# CONSTITUTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## I. ARTICLE I: NAME

A. The organization shall be known as the Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association or its abbreviation- MBUA.

## II. ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

A. The MBUA shall develop, publicize, and encourage professional standards of knowledge, conduct, and appearance for those who umpire scholastic baseball games in Massachusetts.

B. The MBUA shall guide the governance of its member associations and regulate relations among those associations.

C. The MBUA shall inform its member associations of the policies of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, known, also, as the MIAA.

D. The MBUA shall represent the interests of its Member Associations and Individual Members during any discussions with the MIAA.

## III. ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

A. The MBUA shall have two types of members.

1. The membership shall include Member Associations. Presently, there are sixteen Member Associations, namely the Berkshire, Cape Cod, Central Massachusetts, Eastern Massachusetts, Greater Lawrence, Greater Lowell, Greater Shrewsbury, Hampshire/Franklin, Merrimack Valley, North Central, North Shore, South Shore, Southeastern, Southern, Western Massachusetts, and Worcester Baseball Umpire Associations.

2. The MBUA membership shall include Individual Members.

B. A Member Association may become an MBUA member by applying for membership and obtaining two thirds of the votes at a regular or special meeting of the MBUA.

1. An applicant for Association Member status must have a roster of 60 or more individual members of the MBUA.

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2. An association applicant must be presented to the MBUA by a person elected formally by the applicant's roster to perform that task.

C. A Member Association shall fulfill several administrative standards of MBUA Membership.

1. Each Member Association shall have a written Constitution or By-Laws and shall observe the central provisions of the document.

2. The Secretary of each Member Association shall provide a copy of the Association Constitution or By-Laws to the Secretary/Treasurer of the MBUA, whenever that document is amended significantly.

3. Also, each Member Association shall convene regularly during the scholastic season and shall conduct a rules interpretation meeting before the beginning of each scholastic season.

D. Individual Members of the MBUA must be a member in good standing of a Member Association.

1. An Individual Member must achieve a score of 75% on the annual entrance exam of the MBUA, fulfill all other standards of a Member Association to obtain admission, and comply with the standards of admission established by the MIAA.

2. An Individual Member must fulfill all annual membership requirements of the MBUA, a Member Association, and the MIAA to retain his/her status.

3. It is recommended that each Member Association administer a pre-season refresher exam (Refresher Examination of the MBUA).

a) *The Refresher Examination shall consist of 25 multiple choice or True/False questions.*

b) *A passing grade shall be one of 80% or greater. A score of less than 80% shall be graded as "Needs Improvement".*

c) *A maximum of five attempts should be allowed for the refresher exam.*

4. Member Associations shall hold annual mechanics and rules clinics.

## IV. ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT

A. The MBUA shall be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the properly selected representatives of the Member Associations.

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1. Each Member Association may elect or appoint two representatives to the MBUA Board of Directors.
2. Each representative shall have one vote on all issues decided during meetings of the MBUA Directors.
  - a) *An MBUA meeting may be one at which association representatives convene at one location.*
  - b) *Alternatively, representatives may discuss issues and vote electronically.*
3. A vote of the MBUA Board of Directors will be authoritative only if one representative of 75% of the Member Associations participates in the voting.
4. The Board of Directors shall elect the officers of the MBUA.
  - a) *The elections of officers shall be conducted during the October meeting.*
  - b) *A vacancy among the Executive Committee shall be filled by a vote at the first regularly scheduled meeting after the emergence of the vacancy.*
  - c) *An elected officer must receive a majority of the votes cast.*

## B. The MBUA Board of Directors shall be guided by an Executive Committee consisting of four officers.

1. The President shall direct the affairs of the MBUA.
  - a) *He shall schedule and preside at all meetings of the MBUA.*
  - b) *The President may establish any committee he deems necessary and appoint the member of any such committee.*
  - c) *The President shall appoint the sole delegates(s) of the MBUA to the MIAA Baseball Committee or to any other MIAA entity before which the MBUA should be represented.*
  - d) *The President may appoint a representative to fill an otherwise vacant Executive Committee position, until the Directors meet to elect an officer.*
2. The Vice President shall assist the President and shall assume the responsibilities and authority of the President in his absence.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform several tasks.
  - a) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the Secretary of each Member Association of the time and place of each MBUA meeting.*

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b) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall create a record of each MBUA meeting and both post that record on the MBUA website and send electronically that record to the Secretary of each Member Association within 21 days of that meeting.*

c) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall collect the annual dues of the Member Associations and deposit those amounts in a bank account.*

d) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall pay all charges assessed to the MBUA.*

e) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall report the financial results of the MBUA during the previous year and financial condition of the MBUA on December 31 of the prior year. This report shall be presented during the January meeting of the organization and distributed to the Secretaries of the Member Associations*

f) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall conduct all administrative correspondence between the MBUA Board of Directors and the Member Associations.*

(1) He/she shall deliver electronically to the Secretary of each Member Association the annual MBUA Entrance and Refresher examinations.

(2) He/she shall deliver electronically to the Secretary of each Member Association the annual review of the Rules Interpreter.

g) *The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain a record of the current Constitution of each Member Association of the MBUA.*

4. The Rules Interpreter shall perform several tasks.

a) *The Rules Interpreter shall develop annual entrance and review rules examinations and deliver those examinations to the Secretary/Treasurer by February 1 of each year.*

b) *The Rules Interpreter shall issue annually, during March, reviews of all changes in MIAA baseball rules and deliver those reviews to the Secretary/Treasurer.*

c) *The Rules Interpreter shall advise the Rules Interpreters of the Member Associations about approved positions and signals.*

## V. ARTICLE V: TERMS OF OFFICE

A. A representative of a Member Association may serve in that capacity for as long as the Member Association wishes.

B. The President shall serve a term of two years.

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C. The Vice President shall be elected for a term of two years, upon completion of that term, shall become the President.

1. The Vice President shall be elected during the same October meeting as that which the President is installed.

2. If a Vice President must be elected at some other time, his term shall conclude at the same time as that of the President and he will succeed that President.

D. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years.

1. A Secretary/Treasurer may serve any number of terms.

2. If a Secretary/Treasurer must be replaced during a term, his successor will serve until the completion of that term.

E. The Rules Interpreter shall be elected for a term of three years and may serve an unlimited number of such terms.

1. If the Rules Interpreter must be replaced during a term, his successor will serve until the end of that term.

## VI. ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

A. The Board of Directors shall convene at least three times per year.

1. The Board of Directors shall meeting during January, March and October.

2. Also, the Board of Directors may convene at other necessary occasions.

3. The Board of Directors may conduct an electronic meeting and vote during such a meeting.

B. The President shall determine the time and place of each meeting of the MBUA Board of Directors and the Secretary/Treasurer shall send an electronic meeting notice to the secretary of each MBUA Member Association at least two weeks before each meeting.

C. The meetings of the MBUA Board of Directors shall be, when applicable, conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order and this constitution.

## VII. ARTICLE VII: STIPENDS

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- A. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be paid an annual stipend of \$500. This stipend shall be paid during December of each year.
- B. The Rules Interpreter shall be paid an annual stipend of \$250. This stipend shall be paid during July of each year.

## **VIII. ARTICLE VIII: FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

- A. Each Member Association shall make several types of payments to the MBUA.
  - 1. Each Member Association shall pay annual dues of \$100. Those dues shall be paid by January 30 of each year.
  - 2. Each Member Association shall pay an Initiation Fee of \$100 upon admission to the MBUA. Such payment shall be made within one month of admission.
  - 3. Each Member Association shall be required to pay any additional amounts approved by an authoritative 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors. Any such amount shall be paid within one month of the obligating vote.
- B. Payment shall be made by check written to the MBUA and drawn on a bank account of a Member Association.
- C. The failure to pay properly any MBUA charge within the specified time shall prompt two possible penalties.
  - 1. First, the delinquent Member Association shall be assessed a fine of \$50, which shall be paid within one week of receipt of the notice of delinquency.
  - 2. The failure to pay in a timely fashion, any fine and the related obligation shall prompt immediate suspension of the MBUA voting privileges of the Member Association.

## **IX. ARTICLE IX: REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

- A. The Secretary/Treasurer of each Member Association shall provide annually to the MBUA Secretary/Treasurer a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the principal officers of the association, including representatives to the MBUA. This information shall be transmitted via email by January 31 of each year.

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B. The Secretary/Treasurer of each Member Association shall provide annually to the Secretary/Treasurer of the MBUA a roster of the Individual Members in good standing in the respective local Member Association.

1. The roster shall include the names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and the years of tenure in the MBUA of each Individual Member.
2. Also, the roster shall indicate that a member of a local Member Association had achieved a "Passing" or "Needs Improvement" grade on the annual MBUA Refresher Exam and had or had not attended the Field Clinic of a Member Association.
3. The roster shall be submitted via email by March 31 of each year.

C. When an Individual Member of a local Member Association transfers from one Member Association to another or joins another Member Association, the Secretary/Treasurer of his Member Association shall complete an MBUA Transfer Form and submit that form to the Secretary/Treasurer of the MBUA.

D. The Secretary/Treasurer of each Member Association shall inform each Individual Member of a local Member Association the MBUA and MIAA standards and list of its Individual Members.

1. He/she shall provide each Individual Member of a local Member Association an electronic copy of the uniform standards of the MBUA.
2. He/she shall provide an electronic copy of the current MBUA Positioning and Signaling Manual to each Individual Member of his/her Member Association.
3. He/she shall provide an electronic copy of the relevant protocols of the MIAA.
4. He/she shall post these standards on the website of his/her Member Association and/or provide links to those standards on the MBUA and MIAA websites.

## X. ARTICLE X: STANDARDS OF AN MBUA MEMBER

A. MBUA Members shall observe always the uniform standards of the MBUA during scholastic games.

1. The primary uniform of the MBUA shall consist of the following items;
  - a) *A navy blue jersey adorned with an MBUA badge on the left breast pocket,*
  - b) *Charcoal grey trousers,*
  - c) *A navy blue hat adorned with the MBUA logo,*

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- d) *A black belt, black shoes, and black socks,*
- e) *A navy blue or red undershirt, the sleeves of which are not exposed,*
- f) *A navy blue ball bag, and*
- g) *A navy blue pullover with red epaulets or navy blue or black blazer.*

2. Also, an MBUA umpire may wear a light blue or a red jersey with the same accessories worn with a navy blue shirt.

3. Alternatively, an umpire may wear a black or cream jersey. If he does so, the following items shall be worn;

- a) *Charcoal grey trousers,*
- b) *A black hat adorned with the MBUA logo,*
- c) *A black belt, black shoes, and black socks,*
- d) *A black undershirt,*
- e) *A black ball bag,*
- f) *A black pullover with white epaulets.*

B. Members shall observe the positioning and signaling protocols of the MBUA, unless field conditions, game developments, or injury, among other causes, recommends the temporary adoption of other methods.

C. Members shall observe all protocols of the MIAA, including those concerning the post-game handshake ceremony.

## **XI. ARTICLE XI: SOVEREIGNTY**

A. The policies of the MBUA shall be observed by all Member Associations and Individual Members.

B. The MBUA may adjudicate matters concerning its Member Associations.

C. An Individual Member deemed to act notably and/or routinely in violation of MBUA policy may be subject to disciplinary action by the MBUA.

1. Disciplinary action shall be initiated by a two-thirds majority of an authoritative vote during a meeting.



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2. The Executive Committee shall convene a hearing of the matter and offer a recommendation to the Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors shall pronounce the disciplinary judgement and penalty by a two-thirds majority of an authoritative vote.
4. Any disciplinary judgement and penalty may be appealed by the concerned Individual Member.
  - a) *An appeal must be written and submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer of within fifteen days of the MBUA judgement.*
  - b) *An appeal shall be made to a Committee of three members of the Board of Directors who are members of the Executive Committee and who shall be appointed by the President.*

## D. The MBUA may adjudicate disputes within or between Member Associations.

1. The Executive Committee shall conduct the initial hearing about disputes within or between Member Associations.
2. The Executive Committee shall recommend a judgement to the MBUA Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors shall adjudicate a conflict by a majority of an authoritative vote.

## XII. ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENT PROCESS

### A. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of an authoritative vote of the MBUA Board of Directors during a properly convened meeting.

1. Any proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer at least sixty days before the meeting at which the amendment will be present to the Board of Directors.
2. Any proposed amendment must be presented in writing by the Secretary/Treasurer of the MBUA to the Secretary/Treasurer of each Member Association at least forty-five days before the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

### B. Any vote concerning a proposed amendment will occur no sooner than one meeting after that at which the amendment was presented to the Board of Directors and debated and considered by the Board of Directors.