



2015 is here and it is time to get registered. Unfortunately, there have been no advancements in the registration process and I ask you to once again send the paper registration to Dale Ferron and check made out to WASA. As a reminder, every umpire was background checked last year and will be again this year. Cost of registration is \$65 for all those older than 25, \$35 for those between 18 and 25, and \$30 for those under 18. No background checks will be run on those under 18.

This past year, 28 umpires from Wisconsin were honored with assignments to 11 national championships in all divisions of play. At the state level, our championships were held in all divisions of play. Over 65 umpires were assigned and worked championship play in Wisconsin. I want to offer my personal thank you to all umpires who represented Wisconsin at the national or state championship level. Looking forward to this year, Wisconsin will host the Girl's 14B Northern in Wausau and once again the Men's Major Modified in Fond du Lac.

With the retirement of Dick Buskov from my staff (Thanks Dick for 30+ years working for Wisconsin ASA!), I would like to announce the promotion of Kurt Kaempfer to Fast Pitch UIC. Kurt is perfectly suited for this challenge and with the help of his new assistant Rick Parpart, I am excited about the knowledge and expertise these individuals will bring to the Fast Pitch program. Another change to my staff is the vacated position of SE Section UIC by Dan Clementi. Leslie Anderson has recently made a job change and has moved to the Milwaukee area allowing me to move her from NE to SE Section UIC. To replace Leslie in the NE, I have asked Jed Block to join my staff. Jed is a hard working blue with a great demeanor and knowledge base. He will be a great addition!

As the opportunities grow with more and more umpires getting national assignments, it is important that umpires from Wisconsin do well as they represent all of us from Wisconsin at the national level. I am very proud to announce an unprecedented occurrence. Four (4) umpires this past year have received 2 consecutive ratings of Excellent in the highest levels possible in their respective divisions of play (Fast, Slow, and Modified). The following umpires have earned their Elite status from the National Staff. Leslie Anderson is our first female and only second fast pitch umpire in the history of Wisconsin to earn ASA's highest honor. Equally as exciting, Al Waldvogel is the first modified pitch umpire from Wisconsin to achieve this accomplishment. Finally, Josh Brandsma and Jeremy Hansen have elevated themselves as premier umpires in the slow pitch game. I am proud and humbled to have been part of each of their climb to the elite level. I wish them many continued successes!

This spring, we will be hosting a state umpire school in Fond du Lac, WI on Saturday April 25th. There will be instruction in fast, modified and slow pitch from the elite members of my staff. Please see the attached flyer and sign up with me as soon as possible.

Yours in Softball,

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