

Mike Hornak

2006 Inductee - Umpire Category



In 1981, Mike was instrumental in forming the District 5 Umpires Association with Wayne King. In 1986-1989, Mike officiated at the Alpha Sports International Invitational, a prelude to the Canada Cup. Fast-forward to 1992 and '94, he officiated at the Men's Canada Cup, which featured the top Men's teams from Canada and the USA. Mike umpired at the 1985 Junior Men's Nationals, 1986 Senior Women's Nationals and the 1990 Senior Men's Nationals, from which championship he earned his Level 5. He also umpired at the Senior Men's Nationals in 1994.



Internationally, Mike represented Canada at the 1995 Pan American Games in Argentina, and in the same year, the Olympic Qualifier in Puerto Rico. New Year's Eve 1995 was the start of an amazing New Year for Mike as he was informed that he had been selected to represent Canada at the 1996 Olympics. The 1996 Olympics were hosted in Atlanta, Georgia, where Softball was a full medal sport for the first time. During this period, Mike was selected as the Softball BC Umpire of the Year in 1994, '95 and '96. In 1997, Mike was honoured by Sport BC as British Columbia's Official of the Year.

Umpiring in Canada Cup since its inception in 1993, Mike took over as the Umpire in Chief in 1998 and has seen the event grow from 16 teams and 20 officials to three events in 2006 with over 300 games played and a crew of 70.

As an administrator in the umpires program, Mike served as the District 5 Umpire in Chief from 1989 to 1993. In 1997, he was elected the Umpire Chief of British Columbia, a position he held until 2005. Important to Mike in all his endeavours has been the education and recruitment of quality people to the umpires program.