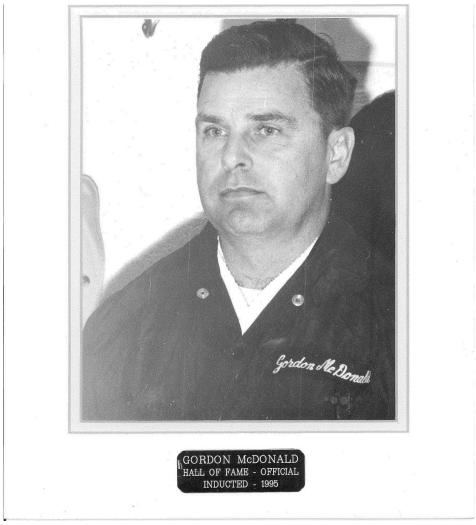
Gordon McDonald

1981 Inductee - Honorary Life Member



Gordon McDonald was raised in Vancouver near South Memorial Park. He was involved in sports his entire life. His softball career went back to 1938. While in the service, he was instrumental in organizing softball. Upon his return to civilian life in 1944, Gordon started coaching Eliers Jeweler's Basketball Club. His teams went on to win 14 National Championships into the 1950's. His basketball team attended two Pan American Games winning a silver medal at the first one. Gordon was a top ranked basketball official and worked basketball at the Pan American Games. He was the long time allocator of The Vancouver and District Basketball Officials Association serving that post well into the 1970's.

However, Gordon's greatest love was Softball. He served as UIC for over 20 years for the Province of British Columbia. He was the long time allocator of the Vancouver Umpire's Association and was the chief educator in the province, conducting rule clinics around the province. Mr. McDonald had a great feel for officiating. He understood the gray areas of the rule book. His common sense approach to officiating made him one of the top umpires for many years. His rule knowledge was unchallenged. He was always available to answer the "what if's" of the game, many times taking calls late into the night.

Gordon passed away at the age of 61 after suffering a heart attack while doing what he loved most, officiating a recreational women's softball game. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Edith, and their four sons. In 1981, Gordon McDonald was made a Life Member of Softball BC and in 1995 Gordon's career was completed with his induction into the Softball BC Hall of Fame under the Umpire Category.