

**BY-LAWS
of the
MONTANA ALBERTA LEGION BASEBALL UMPIRE ASSOCIATION**

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**BY-LAWS
of the
MONTANA ALBERTA LEGION BASEBALL UMPIRE ASSOCIATION**

Approved : March 1, 2023
Amended: February 26, 2023

Article I – Organization

1. This organization shall be known as the Montana Alberta Legion Baseball Umpire Association hereinafter referred to as **"MALBUA"**.
2. Local Associations may adopt specific Articles and/or Language from these MALBUA By-Laws in the development of their local By-Laws but may not adopt any Local By-Laws that would supersede or denigrate these MALBUA By-Laws; which hold precedent and govern the actions and conduct of Umpires working Montana and Alberta Canada American Legion Baseball Games.

Article II – Objective

1. The objective of the MALBUA is to provide qualified umpires for sanctioned Montana and Alberta Canada American Legion Baseball games. Game Rules and Umpire Mechanics training will be provided at an Annual MALBUA clinic. Whenever possible, a supervise/review/evaluate process is also recommended for Umpire training.

Article III – Membership, and Leadership Roles

1. General Member - As used hereinafter, the word **"Member(s)"** shall refer to a General Member of the MALBUA. Any person who wishes to umpire American Legion Baseball as a member of the MALBUA must fulfill the requirements outlined in Article IV to be a member in good standing.

Only Members of the MALBUA, in good standing, are eligible to vote at MALBUA meetings and/or on business relating to the MALBUA.

2. Executive Board - As used hereinafter, the word **"Board"** shall refer to a Member properly elected to MALBUA's Executive Board.

Any Member in good standing as outlined in Article III(1) above, who is interested in furthering the Objective of the MALBUA may run for election to one of thirteen (13) positions on MALBUA's Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and nine (9) District Representatives. See "Article VII— Officers" below for the term of each of these offices, and for the duties and responsibilities assigned to each member of the Board.

3. District Representatives - As used hereinafter, the words **"District Rep(s)"** shall refer to a Member properly elected as one of the nine (9) District Representatives on MALBUA's Board. See "Article IX – District Representatives" below for the term, duties, and responsibilities of a MALBUA District Rep.

All candidates for the role of District Rep must be a member in good standing, and physically reside within the defined borders of the MALBUA District that they wish to represent, as defined by the Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Program, to be properly nominated and elected.

4. Local Umpire-in-Chief (UIC's) and/or local assignors are elected or selected by each local official's association to assign games to individual umpires in their respective communities or areas of responsibility.
 - All Local UICs and/or local assignors must be a member in good standing with the MALBUA.
 - A local UIC and/or local assignors may be a member of MALBUA Board, or a District Representative.
5. Honorary Members of MALBUA – are members who have elected to retire from serving the MALBUA and the Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Association while in good standing. These members are no longer active, dues paying of the MALBUA, but are issued a single, "Honorary Lifetime membership" card upon their retirement out of respect for their > 10-years of service.

Article IV — Membership Dues and other Requirements for Membership

1. Membership Dues for the operation of the MALBUA will be recommended by the Board and voted on by Members at the annual MALBUA meeting. Membership (\$40 - 2023, \$50 - 2025 as of 2022) must be paid by May 1st. Failure to pay dues by the due date will result in a \$10 penalty, and the member will be ineligible for postseason consideration for 1-year. A person new to MALBUA will not have to pay membership dues for their 1st year of membership as of 2022.
2. All Members, Board Members, and District Reps, who are also members of the Montana Officials Association (MOA), are encouraged to print two (2) copies of their Certificate of Completion for completing the annual Concussion Certification Course required by the MOA. This certificate of completion will fulfill MALBUA's requirement for Concussion Certification and is a component of eligibility for post season consideration.
 - PENALTY - Failure to complete a Concussion Certification Course and to present a Certificate of Completion to the MALBUA Secretary before their first contest, i.e., scrimmage or game, annually will render a member, Board Member, or District Rep ineligible for post season consideration for 1-year. <https://nfhslearn.com>
1. A member's suspension under this penalty will be lifted for regular season contests ONLY, once proof of the completion of a concussion training course has been received by the MALBUA Secretary. By Montana state law, Sports Officials cannot work any scrimmage or contest until a concussion clinic has been viewed, annually.

3. Members of MALBUA who are not a registered MOA official, must also complete a Concussion Certification Course per Montana Statute (see below), and present a Certificate of Completion to the MALBUA Secretary before their first contest, i.e., scrimmage or game, annually to be a member in good standing and is a component of eligibility for post season consideration. <https://nfhslearn.com/>
 - PENALTY – The penalty for not completing a concussion recognition course, and for not presenting the Certificate of Completion to the MALBUA Secretary by the deadline above will result in immediate suspension from the MALBUA, and makes the Member ineligible for postseason consideration for 1-year.
 1. A member’s suspension under this penalty will be lifted for regular season contests ONLY, once proof of the completion of a concussion training course has been received by the MALBUA Secretary. By Montana state law, Sports Officials cannot work any scrimmage or contest until a concussion clinic has been viewed, annually.

NOTE: STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES CONCUSSION PROTOCOL BILL

Montana House Bill 487 – Passed during the 2017 Legislative Session, extended concussion protocol procedures to any entity that organizes or sponsors an organized youth athletic activity.

Coaches and officials must complete a concussion training program and receive certification once each year.

4. Members shall not be required to be affiliated with any other Local, State, or National baseball organization to be a member of the MALBUA, i.e., MOA, Little League, Babe Ruth, Pony, NFHSA, USSSA, etc.

Article V – The Executive Board

1. MALBUA members shall nominate each member of MALBUA’s executive board at a meeting held by the current executive board. Voting shall be by all good standing members of MALBUA and facilitated electronically by the Secretary, members shall be given a minimum of 24 hours after voting opens to cast their vote. More time may be allotted if required or deemed necessary by the executive board.
2. There shall be thirteen (13) seats on the Board: a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and nine (9) District Reps. “Article VII— Officers”, and “Article VIII – District Representatives” explain the term of each office, and the duties and responsibilities of each member of the Board.
3. The Board shall strictly adhere to these By-Laws, the Code of Ethics (Article XI), and the Code of Conduct (Article XII). Violators may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

4. The daily management of the MALBUA shall be vested in the elected Members of the Board. Newly elected Members to the Board shall immediately take up and perform their duties and responsibilities on the date of their election, until a successor is properly elected.
5. The Board may adopt rules and regulations as necessary and proper for the conduct of its regular meetings and for the management of the MALBUA. Roberts Rules of Order are hereby recommended.
6. If a Board vacancy occurs by death, resignation or otherwise, the remaining Members of the Board shall elect a new member to the Board, by a majority vote of the Board Members present at a meeting called for this purpose. EXCEPTION – The Vice President will become the MALBUA President if the vacancy is MALBUA's President, as outlined in "Article VII" below.

NOTE: Any Member elected to the Board in this way will serve out the remaining term of the Board member they replace. Upon completion of the remaining term, a correct and proper election will be conducted at the appropriate Annual Business Meeting.

7. Meetings of the Board may be held at the Board's discretion. Special Board meetings may be called by the President or by the Vice-President if the President is unavailable. The Secretary will inform the other members of the Board of the correct time, place, and topic of all special board meetings called in this manner.
8. Complete a written report outlining the Board's recommendation on ejections and report back to the Local UIC within 72 hours. Local UIC's are expected to disseminate the report back to the member(s) responsible for the ejection within the same time frame.
9. The Board shall have the power to appoint any standing and/or special committees that it deems necessary, and delegate any appropriate powers to these committees that are deemed necessary to complete the work tasked to it.

Article VI — Finances and Accounting

1. The Board shall decide all financial matters pertaining to the MALBUA.
2. The Board shall approve all existing and future financial accounts for the MALBUA by a majority vote of the Board.
3. All income received by the MALBUA shall be clearly identified and deposited by MALBUA Treasurer in to the bank account approved by the Board; currently at First Security Bank
4. All electronic disbursements, disbursements made by check, and cash withdrawals must be authorized with two (2) signatures from the President, Vice-president, Secretary, or Treasurer; electronic signatures and approval via email or text message are acceptable, but copies of such approvals must be kept in the records by the Treasurer.
5. MALBUA's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January, and end on the last day of December, annually.

Article VII — Officers

President, The President shall:

1. Serve for a term of four years. The election of MALBUA's President will occur in the year of U.S. Presidential Elections.
2. Conduct the Annual Business Meeting of the MALBUA.
3. Inform the Members and those on the list of alternates who have been selected by the Nominating Committee, to Umpire a Montana Alberta American Legion District, State, Regional, or National Tournament no later than July 5th.
4. Represent the MALBUA in any disputes between the MALBUA or a Member of the MALBUA, and the Board of the Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Program.
5. Review ejection reports submitted by Members, with the assistance of the Vice-President, and submit a recommendation to the State Commissioner of the Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Program for his/her consideration.
6. Shall report any misconduct by a MALBUA Member to the Board, and too the State Commissioner of the Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Program; along with any recommended disciplinary action.

Vice President, The Vice President Shall:

1. Serve a term of four years. The election of MALBUA's Vice President will occur 2-years after every U.S. Presidential Election.
2. Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President.
3. Abstain from voting during the annual business meeting, and vote only when needed during the Annual business meeting to break a tie vote during the Annual business meeting.
4. Replace the President for the remainder of his or her term should the President be unable to complete his term in office for any reason.
5. Perform any duties assigned or requested by the President, or by the Board.
6. Be a standing member of the Nominating Committee.
7. Be a standing member of the Rules Committee.
8. Assist the President in the review of ejection reports submitted by Members, and help prepare a recommendation to the State Commissioner of the Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Program for his/her consideration.

Secretary, The Secretary Shall:

1. Serve a term of four years. The election of MALBUA's Secretary will occur 2-years after every U.S. Presidential Election
2. Perform their duties and responsibilities concurrently with the term of MALBUA's Vice-President.
3. Attend all meetings of the Board, and the Annual Business meeting.
4. Inform the other members of the Board of the correct time, place, and topic of all special board meetings.
5. Inform Members of the date, time, and location of the Annual State Meeting, all meetings of the Board, and meetings of MALBUA Committees.
6. Be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings conducted by the Board and MALBUA Committees, and for securing these minutes in a location for this purpose, so that Members may review them whenever requested.
7. Be responsible for disclosing the location and access requirements for all archived meeting minutes of the Board and committees to their successor, upon a successor's appointment.

8. Notify Members elected in absentia, of their election or appointment
9. Be a standing member of the Nominating Committee
10. Be responsible for maintaining MALBUA membership list of current and honorary Members, for distributing annual membership cards by May 31st to all active members in good standing after confirming the receipt of their concussion certificate, and their dues with the Treasurer.
11. Maintain lists of all present and past officers, District Reps., and Committee members complete with their dates elected and unelected, and the dates when committees are formed and dissolved.
12. Complete all other duties that are common for a Secretary, as well as any additional duties assigned by the Board.

Treasurer, The Treasurer Shall:

1. Serve a term of four years. The election of MALBUA's Treasurer will occur in the year of U.S. Presidential Elections.
2. Identify and deposit all income received by the MALBUA in to the proper financial account designated by the Board, currently at Glacier Bank.
3. All electronic disbursements, disbursements made by check, and cash withdrawals and must be authorized with two (2) signatures from the President, Vice-president, Secretary, or Treasurer.
4. Electronic signatures and approval via email or text message are acceptable, but copies of such approvals must be kept in the records by the Treasurer.
5. Create an annual financial report **for all MALBUA accounts** based on MALBUA's fiscal year - **Jan. 1 -Dec.31**. This report will include the following information, at a minimum:
 - The starting balance for all ~~MALBUA accounts at the start~~ of the fiscal year.
 - An accounting of all income received, from whom received, and the name of the account to which the income was deposited.
 - An accounting of all approved expenditures made during the fiscal year. Properly documented expenditures will show the date of the expenditure, the purpose of the expenditure, the amount approved/spent and to whom, and the names of the two (2) Board Members approving the expenditure.
 - The balance remaining in all MALBUA accounts at the end of each fiscal year.

5. Provide a financial report to the Board and all Members in good standing by March 1st, before the Annual Board Meeting; to provide for an opportunity for review and comment before the report is formally approved with the minutes of the previous year's Annual Business Meeting.
6. Answer any questions about the financial report, and immediately correct any errors or omissions discovered at the Annual Business Meeting.
7. Submit a list of all dues paying Members to the Secretary by May 1st, annually.
8. Be responsible for maintaining and protecting all appropriate financial files, mailing lists and other necessary records.

Article VIII - District Representatives

MALBUA members shall nominate each district representative electronically or at a meeting held by the executive board to be voted on by the membership. Voting shall be by all good standing members of MALBUA and facilitated electronically by the secretary, members shall be given a minimum of 24 hours after voting opens to cast their vote. More time may be allotted if required or deemed necessary by the executive board.

District Representatives, Shall:

1. Serve two-year terms.

Northern District

- a. Alberta E – Brian Stehr (Exp. 2025) – Medicine Hat
- b. Alberta W – Matthew Benn (Exp. 2024) – Lethbridge, Vauxhall, Fort MacLeod, Calgary
- c. N Central – Darren Miller (Exp. 2024) - Great Falls, Tri County, Lewistown, Havre, Conrad, Malta

Southern District

- a. Eric Dighans (Exp. 2024) – Helena, Livingston, Bozeman, Belgrade, Three Forks, Butte, Dillon, and Anaconda

Eastern District

- a. N East – Cody Larson (Exp. 2024) – Wolf Point, Scobey, Plentywood
- b. S East – Jarod Sampson (Exp. 2025) – Colstrip, Miles City, Glendive, Sidney
- c. Billings/Laurel – Craig Berube (Exp. 2024)

Western District

- a. S. West – Wayne Wade (Exp. 2025) – Florence, Hamilton, Missoula
- a. N. West – Tim Rausch (Exp. 2024) – Cranbrook, Kalispell, Libby, Mission Valley - Ronan & Polson, Whitefish, Plains

2. Represent MALBUA Members residing in their respective districts, in the event of a dispute with their local UIC or the Board, which cannot be resolved locally.
3. Forward to the Nominating Committee evaluations and recommendations of Members residing in their respective districts, who are nominated by a Local Umpire in Chief (UIC), or Local Assignor, for

selection to a District, State, Regional, or National tournament by June 15th.

4. Receive written ejection reports made by Members involving a player, coach, manager, or fan, from the Local UIC within 24-hours.

Montana's MALBUA District Representatives

Northern: North – Central

Darin Miller (Exp. 2024)

Great Falls

Havre

Lewistown

Malta

Tri County - (Shelby, Conrad, Cut Bank)

Southern

Eric Dighans – Belgrade (Exp. 2024)

Anaconda

Belgrade

Bozeman

Butte

Dillon

Livingston

Helena

Three Forks

Eastern – Northeast

Cody Larson

(Exp. 2024)

Glasgow

Wolf Point

Scobey

Plentywood

Froid

Eastern – Southeast

Jarod Sampson

(Exp. 2025)

Colstrip

Glendive

Miles City

Sidney

Eastern – Billings/Laurel

Craig Berube

(Exp. 2024)

Billings

Laurel

Western – Southwest

Wayne Wade

(Exp. 2025)

Florence

Hamilton

Missoula

Western – Northwest:

Tim Rausch (Exp. 2024)

Cranbrook

Kalispell

Libby

Mission Valley – Ronan & Polson

Whitefish

Plains

Alberta's MALBUA District Representatives

Northern: Alberta – West

Matthew Benn

(Exp. 2024)

Lethbridge, Vauxhall, Fort

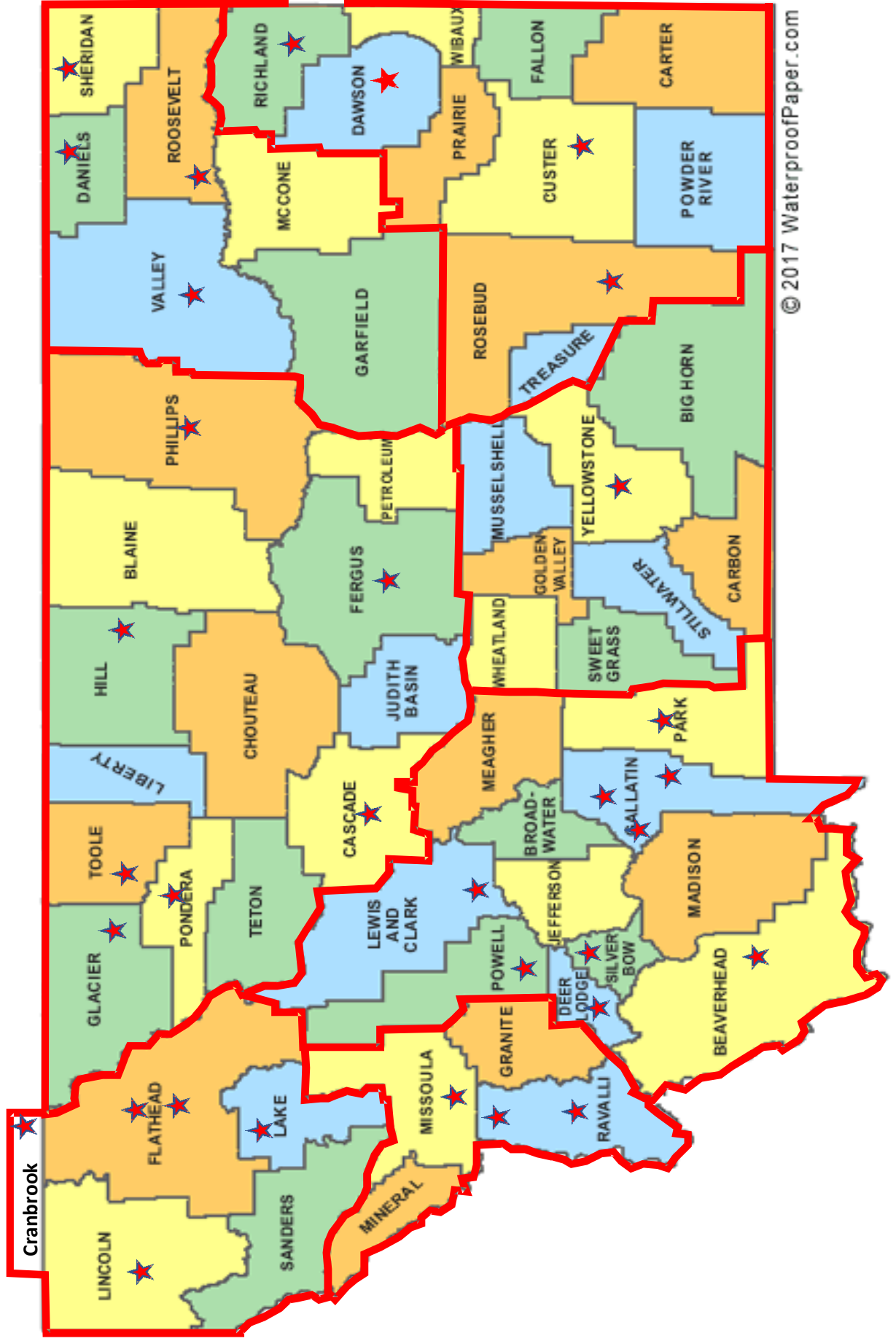
MacLeod, Calgary

Northern: Alberta – East

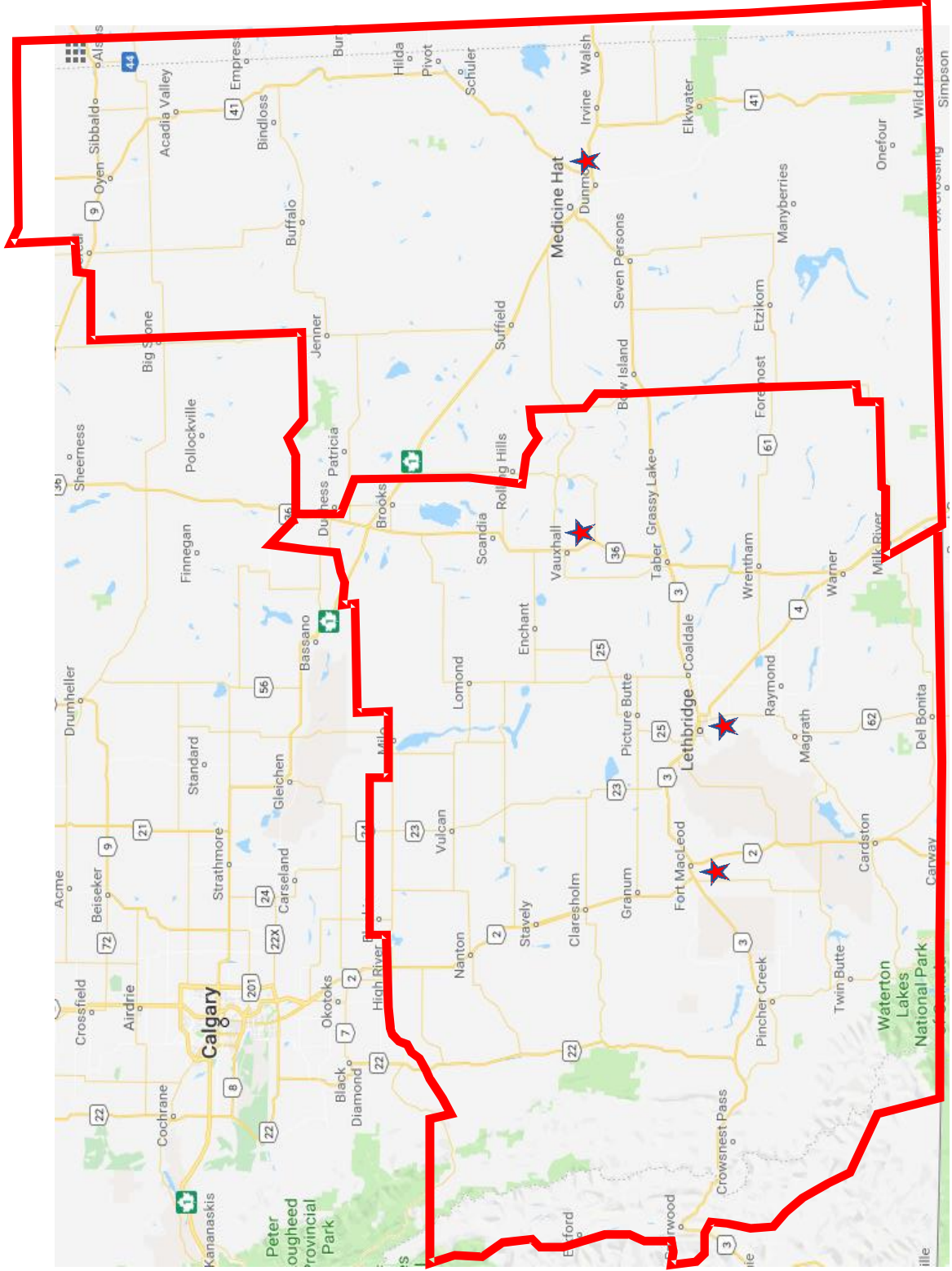
Brian Stehr (Exp. 2025)

Medicine Hat

Montana's MALBUA Districts



Northern District - Alberta's MALBUA District Representatives



Article IX – Local Umpire-in-chief (UIC) and/or Local Assigner

Local Umpire-in-Chief (UIC), and/or Local Assigner shall:

1. Be a Member in good standing with the MALBUA. May be a current or former member of the Board or a District Representative.
2. Assign Members to games in their respective communities or areas of responsibility in accordance with any local by-laws on the subject.
3. Insure that all Members in their respective area of responsibility are “in good standing” with the MALBUA, as defined by Article IV, before assigning games.
4. Conduct rules and mechanics instruction for the Members within their respective communities or areas of responsibility.
5. Forward evaluations and recommendations to their respective District Representative to nominate a member within their respective communities or areas of responsibility for a District, State, Regional, or National tournament by June 15th.
6. Forward all ejection reports by Members within their respective communities or areas of responsibility, that involve a player, coach, manager or a fan to their District Representative within 24-hours of the action. Flagrant offenses must be indicated as such in the ejection report.
7. Receive written reports outlining the Board’s recommendation on ejections, and report back to the Member(s) responsible for the ejection within 72-hours. Local UIC’s are expected to disseminate the report back to the member(s) responsible for the ejection within the same time frame.

Article X - Member Responsibilities

Member, to be in good standing a member shall:

1. Pay membership dues by May 1st. Failure to pay dues by the due date will result in a \$10 fine, and make the Member ineligible for post season consideration for 1-year.
2. Complete an approved concussion recognition course and present a certificate of completion to the MALBUA Secretary by the dates outlined above in Article IV; prior to working their first sanctioned Montana Alberta Canada Legion Baseball game.

NOTE: STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES CONCUSSION PROTOCOL BILL

Montana House Bill 487 – Passed during the 2017 Legislative Session, extended concussion protocol procedures to any entity that organizes or sponsors an organized youth athletic activity.

Coaches and officials must complete a concussion training program and receive certification once each year.

3. Submit a written or electronic ejection report to their Local UIC within 12-hours following the ejection of a player, coach, manager or fan. If the ejecting offense was flagrant, indicate as such in the ejection report.
 - (a) A proper and correct ejection report will include the name and/or number of the offender if known, the time of day, the inning ejected, and the score of the game at the time of the ejection. A narrative of information that led up to the ejection to the best of the Crew's recollection, and how the game finished including the final score.
 - (b) Fill out the report that is in the American Legion Manual.
4. Strictly adhere to these By-Laws, the Code of Ethics (Article XI), and the Code of Conduct (Article XII). Violators may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

Article XI – Code of Ethics

An Ethics charge may be brought against a Member, Board member, or District Rep, for any of the following violations:

1. Members will study the rules and attempt to improve themselves by observing the work of other officials.
2. Members will remember that they must conduct themselves in a way so as not to draw attention to themselves, but to the players.
3. Members will dress and maintain their appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the profession.
4. Members will be fair and unbiased in their decisions, rendering them without regard to the score or to the participants in the game.
5. Members will cooperate with their fellow umpires and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
6. Members, who show signs of impairment prior to or during a game, from a legal or illegal substance, will not be allowed to umpire again for 24-hours.
7. Members will not criticize or attempt to explain a fellow umpire's decision.

Article XII – Code of Conduct

A misconduct charge may be brought against a Member, Board members, and District Reps, for any of the following violations:

1. Using Abusive Language on the field of play
2. Degrading fellow umpires
3. Providing derogatory news media releases and/or interviews
4. Using distasteful gestures on the field of play
5. ANY use of tobacco, or a vaping product, within the baseball complex
6. Showing signs of impairment prior to or during a game, from a legal or illegal substance. Examples of mood altering substances that often result in impairment include alcohol, narcotics, dangerous drugs and controlled substances as defined by state and federal law, or prescriptions and prescription drugs not taken pursuant to or consistent with a written prescription.
7. Failing to notify the Local UIC and/or Local Assigner when unable to work a game after previously agreeing to work the game.

8. Cutting or accepting less than the contracted game fees for a Montana Alberta American Legion Baseball Game.
9. Failure to wear the proper uniform (no other association patches or logos will be allowed). Shirts and caps should have either no patches or the American Legion patch only.
 - EXCEPTION - Shirts may be adorned with an appropriately sized American flag on the shoulder opposite of the shoulder displaying the American Legion patch. If a cap bears the American Legion patch on the front, another association patch or emblem, or an appropriately sized American Flag may also be worn on the side or back of the cap providing it is no larger than 1 inch square.
10. Any other acts or omissions which are detrimental to the best interests of the MALBUA or American Legion Baseball. Examples include any of the following:
 - Assault
 - Crimes against women or minors
 - DUI's

Article XIII – Termination of Membership

1. Membership in the MALBUA may be terminated by resignation, or by a legal action taken by the Board as outlined below.
2. Member(s) may petition the Board for a vote of "No confidence" in a member of MALBUA Board.
3. A Member, Board member, or District Rep shall be notified of all meetings to be convened by the Board to evaluate a Member's alleged violation(s) of MALBUA Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct, informed of the general nature of the offense, and given the opportunity to participate in all meetings to defend themselves against the offense(s) being claimed.
4. The Board, by a 9 (or more) out of 13 votes taken at a correctly convened meeting, shall have the authority to discipline or to terminate the membership of a Member or a Board Member, when their conduct has been properly determined to be detrimental to the best interests of the MALBUA.

Article XIV – Committees

Nominating Committee

1. The Board shall appoint Members to a Nominating committee to properly vet all Members forwarded to it by their UIC or Local Assigner, via their District Representative, for consideration and selection to a District, State, Regional, or National tournament.
2. Upon selection, this committee will then forward the names of those selected and the tournament to which they have been assigned to MALBUA President, who will then be responsible for contacting each Umpire and informing them of their selection.

3. When necessary, this committee may also be convened to produce a slate of potential candidates for Members to consider for election to the Board at the Annual Business Meeting.
4. The Vice-President and the Secretary will be standing members of this committee.

Rules/Education Committee

1. The Board will appoint Members to a Rules/Education Committee.

This Committee is tasked with the quick resolution and turnaround of any rule(s) interpretations needed.

2. The Vice-President of the MALBUA will be a standing member of this committee.

Article XV – Quorum

1. The presence of 51 percent of the members of a Board or Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. If the Board or a Committee consists of an even number of members after a quorum has been identified, the Board President or the Chairperson of the Committee shall abstain from voting in order to be the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote.
3. If a quorum is not present, the Board or a Committee may not conduct an official business vote until a quorum is present.
4. In determining the presence of a quorum, Board and Committee members will be considered present and able to vote if he or she is able to listen and communicate with the other members of the Board or a Committee via a telephone or a web-based conferencing technology, i.e., Skype.

Article XVI – Amendments

1. These MALBUA By-Laws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part, by a 2/3 vote of the MALBUA Membership present at the Annual Business Meeting.

