



# MID-ILLINI UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

www.miu.org

March 18, 2011

Dear Umpire:

The 2011 Summer Softball season is fast approaching. With this in mind, members of the board would like to take this time to challenge each umpire to take the extra effort to be physically fit, study the official rules and practice game mechanics so you can provide a fair and safe environment for all players, coaches, and fans. It is our goal as a board to help provide an atmosphere for each of us to continue to learn and improve. The ASA has developed two Umpire Mechanics DVD's which have been purchased by the MIUA. These are animated instructional DVD's for all ASA umpires and feature plate mechanics, base mechanics, signals, etc. In addition, the MIUA has purchased the Umpire Casebook that contains specific scenarios to help explain the proper application of rules. Each will be available to check out for a period of one week at a time.

## State Umpires Meeting

The 2011 Illinois ASA State Umpires Meeting was held on Friday, February 24th at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington. All 2010 registered umpires should have received information on the meeting in the mail; directly from the Illinois ASA.

Each year this meeting allows those in attendance to register with the ASA and update themselves on the latest ASA rule changes and see the newest umpiring equipment. This year half of the 50/50 drawing proceeds (\$112) went directly to the Mid-Illini Umpires Association and will be used to help purchase raffle prizes for the Umpire Appreciation Party.

## 2011 Registration Information

All umpires working games for Bloomington, Normal, and El Paso for the 2011 season will be scheduled by the MIUA. The assigner for these leagues is Don Wright. The assigner for the State Farm Leagues is Tom Nolin. If you are planning to umpire, the following are a list of the requirements:

1. Register with the Illinois ASA and MIUA by Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Complete MIUA registration Form (enclosed/attached)
  - Pay \$55.00 ASA Dues at state or local meeting.
  - Pay \$5.00 local dues to MIUA.
2. Attend the local umpire rules meeting **April 14th at 7:00 p.m. - Miller Park Pavilion - Rec. Room.**
3. Take and pass the ASA rules test by April 16th. Return all completed tests to Don Wright prior to April 16th. The test will be available at the state and local meetings.
4. For the Bloomington and Normal leagues, email or call Don Wright at 452-1800 to let him know which nights you would like to work. For the State Farm leagues, call Tom Nolin at 661-2136. All efforts will be made to accommodate each umpires request.
5. You will not be allowed to umpire any games this season until your dues are paid and umpires test is completed by the dates indicated above. Also, each umpire must wear the proper ASA uniform while umpiring games for the MIUA.

Must See the Next Page ->

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## **ASA Umpire Medals Program**

Umpires can be rewarded for registering and officiating ASA softball without being assigned to regional or national championships. This rewards the local umpire who supports the ASA program, and can be relied upon for local assignments.

There are four levels for this program - the Blue level for those who have been registered for three (3) years, the Bronze level for those registered for seven (7) years, the Silver level for those registered for fifteen (15) years and the Gold level for those registered for twenty (20) years. Umpires can reach these levels quicker if they have umpired in regional or national championships, or attended National Umpire Schools.

For more information contact Donna Shurtz or visit the ASA Web Site at [www.softball.org/umpires/medals.asp](http://www.softball.org/umpires/medals.asp)



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## Key Dates for 2011

### February 24th (Friday)

6:45 pm

- State Umpires Meeting  
Double Tree Hotel  
Bloomington

### April 14th (Thursday)

7:00 pm

- Local Rules Meeting at  
the Miller Park Pavilion  
Rec. Room in  
Bloomington.
- ASA/MIUA dues must be  
paid by this date.

### April 16th (Saturday)

1:00 pm

- Meat-Grinder Softball  
Tournament at  
Champion Fields.
- ASA Umpire Exam Due

### April 25th (Monday)

- Normal Summer  
Leagues Start.
- State Farm Leagues  
Start.

### April 30th (Saturday)

Swinging Bunt Tourney  
at Champion Fields.

### May 2nd (Monday)

- Bloomington Summer  
Leagues Start.

## Internet Links:

**MIUA:** [www.miu.org](http://www.miu.org)

**ASA:** [www.softball.org](http://www.softball.org)

## Illinois ASA:

[www.playsoftballillinois.org](http://www.playsoftballillinois.org)

## Umpires Equipment:

[www.officialgear.com](http://www.officialgear.com)

[www.asasoftballfan.com](http://www.asasoftballfan.com)

## 2011 Spring Softball Tournaments

### **ATTENTION NEW & VETERAN UMPIRES**

The 2nd annual Meat-Grinder Tournament will be held on April 16-17 at Champion Fields in Normal. It would probably be best if new umpires came out to observe the working umpires and then discussed plays/situations between innings or games. The MIUA is looking into hosting an additional small co-rec tourney or doing a clinic to allow the newer umpires to get out on the field and practice positioning, signals and mechanics prior to the beginning of league play.

The 5th annual Swinging Bunt Tournament will be held on April 30-May 1st at Champion Fields in Normal. This is the annual St. Jude benefit tournament. We strongly encourage you to come out and help. This is an excellent opportunity for our veteran umpires to help out and mentor our newer umpires. And it's an excellent opportunity for our newer umpires to learn from the "seasoned" veterans so they get started on the right track in 2011.

Please contact Adam Utz if you want to work either tournament. You may email Adam at [adam.utz.pv8v@statefarm.com](mailto:adam.utz.pv8v@statefarm.com) or [madutaz11@yahoo.com](mailto:madutaz11@yahoo.com).

## League and Field Changes for the 2011 Season

The land which held RT Dunn East and West fields has went back to the Armory, so the sites of the Bloomington softball leagues have changed considerably. Beginning this summer, most of the men's leagues will be played at Pepper Ridge West field. The Co-Rec games will be played at O'Neil and there will be two additional leagues at McGraw Park on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6,7 (no lights).

In Danvers, the new softball field is completed, except for lights. There will be a Danvers Days Tourney on August 20-21. Danvers league play will resume in May of 2012.

These are the 2011 pay rates for Bloomington, Normal, State Farm, and El Paso:

Bloomington: \$20.00 per game / two-umpire system \*

Normal: \$22.00 per game

State Farm: \$23.00 per game

El Paso: \$26.00 per game

\* All games in Bloomington will use the two-umpire system. If for some unfortunate reason you have to work by yourself, the pay will be \$22.00 per game.

The MIUA looks forward to working with you this summer. We are here for you. If you have any questions, suggestions, or need more information, please contact one of the board members.

**Please visit our web site at [www.miu.org](http://www.miu.org). A lot of good information can be found there.**

The MIUA BOARD