



A guide for new umpires and parents

Welcome to the Central Alberta Softball Umpires Association!

Central Alberta Softball Umpires Association (CASUA) is a member of the Alberta Softball Umpires Association (ASUA), which oversees Softball Canada certification for the province of Alberta. CASUA oversees the umpire program in Central Alberta (Zone 4) and the northern section of Zone 2. For more information, tools, tips and resources related to umpiring, check out the following websites:

- CASUA: www.casua.ca This is our website, check here for updates to our program
- ASUA: www.asua.ca (Alberta Softball Umpires Association)
- Softball Canada: www.softball.ca
- Softball Canada Umpires: <https://softball.ca/programs/umpires>

Why should I become a Softball Umpire?

1. Many new umpires get started because it is a great part-time summer job. During the week, games are in the evening, and you can also work weekend tournaments.
2. For current or former softball players, umpiring allows you to stay involved and give something back to the game. Not only that you get the “*best seat in the house*” to see all the action.
3. You are part of an exclusive group within the softball community. CASUA is the largest umpire association in Alberta with members who have umpired at events across Canada.
4. Umpiring is good exercise, since umpires are on the diamond for the entire game. During a tournament, you could officiate three or more games a day.
5. Softball teaches life skills that are important on and off the diamond, including:
 - Self-confidence
 - Teamwork
 - Cooperation
 - Decision making – you make the call
 - Dealing with confrontation
 - Public speaking skills
 - Fair play and impartiality

What do I need to start umpiring?

You are never too young or old to umpire. Umpires vary in age from 12 years old to over 80. You will be matched with the right level of ball, and mentorship to help you have an enjoyable season. What we ask of you is:

- A love of the game of softball
- Hustle, physical and mental alertness
- Willingness to learn and gain experience
- Register as a Softball Canada umpire, and attend the pre-season clinic



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Umpire Development Program

CASUA works with local Minor Softball Associations and Softball Alberta representatives across central Alberta to identify potential umpires; register and train them at the annual clinic; and, throughout the season, work with our new umpires to develop their knowledge and mechanics and encourage them to return next season.

CASUA works with Minor Associations to ensure coaches, parents and players understand the role of the umpire, and that they interact with umpires in appropriate manners. We have a zero-tolerance policy for abuse. We realize our umpires are learning and improving, just like the players, and that everyone will make mistakes. Our goal is to take a mistake and turn it into a learning opportunity.

Registration and Certification Clinic

Attendance at and successful completion of the Softball Canada Umpire Level One Clinic, and full registration in CASUA is required to umpire minor softball. Clinics are held in April (exact date and location usually confirmed by January each year) in Red Deer along with other locations if there is interest from a local softball association.

Registration fee is \$100 for new/ Level 1 umpires. Some minor softball associations reimburse the umpire clinic and registration fees at the end of the season subject to the umpires covering a specified number of games and their annual tournament. The fee covers:

- registration with CASUA, Softball Alberta and Softball Canada;
- Softball Canada insurance;
- rule book;
- mechanics manual;
- the exam; and
- the in-person clinic (including lunch).

Once registered with CASUA, you are also a member of the Alberta Softball Umpires Association (ASUA), Softball Alberta and Softball Canada. You can umpire at sanctioned tournaments in Alberta, including provincial championships and qualifiers, and eventually at Canadian championships.

Mentorship

CASUA works to ensure that new umpires are successful and enjoy themselves. This involves senior umpires being assigned to work with, assist and evaluate new umpires and to offer suggestions to help in their development. Mentorship also occurs at tournaments where a senior umpire serves as the Umpire in Chief. For more information on mentorship:

Minor Umpire Mentor Coordinator

Pat O'Callaghan

Email: website@casua.ca

Phone: 403-314-0231

Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

Chris Harper

Email: chris@casua.ca

Phone: 403-396-9502



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Education

Umpiring consists of rules knowledge, mechanics and development. No new umpire is expected to know all the rules or understand all the mechanics when s/he starts. The mix of skills and knowledge only develops by studying, working games and learning from other umpires and game experiences.

We work with CASUA umpires at tournaments and games teaching the one and two-umpire system to help develop the skills and knowledge required to umpire a game. Most coaches in our Zone help and support young umpires as you work games and learn at the same time.

We post a variety of education and learning tools on CASUA website under the Knowledge tab. In addition, CASUA website includes links to:

- New rules and rule interpretations
- Videos to help with mechanics development
- Softball Alberta and Softball Canada for more information on being an umpire.
- Items such as scholarship funds for those minor umpires going on to post-secondary education

Umpire Clothing & Equipment

As an umpire, you must dress appropriately and have the proper safety equipment for your safety on the diamond.

Clothing

As a new/ young umpire, we want you to look like an umpire. While you are encouraged to wear official Softball Canada-crested umpire clothing, we know it can be expensive. Here are the minimum standards expected (most items can be purchased at local stores):

- Shirt: powder blue or navy blue golf shirt (with collar); large enough to fit over the chest protector when working the plate. **(NOTE: All new umpires in 2023 will be provided with a powder blue crested shirt as part of their registration.)**
- Pants: grey or navy blue, with belt loops; wide legs to allow room to cover your shin pads when working the plate.
- Hat: navy blue or black; short enough brim to allow you to remove your mask over your hat.
- Belt: to hold up your ball bag (and your pants!)
- Shoes: black, and in good condition

As you continue as an umpire, you will be expected to purchase official Softball Canada Umpire clothing. Official Softball Canada crested clothing can be purchased online at [Home Run Sports](#).

Equipment

It is important for an umpire to have access to the required protective equipment. Some Minor Associations provide equipment for their umpires (please check with your association). Older umpires may have equipment they are looking to sell or give away. Equipment is available at most sporting goods stores.

For 2023, Slash Sports in Red Deer is selling starter umpire packages. The price is approximately \$200 (depending on the package), and includes a mask, shin pads, chest protector, ball bag, whisk and indicator. More details are available on [our website](#).

As well, limited amounts of [free or for sale used equipment](#) can be found on our website.



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Your Umpiring Assignments

New umpires have most games scheduled at local diamonds featuring teams in their home Minor Association. Wherever possible, CASUA assignor limits travel for new umpires. The regular season starts as early as the first week of May and runs until the end of June. Regular season games usually last about 90-105 minutes.

1. **Assigning of games:** Games are assigned through the RAMP online scheduling platform. Each umpire receives an email notification of assigned games that have been assigned and must accept or decline the assignment. Details about how the system works, and what will be expected of each umpire will be explained at the clinic.
2. **Game fees:** Umpires take home \$35 per game.
3. **Umpire payments:** Umpires are NOT paid on the day of the game. Records are kept by the Assignor, and cheque is issued in June (for games worked in May) and July (for the rest of the season). Each umpire is to monitor his/her schedule in the online system and if there are errors contact the Assignor immediately.

Processes and procedures for handling game cancellations and other assignment/ payment questions are outlined in detail in CASUA's [Policies and Procedures](#) on CASUA website.

Tournaments

Tournaments run almost every weekend in May and June hosted in communities across the zone. Umpires can work as many as 8-10 games a tournament and get paid at the completion of their final game. The schedule of tournaments is posted on CASUA website. Tournament game schedules are established by the Umpire in Chief for the tournament. The UIC will contact each umpire to confirm scheduling. Game fees, travel reimbursement, and meal allowance or access to the snack bar (no candy, chips, chocolate bars) are all negotiated and communicated to the umpires prior to the tournament.

Communication

For our youth umpires, CASUA makes all reasonable attempts to ensure that written communications to a minor umpire are also emailed to the umpire's designated parent(s)/ guardian. We want parents to be engaged in the umpire development program and look for your feedback. Parents, to ensure you are included on email communications, please include your email in your child's RAMP assigning account.