



2026 Spring Baseball Umpire Kick Off Meeting

- Welcome - Please mute all electronic devices.
- A copy of today's slide presentation will be available tomorrow on our website under the Documents & Links section.



Catawba Umpires Association

Dec 7, 2025

- ## Agenda

- Catawba Umpires Association Leadership Introductions
- Weekend Training Camp – Columbia, SC
- Administration, Reminders and Action Items
- Training – Double First Base
- Next Meeting
- Open Forum - Questions/Comments

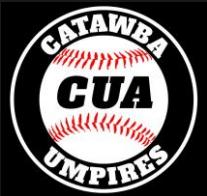


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- Introductions

- Gary Keller
- Greg Chance



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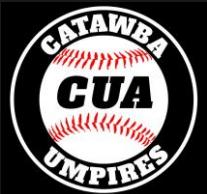
- Umpire Training
 - Columbia Baseball Umpires Association
 - Saturday Jan 10 & Sunday Jan 11, 2026
 - Lexington High School – Lexington, SC
 - Camp Is Focused On 2-Man Umpire System and High School Baseball Rules
 - More Details As We Get Them



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- Website CatawbaUmpires.com
 - Meeting Notifications
 - Links/Documents
 - Meeting Notes
 - Uniform Requirements
 - Rules & Rule Books
 - How To Docs
 - Training Videos



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- Website CatawbaUmpires.com
 - Please check the website before sending us questions.
 - Examples:
 - Where do I buy the Catawba hat?
 - When's our next meeting?
 - What's your address?
 - How do I pay my booking fees?



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- Important Dates - SCHSL Baseball
 - First Scrimmage - February 9, 2026
 - First Preseason Game - February 27, 2026
 - First Regular Season Game – March 9, 2026
 - Playoffs Start – May 2, 2026



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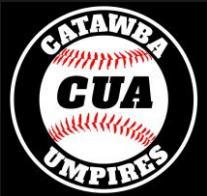
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- SCHSL Umpire Registration

- New Officials - If you are new to SCHSL, please use the following link to begin the registration process:
 - <https://app.arbitersports.com/registration/official?org=455&role=3&GroupID=101800>

- Returning SCHSL Officials

- Log Into Arbiter
- Choose SCHSL Central Hub
- Click On Registration Near Top In Black Ribbon
- Follow Steps How To Doc



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- SCHSL Umpire Registration
 - Returning and New Officials
 - No SCHSL Games can be assigned until registration is complete
 - How to Know if Registration is complete
 - Did you submit a Payment to SCHSL with Credit Card of \$45 for first sport, \$23 for each additional sport?
 - If Yes, you are registered
 - If No, the process is not completed, and you are not registered



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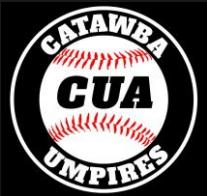
- Independent Contractor Agreement

- Form Can Be Downloaded at:
<https://www.catawbaumpires.com/documents>

- Submission Of Signed Form
 - Email To: Catawba.Umpires@gmail.com
 - USPS Mail To:

Catawba Umpires Association
Attn: Gary Keller
2536 Sturgis Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

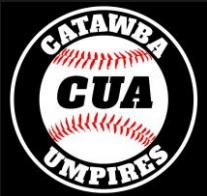
- Bring To In Person Meeting – January 4, 2026
- Do Not Text A Picture Of The Signed Document



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- Umpire Uniform Requirements
 - www.catawbaumpires.com/documents
 - CUA Hat – Purchase Officials
 - Jersey Options
 - Jacket Options
 - Charcoal Gray Pants – No Heather Gray
 - Plate And Base Shoes
 - Black Belt And Black Socks
 - 10% Discount at www.PurchaseOfficials.com



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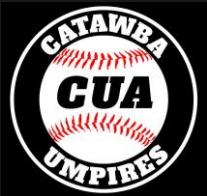
- 2026 Game Fees
 - SCHSL Games
 - Varsity \$86 Plus Mileage (\$97 Minimum)
 - Sub-Varsity \$70 Plus Mileage (\$81 Minimum)
 - Mileage Rates are \$0.55 per mile with a \$11 minimum
 - Clover Rec League Games
 - Minors and O-Zone
 - \$xx Game
 - Most Games are Double Headers
 - Single Game \$xx
 - 80 Minute Time Limit or 6 Innings
 - Dixie
 - \$xx game
 - Most Games are Single Games
 - 85 Minutes Time Limit



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- Payment For Games Worked
 - SCHSL Games
 - Schools Pay the Umpires
 - Majority Use Arbiter Pay
 - Payment Frequency Varies – Most are Within 2 Weeks
 - Clover Rec League Games
 - Arbiter Pay – Every Two Weeks



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- 2026 Catawba Umpires Spring Booking Fees
 - \$90 – Covers all Games for Spring 2026
 - Fee Is Due On Or Before 2/15/2026
 - \$10 Late Fee Applies if Received After 2/15/2026



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- 2026 Catawba Umpires Booking Fee
 - How to Pay CUA Booking Fee
 - USPS Mail To:

Catawba Umpires Association
Attn: Gary Keller
2536 Sturgis Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
(Send check or money order - DO NOT SEND CASH)
 - In Person Meeting: Sunday Jan 4th, 2026
 - Venmo: Gary-keller-9
 - Apple Pay: 704-506-9520
 - Cash App: \$JGaryKeller



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- Umpire Checklist - Items To Be Completed
 - SCHSL Registration And Credit Card Payment
 - Catawba Booking Fee
 - Independent Contract Form Completed And Submitted
 - Buy Needed Uniform Items
 - Take Online Test – February 1-28, 2026 (More Info Later)



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NFHS Digital Content

- Current Publications Including Baseball Rule and Case Books
- NOTE: There Is A Cost For This Service

<https://rules.nfhsdigital.org/>

Sign in to NFHS Digital

Access your NFHS Digital content

Email

Password

Forgot password?

Sign in

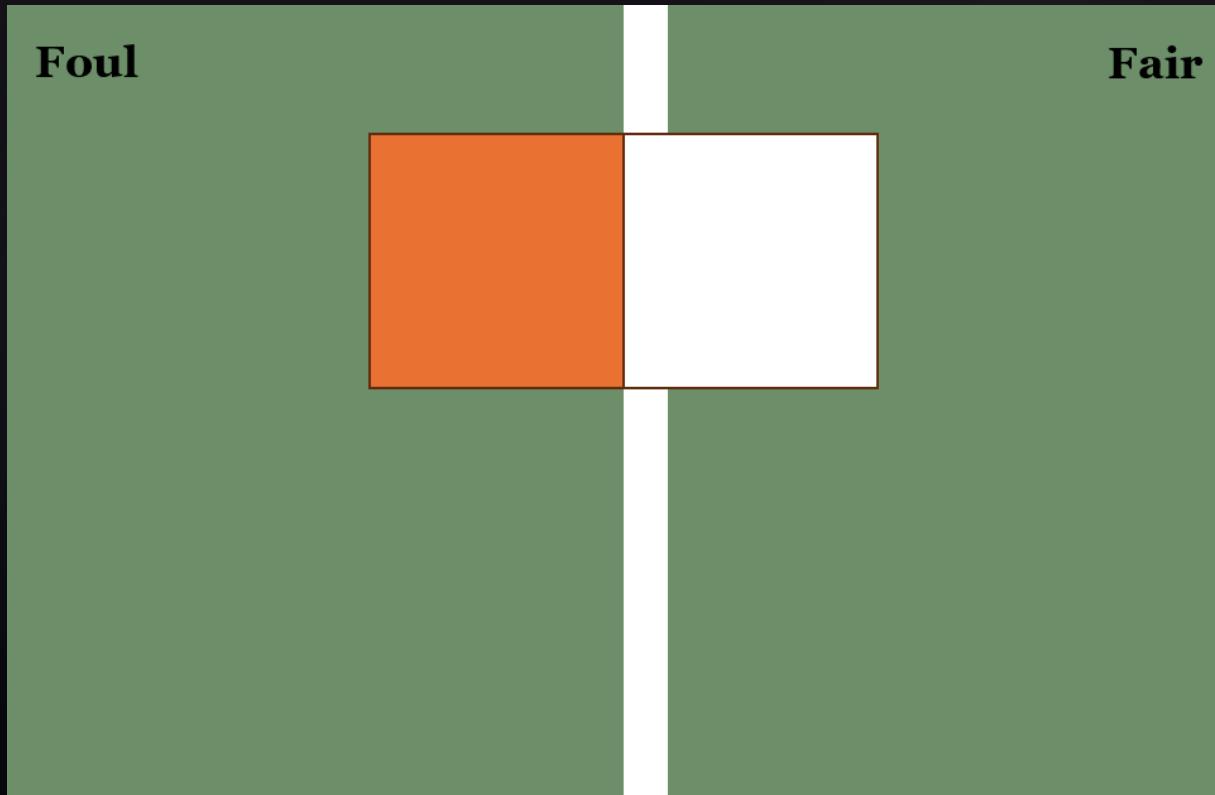
Create an account



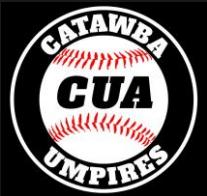
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Double First Base



- Rule 1-2-9 noting that the double first base must be white and a contrasting solid color. The white portion of the base is located in fair territory while the colored half is located in foul territory, split by the first base foul line. There is to be no space between the two portions of the double base.

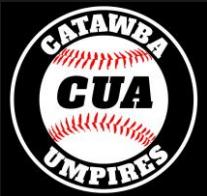


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Double First Base

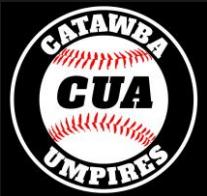
- Rule 8-2-2a, outline how batter-runners and fielders shall use the double first base. The batter-runner should use the colored base on an initial play at first base unless a fielder is drawn into foul territory to receive a dropped third strike, in which case, the batter-runner would use the white portion of the base. Once the batter-runner reaches first base, the batter-runner must always return to the white base, including when leading off, returning on a pick-off attempt or tagging up on a fly ball.
- A batter-runner may use either side of first base on a base-on-balls or on an extra-base hit to the outfield when there is no chance of a play to be made going into first base.



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- Interference is to be called on batter-runners if they only touch the white portion on a force play at first and collide with the fielder. Similarly, it is obstruction if a defensive player only touches the colored portion of the base and collides with the batter-runner.
- Rule 2-5-1h was added to note that it is a fair ball if a batted ball hits or bounds over any part of the white portion of the double first base. Alternately, it is a foul ball if a batted ball hits or bounds over any part of the colored portion of the base (Rule 2-16-1h).



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Defensive Player Meetings

- Rule 3-4-6 was added to address defensive player meetings as charged conferences. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than one player-to-player meeting during an inning. Umpires shall deny any subsequent defensive team requests for that half-inning. Additionally, Rule 2-10-3 was added to define a player-to-player defensive meeting as having two or more defensive players.



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- Next Meeting – In Person
 - Sunday Jan 4, 2026 2:00 PM
 - Rock Hill American Legion Post
 - 524 Heckle Blvd, Rock Hill, SC 29730
 - 2026 Rule Books Will Be Distributed
 - New Umpire Assistance Program - Equipment and Attire
 - Bring Items To Give Away – No Selling Of Items
 - 1st Year Umpires
 - 2nd Year Umpires
 - 3rd Year Umpires
 - Remaining Staff
 - Veterans Equipment Assistance
 - <https://www.battlefields2ballfields.org/>



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year





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Questions & Comments