

Spokane Baseball Umpires General Meeting Summary

January 9, 2025

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 PM by SBU President, Kevin Wellington.

36 members of the association were in attendance at the meeting.

Introductions

President Kevin Wellington introduced the members of the SBU Board, lead trainers and evaluators who were in attendance at the meeting:

Kevin Gawenit (Vice President)

Gary Teale (Secretary)

Frank Wintersteen (Member-at-Large)

Matt Miethe (Member-at-Large)

Dwaine Schettler (Evaluator)

Gary Teale (Evaluator)

Kevin Gawenit (Lead Trainer)

Matt Miethe (Assistant Lead Trainer)

Unable to attend:

Clark Cosby (Past Board President)

Larry Randall (Lead Evaluator)

Assignor's Report

Bob Francis welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He reported that games are now being loaded into Arbiter, but that umpires should not expect to receive any game assignments until a week or two before pre-season jamborees are scheduled in mid-March. He encouraged all to start on their WOA registration so that folks will be ready to be assigned when the season begins.

2025 NFHS Rule Changes/Points of Emphasis

Kevin Wellington and Kevin Gawenit went over the rule changes and points of emphasis for high school baseball this season. Umpire Classroom-You Tube also has two excellent videos on these topics:

2025 Rule Changes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WipG1dYhaVI>

2025 Points of Emphasis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAAWMX30MIs>

New Tiers/Umpire Rankings Criteria

Matt Miethe presented a handout on the newly established criteria for determining umpire rankings within the associations. He explained the process of how the rankings were determined by a committee made up of board members, trainers, evaluators and assignors. The rankings are to be used as general guidelines for the assignors when assigning games, but assignors will also assign games based on situational needs. The document outlining the new Tiers/Rankings Criteria and how to find each umpire's ranking can be downloaded from the SBU website at:

<https://www.spokanebaseballumpires.com/evaluation-resources>

Evaluation Program Overview

Gary Teale presented the form used by the evaluators when observing an umpire and rating their performance. He emphasized that evaluations are tools designed to help umpires improve their skills and are conducted transparently and only at the request of an umpire. He also explained how the training program, the evaluation program and the annual determination of umpire rankings are inter-related, and if an umpire wishes to advance to a higher ranking, an evaluation would be needed to help make that determination.

If an umpire would like to be evaluated, they can request that through the assignors.

The Evaluation Criteria, Rubrics and Performance Standards can be downloaded from the SBU website at:

<https://www.spokanebaseballumpires.com/evaluation-resources>

The general meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

New Umpire Session

After the conclusion of the general meeting, Gary Teale met with six new prospective umpires to go over the "New Umpires Checklist" and answer any questions the new umpires had.