

## WIAA Approved Softball Clinic

**Date:** Feb 24 2024, 1:00- 5:00

**Place:** Marshfield High School, 1401 E Becker rd. Marshfield, WI

The clinic will be conducted by WIAA Master level Umpires with many years of varsity experience, with multiple playoff state and sectional appearance.

Dean Romanowski

Dave Barclay

Jason Wolfe

There will be a short classroom rule discussion and mechanics demonstration, followed by game-like situations and application of rules and practice mechanics along with “live” work with the Marshfield High school Softball team.

**Fee:** \$0 per participant. Snacks and bottled water will be provided.

### **For Registration:**

**Contact** Wayne Fleischmann with questions, [wnjatt98@yahoo.com](mailto:wnjatt98@yahoo.com) or 715-937-2338

### **Softball Umpires Clinic Outline:**

12:45 - Check-in

1:00 -Classroom Discussion

2:00 -Live Field & Plate work (indoors and outdoors) in collaboration with MCHS Softball team

\*\* Bring your field and plate equipment, and correct uniform, proper attire (hoping to be outside, if not we will work in the gym with live play)

4:30 -Classroom Q/A

5:00 -Clinic concluded

### **Topics Overview** (see p2 for more details)

General Information: Correct uniform, equipment, rules, situations, contracts/communication

Mechanics/Positioning: plate, base, strike zone, rundowns, illegal pitches, etc.

Umpire Etiquette: professionalism, teamwork, responsibilities, pre/post-game, communication, other

Organized so observations and mentoring can occur during “live” play to provide immediate feedback to the umpire.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Any official who attends the clinic and completes the requirements successfully will be given credit for 1 varsity contest, if he/she is a L4, L5, or a master official, or will be allowed to advance one level in classification if he/she is a L0, L1, L2, or L3 official. Officials must meet all the requirements of the advanced classification level, including being licensed on time. These privileges apply only to their classification in softball. Advancement or game credit will be given when the official renews their license for the 2022-23 school year. **Reminder:** Camp attendance DOES NOT exempt them from the sport meeting requirement (to be available soon on the WIAA website) or the exam requirement (currently available on the WIAA website)

### **General Information**

Uniform (Powder Blue Shirt, Heather Grey Pants, Navy Blue Hat, Black Belt, Black Socks, Solid Black Shoes, Ball Bag)

Equipment: Mask (with throat protector), Ball/Strike Indicator, Chest Protector, Shin Guards, Protective Cup, Plate Brush, Plate Umpire is recommended to have steel toe shoes, shoe should be solid black.

Rules Knowledge Review: The NFHS Rules Book, Case Book, Umpire Manual

Dealing with coaches/players on various levels

### **Mechanics**

Out/Strike (3 levels)

Non-Verbal – Everyone knows the call, you just confirm

Verbal/Signal – Your judgement (used 75% of the time)

Sell – Loudly verbally call/sell (in the field, briefly pause, quick “mind replay”, then SELL)

Safe (3 levels) – same as Out/Strike.

### **Plate Mechanics**

What is the Strike Zone (Over home plate, between the batter’s lead shoulder to the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance)? Be methodical (Same repetitive movements).

Slot Position (Get in the Slot—best view) Stance—The key is to have a “locked” position.

Head Height. Align on the plate. Athletic Stance (Back Straight, Hand Position, Etc.)

Ball Tracking Follow with your eyes, not your head—Make the call after the ball hits the glove, then call.

Strike (When to use the verbal “strike”, when to just signal, and how to sell the strike and how often to sell)

The Count—Give every other pitch. The higher the level, the less you need to give the count. Stop Signal. Play Ball Signal. Dead Ball/Foul Ball. Close plays and plate positioning.

Infield Fly Signal (On/Off) Illegal/Legal pitches

### **Base Mechanics**

A, B, C

Move to improve (Angle over Distance. Go for the angle over getting closer to the play) Stop moving while making the call. A—Inside/Out (Fly ball coverage) B/C—Allow players to get to their spots 1<sup>st</sup>, then get to yours (Talk with players) Safe on pulled foot (Signal Safe, then signal “Side Swipe”)

### **Umpire Etiquette**

Professionalism, Communication, Punctuality -30 Minutes is preferred and standard protocol.

Never disagree publicly with your partner (you are the only 2 people on YOUR team! Stick Together)  
Pre-Game Discussion with Partners.

Responsibilities (3<sup>rd</sup> base, fair/foul, fly balls)

Communication/Signals: Special plays you’ve seen. Pick something you want to get better at each game. Verbally communicate/point during plays. How to get count from your partner (Base Ump). How to get help on a check swing (Base Ump, DO NOT offer help until asked) if umpires need help or disagree, call a conference—give all available information. (What you see, not think you saw), let the umpire who made the call, change the call. Otherwise, the call stands and the umpires stand together with the call!!

Our main goal is to give the tools to the campers, so they may become a better umpire, on and off the field.