

# North Boulder Little League NBLL Umpire Information

## Expectations

**Behavior:** As a NBLL umpire you are representing NBLL and you are responsible for your actions. We expect your behavior to be a model for the other participants of the league. Respect all members of NBLL as well as the property, equipment, and grounds. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, and suspension action can/will be taken by the board.

- **Must be 12 years of age+**
- **Gain experience through AA, AAA → Majors → Juniors (18+)**
- **Attend trainings when provided!**
- **Proper use of Umpire Spreadsheet** – Available games are listed in date order with baseball division listed. If this is your first time as an umpire, we require you to start with AA and AAA divisions. You can sign up for most games for either a plate umpire or a field umpire (our AA games we use a pitching machine, so we do not require a plate umpire; but depending on the number of new umpires needing experience, we can allow up to 2 umpires for a AA game). When you fill in your name next to a game, we expect you to be there. If you cannot make that game, we require you remove your name at least 2 days in advance (48 hours; or as soon as possible) so other umpires can fill your place. Do not hold positions. Check the schedule daily for openings. When games are cancelled due to weather or scheduling conflicts, we will notify you as soon as we are informed. All umpires are notified when games are cancelled. **Make sure you have the Umpire Info tab filled out correctly (How you want to get paid. If Zelle is your choice, provide # linked to account).** We can track history, no deleting of other umpire names. You will be suspended.
- **No shows to signups.** You get 1 warning, then 1 week suspended (doghouse), then suspended for current season.
- **Paid every two weeks** (Sat. evening cutoff)
- Emails will be sent to the email addresses you used when you registered as an umpire.

## Seasons:

Spring Season Starts on March 17th

Tournaments – AAA and majors

Summer – Mid June – First part August

## Game day:

- **Be on time wearing your umpire shirt\***. 15-20 minutes before game time. This allows you to get needed equipment on, get to the correct field, meet the other umpire (except for AA) and be ready for the coaches meeting\*\*.
  - o **Plate Umpire:** Umpire shirt, chest protector, helmet/face mask/neck shield, Knee/shin guards, clicker, plate brush
  - o **Field Umpire:** Umpire shirt, clicker
- Bring water bottle to keep hydrated in heat. You can also get a complimentary snack from snack shack after your shift if it is open.
- At the end of the game, assure all body equipment, clickers, plate brushes all make it back to the umpire shed in an organized manner. Do not throw items into the equipment shed.

**\*\* Coaches meeting** (at home plate) - 5 minutes before every game, both umpires need to call a meeting with both coaches. Together you will introduce yourselves and discuss any certain rules that could affect the calling of the game. Assure pitch count is ready to go for each team (coaches will be able to organize this). At this time you can collect some game balls to replace fouls, etc. The umpire decides on whether a game is called due to weather.

**\*Umpire shirt** - If you are a returning umpire, we require you to bring your shirt from the year before. If you have not picked up your shirt yet, you can get it from the shed on your first scheduled day (or maybe we will have them at our training session). This is your uniform for the season, so take care of it and wash it.

## Resources:



**little league app** (ll Rulebooks ) – Android and Apple products

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/rules-regulations-policies/>

<https://www.littleleague.org/university/umpires/>

Umpires shall report any misconduct from a player, coach or team to the umpire coordinator within 24 hours.

As an umpire, you rule the game. Your call stands.

Safety – Lightning, weather, wind, rain....

Putting the Ball in play:

Definition of terms:

called game – terminated

dead ball area – runners cannot advance (bleachers, out of bounds, etc)

force play

Home team takes field first, bats last

Look good

Be on time – talk to umpires/Coaches

Head in the game

Courteous/respectful

Confident – this is an art

know the rules

Field umpire:

**4 guidelines:**

Favor angle over distance when making a call on a runner

Look for just one outcome when deciding your call

Take your time making your call

Make your call with confidence (and demonstratively)

BU will make calls at all bases except home plate unless you (as BU1) and the PU agree to another arrangement.

As a Base Umpire, there are four potential positions ("Slots") where you'll position yourself to start each play.

**Slot A:** 10 – 12 feet behind 1st base in foul territory

**Slot B:** 2 – 3 steps behind and 2 – 3 steps to the left of the 2nd baseman (in normal position)

**Slot C:** 2 – 3 steps behind and 2 – 3



No runners leaving early

- If the ball is hit and fielded in the infield, stay "outside" the base path to make your call.

- If the ball is hit and fielded in the outfield, run "inside" the base path (into the Working Area) to make your call.

I recommend that the Plate Umpire calls all foul / fair balls and catch / no-catch both inside (the infield) and outside (the outfield) of the bases. This allows beginning umpires to focus their game on the base runner actions and calls.

## **Plate Umpires**

You'll be responsible for "calling the game" which includes balls/strikes and managing the flow of the game.

### **Position yourself in the Slot position to get the best view of the ball to call balls and strikes**

Some calls are made with a hand/arm gesture, some without. Some with a verbal call, some without. Make your calls in a demonstrative and consistent way to make sure players and managers know what your call is.

- Take a few extra seconds between the time you see a completed pitch or play and the moment you make your call. This is especially important for calls like foul balls and time outs that immediately stop further play (dead ball situations).

**Pitcher** must wait until batter is in the box

**The Batter** - Must have helmet and legal bat: Baseball bats must have USA baseball bat standard .

### **Balls / Strikes**

Ball – a pitch outside the boundary of home plate from chin to shin of the batter

If ball bounces before reaching plate and goes in strike zone, it is a ball.

If the ball bounces before reaching plate and batter swings, it is a strike