

# **CSJBA Baseball Umpire - Guidelines**

## ***What are Umpires?***

Umpires are Baseball Officials responsible for the adjudicating of Rules during a baseball game. They are, within their limit of authority and experience, responsible for the safety of the Players. They work with the scorers to make sure a game is administered correctly.

## **Why we need Umpires?**

Without Umpires we quite simply could not have a game of baseball.

Imagine the situation we would have. We would have a batter, pitcher, catcher and probably everyone else on the field and in the dugout arguing about what was a ball or strike. Or did the runner beat the ball to the base? Was that a tag? Was that a catch? Etc, etc, etc.

## **What are the rewards?**

The rewards are few but substantial.

Firstly the most important reward is the satisfaction that you have helped create the possibility of having a baseball game. (Remember what we said above - without an Umpire there is no game)

Second reward is the satisfaction of doing your best, to do the best job you can to give the players a fair game.

Third, if you get the first and second reward, is the joy of being in the best seat in the house seeing players try their best and sometimes, hopefully often, succeed at completing plays on the field.

A reward is also the thank you from the Players, Managers and Association that you did the job that needed doing.

But the other reward that we rarely think about is the camaradery you develop with a whole lot of different people in the baseball community. People that you do not always agree with, but are all working together with, to get our communities kids outside in the fresh air to play baseball.

## **Who are Umpires?**

Umpires are Players, Brothers, Sisters, Parents, Uncles, Aunties, Grandparents and even just Baseball fans that put their hand up to help the sport of baseball. They volunteer their time to help the game and the players enjoy the game.

## **How do we become Umpires? (*What is the best way for "the game" to become an Umpire?*)**

- Complete a level 0 Umpire seminar (3 Hours – Conducted by Baseball NSW Umpires Association)
- Work with an Umpiring Mentor at lower age group club games to practise what you have learnt.
- Complete a Level 1 Umpire Seminar (2 Days – Conducted by Baseball NSW Umpires Association)
- Work with other Umpires to improve your knowledge and consistency

## Equipment

Most Junior Clubs will supply basic gear for their clubs Umpires at games. (Leggings, Chest Protector, Face mask, Ball and Strike Counter.) You should buy yourself additional personal gear which the club may reimburse you for.

Equipment List (Not all compulsory)

- Black Steel Cap Boots or Plate Umpire Shoes
- Rubber Cleated or studded Black Sports Shoes
- Leg Guards
- Groin Protector
- Umpire Chest Guard (Both Shoulders Protected)
- Face Mask with Throat Guard
- Umpires Clicker (To help keep track of balls and strikes.)
- Plate Brush (To keep the Plate clean)
- Ball Bag
- Red Pen (Can be another colour)
- Notebook
- Grey Trousers
- Plain Black Leather Belt
- Black or Dark Blue Undershirt
- Umpire Association Shirt (or Light Blue)

## Resource Web Links

- CSJBA Rules - [http://assets.imgstg.com/assets/console/document/documents/201409070928242014-15\\_CSJBA\\_Rules\\_-\\_Revised\\_07\\_Sep\\_2014.pdf](http://assets.imgstg.com/assets/console/document/documents/201409070928242014-15_CSJBA_Rules_-_Revised_07_Sep_2014.pdf)
- St George-Sutherland Umpires Association - <http://stg-sbua.baseball.com.au/>
- NSW Baseball Umpires Association - <http://members.nswbua.org/>
- Level One Baseball Umpires Manual - <http://members.nswbua.org/resources/Documents/ABF%20Manual%20for%20Level%201%20Umpires.pdf>
- Australian Baseball Full Rules - [http://baseball.com.au/Portals/27/ABF%20Official%20Australian%20Rules%207th%20Edition%202013%20Revised%20-%20Ver%202a%20July%2030%20\(3\).pdf](http://baseball.com.au/Portals/27/ABF%20Official%20Australian%20Rules%207th%20Edition%202013%20Revised%20-%20Ver%202a%20July%2030%20(3).pdf)
- Australian Little League Baseball Umpires Manual - <http://qld.baseball.com.au/Portals/28/Docs/Little%20League%20Umpires%20Manual%20v1.0.pdf>
- USA Little League Umpire Training Resource - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek-ESAINXKg&list=PLQgcAzxyYqFMmaFn1RShWZ30g1ydKWqby>

Note: While every effort is made by the volunteers that Umpire, Develop Umpires and Administer the Umpire Associations to deliver consistent quality of resource, communication and service it should be remembered that at the end of the day we are all volunteers.

The Umpires Association is constantly evolving and improvements are being made at all levels.

So if you feel that you can contribute positively to the Umpire Association please make that commitment.

Nothing is shallower than criticism from someone who is not prepared to contribute.

## Dispute Handling System

If there is concern about the service or administration of the rules this should be dealt with in general following the steps below.

- Discuss politely with the Umpire involved.  
Remember that Children are watching you for an example of how to be able to behave during adversity. And do not forget: Umpires are volunteers, even if they are reimbursed their travel, accommodation, food and equipment expenses.  
Junior Baseball at all levels is not Major League Baseball and follows different rules.  
Judgment Calls cannot be disputed with Umpires.  
Balls and Strikes are the most frequent Judgement Calls but so are tags, or did the player beat the ball to base.  
Calling out to the Umpire from the Team Dugout or On-field Coaches Box is rude and inappropriate. Inappropriate behaviours by Players, Managers or even Spectators can result in ejection of Players and Managers from the game or forfeit of the game by the offending team.  
Remember the Umpire is trying to give the teams a fair game.
- If unresolved politely indicate that you do not agree and a protest can be recorded on the result sheet. Dissatisfaction with a perceived Umpires poor performance is not a reason protest. Only the Incorrect application of the rules can be protested.  
The Umpire will want to get on with the game so that a team is not disadvantaged by delays in the game.
- If concerned about Umpire quality discuss with your club secretary.  
If you feel an Umpires judgement, knowledge of the rules, or behaviour is so far below an acceptable level that it warrants review bring it up with your clubs Secretary.  
Under no circumstances try to embarrass the Umpire in front of the Players, other coaches and spectators. Do not, under any circumstances, discuss your negative opinion of the Umpires performance with the Umpire.
- The club can raise concerns with the Junior Baseball Association, if necessary.  
Your Club committee will decide this.
- The Junior Baseball Association can discuss with the Umpires Association, if necessary.  
The Association committee will decide this.
- The Umpires Association can decide appropriate handling of the situation if it is taken up to this level.

### Web Link

- Respect - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezZ2ZRfSsLY>