

Carolina's Umpire Association

Annual Meeting-January 27, 2024



Contacts

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Board of Directors

- Jim Pendola-President
- Jay Kobylarz-Vice President/Rules
- Ismael Carrasquillo-Secretary
- Barry Lentz-Grievance/Training
- Britton Kennerly-Training
- Chuck Henson-Training
- Roger Boyington-Communications
- Director-Vacant
- Director-Vacant



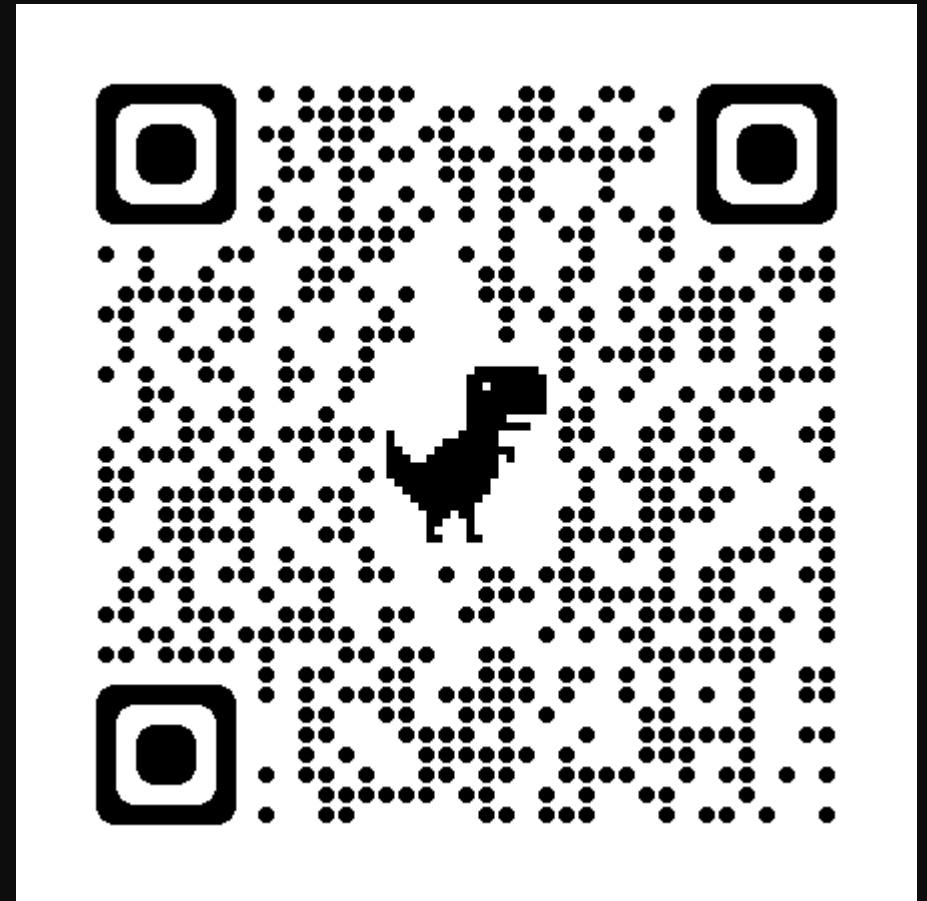
Awards

- Dick Knox Meritorious Service Award
 - Frank DiCesare
- Jeter McKinley Award
 - Roger Boyington



Member Representative

- Scan the QR Code and submit your vote for one/two nominated umpires to represent the membership on the Board for a two-year term.
- <https://carolinasumpire.wufoo.com/forms/qctqs6i1957dnt/>



2024 Important Dates

- NFHS Rules and Concussion Test
 - Must be completed by Feb 26 to be assigned.
 - Allowed 3 attempts to pass
 - Must have a score >75 to umpire varsity
 - Booking fee (\$82) due
 - \$100 after February 24th
 - Scrimmages
 - Regular Season
 - Play-offs
 - Regional Championships
 - State Championships
- February 5th –March 17th*
- February 24th
- February 14th -24th
- February 26th –May 5th
- May 7th-May 17th
- May 21st – 25th
- May 31st – June 1st

Game Fees

- Schedule of Fees

• Public School Varsity/JV (2 man/solo)	\$82/\$71/\$71
• Private School Varsity/JV	\$85/\$80
• Middle Schools	
• CMS (2 man/solo)	\$71/\$120
• Union County (2 man/solo)	\$90/\$125
• Cabarrus	\$75
• Charlotte Private (2 man/solo)	\$80/\$130
• UNCC Club (9 inn/7 inn DH)	\$125/\$200
• Suspended/Cancelled Games	
Notified after arrival at the game site (no earlier than 1 hr.)	\$ ½ fee
Game suspended/cancelled after play has started	\$ full fee

Shirts

- The black shirt w/gray side panel (2023 MLB version) is the required/default shirt for all CUA assigned games.
- Additional approved alternate shirts include:
 - Black and Blue (2024 MLB version)
 - Sky Blue w/black side panel (2023 MLB version)
- If an alternate shirt is worn, all partners must wear the same shirt.



Uniforms and Appearance

- For all CUA assigned contests, a black hat with the NCHSAA logo shall be worn.
 - www.Gearref.com is the only supplier. Order early.
- The pants shall be charcoal (dark) gray. Heather gray pants are not permitted.
- Facial Hair-Trimmed and groomed beards are permitted



Game Time Limits- Varsity/JV

- Varsity-No time limits. NFHS/NCHSAA mercy, extra inning, and game ending rules apply. (rule 4-2-1 through 4)
- Junior Varsity
 - No new inning will start after 2 hours.
 - A game may end by mutual agreement (rule 4-2-4)
 - Stand alone JV games (including Easter Week Tournament games) do not have a time limit

Game Time Limits- Middle School

- Mecklenburg County-2:00 drop dead. The game may end in tie.
- Cabarrus County-2:00 time limit (finish the inning).
 - If the game is tied and the time has not expired play the next inning.
 - The International Tie Breaker will be used after the time limit has expired.
- Union County-No new inning after 2:15.
 - Finish the at bat at 2:15. If the game is tied after 2:15, the International Tie Breaker will be invoked at the top of the next inning.
- Charlotte Area Private Schools (Christian, Cannon, Latin, Holy Trinity, Providence Day, Country Day, Covenant Day)-No new inning will start after 1:50.
 - If the game is tied after that inning the International Tie Breaker rule will be used to determine a winner.

*Time limits do not replace conference adopted mercy rules.

Game Acceptance

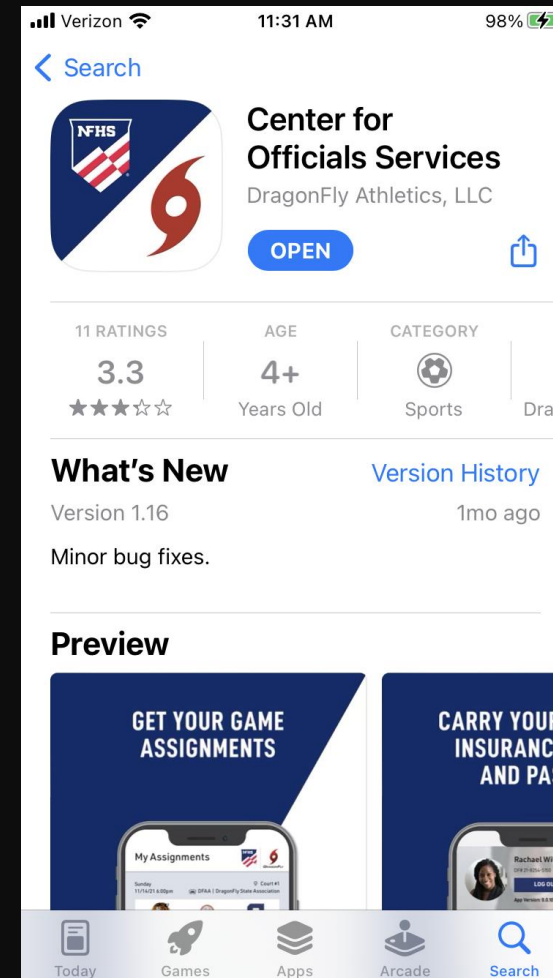
- Maintain your blocks current on DragonFly. DragonFly is the ONLY assigning site for the 2024 season. All games will be assigned on DragonFly.
- Assigned games need to be accepted ASAP. No later than 72 hours of the assignment being published.
- If a game is assigned and cannot be accepted, call (text message or email is not acceptable) Gary (not Frank or Jim) before declining the assignment.

Game Payments

- All games will be paid via DragonFly for the 2024 season.
 - These games will need to be accepted on DragonFly to process the payments by the schools.
 - Each umpire needs to have a DragonFly Pay account set up and verified. NO ACCEPTANCE, NO PAY ACCOUNT=NO MONEY

Center for Officials Services App

- From your app store you will need to download and install the DragonFly Max-Center for Officials Services.
- This will be the app that is used for all game schedules, post game reports, ejection reports, payments, contacts, etc.



Umpire Conduct

- Umpires shall abide by the tobacco, alcohol, and drug policy in place for the locality of the assigned activity. Umpires shall not be impaired from the use alcohol, prescribed or nonprescribed medication and/or substances while in an official capacity. Violation of this may result in suspension or termination.
- Umpires shall abide by the firearm and weapons policy for the jurisdiction of the assigned activity. Possession of firearms or weapons, by an official, on the field of play, is strictly prohibited, at any time, for any reason.

Conflict of Interests

- Any conflict of interest (COI) regarding a potential assignment shall be identified to the Supervisor of Officials in advance for determination.
 - If a COI exists, it needs to be entered on DragonFly in advance of the season. This is entered in the BLOCKS menu.
 - COI's include, but are not limited to:
 - present or recent past employment at a school
 - dependents who attend or recently attended an assigned school
 - close friends and relatives who are employed by an assigned school.

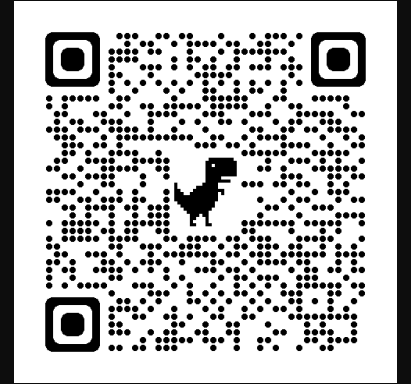
Media Policy

- Umpires shall refer all inquiries from media (radio, television, internet or newspaper) or any other type media to the Supervisor of Officials.
- No Umpire may alter this policy without prior authorization from the Supervisor of Officials.
- Umpires shall not post anything regarding any assignment on ANY social media website. This includes the teams, coaches, players, fans, game management or any details involved with the assignment.
- Violation may result in disciplinary action, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Officials, up to suspension or termination.
- “SILENCE CAN NEVER BE MISQUOTED” -Calvin Coolidge

Pre-game Communication

- The plate umpire will be the crew chief on all assignments unless otherwise specified by the Supervisor of Officials. The crew chief shall be responsible for contacting all members of the crew.
 - If you are unable to contact your crew members within 36 hours of the scheduled assignment, you must contact the Supervisor of Officials office.
 - Any crew member who has not been contacted by his crew chief within 36 hours of the assignment date must contact the Supervisor of Officials.
- All Umpires should arrive at the game site 1 hour prior to the scheduled start time. (sub-varsity 30 mins)
 - If any umpire is delayed, they should call their crew member to let them know of their delay and tell them their expected arrival time. If a member of your crew has not arrived, or contacted you, at your game site within 30 minutes of the scheduled game time you must contact the Supervisor of Officials

Pre-game Procedures



- CUA umpires shall complete and have in their possession the CUA Emergency Healthcare Information Form at every assigned contest. The location of this should be a topic covered in the pre-game.
- Umpires will not change assigned positions (plate and bases) with out permission from the Supervisor.
- Umpires are required to have at the game site a current rule book and a case book.

Post-game Reports

Head Crew Chief is responsible for filing any post game reports by 12:00 PM the day

- The crew chief is responsible for filing the post game report by 12:00 PM the day following the game via Dragon Fly. The items to be noted are:
 - Suspended game
 - Forfeited game
 - Lack of escort to parking lot/dressing room
 - Lack of proper security/game management
 - Unsporting/improper behavior/verbal abuse by fans, students, parents, supporters
 - Improper playing conditions, field markings or equipment
 - Anything else of note

Playoff Eligibility

d Crew Chief is responsible for filing any post game reports by 12:00 PM the day

- To be eligible to be assigned playoffs contests, the following requirements must be met:

1. Umpire is in good standing with NCHSAA and CUA
2. State meeting attendance
3. NFHS test score->80%
4. Local and annual business meeting attendance*
5. Scrimmage attendance-minimum of 3 scrimmages*

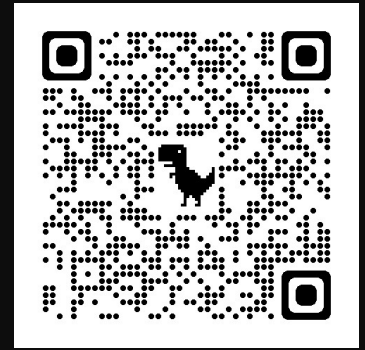
* Alternative requirements may be substituted per the discretion of the Supervisor of Officials.

Concussion Test

Head Crew Chief is responsible for filing any post game reports by 12:00 PM the day

- Complete the NFHS Concussion test online
 - Due every two years
 - Past completion records are available on your DragonFly account
 - Instructions and a link are on the website.
 - At the completion of the test, email the result to Gary at Gary_Swanson@hotmail.com

CUA Points of Emphasis



- Lightning and Thunder Protocol

- **IF THE UMPIRE IN CHIEF IS NOTIFIED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL (HEAD COACH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OR TRAINING STAFF) THAT THERE IS A LIGHTNING OR THUNDER CONCERN, STOP THE CONTEST AND CLEAR THE FIELD IMMEDIATELY.**

- **IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECTION FROM SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, THIS DECISION BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF.**

CUA Points of Emphasis

- **Baseballs**

- Baseballs must have both the NFHS ball mark and the NOCSAE standard mark at the time of manufacture. (Rule 1-3-1)
- If the home team does not provide you with legal baseballs:
 1. Ask the home team if they have any legal, stamped baseballs they can find to use.
 2. If the home team states that they do not have any, have the home team ask the visiting team if they have any legal baseballs that the home team can use for the game.
 3. If no legal baseballs can be obtained, the game is suspended. **DO NOT PLAY**. This is for all levels with no exceptions.
 4. Call Gary immediately and inform him that there were no legal baseballs to play with and you suspended the game.
- Middle Schools **are not** required to use NFHS/NOCSAE certified baseballs. Any specific rules for each county are on the CUA website.

CUA Points of Emphasis

Pace of Play

- The base umpire will monitor the time at the end of the inning and signal the plate umpire when 30 seconds has elapsed from when the final out of the inning occurred.
- The plate umpire will inform the catcher and the on-deck batter that there are two pitches remaining.
 - Judgement shall be used if the pitcher or the catcher were the bases at the end of the inning.
 - If the plate umpire is occupied recording changes, the base umpire will engage and count the pitches and inform the catcher when two pitches remain.
- After the ball has been “thrown down” following the final warm up pitch and the ball returned to the pitcher, the pitcher has 20 seconds to deliver a pitch (rule 6-2-2.c)
- If the batter delays the game by not being in the batter’s box within 20 seconds or leaves the batter’s box and none of the 7 exceptions (rule 7-3-1.a-f) apply, the batter shall be charged with a strike. The pitcher need not pitch, and the ball remains live.

CUA Points of Emphasis

- Fields
 - All required field markings must be in place to start the game. This includes:
 - Fair/foul lines
 - Batter's boxes
 - Coach's boxes
 - On-deck area
 - Extended dugouts
 - Temporary extension of a dugout must be made parallel to the fair/foul line and towards the outfield. Rule 1-2-4.

CUA Points of Emphasis

- Coaches
 - All team Personnel must be in dugout during live ball play (Rule 3-3-1i)
 - Exceptions
 - Defensive team
 - Base Coaches
 - Batter, runner or an on-deck batter
 - Helmets
 - Coaches must wear a skull cap style helmet or a NOCSAE certified helmet when coaching in the coach's box during games.
 - Non adult/student base coaches must wear a NOCSAE certified helmet when coaching in the coach's box during games.

CUA Points of Emphasis

- Wrist Bands- Shall be worn ONLY on the wrist/forearm or in the pocket. They are not to be worn on the belt. Rule 1-6-1.
- Eye Black is limited to 1 stripe, 1 finger wide.



CUA Points of Emphasis

- The glove/mitt worn by the pitcher that includes the colors white and/or gray. The glove shall be removed from the game with no penalty. Rule 1-3-6.



Disqualification & Ejection Reports



- If any player or coach is restricted, disqualified, or ejected the umpire responsible for the disciplinary action **MUST** contact the Supervisor of Officials by phone (text messages are **NOT** acceptable) immediately following the game.
 - A draft report for all disqualifications and ejections describing the situation in full must be submitted to the Supervisor of Officials via email within 8 hours.
 - The draft report shall be submitted using the CUA Ejection/Disqualification form.
 - The report should be detailed and factual.
 - Once approved, the final report will be submitted to the NCHSAA within 12 hours of the event (public HS only) via DragonFly MAX.
 - For private schools and middle schools, the CUA form will be the only submission.

NCHSAA Ejection Criteria

- Fighting or leaving the bench area to participate in a fight
- Taunting/Baiting
- Obscene gestures
- Profanity
- Disrespectfully addressing an official
- Physical contact with an official
- Spitting
- Biting
- Malicious/Fragrant contact

DragonFly EJ/DQ Reports

1. Open DragonFly and go to my assignments.
2. Open the assignment and scroll to the bottom of the page.
3. Open the “Add Documents” tab
4. Select “NC High School Ejection Report”.
5. Complete the form and submit it.

The screenshot shows the 'My Assignments' page in the DragonFly system. The header includes the NFHS logo and 'CENTER FOR OFFICIALS SERVICES' with the DragonFly logo. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: Today, NFHS Hub, Directory, Vault, My Money, Calendar, and Assignments. The main content area is titled 'My Assignments' and has tabs for 'UPCOMING GAMES' and 'PAST GAMES'. The 'PAST GAMES' tab is active, showing a game on Monday, 10/17/22 at 4:30pm EST. The game is between Northwest Cabarrus Middle (WIN) and Harold E. Winkler Middle (LOSS). The score is 20-5. The assignment is for a Plate Umpire with a total pay of \$75.00. There are 'Accepted' and 'Paid' buttons. At the bottom, the user's name 'ROGER BOYINGTON' and phone number 'DF# 20-8708-6824' are visible, along with another game entry for Monday, 10/10/22 at 4:30pm EST at C C Griffin Middle.

This screenshot shows the 'My Assignments' page with the 'Officials' section expanded. It lists two officials: Roger Boyington, Plate Umpire, and Reginald Farrar, Base Umpire. Below this, the 'Workers' section shows 'No Workers found'. The 'Key People' section lists Bradley Hammill and Raymond Hylton, both Athletic Directors. At the bottom, there is an 'Add Document' button and a message: 'There are currently no game documents to show.'

The screenshot shows the 'Ejection/Disqualification Report' form. It features the NCHSAA logo at the top. The form fields are: Contest Participants (Northwest Cabarrus Middle vs Harold E. Winkler Mid), Sport (Softball), Competition Level (Middle School), Event Date (10/17/2022 @ 4:30:00 PM EDT), and h5 (Harold E. Winkler Middle). At the bottom, there are icons for trash and print, and two buttons: 'Save & Finish Later' and 'Sign & Complete'.