



BETWEEN THE LINES

A SOFTBALL CANADA OFFICIATING PUBLICATION

2010 – ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

BLUE CONVENTION 2010

**Only Weeks to Go –
But It's Not Too Late**

BETWEEN the LINES

A Softball Canada publication
dedicated to the development of
umpiring in Canada.

Softball Canada

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It's just a few short weeks to go to the premiere umpiring event in the world – Softball Canada's Blue Convention – but it's still not too late to join in the fun and learning!

Softball Canada's Officiating Development Committee invites you to join colleagues from across the country and around the world in Regina, Saskatchewan from April 2-4 for great conversations and connections.

The year's event features a novice program led by ISF Director of Umpires Bob Stanton and Olympic umpires Greg Pipher and Nancy Morrison, many workshops from leading officials from Canada and the world and great opportunities to connect with old friends and new, highlighted by the Banquet on Saturday evening. Regina's mayor Pat Fiocco, an Olympic boxing official, will keynote the evening.

The event will be bookended by Level IV and Instructor/Evaluator clinics with registration still open for all events.

For more information visit

blueconvention2010.com



BLUE CONVENTION - A “Brown” Dream

Now accepted as an embedded part of the Softball Canada umpires program, there was a time when Blue Convention was a tough sell to both the umpiring community and Softball Canada’s Board of Directors.

It was 1998 and then National Director of Umpires Wayne Brown had a vision for an event that would bring together hundreds of umpires from across the country together for both learning and community building. There weren’t a lot of people on the bandwagon initially, but Brown’s persistence and passion spread the flame and Blue Convention was born in April 1999 in Vancouver.

“The idea was born after attending an ASA umpires forum in Oklahoma City” says Brown. “We developed and sold the concept to the Board of Directors. It was a financial success.”

That initial success led to subsequent events in Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta, Quebec and now this year in Regina. Blue Convention now forms an integral part of the Softball Canada umpiring program.

“The development of our officiating program was evident largely because of the high level of training, theory and simple interaction between the participants” notes Brown. “Those who do not take the time to attend are a step behind those who do.”

Brown continues to believe in Blue Convention and what it offers to individual umpires. “It is critical that Blue continue to provide opportunities for growth for both individual umpires and the national umpiring program.”

blueconvention2010.com

THE STRENGTH OF BLUE

If you look across the country, the strength of Softball Canada’s officiating program lies in the people; individuals across the country who volunteer their time and efforts to develop and deliver a strong national education program that provides the framework for excellence across the country.

While the national certification program and opportunities for umpires to work together at Canadian Championships play a huge role in delivering consistent mechanics and rules applications, perhaps no other event contributes to the sense of community across the national umpires program as Blue Convention.

New Brunswick umpire Jeff Whipple remembers his first Blue Convention. “It was a wonderful experience. I was able to meet many people, engage in great conversations and find my place within the community”.

BETWEEN the LINES

While attending Blue Convention certainly demands a commitment of both time and money from individual umpires, it is an investment that is worthwhile.

“Whether it be traveling to umpire a big tournament or supervising a tournament, attending Blue Convention was the most important initiative I have taken towards my personal development as an official” said Whipple, now a member of the ODC. “I could never have had the success, both on and off the field, that I have had without the collegiality and conversations I found at Blue Convention”

National Director of Umpires, Brian Van Os agrees. In fact, this year the ODC is not only encouraging umpires to attend, it is now the price of admission for ODC appointments to international and Canadian events.

“It’s simple”, says Van Os, “we expect our Level V umpires who are going to represent our program to attend and engage with others in the program. It’s about leadership.”

Whatever your goals as an official, Whipple encourages you to attend. “From novice officials to the world’s elite, there’ll be something there for everyone. It’s about connecting, participating and learning from each other.”

**SEE you in 2010 in Regina at
the
BLUE CONVENTION!**



REGISTRATION FORM
BLUE CONVENTION 2010
April 1-4 2010 – Regina, Saskatchewan

Please Fill Out All Sections and Include the registration fee for the workshops.
 Softball Canada accepts Certified Cheque, Money Order, Visa, Master Card or American Express.
 Payable to - Softball Canada

Name: _____ Gender (Check one): M F

Address: _____ City: _____

Prov./Terr.: _____ Postal Code: _____

H - Telephone: _____ W - Telephone: _____

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Shirt Size: S FP M L SP XL XXL

Registration: \$135 includes participation in your selection of workshops and the Blue Convention 2010 Golf Shirt and Pin, plus a welcome package. On Thursday, April 1st and on Sunday morning, April 4th, in conjunction with the Umpires of Saskatchewan and the 2010 Blue Convention, we will be running a Level IV clinic and an Instructor/Evaluator Clinic. NOTE: As a special inducement to assist people who wish to attend both, we are offering a combined fee of \$250.00 that will give you a full registration to 2010 Blue Convention and to the Level IV clinic or Instructor/Evaluator Clinic.

You can download a copy of the Pre-convention package from the Softball Canada website by January 1st, 2010. The package will contain the schedule, workshop selection form. The workshops are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. NOTE: Workshops will be presented in English with only the materials translated into French.

You can also order a Canadian Indicator Club Banquet ticket at \$55.00 each. The banquet will be held on Saturday, April 3rd, 2010. You can also order a Closing Presentations Breakfast ticket at \$25.00 each. The breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 4th, 2010. Would you be interested in purchasing extra golf shirts at a cost of \$40.00 each?

Yes No **How Many:** 1 2 3 4 5 **Shirt Size:** S M L XL XXL

Please Include Payment for Extra Shirts with Registration Fee

(Indicate Size)

_____	Registration Fee	<u>\$135.00</u>
_____	Registration Fee and Level IV Clinic	<u>\$250.00</u>
_____	Registration Fee and I/E Clinic	<u>\$250.00</u>
_____	Additional Golf Shirts (@\$40.00 each)	Add _____
_____	Banquet Ticket (@\$55.00 each)	Add _____
_____	Breakfast Ticket (@\$25.00 each)	Add _____
	Total Enclosed	_____

Please check one: Certified Cheque Money Order Visa Master Card American Express RECEIPT REQUIRED

Cardholder Name _____
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Expiry Date

Deadline for Registration is March 1, 2010
Any refunds issued after February 1, 2010 will be subject to a \$50 Administration fee.

To Be Returned To:
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*Based on availability. Valid from March 30, 2010 to April 3, 2010.



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