



February 21, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More Baseball Umpires Needed!

Calgary, AB - The Calgary Area Baseball Umpires Association (CABUA) is recruiting baseball umpires for the 2003 baseball season. With more youth and adult amateur baseball leagues seeking trained umpire officials, a shortage of umpires for baseball programs in Calgary and the surrounding area is expected. In particular, young adults are required to umpire youth level games.

CABUA, a not-for-profit association of amateur baseball umpires, trains and assigns amateur umpires to numerous baseball leagues in Calgary and the surrounding area. Based on qualification level and experience, CABUA will be assigning umpires to some Little Leagues, Babe Ruth Calgary Baseball, Foothills Major Baseball League, Baseball Alberta, Rocky View Men's Baseball League and the Calgary Dawgs in the Western Major Baseball League (semi-pro).

Calgary area amateur baseball umpires are regularly assigned national championships across Canada and have been assigned to major international games including the Pan Am Games and as local alternates to the Pacific Coast League AAA professional umpires.

"Umpiring is an excellent alternative to an after-school job," said Josh Clark, CABUA vice-president responsible for umpire recruitment. "The hours are flexible, we provide training and there are established fee honorariums starting at \$21 per game."

"In the past there has been a heavy reliance on volunteer parents and others to officiate many of the baseball programs in the Calgary area," commented Bryce Paton, president of CABUA. "However, at the more competitive level, the players need officials that have the appropriate training and experience for a higher level of competition, as in other organized amateur sports."

CABUA offers a variety of training options for amateur umpiring using the National Umpire Certification Program with certified Baseball Canada instructors. Instructional clinics range from two-day Level 1-2 sessions for beginner umpires to an 18-week Winter Umpire School for experienced baseball umpires seeking advanced rules and field training.

“Whether you’re simply looking to be comfortable umpiring at the community level or have aspirations to one day umpire at the Olympics, proper training is the key,” concluded Clark.

For more information on a Level One training course schedule for April 5-6, call: (403) 735-7486 or check www.cabua.ca

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: National Level Umpire Training School
February 22 & 23, 2003
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Foundations for the Future Charter School
315 – 86th Ave SE (near MacLeod Trail and Heritage Drive)
Calgary, AB

Alberta’s Annual ‘Super Clinic’, for baseball umpires seeking to retain or attain their National Level ranking, will include classroom, bull-pen and field (gym) instruction. Baseball Canada instructors and a former professional umpire instructor will be putting Alberta’s most experienced umpires through their paces in preparation for the 2003 season and future National and International Championships. Groups of uniformed umpires will be in the classroom, behind the plate and in simulated game situations (including techniques for handling irate managers).

For media further information, contact: Bryce Paton, President CABUA
(403) 815-3455

Note – Umpire training and game assignments for softball, slo-pitch or programs other than ‘hard-ball’ baseball played on regulation (90 foot base-path diamonds) do not fall under CABUA.