

# Butler County Umpires Association

## Constitution and By-Laws

**Article I – Name** -- The name of the organization shall be OHSAA- Butler County Umpires Association, a not-for-profit corporation of the State of Ohio.

**Article II – Purpose** -- The purpose of this Association is organized to, but not limited to, assist in maintaining the highest levels of officiating expertise among its members. This purpose shall be accomplished by providing close cooperation and understanding between members, league commissioners, athletic directors, coaches, the media and all those who seek to advance and promote athletics. It will provide the medium for the correct understanding/interpretation of the sport specific rules as well as the use of proper officiating mechanics. It will encourage and promote the development and advancement of all members. It will adopt and support high standards of ethics and provide good fellowship/camaraderie among its members. The High School Division is involved in officiating interscholastic baseball and fast pitch softball.

### **Article III -- Membership**

This association shall be open to persons interested in the purpose for which it is organized and shall be limited to those persons dedicated to the fulfillment of its purpose. The association membership shall include those that currently have or have had an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) officiating permit, which includes the following membership types:

**A. Class 1** – have been an official for a minimum of two years and have passed the OHSAA move-up tests with evaluations by two current Class 1 officials. They shall remain a member so long as they fulfill the general requirements of the Association and of the OHSAA.

**B. Class 2** - have met all OHSAA educational requirements and have obtained the entry level officiating permit. A member who obtains an OHSAA Class 2 permit shall remain in this class for a minimum of two years before deciding to meet the OHSAA requirements to upgrade to Class 1. They shall remain a member so long as they fulfill the general requirements of the Association and of the OHSAA.

**C. Class 3** – have met all OHSAA educational requirements, are currently in high school and have obtained the entry level officiating permit. Can officiate at the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade levels only and non-interscholastic games. A member who obtains an OHSAA Class 3 permit shall remain in this class until after high school graduation before deciding to meet the OHSAA requirements to upgrade to Class 2. They shall remain a member so long as they fulfill the general requirements of the Association and of the OHSAA.

**D. Inactive** -- comprised of individuals who were formerly duly qualified officials who were in good standing (fulfill the general requirements of the Association and of the OHSAA) when they ceased to officiate contests (retired, etc.).

**E. Life Member** – any member in good standing (fulfill the general requirements of the Association and of the OHSAA) who is nominated by the Association Board and approved by majority vote of said Board for such special recognition (years of service, etc.)

**Article IV -- Elected Roles.** Elected roles shall be the Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Baseball Liaison, and Softball Liaison.

- President and VP terms shall be two years, after which President goes to Past President (becomes an Advisory Board member for two years) and VP shall succeed to President's role, Vice goes to President
- Vice-President, President, and past President shall each serve two years; The vice president will become the president after two years of service; The president will become past president and be in that role of service after two years; New vice-president is elected to serve two years
- Baseball Liaison, Softball Liaison, Secretary/Treasurer, will be elected in staggered terms serving three years each

- Members-at-Large: overall 5 members –
  - Three general member at-large roles elected each year in three year terms
  - One less-than-5 year members for umpires with less than five years in the organization
    - 5 years or less umpire experience,
    - members cannot serve until second year in BCUA –
    - terms to run two years (first year highest vote getter in sport will serve three years in first term after year alternate baseball and softball election)
- How will this work:
  - This year all officers will be elected : President, Vice President, Secretary / Treasurer, Baseball Liaison, and Softball Liaison.
  - After 1 year Baseball Liaison is elected or may be re-elected to 3 year terms
  - After 2 years:
    - Softball Liaison will elected or re-elected to 3 year terms
    - President becomes Past President; Vice-President becomes President, Vice-President is elected to serve two year term;
  - After 3 years:
    - Secretary / Treasurer will be elected or re-elected
  - Elections week will be targeted to be the third local meeting of each year
  - If any elected member is unable to fulfill their role the Advisory Board shall appoint a member to serve in that role until the next election of that role.
  - Below is an example of role and years elections will be. X is when elected serve following year.

Serving Elected Roles	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Past President	Mark Wagner	Mark Wagner	Mark Wagner	Don Angst	Don Angst	Don Angst	Randy Adams
President	Mark Wagner	Don Angst	Don Angst	Randy Adams	Randy Adams	Randy Adams	Brad Hamant
Vice President	Don Angst	Randy Adams	Randy Adams	Larry Clines		Brad Hamant	
Baseball Rules Interpreter	Dave Gramke	Dave Gramke	Dave Gramke	Dave Gramke	Dave Gramke	Dave Gramke	Dave Gramke
Softball Rules Interpreter	Baumgartner-Fisher	Fisher-Meyer	Steve Meyer	Steve Meyer	Steve Meyer	Steve Meyer	
Secretary/Treasurer	Ken Gallo	Ken Gallo	Ken Gallo	Ken Gallo	Ken Gallo	Ken Gallo	Ken Gallo
MemberAtLarge1	Scott Edmonds	Scott Edmonds	Scott Edmonds	Scott Edmonds	Brad Hamant	Mike Stanger	
MemberAtLarge2	Davis Hamilton	David Hamilton	David Hamilton	David Hamilton	David Hamilton	David Hamilton	David Hamilton
MemberAtLarge3	Frank Gallina	Frank Gallina	Frank Gallina	Frank Gallina	Frank Gallina	Frank Gallina	Frank Gallina
MemberAtLarge<5yrs		Brad Hamant	Brad Hamant	Brad Hanant	Kirk Knollman	Kirk Knollman	
Elected Roles for Following year							
Past President	Pres-Past Pres	Pres-Past Pres	Pres-Past Pres		Pres-Past Pres	Pres-Past Pres	Pres-Past Pres
President	VP-> Pres	VP-> Pres	VP-> Pres		VP-> Pres	VP-> Pres	VP-> Pres
Vice President	New VP	New VP	New VP		New VP	New VP	New VP
Baseball Rules Interpreter					x		
Softball Rules Interpreter		x					x
Secretary/Treasurer	x				x		
MemberAtLarge1			x				x
MemberAtLarge2		x		x		x	
MemberAtLarge3	x				x		
MemberAtLarge<5yrs		x		x	x		x
				Covid Year no games			
				No terms served			

**A. Qualifications for Officers** -- Only current members of the Association in good standing (fulfill the general requirements of the Association and of the OHSAA) are eligible to be elected as officers.

**B. President** -- The President shall be the chief executive officer of the organization and shall be responsible for all management/leadership functions. He/she shall insure that all orders and resolutions of the organization are carried into effect and shall administer and be responsible for the overall management of the business affairs of the Association.

**C. Vice-President** -- The Vice-President shall be responsible for such duties assigned by the President. Should the President, in any way become incapacitated and/or unwilling to serve, the current Vice-President shall accede to that position and the role of the Vice-President shall remain vacant for the balance of the term.

**D. Secretary / Treasurer** -- The Secretary / Treasurer shall establish yearly Association meeting dates/locations and notify the OHSAA of such, notify the membership of such meetings and of OHSAA state rules interpretation meetings, record membership meeting attendance and input such into the OHSAA database, prepare any Association correspondence as required and distribute such, represent the Association in all OHSAA related matters, maintain all Association required records; receive and be responsible for all funds and securities owned or held by the Association, deposit all Association funds in a financial institution approved by the Advisory Board, keep current, accurate and complete financial records and accounts for the Association, disperse the Associations' funds as may be properly authorized, and provide periodic updated financial reports to the membership.

**E. Baseball and Softball Liaison (2 positions)** – The sport specific Liaison shall be the OHSAA rules interpreter for that sport, shall attend the yearly OHSAA Liaisons meeting, develop, propose, present and lead the rules/mechanics part of the membership meetings, be a focal point for all membership rule interpretation questions, interface with the OHSAA as required, promote/support the Association in all aspects relative to other organizations, tournament directors, OHSAA, etc., recruit new members, and evaluate membership field performance and provide necessary improvement feedback.

#### **Article V - Appointed Roles/Special Committees .**

The elected officers may periodically appoint members to fulfill a required Association leadership role(s). Such roles are, but not limited to:

**A. Organizational trainer(s)** -- The organization trainer shall be an OHSAA Certified Instructor, yearly conduct an OHSAA approved adult education class for new members of the Association, present current training topics at membership meetings as requested by the sport specific Liaisons and recruit new members.

**B. Election Nominating Committee** – Those members appointed to the Elections Nominating Committee shall lead the Association's election process when required. The committee shall obtain member nominations, prepare required voting ballots, coordinate any voting absentee ballots with the Secretary / Treasurer, oversee the membership voting process, tally votes and announce said winners.

**C. Ethics Committee** – The Ethics Committee shall investigate any Association member allegation(s) presented to it by the Advisory Board. The investigation shall include determining all possible factual data (what occurred, circumstances that lead to the allegation(s), where, when, witnesses accounts, allegor interview(s), etc) concerning the allegation(s), review all data with the Advisory Board and recommend any appropriate discipline. Present all data gathered during the investigation to the Secretary/Treasurer for inclusion into the Associations' records. The term of the Ethics Committee shall be two (2) months after the allegor has been informed of any discipline issued. The Ethics Committee membership to be determined by the Advisory Board based upon the nature/ seriousness of the allegation.

**Article VI - Membership Meetings** – The Association shall hold at least four (4) membership meetings yearly or as required by the OHSAA.

**A.** The Association's general business items shall be first on the agenda item followed by any new business then rule/mechanics discussions/presentations.

**B.** Special meetings of the members may be called by the Secretary/Treasurer at the request of the majority of the Elected Officers. Such a meeting shall state the purpose or purposes of the meeting. Notification of such meeting shall be given to all members at least one (1) week in advance.

**C.** For membership voting, the presence of twenty-five (25) percent of the members represents a quorum. A majority vote of such members where a quorum is present shall be necessary to finalize a decision.

**Article VII - Dues** -- The Association Advisory Board shall yearly determine the amount of annual dues payable by the Association members. High school dues are payable by February 1 of each year or at another date per business need at the discretion of Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the membership within thirty (30) days the amount due, and resulting penalties for late or non-payment, if any. Life Members are exempted from the annual dues requirement.

**Article VIII - Compensation** -- The Association's elected officers shall not receive any direct compensation from the Association other than reimbursement of any OHSAA required attendance meeting fees and reasonable travel expenses associated with such. The Organization trainer(s) may receive compensation up to the maximum permitted by the OHSAA after the membership and Advisory Board approval.

**Article IX - Books and Records** – The physical location of the Association's books, financial accounts and records shall be kept at such a place or places determined by the Secretary/Treasurer and which is known by all elected officers in the Association. All books, financial accounts and records of the High School division shall be open to review by any active member in good standing at a time and place to be determined by the Advisory Board. An annual treasurer's report (revenue, expenses, balances, etc) shall be given at the first Association membership meeting.

**Article X - Discipline of Members**

**A. Grounds for Discipline** -- Failure to comply with these By-Laws, established authority or any conduct conclusively established to be contrary to the best interest of the Association, shall result in the potential for the alleged offender being fined, placed on probation, suspended or expelled from the Association.

**B. Notification of Allegations** -- Any member charged with a violation shall receive written notice from the Advisory Board via the Secretary/Treasurer which shall contain the nature of the alleged violation with specific reference to the incident, when and where the alleged violation occurred, the source of the allegation and the Advisory Board's recommended disciplinary action..

**C. Allegation(s) Investigation** -- The Ethics Committee shall thoroughly investigate the allegations, document the findings, and present such to Advisory Board with any recommended disciplinary action.

**D. Right of Hearing** -- Any member charged with any alleged violation shall have the right to be heard in person or by written statement by/to the Discipline Review Committee. A majority vote of the Discipline Committee shall be required to render or dismiss any disciplinary decision.

**E. Notification of Findings** -- The Advisory Board shall review the data gathered by the Ethics Committee and the disciplinary action recommended, if any. The Advisory Board shall make a decision on the recommended disciplinary action. If the Advisory Board is in agreement, the Advisory Board shall notify the alleged of the investigation outcome in writing. If there is no agreement with the Ethics Committee recommended disciplinary action, the Advisory Board shall refer the investigation back to the Ethics Committee for a re-evaluation with a potential to change the initial disciplinary recommendations. If the relook does not change the Ethics Committee disciplinary recommendation, the Advisory Board shall concur with the initial disciplinary recommendation.

**F. Right of Appeal** -- Any member rendered disciplinary action -- shall have the right of appeal to the Advisory Board. Such notice shall be given to the Advisory Board within fourteen (14) days after the disciplinary decision has been rendered. The Advisory Board shall render its final decision within fourteen days after the appeal has been made. This final decision completes the appeal process. No further appeals shall be considered.

**Article XI - Member Status** – All Association members shall be defined as independent contractors in their officiating capacities and not as employees of the Association, the elected officers or the Advisory Board. No Association member, its elected officers or Advisory Board shall not be entitled to collect any worker's compensation from the Association for injuries sustained while officiating.

**Article XII - Fiscal Year Definition** -- The fiscal year for all Association business shall begin on the first day of January and end the last day of December.

**Article XIII – Advisory Board**

The Association shall establish an Advisory Board whose duty shall be to govern the Association in accordance with these By-Laws.

- A.** The Advisory Board shall be composed of up to nine (9) members: President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, Baseball Liaison, Softball Liaison, Organizational Trainer(s), and BCUA High School Assigner. Persons cannot serve in multiple roles on Advisory Board.
- B.** The Advisory Board shall have the authority to adopt all regulations to govern its deliberations/decisions and to provide adequate liability protection for the Advisory Board members.
- C.** Five(5) members shall constitute a quorum.
- D.** One (1) meeting of the Advisory Board shall be held each year. The President may call additional meetings as deemed necessary or as requested by at least three (3) Advisory Board members. The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify all Advisory Board members of such meetings.

**Article XIV - By-Laws Amendments** -- Amendments to these Associations' By-Laws shall be submitted by any Association member to the Advisory Board for consideration. If approved by the Advisory Board, the proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Associations' membership and shall require their majority approval vote so as to be incorporated into these By-Laws.