

State of Maine Umpire Association

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 16, 2024, 10 a.m., [Zoom Recording](#)

- The meeting was called to order by President Rick Meinking (Western Maine) at 10:01 a.m.
- Roll Call: Jeff Mertz (KS), Chris Barstow (MC), Kevin Joyce (WM), Rick Meinking (WM), Chris Casavant (NM), Dillon Kingsbury (NM), Rob Curtis (EM), Mark Bridgham (EM), Lon Bagley (EM), Barry Fuller (CM), John Ramsey (DE), Jeff Benson (MPA)
- Prior to the presenting of reports and action items, the Association held a moment of silence in memoriam of longtime colleague Bill Casavant, and in support of member Steve Salisbury, in memoriam of his daughter and father, who recently passed.
- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
 - Approval of 2/18/24 and 9/29/24 Meeting Minutes
 - Secretary/Treasurer Barstow presented the minutes for approval.
 - Motion by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Curtis to accept the minutes as presented.
(Motion passes 11-0)
 - Bank/Financial Update
 - Mr. Barstow provided an update regarding gaining access to the Key Bank account and the Association's State of Maine non-profit corporate status. Mr. Barstow noted that access to the bank account has been delayed, as he is working to get the Association's status off of suspension. Due to a lack of annual reporting, SMUA has been administratively suspended since 1995. No changes can be made with banking until this is reinstated. Mr. Barstow has paid \$185 from personal fund to get the reinstatement completed, with reimbursement to occur following access to the bank account. Once we are able to gain bank access, Mr. Barstow will add himself and Mr. Mertz as account holders, per previous action of the Association by unanimous vote on September 29, 2024.
 - Mr. Barstow also provided an updated bank account balance of \$616.39. An email will also be going out to board treasurers requesting that \$50 be paid as part of annual dues.
- MPA Liaison's Report
 - MPA Liaison Joyce provided the dates for the state and regional championships for 2025. Mr. Joyce noted the need to get full rosters and their top 25% of ranked officials to him. Assignments for state and regional finals will be conducted through Arbiter this season. Blocks for dates and conflicts of interest for officials should be provided with the roster submission, and should also be set up by the individual officials in Arbiter, once access is granted.
 - State Interpreter Mertz noted that there is a conflict-of-interest policy that was adopted by the MPA Officials Advisory Committee that will be distributed to boards to share with their members. This will provide clarity so that officials appropriately block schools as needed.

- State Interpreter's Report
 - Mr. Mertzelt requested that board leaders let him know if they were not receiving communication from the MPA and Ms. Patty Newman related to ordering and billing. Ms. Newman going forward will be communicating directly with board leaders related to items such as ordering rules books.
 - Mr. Mertzelt asked the membership when they would like to open and close the Dragonfly exam for members. By consensus, it was determined the exam would open on March 24th, closing on April 7th.
 - Mr. Barstow asked if the Part I and Part II exam could both be offered through Dragonfly. Mr. Mertzelt was going to look into that as an option and report back.

- MPA Commissioner of Officials' report
 - Commissioner of Officials Benson had no information to report, as the information to be shared was provided during the MPA Liaison's report.

- Discussion & Action Items
 - Adoption of the CCA Mechanics Manual in place of the NFHS Mechanics Manual.
 - Mr. Rob Curtis presented a proposal to transition Maine from using the NFHS Mechanics Manual to the CCA Mechanics Manual. This recommendation was made due to the CCA manual being of higher quality and more detailed, plus it is a lower cost compared to the NFHS manual.
 - Mr. Mertzelt and Mr. Barstow noted that their boards utilized CCA mechanics as part of their teachings to their members. Mr. Barstow also noted that PDF versions of the CCA manual are also available for sharing.
 - Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to adopt the CCA Mechanics Manual as the official mechanics manual of SMUA, beginning in 2026. **(Motion passes 11-0)**
 - Proposed amendment to the By-Laws, removing the requirement of the SMUA patch for assigned MPA Tournament assignments.
 - Mr. Barstow presented the idea of eliminating the requirements of wearing an SMUA patch for state and regional playoff assignments. As other assignors at other levels do not require any patches or embroidery, it was thought it may be more cost and logistically efficient to eliminate this requirement.
 - Discussion by several members provided negatives to the proposal, noting the symbolism of the patch showing certification, as well as being unsure as to what the MPA was requiring of the Association contractually.
 - Following discussion, it was determined it would be best to have the Secretary/Treasurer work towards consolidating vendors that offer patches and ready-made uniforms, with the topic being discussed again at the Association's September meeting.

- Confirmation of MPA contract recommendations:
 - Mr. Barstow asked the membership if they had any additional adjustments to the proposed MPA contract. Any suggestions would be in addition to previously determined recommendations. Following discussion, no additional items were added from previous communications.
 - By consensus, the following items are to be addressed with Mr. Mike Burnham and the MPA related to suggested contract amendments:
 1. Correct the name in the header from “Baseball Officials Association” to “State of Maine Umpires Association”.
 2. On page 3, under section 4C, add language that mileage should also be provided for preseason exhibitions and scrimmages.
- Creation of an award to honor annually a contributor to Maine high school baseball, on behalf of the SMUA.
 - Mr. Joyce brought forth the idea of creating an award to honor an individual annually that has positively contributed to Maine high school baseball. The award is proposed to be named in honor of Mr. Chappy Nelson, who recently passed.
 - By consensus, the membership supported the idea of creating an ad hoc committee, with the purpose of establishing this award. The Secretary/Treasurer shall solicit members from Maine’s seven boards to serve on this committee, being chaired by Mr. Joyce.
- Announcements
 - The NFHS Dragonfly Exam will open on Monday, March 24th and close at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 7th
 - Regional finals will be held on Tuesday, June 17th. State championships will be held on Saturday, June 21st.
 - The next meeting of the Association will be Sunday, September 28th at 6 p.m. via Zoom Teleconferencing.
 - Future rotation of Association President by Board

• 2024-25 Western Maine	• 2032-33 Central Maine
• 2026-27 Northern Maine	• 2034-35 Kennebec-Somerset
• 2028-29 Downeast	• 2036-37 Midcoast
• 2030-31 Eastern Maine	
- Adjournment
 - Motion by Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Casavant to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. **(Motion passes, 10-0)**