

Umpire Guidelines For Ballard Little League 2008 Season

1. Roles and Responsibilities of an Umpire

- a) An umpire shall:
 - i) know and enforce the playing rules and local league rules;
 - ii) arrive early and conduct the pre-game meeting with the managers before each game;
 - iii) represent the Ballard Little League in behavior, appearance, demeanor and language;
 - iv) make a good faith effort to comply with the League umpire uniform code of a blue shirt, black cap, grey pants and proper umpire safety gear;
 - v) maintain discipline on the field, keep control of the game, keep calm;
 - vi) inform the Chief Umpire of any disputes;
 - vii) take care of loaned equipment and return equipment at the end of the season;
 - viii) give as much notice as possible if unable to umpire scheduled games;
 - ix) attend (or have attended) either the District 8 umpire clinic, the Ballard Umpire Mini-Clinic, the Junior Umpire Clinic or in some other fashion satisfy the Chief Umpire of your readiness; and
 - x) have the authority to eject anyone involved with the game, including spectators off the playing field, that is abusive in any way. An umpire shall try to rectify the situation with a warning to the offending person as well as the managers of both teams. Extreme circumstances may not require a warning. An ejected adult person shall have three minutes to leave the field or have their team forfeit the game. The umpire will provide a written report of the ejection to the Chief Umpire and to the President within 24 hours of the end of the game.
- b) To be scheduled for Ballard intra-league playoff games, umpires shall either have graduated from the District 8 Umpire Clinic, the Ballard Umpire Mini-clinic, the Junior Umpire Clinic or in some other way satisfy the Chief Umpire of their readiness for such a position.
- c) The Ballard Little League President shall not umpire.

2) Resources for Volunteer Umpires

- a) Each year, volunteer umpires will receive up-to-date rule books, the current Local League rules and the latest copy of *The Right Call*.
- b) Ballard Little League will pay for registration at the District 8 umpire clinic, including refreshers. Upon graduation from District 8, or after one season of volunteering the League will provide an official uniform shirt and patch.

- c) Ballard Little League will loan each volunteer umpire at full set of safety gear including a face mask, chest protector, shin guards, ball carrier, plate brush and indicator to be returned at the end of the season.
 - d) The League will also provide miscellaneous written material such as articles and URLs for umpire related web sites. The Ballard Little League site is currently located at <http://www.ballardll.net>. The District 8 scheduling site used by the Ballard Little League for scheduling umpires to all its games is located at <http://www.d8umpires.com>. The national Little League site is located at <http://www.littleleague.org>.
 - e) Ballard Little League will pay for membership in the Umpire Registry for the Chief Umpire each season.
- 3) **Recruiting New Umpires**
- a) *Recruitment by the Umpires Committee* – The Committee will recruit from volunteers during the previous season and at Ballard Little League activities (e.g. registration and try out, the On-Deck social, etc.)
 - b) *Recruitment by Managers* – Managers from each team will assure that at least one person associated with the team will assure (such as a parent) will volunteer as an umpire. Teams with a “designated volunteer umpire” will be assigned umpires for their homes games before teams without one.
 - c) Evaluation and recommendation to the President for appointment made by Umpire’s Committee using the following criteria:
 - i) Completed Volunteer Application form;
 - ii) Completed National Little League background check form for criminal history check;
 - iii) Membership in Ballard Little League (unless an active Ballard Little League player);
 - iv) Completion of the District 8 Umpire clinic, the Ballard Little League mini-umpire clinic, the Junior Umpire clinic or other training which is satisfactory to the Chief Umpire.
 - d) All volunteer umpires, new or returning, must be approved by the President before being scheduled to umpire any Ballard Little League game.
- 4) **Retaining Volunteer Umpires**
- a) Recognition will be given by:
 - i) Listing volunteer umpires in the newsletter
 - ii) Presenting umpires with a certificate of appreciation at the end of the season.
 - iii) Awarding an umpires cap for umpires who attend any of the training sessions and/or allow themselves to be scheduled for games.

- iv) Awarding a special Ballard Little League baseball cap after being scheduled and umpiring 10 games.
- v) Awarding one pair of plate pants after one full season of umpiring 10 or more games.

5) **Roles and Responsibilities of Umpire Committee per BLL Constitution**

- a) The Board of Directors may appoint an Umpire Committee consisting of three (3) League members including the League President who will be the chair. The Committee shall recruit, interview and recommend to the President for appointment, a staff of umpires, including a Chief umpire and replacements. When appointed, the staff of umpires shall be under the personal direction of the President, assisted by the Chief Umpire and Umpire Scheduler who shall train, observe and schedule the staff.

6) **Additional duties of the Chief Umpire/Umpire Scheduler.** They shall:

- a) Keep a record of the “designated volunteer umpires” for all teams and the games they officiate. Teams with a high number of games officiated will have umpires scheduled before teams with lesser numbers of games to their credit.
- b) Keep a record of attendees and graduates from District 8 and other training programs and pass out materials, gear and awards.
- c) Coordinate umpire equipment inventories, purchases, loans and returns with the Equipment Manager.
- d) Schedule the mini-umpire clinic and Junior umpire clinic and record attendance.
- e) Pass on to the President any notice and information given to the Chief Umpire of all protests, ejections and disqualifications of or by any manager, coach or player within 24 hours of receipt.
- f) Schedule the umpires is the duties of the Umpire Scheduler. .
- g) Schedule umpires for senior games if paid umpires are not available.
- h) Investigate complaints related to disputed games and report their findings to the President and Vice-President of the division if appropriate.
- i) Make final calls on rules interpretations.
- j) Handle complaints from and about umpires.
- k) Evaluate umpires during the season. Evaluations will be used by the President for appointment for the following season.
- l) Umpire games.