

July 2020

# USA SOFTBALL OF MICHIGAN



of Michigan

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## Blues Across Michigan Newsletter

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### Umpire

#### Spotlight:

Dan Phillips

Michael Brown

USA Softball of Michigan Blues Across Michigan wants to recognize multiple USA Softball Umpires from the USA Softball of Michigan program every month for their accomplishments on the field in the local area, state or national championships as well as how they have given back to the game off the field.

Being recognized does not always relate to the number of national or state championships an umpire has participated in. This honor encompasses an umpire's accomplishments, both on and off the field, in their local area and district in addition to their contributions at the state or national level.

These umpires represent what being a member of the USA Softball of Michigan umpire family is all about and bring attention to the widespread and diverse umpire community in our program across the state.

For July we are honoring two district UICs. Dan Phillips from District 21 who recently announced his retirement, and one of our newest District UICs from District 3 Michael Brown.





**Dan Phillips**  
**District 21**

Dan Phillips recently retired as an active umpire and the District 21 Umpire in Chief. Dan has had a great career with many national assignments along the way. In his twenty-five year career, he umpired in seven Men's Fast Pitch National Championships, and one JO National Championship. Most recently in the 2019 Men's Open East Fast Pitch National in Rockford, MI.

Dan has been a staple at many men's state and JO state tournaments across the state in recent years. Dan took great pride in getting better every time he walked on the field. By listening and learning from his mentor Billy Norton, Dan progressed quickly in the fast pitch game to become one of our better umpires in this program.

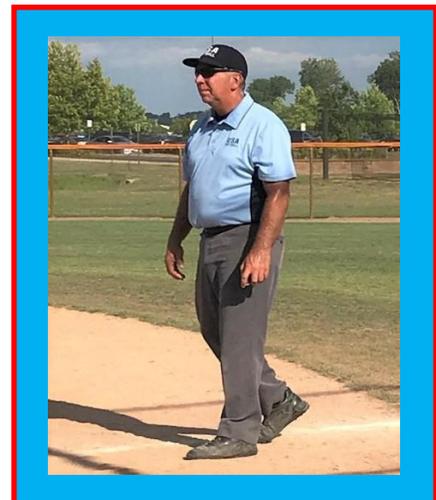
Due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak and lack of games, Dan realized that he didn't really miss the game and has enjoyed spending quality time with his family. Dan will be missed by his umpire family, but now it is time for him to spend that quality time with his wife, kids, and grandkids. To Dan's family, thank you for letting us have the great times and memories with Dan over the years. Dan, thank you for what you have done for our program. Enjoy your retirement and stop by the ball park once in a while.

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Michael Brown is one of our newest District Umpires in Chief taking over for Mike Whalen from District 3 in February.

Besides his umpiring qualities, Michael is also known for being one of the best dressed umpires off the field. After many years of playing men's fast pitch, and dabbling in umpiring, he decided that umpiring was much better. Michael has been umpiring in our program for 32 years and has umpired in nine national championships. Just recently, Michael was added to the roster of the JO Cup Event in Spartanburg, South Carolina after a few umpires had to decline.

Michael has worked hard over the years to improve his game and becoming one of our better umpires. Michael decided that he wanted to take a step up and give back to the program by becoming the District 3 Umpire in Chief when Mike Whalen decided to step down. Michael resides in Battle Creek with his fiancé, Thelma. Besides softball, Michael also officiates football and basketball. We welcome Michael on board, and look forward to working with him in his new position.



**Michael Brown**  
**District 3**