

Umpire Responsibilities

Before a game starts, the Umpire shall:

- Arrive at the field 15 minutes before the scheduled game start time
- Check equipment in dugouts of both teams, equipment that does not meet specifications must be removed from the game.
- Make sure catchers are wearing helmets when warming up pitchers.
- Run hands along bats to make sure there are no splinters.
- Make sure that bats have grips.
- Make sure there are foam inserts in helmets and that helmets meet Little League NOCSAE specifications and bear Little League's seal of approval.
- Inspect helmets for cracks.
- Walk the field for hazards and obstructions (e.g. rocks and glass).
- Check players to see if they are wearing jewelry.
- Check players to see if they are wearing metal cleats (Major and below).
- Make sure that all playing lines are marked with chalk or other white material and are easily distinguishable from the ground or grass.
- Secure at least two (2) official Little League balls for play to be used by both teams.
- Conduct pre-game meeting with Managers from both teams (10 minutes before game time):
 - Review the Ground Rules;
 - Discuss the conduct of all parties (Managers, Coaches, parents, players);
 - Discuss that only the Manager can question an Umpire call;
 - Ensure players have appropriate safety equipment, especially catchers;
 - Discuss LL Strike zone (armpit to top of knees);
 - Review that judgment calls (Strikes/Balls, Fair/Foul, Safe/Out, etc) cannot be questioned;
 - Review In-field fly (if in effect); describe when it will be called (if necessary);
 - Any other questions or issues unique to the game at that time.

During the game, the Umpire shall:

- Govern the game as mandated by Little League rules and regulations.
- Check baseballs for discoloration and nicks and declare a ball unfit for use if it exhibits these traits.
- Act as the sole judge as to whether and when:
 - play shall be suspended during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions, because of the unfit condition of the playing field, or because of low visibility due to atmospheric conditions or darkness;
 - play shall be resumed after suspension;
 - a game shall be terminated after suspension.
- Enforce the rule that no spectators shall be allowed on the field during the game.
- Make sure catchers are continuing to wear the proper equipment.
- Continue to monitor the field for safety and playability.
- Make the calls loud and clear, signaling each call properly.
- Make sure players and spectators keep their fingers out of the fencing.