



# Central Alberta Softball Umpires Association

## 2021 Letter of Introduction for New Umpires

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### Dear Prospective Umpire:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a softball umpire. It is a rewarding summer pastime, regardless of your age or experience.

This letter provides information about the Central Alberta Softball Umpires Association (CASUA), and what is involved in becoming a softball umpire. After reading the letter, and visiting our website, we are confident you will want to proceed with trying umpiring for the 2021 season.

In 2019, the CASUA had 150 members, ranging in age from 12 years to 81. We officiate softball games for leagues and associations across Softball Alberta's Zone 4 (Central Alberta). Primarily, CASUA umpires officiate fast-pitch softball. The best sources of information about the CASUA are our website and Facebook page. They contain lots of information about the CASUA and umpiring in general.

Website: [www.CASUA.ca](http://www.CASUA.ca)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RDSUA/>

**ANNUAL CERTIFICATION CLINIC:** Attending a clinic each year is a requirement for umpiring. You must preregister to ensure we have enough manuals and rulebooks for everyone.

This year each clinic includes instruction (online session), practical sessions (small socially distanced outdoor groups), and the Softball Canada online exam. At the completion of the clinic, each umpire is certified to umpire softball in Canada. For the outdoor, mechanics session, please dress in comfortable clothes (including running shoes) as you will be moving around.

Pre-registration is required to ensure we have sufficient materials. Once you have pre-registered, more details will be provided closer to the clinic date.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** Each umpire is required to pay a registration fee that covers the cost of the CASUA clinic, rulebook, manual, Softball Canada and Softball Alberta registration, and insurance. The fee for a first-year umpire is \$125, payable at the outdoor mechanics session.

If you are a participant (player or coach) with a local minor softball association, your softball association may have a policy where your registration fee will be covered or reimbursed. Your softball association may arrange with the CASUA to pay your clinic registration fee at the time of the clinic, or to reimburse the CASUA at the completion of the season, subject to meeting certain criteria (such as working a certain number of games). In the case of reimbursement, your clinic fee would be paid back on your final game fee cheque in July.

Please note that any covering or reimbursing fees is approved by your local minor association ***Check with your local minor association to confirm if there is a policy for reimbursing or covering the clinic fee.***

**UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT:** Each umpire is responsible for ensuring s/he has a proper uniform and equipment. An outline of the required equipment (for your safety and protection), as well as clothing, can be found on our website, under the Rookies & Parents tab.



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We know that it can be expensive to outfit an umpire for the first time, and we do not expect everything to be purchased in the first year. We often have equipment and clothing donated by senior or retired umpires that is available for free and available at the clinic or through the website, and some associations do provide gear for umpires to wear.

**If you are concerned with the cost of equipment and clothing, please contact us. We will make sure that cost of clothing/equipment does not stop anyone from starting their umpiring career.**

**WHO WE UMPIRE:** CASUA covers games at levels from Under 10-year-old Girls right up the Men's Highway 21 league and the Red Deer Ladies Fastball League. As a new umpire, dependent upon your age and ability, you could be working any of the following:

- Girls minor softball (10 years and up, many communities in central Alberta)
- Weekend minor tournaments (you could make \$100 to \$200 or more during a weekend)
- Ladies and Men's games for the more experienced officials

**ASSIGNING OF GAMES:** The CASUA has an assignor and uses the ARBITER online scheduling software to assign games during the regular season. **You must provide an email address that you monitor regularly, as all assignments are distributed via email.**

Initial assignments are sent out every couple of weeks, but updates can occur daily based on schedule changes or umpire availability. You accept or decline games assigned to you as soon as possible after receiving the email by logging into your account in Arbiter on a computer or mobile device. You will receive assignments that match your ability. More details on Arbiter will be provided by CASUA.

**MENTORS:** The CASUA believes that one of the ways to help you succeed as an umpire is to provide mentoring during the season. Senior members of the CASUA will work with you during some of your games to help you with the skills and knowledge you need to progress within the sport.

We are pleased that you are considering becoming an umpire and joining the CASUA. To pre-register for the clinic, please to the website registration page.

If you have questions, please ask. Our executive list is available on our website at [CASUA.ca](http://CASUA.ca), and clicking on the Contact Us tab, or you can email [info@CASUA.ca](mailto:info@CASUA.ca).

We look forward to meeting you at the mechanics session and working with you on the diamond this season.

Malcolm Murray,  
President, Red Deer Softball Umpires Association