

March 12th, 2025

Subject: Motion to Increase Varsity Umpire Fees to 1.5 times the JV/Freshman fee Plus \$3.00

Dear Baseball Committee,

On behalf of the 2,300 dedicated umpires of the Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association (MBUA), I am writing to formally request a motion to increase the varsity umpire fee to 1.5 times the JV/Freshman fee Plus \$3.00, a fee increase per game starting with 2026.

This request is not made lightly. After careful consideration of the escalating costs associated with providing high-quality officiating services, we have determined that the current fee structure is no longer sustainable. The MBUA is committed to maintaining the integrity and professionalism of baseball in Massachusetts, and to do so, we must address the significant financial pressures facing our members.

The following factors necessitate this fee adjustment:

- **Rising Operational Costs:** The cost of travel, equipment, training, and insurance has increased substantially. Our umpires incur significant expenses to ensure they are prepared and equipped to officiate games at the varsity level.
- **Increased Training Demands:** To uphold the highest standards of officiating, we invest heavily in ongoing training and professional development. This commitment to excellence requires resources that are not adequately covered by the current fee structure.
- **Retention and Recruitment Challenges:** The current compensation rate is proving inadequate to attract and retain experienced umpires. This threatens the quality of officiating and the overall experience for players, coaches, and spectators.
- **Fair Compensation:** Our umpires dedicate significant time and effort to their craft. They deserve fair compensation that reflects their expertise and the critical role they play in ensuring fair play.

The proposed fee structure of 1.5 times plus \$3.00 per game, strikes a balance between fair compensation and the financial realities of school budgets. We believe this adjustment will allow us to:

- Ensure that our umpires are fairly compensated for their services.
- Maintain the high standards of officiating that our association is known for.
- Attract and retain qualified umpires, ensuring the long-term health of baseball in Massachusetts.

We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and are confident that this modest fee increase will have a positive impact on the overall baseball experience for everyone involved. We urge you to consider this request and introduce a motion to implement this change at your earliest convenience.

We are prepared to provide further information and support to facilitate this motion.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Rulli

President

Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association