

Rochester Area Officials Association
June 14, 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Rochester Area Officials Association was called to order by President Jesse Kralewski at 6:06 PM. The meeting was held on the campus of RCTC, Regional Sports Center building, room SC204 and virtually in a hybrid format for the first time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Service awards for officials that retired in previous years were presented to Chuck Behrens, Rich Decker, Eric Huntoon, Brian Sylvester, and Dave Zemke (posthumously). Making the presentations were Corey Wagner, Marshall Behrens, Jared Butson, Tristan Severson and Jeff Newton. Recipients have the choice of a service plaque or RAOA clothing attire.

Vice Presidents presented RAOA's State Tournament officials from the 2025-2026 seasons. All were recognized and congratulated.

The 2025 Meeting Minutes had two additions and was approved. The 2026 meeting agenda and 2025-2026 Treasurer's Report were read and approved as published.

The scheduling coordinator responsibilities will continue to be shared. The coordinators for 2026-2027 will be:

Volleyball: Jeff Newton	Basketball: Jared Butson
Football: Jared Butson	Softball/Baseball: Jeff Newton

New this year Vice President reports were not read but rather placed in the Meeting Minutes.

Volleyball –	Tracy Reilly
Football –	Joel Traver
Basketball –	Eric Rain
Softball –	Mj Wagenson
Baseball –	Chris Zollner

The following New Officials in each sport were accepted for membership after passing required criteria:

Volleyball –	Liberty Anderson	Basketball –	Austin Bahler
	Luke Decker		Luke Gardner
	Katie Popenhagen		Dane Guzzo
	Cam Rutledge		Andrew Hoiness
	Matt Saski		Steve Miller
	Tim Torstenson		Carson Thompson
			Justin Wohlers
Football –	Alex Evenson		
	Kevin Fox		
	Steve Miller		

Softball – Hunter Goetzinger
Jimmy Krier

Baseball – Austin Bahler
Hunter Goetzinger
Jimmy Krier

Dues for 2026-2027 will be structured as follows. Each official associated with RAOA will pay a base fee of \$40. This includes member officials, under-varsity only officials, and transfer officials. Any first-year official with RAOA and no prior varsity experience will pay a base fee of \$15. Any student official (under the age of 18) will pay a base fee of \$15. The base fee will be due by July 31, 2026.

An option will be available to officials that want to donate to the Memorial Fund.

Emeritus Status dues for 2026-2027 will be \$10. Included is email communication and inclusion in all meetings of emeriti interest. This is a non-voting membership status for people who have retired from the court/field and would like to remain involved with RAOA's business and mentorship.

Each official will also be billed for each RAOA event that they are scheduled for on Arbiter. An "event" could be a varsity game, an under-varsity game, or a volleyball tournament. The dues per event will be \$2 for an under-varsity event/game and \$3 for a varsity event/game. Volleyball tournaments (regardless of level and number of matches) are \$10 per day. Officials will receive a reminder from the secretary regarding the dues date following the completion of each sports season.

Due dates for the sport seasons will be:

Fall Sports - November 15, 2026

Winter Sports - March 14, 2027

Spring Sports - June 13, 2027

A late fee of \$25 will apply for dues paid after the respective due dates. This applies to base dues and sports specific dues.

As a reminder, any member that is still delinquent on dues at the time of the next annual meeting is subject to removal from the RAOA roster. Dues must be paid on time to maintain good standing with RAOA.

Association Insurance will continue through NASO, each RAOA member is offered a NASO individual membership at an annual rate of \$94. This is still a \$40 savings as a non-RAOA NASO membership is \$134. Payment must be made to RAOA by July 25, 2026 if interested.

Online Transactions via www.raoamn.org will continue as the preferred method of making Dues payments. A debit card is preferred vs. a credit card due to the lower cost of the interchange fee. Cash or check will still be accepted.

Amendments to current By-Laws were voted on and approved. The amendments include Article V (Secretary-Treasurer duties clarified), Article III and IV (Annual Meeting), and Article VI (Sport Specific Meetings).

Vice President of Basketball, Jeremy Zacher, resigned his position in March 2026 due to a job change. His Vice President position was set to end June 2027. In following the replacement procedures outlined in the By-Laws, Eric Rain was instated as Vice President of Basketball until the term ends.

Election of officers was held for President, VP's for Football, Softball, and Baseball. The new executive committee for 2026-2027 is:

Past President:	Jesse Kralewski	(term ends June 2027)
President:	Mj Wagenson	(term ends June 2027)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Jared Butson	(term ends June 2029)
VP-Volleyball:	Tracy Reilly	(term ends June 2027)
VP-Football:	Andy Wadewitz	(term ends June 2028)
VP-Basketball:	Eric Rain	(term ends June 2027)
VP-Softball:	Kelly Raymond	(term ends June 2028)
VP-Baseball:	Corey Dahl	(term ends June 2028)

Charter Clinicians continue for the 2026-2027 season. Four-year terms elected June 2024.

Volleyball:	Carol Jaquith	(term ends June 2028)
Football:	Royce Ruter	(term ends June 2028)
Basketball:	Eric Rain	(term ends June 2028)
Softball:	Ron Giles	(term ends June 2028)
Baseball:	Joe Klunder	(term ends June 2028)

Jeff Newton mentioned that the RAOA apparel store is open 24/7 on the RAOA website. A reminder will be sent out to all of RAOA membership.

Tim Nicometo presented the new RAOA website he has been working on for the past few months. An app will be available soon as well to install on your phone. Tim welcomes any suggestions and worthy content.

Mj Wagenson brought forward an awareness of fitness going forward for all officials of all sports coming from MSHSL. A simple reminder that all sports speak to fitness/mobility/perception.

Marshall Behrens brought forward a reminder for all members to be aware of their social media postings. Perception is reality. You have complete control over your social media.

A reminder of the NASO Summit being held in Minneapolis July 2027. Much more information to come.

RAOA – Mileage Payment for Officials

The following mileage chart will be used. Each official sent to officiate a contest will be paid mileage individually. The mileage will be figured from the official's home zip code to the school zip code. Schools should use the miles listed in the Arbiter Entry where the officials are assigned. Another option is Google Maps if Arbiter is inaccurate using address to address.

The following RAOA sports will use the below table when figuring mileage:

- Volleyball – all levels
- Football – all levels
- Basketball – all levels
- Softball – all levels
- Baseball – all levels

Mileage Chart for the 2026-2027 School year:

Miles – Figured One Way	Payment for each official (Using current Federal rate of .725)
0 – 15	\$10
16 - 30	\$20
31 - 45	\$30
46 - 60	\$40
61 - 75	\$50
76 - 90	\$60
91 - 105	\$70
106 - 150	\$85

Notes:

- 1) Mileage payment will be paid to each official.
- 2) The mileage used will be the mileage that is in the Arbiter entry where officials are assigned. Another option is Google Maps if Arbiter is inaccurate.
- 3) Athletic Directors will need to look at the Arbiter entry when figuring official payments.
- 4) This chart will be reviewed yearly at the RAOA Annual meeting to accommodate any changes to the Federal rate.

RAOA Game Fees 2026-2027

The following game fees for each sport were discussed and approved for the 2026-2027 seasons. Each sport is reviewed yearly at the Annual Meeting in June. The next review will occur in June 2027.

Volleyball Game Fees

<u>Volleyball with 2 officials</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Varsity (best 3 of 5); UV (best 2 of 3)	
- Varsity Only match	\$90
- Varsity plus 1 UV match	\$135
- Varsity plus 2 UV matches	\$170
<u>Volleyball with 1 official</u>	
UV (best 2 of 3)	
- 1 UV match	\$50
- 2 UV matches	\$85
Note: Playing a mandatory 3rd set in UV.	Add \$10
<u>Volleyball Tournament</u>	
- (best 2 of 3) or (2 sets to 25)	\$50
- Alternate format (mandatory 3 sets)	\$60

Notes:

- 1) UV = Under-Varsity. Under-Varsity entails (JV, B-squad, C-Squad, and/or 9th grade)
- 2) Not going to differentiate between if officials are split or not split.
- 3) JV match is best 2 out of 3
- 4) No 7th and/or 8th grade matches are assigned by RAOA in Volleyball.

Football Game Fees

<u>Football with 5 officials</u>	<u>2026</u>
- Varsity game	\$130
<u>Football with 3 or 4 officials</u>	
- 9th grade, B, or JV - 12 minute quarters	\$90
- 9th grade, B, or JV - Less than 12 min quarters	\$85
- Junior High - normal timing	\$70
- Junior High - running time	\$60

Basketball Game Fees

<u>Basketball with 3 officials</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
- Varsity only game	\$90
- B or JV and Varsity game	\$135
- Double Varsity games	\$180
- B or JV game	\$65
<u>Basketball with 2 officials</u>	
- Single B or JV game	\$65
- Single 9th grade game	\$65
- Single Junior High game	\$50
- Double B or JV games	\$130
- Double 9th grade games	\$130
- Double Junior High games	\$100

Softball Game Fees

<u>Softball with 2 Umpires</u>	<u>2027</u>
- 1 Varsity game	\$95
- 1 Varsity game and 1 UV game	\$170
- 2 Varsity games (Doubleheader)	\$190
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (7 innings))	\$190
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (5 innings))	\$150
<u>Softball with 1 Umpire</u>	
- 1 UV game (7 innings)	\$95
- 1 UV game (5 innings)	\$75
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (7 innings))	\$190
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (5 innings))	\$150

Baseball Game Fees

<u>Baseball with 2 Umpires</u>	<u>2027</u>
- 1 Varsity game	\$105
- 1 Varsity game and 1 UV game	\$190
- 2 Varsity games (Doubleheader)	\$210
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (7 innings))	\$210
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (5 innings))	\$170
<u>Baseball with 1 Umpire</u>	
- 1 UV game (7 innings)	\$105
- 1 UV game (5 innings)	\$85
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (7 innings))	\$210
- 2 UV games (Doubleheader (5 innings))	\$170

Notes for both Baseball and Softball:

- 1) UV = Under-Varsity. Under-Varsity entails (JV, B-squad, C-Squad, and/or 9th grade)
- 2) UV game before or after Varsity game with Varsity umpires.
 - o 70 minute game (no inning starts after time) or 5 innings
 - o 4-runs allowed per inning
 - o Open substitution and no batting restrictions
- 3) 7th and/or 8th grade is not assigned by RAOA in the Spring.

RAOA Game Called Off/Postponement Compensation Protocol:

1. Called off before on the road—no payment.
2. On the road, phone call and called off—no payment.
3. Arrive at site and never start the contest—half game fee and mileage.
4. Start contest—full game fee and mileage.
5. Contest is rescheduled to another date—full game fee and mileage.
6. Baseball/Softball only: If rescheduled game is added onto another previously scheduled game, then each umpire is compensated \$10/inning played, maxing out at full game fee.

RAOA Assigning Fee to Schools:

Beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year and continuing going forward, schools will be billed \$125 for RAOA assignments if the following criteria is met.

1. Any school that RAOA provides varsity scheduling services.
2. Any school that RAOA schedules 5 or more Arbiter varsity games in an academic year.
3. Schools will be assessed a \$125 fee April 15, 2027 payable by May 15, 2027.

How will the monies collected be used?

1. 60% will be divided prorated among all sport schedulers.
2. 30% will be used for educational purposes which will include marketing for recruitment and retention, training, observer's stipend and travel reimbursement.
3. 10% will go towards Secretary-Treasurer administrative stipend.

Please note that officials already pay dues at the end of each sport season and base dues. Sport season dues go towards the scheduler of said sport. Base dues cover education, Arbiter, insurance, and the administrative cost of the business of RAOA.

No further business, meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted—Jared Butson, Secretary/Treasurer

Vice President's Reports by Sport:



Volleyball VP Report 2025-26

The Season Started with our pre-season volleyball meeting on August 13th as a zoom meeting. Season information, rule changes and scheduling practices were discussed and talked about along with a test review.

On August 20th we held a **RAOA On-Court Clinic at Chatfield** aimed towards 1st year and 2nd year officials. All registered officials were invited and encouraged to attend if they would like. This was very well received by the new officials and we hope to make this an every year learning opportunity going forward for all officials as well! We are also hoping to add 2-3 educational opportunities in the upcoming year.

The boy's volleyball season started March 16th. The season went well and we are always hoping that the boys programs will increase in this area in the upcoming season.

Newt is gathering schedules for the 2026 season and will have schedules out by August 1st.

Scheduling – Girl's Volleyball

- TOTAL - 976 Games 1896 slots
- Varsity – 326 matches / 651 slots
- Under-Varsity - 614 matches / 1131 slots
- JUCO Line Judge – 9 matches / 18 slots
- 25 Weekend Tournaments (95 Slots)
- Sent officials to 46 different schools.
- 14 MATCHES moved this year
- 69 Officials

2025 Girl's Volleyball State Tournament

Representing RAOA (line-judging and/or reffing).

- Scott Anderson
- Kelsy Anderson
- Kasey Krekling
- Kristen Nagel
- Heather Chapel

Boy's Volleyball

- TOTAL - 38 Games 71 slots
- Varsity – 18 matches / 36 slots
- Under-Varsity - 20 match's / 35 slots
- Sent officials to 4 different schools.
- 10 Officials

2026 Boy's Volleyball State Tournament

Representing RAOA (line-judging and/or reffing)

- Scott Anderson

New Officials for 2025

The following officials fulfilled the new official requirements and are submitted for RAOA acceptance as full-time officials. They are:

- Liberty Anderson (High School)
- Luke Decker
- Katie Popenhagen
- Cam Rutledge
- Matt Saski
- Tim Torstenson

Thank you to the officials who were mentors for the season and assisted these new members to RAOA!

Officials for 2026

We welcome back the following to fulfill and finish the new official requirements. They are:

- Mathew Finn
- Troy Gliem
- David Ludowese
- Breann Silberston

Retiring Officials from RAOA

- Kevin Selfors
- Steve Styba

With appreciation,

Tracy Reilly
Volleyball Vice President

2026 RAOA Annual Meeting - Football VP Report

June 14, 2026

New Officials Program

6 officials entered the first year of the football evaluation program.

1. Luke Decker (Mentor Crew: Butson)
2. Logan Inman (Mentor Crew: Wadewitz)
3. Brett Lettner (Mentor Crew: Behrens)
4. Ben Midge (Mentor Crew: Severson)
5. Dennis Schaefer (Mentor Crew: Okstad)
6. Eric Sonnek (Mentor Crew: Moen)

3 officials passed their Second-Year (7 successful evaluations):

1. Alex Evenson (Mentor Crew: Severson)
2. Kevin Fox (Mentor Crew: Zabel)
3. Steve Miller (Mentor Crew: Behrens)

2025 Highlights

The following officials worked in the 2025 MSHSL Football State Tournament

Thursday 11/6, 7pm Class 4A Quarterfinal at Stillwater High School

Tristan Severson
Justin Mathre
Joel Traver
Matt Sogla
Zach Fuller

Friday 11/7, 7pm Class 1A Quarterfinal at Rochester Mayo High School

Eric Okstad
Justin Dunker
Jim Fall
Mj Wagenson
Josh Weise

Friday 11/14, 11:30am Class 4A Semifinal at US Bank Stadium

Royce Ruter
Mike Schumacher
Ron Giles
Troy Prigge
Jeff Hobbs
Marshall Behrens - Field Judge
Bou Gazley - Side Judge

Friday 11/14, 7pm Class 6A Semifinal at US Bank Stadium

Tristan Severson

Justin Mathre

Joel Traver

Matt Sogla

Zach Fuller

Jeremy Zacher - Field Judge

Jared Butson - Side Judge

1. We currently have 127 certified football officials.
2. In 2025 we covered 395 total football games, 153 Varsity Football games, and 242 Under-varsity football games.
3. We needed help in covering varsity games. MOA - 6 games. Gopher - 1 game. LAX - 3 games.
4. We covered 11 games in the Big Southeast District via Tom Wollan. Tom Wollan (Suburban Officials Association) covered 3 games for us.
5. For the 2025 season, we continued the Position Coach Program. The Referee position was led by Royce Ruter, the LOS position was led by Matt Sogla, the Umpire position was led by Justin Mathre, and the BJ position was led by Jeff Hobbs
6. We had 12 total crews for 2023, 14 crews for 2024 (Steve Hacken and Mark Benfield crews were added). We added crew 15 for 2025 (Kane Malo).
7. RAOA covered 8 scrimmages. Fillmore Central, Byron, Grand Meadow, Lake City, Pine Island, Triton, Stewartville, Triton.
8. RAOA continued the new officials program that changed in 2023. All new officials were assigned to a crew and we look to keep this going this season as well (see above).

Sincerely,

Joel Traver

Vice President of Football



Basketball VP Report 2025-26

Season Start, Meetings, and Training

The 2025-26 Basketball season kicked off, on November 11th, with our Basketball Membership meeting at Mayo High School. Along with normal business, training was delivered to prepare members for rule changes for the season. Basketball leadership delivered training slides, facilitated discussion, and showed training video clips. We also went over the MSHSL test and introduced our new officials and their mentors. Sign up for the preseason scrimmages that RAOA provided officials for were handled via email again this season.

Education opportunities were also provided throughout the season for all RAOA Basketball members. The first, an in-person meeting for new officials and their mentors, was held November 17th. Three additional in-season educational zoom meetings were held. RAOA once again provided trainers at several local youth tournaments, teaching high school students how to officiate in hopes of them continuing to officiate after they graduate high school and help with the shortage of officials. These events continue to receive positive feedback!

New this year we held a zoom meeting for all first time State Tournament officials to help them prepare and answer any questions they might have. This was very well received and we will look to make this a yearly event!

Scheduling and Coverage

Scheduling continues to be a challenge, but is trending in a positive direction due to a number of factors:

1. The number of games covered was down from previous year, but weather had a bigger impact on what were supposed to be some busy nights. Three Varsity games had to be moved due to not enough officials because of this.
2. Assigner Jared Butson's masterful collaboration with Athletic Directors and RAOA Membership
3. Continued collaboration with Mankato and Metro officiating associations
4. Flexibility of the membership to remove blocks
5. Schools continued with the recommendation to move conference games away from Tuesdays and Fridays and also to play more double varsity contests

6. Game count was down from the 24-25 season. The number of schools without a Girls Varsity, JV or both increased this season being the biggest reason. Below is the number of games covered over the past four seasons.

Games covered	2025-26 Season	2024-25 Season	2023-24 Season	2023-23 Season
Totals	2550	2637	2547	2472

New Official Evaluation Program

We had 7 officials complete the required 10 evaluation games and are ready to be accepted to full varsity membership. They are listed below:

Austin Bahler
 Luke Gardner
 Dane Guzzo
 Andrew Hoiness
 Steve Miller
 Carson Thompson
 Justin Wohlers

State Tournament

RAOA was once again well represented at the State Tournaments, with 20 officials selected to work this year. The games they were selected for are listed below.

Girls:

Mike Klavetter - Consolation Thurs AA 8pm; Consolation Friday AAAA 6pm
 Nate Gasner - Consolation Thurs AA 8pm; Consolation Friday AAAA 6pm
 Tim Nicometo - Quarterfinal
 Doug Inman - Quarterfinal
 Zach Fuller - Quarterfinal
 Justin Haakenson - Quarterfinal
 Royce Ruter - AAA Semifinal Noon
 Mallory Harber - AAA Semifinal Noon and A Consolation Noon Friday.
 Mj Wagenson - AAA Semifinal Noon
 Danny DuChene - AAAA Semifinal 8pm
 Barb Storsveen - Quarterfinal and A Final
 Katie Ressie - Quarterfinal and AAAA Final

Jeremy Zacher - Replay AAAA Semifinals Thursday 3/12 - 6pm and 8pm
Mj Wagenson - Replay AA and AAAA Finals Saturday 3/14 - 6pm and 8pm

Boys:

Taylor Buck - Consolation AA Thursday at 6pm; Consolation A Friday at Noon
Justin Ruhberg - Consolation AA Thursday at 6pm; Consolation A Friday at Noon
Chris Zollner - Consolation Thursday 4pm; A 3rd place Saturday 10am
Dan Matejka - Quarterfinal
Marshall Behrens - A Semifinal
Jared Butson - AAA Semifinal and A 3rd place
David Broadwater - Quarterfinal and AA Final
Jeremy Zacher - Replay A and AAA Boys Finals Saturday 3/28 - 11am and 1pm

The basketball membership is in good shape and well positioned to remain strong if we continue our focus on recruitment, retention, and training. The last 2 seasons have seen a return to more normal Evaluation numbers after the higher than average numbers from 3 years ago. Hopefully the numbers stay or even increase again this year.

Lastly, there was a change in Basketball leadership at the conclusion of the season. VP Jeremy Zacher took a new job and needed to step away to focus on that. In accordance with the by-laws, I took over the remainder of his term. A new VP will be elected at the 2027 Annual all sports meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rain
RAOA VP of Basketball

Prepared by: M.J. Wagenson

Softball Rules Clinician: Ron Giles

Softball Informational/Education Meetings

Pre-Season Rules Meeting: RCTC Rm SC2004 - Monday Mar 9, 2026 6-8pm

Power Point presented by VP Wagenson/Charter Clinician Giles on Points of Emphasis, line-up card protocols and several rule reminders.

MSHSL dates, deadlines and criteria for completion reminders were reviewed.

Rules Exam was completed by membership and discussed/confirmed.

Scheduling issues for the upcoming season were discussed and calendar reminders were suggested to membership for accurate scheduling.

Throughout the season VP Wagenson/CC Giles sent three rule interpretation/reminder/references emails to keep membership current, learning and improving.

RAOA Softball Umpire Numbers – New Umpires

Umpires	2025	2026
Total	73	67
New	4	4

New Officials 2026

* Hunter Goetzinger – will pass for varsity status in 2027

* Jimmy Krier – will pass for varsity status in 2027

Brian Himley – Does not qualify to pass - needs to complete Eval Program in 2027

Kirk Oswald – Does not qualify to pass - needs to complete Eval Program in 2027

Season Numbers – Contests Covered

Level	2026 Game Count	Slots		2025 Game Count	Slots	
Varsity	397	793		364	699	
JV	216	341		237	317	
C-Squad	27	27		32	32	
7 & 8 th Gr	0	0		2	2	
Comm College	54	108		42	84	

RAOA State Tournament Officials

Total: 7

Umpire	Qtr	Semi	Cons	5th place	3rd place	Final
Scot Field	A AAA					
Randy Florin				A	A	
Ron Giles		A	A			
Kelly Raymond	A AAA					
MJ Wagenson				AAAA	AAAA	
Corey Wagner	AA AAA					A
Marshall Behrens	Regional Coordinator Observer / Asst UIC.					

Baseball Committee Report – 2025-26 Season

Throughout the season, RAOA continued to provide educational opportunities for all baseball members. Preseason training sessions focused on rule changes, mechanics, game management, and MSHSL requirements. Leadership presented training materials, facilitated discussion, and reviewed instructional video clips. New officials were introduced to the membership and paired with mentors to support their development.

Additional educational opportunities were provided throughout the season for both new and veteran officials.

RAOA also continued its efforts to recruit and develop new officials by providing training opportunities for prospective umpires and encouraging participation from younger officials. These initiatives remain an important component of addressing the ongoing shortage of officials and have received positive feedback from participants and schools alike.

Scheduling and Coverage

Scheduling continues to be a challenge, particularly during periods of weather-related postponements and schedule changes. Despite these challenges, the baseball membership continued to provide strong coverage throughout the season through the flexibility of officials, effective communication with schools, and the efforts of our assigners.

Games Covered – 2025-26 Season

Level Games Assignments (Slots)

Varsity 367 (715)

JUCO 10 (20)

Junior Varsity 253 (316)

C-Squad 73 (73)

Total 713 (1124)

A total of **713 games** were covered during the season, requiring **1124 officiating assignments**. Varsity contests accounted for the largest portion of our workload, with officials covering **367 varsity games** and **715 varsity assignments**.

The continued commitment and flexibility of our membership allowed RAOA to provide quality coverage across all levels of competition throughout the season. As scheduling demands continue to evolve, maintaining strong recruitment and retention efforts will remain critical to meeting the needs of our schools and student-athletes.

State Tournament

RAOA was once again well represented at the MSHSL State Baseball Tournament, with several officials selected to work tournament games across multiple classes. These assignments are a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and high-quality officiating demonstrated by our members throughout the season.

State Tournament Assignments

- **Corey Dahl** – Class AAA Quarterfinals (June 11, 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM); Plate Umpire, Class AAAA Championship Game (June 15, 7:30 PM)
- **Joe Klunder** – Class AA Quarterfinals (June 11, 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM); Plate Umpire, Class A Championship Game (June 15, 10:00 AM)
- **Chris Zollner** – Class AA Semifinals (June 12, 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM) ● **Marshall Behrens** – Class AAAA Quarterfinals (June 11, 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM); Pitch Count Official, Class AA Semifinals (June 12, 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM)
- **David Broadwater** – Class AAA Consolation Game (June 12, Noon) and Class AAA Third-Place Game (5:00 PM)
- **Jim Isaak** – Class A Consolation Game (June 12, Noon) and Class A Third-Place Game (5:00 PM)
- **Dan Matejka** – Class A Consolation Game (June 12, Noon) and Class A Third-Place Game (5:00 PM)
- **Brad Holland** – Class A Consolation Game (June 12, 2:30 PM) and Class A Consolation Final (5:00 PM)

We congratulate these officials on their selections and thank them for representing RAOA at the highest level of high school baseball in Minnesota.

New Baseball Umpires – 2026

RAOA welcomed two new umpires to the baseball membership during the 2026 season. These officials successfully completed the required training and evaluation process and have begun building valuable experience on the field.

1. Austin Bahler
2. Hunter Goetzinger
3. Jimmy Krier

Recruitment and Retention

While the baseball membership remains committed and dedicated, we continue to face a significant shortage of officials. Recruiting new umpires remains one of the most important challenges facing our association.

The increasing demand for game coverage, combined with retirements and declining participation in officiating, has placed added pressure on our current membership. Although we were pleased to welcome new umpires this season, additional recruitment efforts will be necessary to meet the needs of our schools and student-athletes in the future.

We encourage all members to actively promote officiating within their communities, schools, and athletic programs. Personal recruitment remains one of the most effective ways to attract new officials. Without continued growth in our membership, scheduling and game coverage will become increasingly difficult in the coming years.

The need for new baseball umpires is critical, and recruitment must remain a top priority for the association moving forward.

Special Recognition

A special thank you to Jeff Newton for his outstanding efforts in scheduling baseball games throughout the season. Coordinating over 700 games and more than 1,100 officiating assignments requires a tremendous amount of time, organization, and dedication.

Jeff's commitment to working with schools, officials, and fellow assigners helped ensure quality coverage across all levels of competition. His flexibility, communication, and willingness to address scheduling challenges were instrumental to the success of the season.

Thank you, Jeff, for your hard work and dedication to RAOA baseball officiating.

On behalf of the Baseball Committee, thank you to all of our members, assigners, mentors, and leadership for your hard work throughout the season. The success of our association is a direct result of your commitment and willingness to serve.

Thank you for all that you do for RAOA Baseball.

Chris Zollner
Vice President – Baseball
RAOA