

Welcome to the 2016 District 5 Baseball Little League Tournaments

Congratulations on being selected by your league or the district staff to umpire in the 2016 District 5 tournaments. This is an exciting time for the teams who have been selected throughout the district to represent their leagues. We ask you to give your 100% best at all times. It is an honor to be selected to umpire in this tournament and we hope you have a great time doing so and that you will be glad you did!

Site Locations/Start Date:

8/9/10 Baseball – Mile High, July 2

9/10/11 Baseball – Lobo, July 2

Little League (10/11/12) Baseball - Roadrunner, July 5

Intermediate (11/12/13) Baseball – Zia, June 25

Junior Baseball (12/13/14) – Zia, June 27

Senior Baseball (13-16) – TBD, June 25

Big League Baseball (15-18) – TBD, June 25

Umpire Dress:

Stats show that umpire crews who show-up and look and act like umpires have the least amount of issues during a game. Therefore, we ask each crew to follow the umpire dress code when umpiring any tournament games.

1. All crew members should be in the same style/color shirt (which should be provided by your league,) If by chance, you are working split crews then do your best to wear as close to the same color shirt as the other members of your crew. I encourage Regional and World Series umpires at any division to wear one of your series shirts, (even if it happens to be a different color to the rest of the crew. We should be proud to represent what we have accomplished.
2. Heather grey or dark grey pants are to be worn. No blue jeans and no shorts or cutoffs ever are to be worn by any tournament crew member.
3. Umpires should wear league provided umpires hats or solid dark blue or black umpire hats and the umpire hats are never to be worn backwards.

4. Black socks should be worn (no white socks please!) and dark shoes.

Umpire Expectations:

The following guidelines will be expected:

1. The umpire assigned as the plate umpire will be the crew chief. It is expected that the crew chief will provide a pre-game meeting with his/her crew. Things such as verbal/non-verbal communication; and rotations should be discussed.
2. Line-Up cards will be used and all changes will be recorded by the plate umpire.
3. Umpires **WILL** go out on all fly balls when 4 umpire crews are being used.

Umpire Pre-Game Protocol:

1. Umpires should arrive at the tournament site 45 minutes prior to the game, if for some reason you are running late, please contact a crew member or the UIC.
2. The designated crew chief should be the person from the crew to let the UIC know of your arrival and to get any specific instructions or information from the site staff prior to taking the field.
3. Umpire crews should meet in the designated area to conduct their pre-game discussion.
4. Umpires should walk onto the field together as a crew. The crew chief for the game should assign umpires to check equipment. It is not expected that the crew chief be responsible for checking equipment unless a two-man crew has been assigned.
5. Umpires will meet with team managers at home plate after the introductions of the players and the national anthem. After the players have been introduced you should conduct your plate meeting. The plate meeting should be led by the plate umpire and input given by other crew members as requested. **Do not let your plate meeting drag on and on.**
6. **The Defensive team is not allowed to be on the field until after you have conducted the plate meeting!**
7. Ensure that the 1 minute between half innings is enforced.

8. **No adults** are ever allowed to warm up pitchers. If the catcher is not geared up at the start of the half inning, another player can come out with a mask and warm up the pitcher.
9. When receiving changes, they should always be given to the plate umpire at the scorer's table. First and/or third base umpires will send opposing manager to scorer's table to record changes.
10. The baseballs will be provided to you at the scorer's table.
11. Players should not be swinging bats in Majors on down and should not have bats in their hands until they come to the plate. There is no on deck circle in any division majors and below. Players should not be swinging bats inside the dugout.
12. Catchers must have the dangling throat guard, and yes, this means for the hockey styled mask.
13. For the 2016 tournament the dropped third strike rule as listed in the 2016 Rule Book will also apply to the 9/10/11-year-old baseball division, but not for 8/9/10 year olds.

During the Game:

1. Stay focused, have fun, and give it your all!
2. One crew member should be assigned to have the back-up count and one should be assigned to track time between innings.
3. Ensure that the pitching plate is brushed off in between half innings.
4. Remember, time is not granted until it is granted by an umpire and managers and or coaches should not be coming out of the dugouts until all play has been completed and the pitcher has the ball.
5. A check swing is not a mandatory request and must go through the catcher to the plate umpire who has the option to ask if he/she so chooses.
6. If there is a potential protest during the game, get the information from the manager who believes we have incorrectly applied a rule and huddle away as a crew from the players and coaches to discuss the situation. If after you discuss the situation, there is going to be a change in a call it needs to be made by the umpire who originally made the call. The explanation needs to be given to both managers as to the ruling you are making and why. Remember it is our job to avoid any and all protests on the field to the best of our ability. If after you make the ruling the manager wants to pursue further options he or she has that right.

7. No umpire can forfeit a game and if for any reason one is forfeited it can only be done by the tournament committee in Williamsport.
8. There is no time limit in a tournament game.
9. There may be two coaches and one manager per team. They should be approved by the district administrator and on the team affidavit.
10. Do not take your cell phone on the field while you are umpiring a game.
11. Do not deal with fans. If there is an issue, ask the site director to come and deal with the situation. It is not your job!

After the Game:

1. Don't linger around the field. Leave as a crew on the winner's dugout side and meet in the designated umpire area to have post-game meeting.
2. Home plate umpires must go to the scorekeeper's box and sign the official book. Do not get involved with the pitching affidavit as that is not your responsibility.
3. Return all baseballs to the scorekeeper as well.

Common Problems/Issues:

1. Line-up Cards
 - a. Track all Visits (offensive/defensive
 - i. Defensive – record inning (top/bottom), pitcher
 - ii. Offensive – record inning
 - b. Substitutions
 - i. MPR (12 players or less, 13 or more)
 - ii. Same position in batting order
 - c. Ineligible Players
 - i. Ask manager at plate meeting
2. Pitch Count
 - a. Managers are responsible
3. Special Pinch Runners (7.14)
 - a. A player can only be removed once in a game by a SPR
 - b. A SPR can only be used once per inning
 - c. The SPR must not be in the current batting order

4. Bats: If a bat is in question, the manager is responsible for providing proof that bat is legal

a. Little League (Majors) and below:

- i. It shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches in length nor more than two and one-quarter ($2\frac{1}{4}$) inches in diameter. Non-wood bats shall be labeled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less;
- ii. **EXCEPTION:** For the Little League (Majors) and below, for regular season play and Tournament, composite bats are prohibited unless approved by Little League International.

b. Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League

- i. It shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. All composite barrel bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.