

# WIAA Approved Baseball Umpiring Clinic

**Date:** March 23, 8:30-1:00

**Location:** Menomonie HS, 1715 5th St., Menomonie, WI

The clinic will be conducted by WIAA Master Level Umpires with over 100 years combined varsity, collegiate, and semi-pro experience, with multiple state and sectional playoff appearances.

There will be classroom rule discussion and mechanics demonstration, then time working outdoors/indoors in “game-like” situations, application of rules and practice of mechanics, along with “live” work with the Menomonie High School baseball teams in a scrimmage format.

**Fee** per participant is \$50. Snacks and bottled water will be provided.

**For registration** use this link [Registration Form](#). Complete this form and send payment before March 20th.

Payment options:

- Use [Venmo](#)(@beennic) or [Paypal](#)
- Send a check made payable to Nic Been, 1539 110th Ave, Hammond, WI 54015

**Contact:** Nic Been with questions, [nicbeen96@gmail.com](mailto:nicbeen96@gmail.com) or 715-418-0821

## **Baseball Umpires Clinic Outline:**

- 8:15 - Check-in
- 8:30 - Classroom Discussion and Demonstrations
- 9:30 - Live Field and Plate work (indoors or outdoors) in collaboration with MHS Baseball Team  
\*\*Bring your field and plate equipment, uniform
- 11:30 - Classroom Q/A, Discussion
- 12:30 - Clinic Concluded

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

General Information: uniform, equipment, rules, situations, contracts/communication, 2022 meeting folder

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

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

Other

## **DISCLAIMER**

Any official who attends a clinic and completes the requirements successfully will be given credit for 1 varsity contest if he/she is a L4, L5, or 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 this sport. Advancement or game credit will be given when the official renews their license for the 2024-25 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 or Navy Blue Shirt, Charcoal Grey Pants, Navy Blue Hat, Black Belt, Ball Bag, Black Shoes)  
Additional Equipment (Mask, Indicator, Chest Protector, Shin Guards, Protective Cup, Plate Brush)  
Rules Knowledge Review: The NFHS Rules Book, Case Book, Umpire Manual

## **Mechanics**

Out/Strike (3 levels)

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

Verbal/Signal – Your judgment (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 (Strike zone for different levels of play, although, technically the same realistically different.) 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 eyes, not your head – then make the call wait til it hits the glove, then call) Consistency.

Strike (When to use verbal “strike” when to just signal, 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 their spot 1st, then get yours (Talk with players) Safe on pulled foot (Signal Safe, then signal “Side Swipe”)

How to cover rundown situations.

## **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 (3rd base, fair/foul, fly balls)

Communication/Signals: Special plays you’ve seen. Pick something you want to get better @ each game. Verbally communicate/point during plays. How to get count from 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, let the umpire who made the call change the call. Otherwise the call stands, and the umpires stand together with the call!