

National Little League Umpire Guide 2019

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Umpire Schedule: nationallittleleague.org/umps

Proper Attire: National Umpire shirt (or other umpire shirt – tucked in), black/grey pants, black shoes, baseball/umpire hat. (No shorts ever on a baseball field!). Make sure you hang your shirt up in the umpire’s room after every game.

Can’t Make a Game? If you can’t make one of your games, call me as early as you can so I have time to find a replacement for you. We will all share phone numbers so you can call other umps to ask them if they can fill in for you. If you **no-show** a game without calling you won’t get any more games.

Dealing with Conflict:

Hopefully all of your games will go smoothly, but sometimes conflicts do arise.

If you know you made a bad call, when you’re talking to the coach just tell him “Sorry coach it was my mistake” and **diffuse** the situation. That way the coach is reminded you are human and make mistakes, and shouldn’t bother you anymore.

If you make a close call any it could’ve gone either way tell the coach “Coach it was a close play I stand behind my call.”

If you make a call and you know you got it right but the coach comes out to argue anyway, tell him “Coach it was a close play I stand behind my call.”

Always try to **diffuse** the situation as best as possible. If he is yelling do not respond by yelling. Tell him you cannot discuss a play with a coach who is yelling and send him back to the dugout.

Deal with the conflict the best way you know how and call me after the game to discuss what happened. Ejecting a coach/parent from the game is only a **last resort** and should only be done if **absolutely necessary**. If a coach is swearing at you, demeaning you, or insulting you, give him a warning first and then if he still continues, **eject** him from the game. Do not start playing again until he is **OUT OF THE PARK** (not in the stands)

Rule Questions: There are a lot of rules and we don’t expect you to know every single one. Review the rule book if you aren’t sure of anything, or call/e-mail me if you have any questions. See the rule refresher on the next page.

Pay: Regardless of base or plate our pay for 2019 is:

Majors: \$25/game (Plate) \$20 Bases, Minors/Rookie: \$20/game (Plate) \$15 Bases

Pay will be handed at the end of the season, possibly earlier if I can!

Rule Refresher National Umps 2019

Fair/Foul Balls:

- Wait until the ball has completely stopped moving before calling a foul ball, no need to rush this. If you call a ball foul and it rolls fair, you have to stick with the Foul call. Once a ball is called foul that's the end of the play and you can't change it, so make sure it's foul before you call it!
- Home Plate, 1st Base, 2nd Base, 3rd base are all in **FAIR TERRITORY!** If a ball is hit up in the air and stops on home plate, it's a **FAIR BALL**. If a ball hits first or third base it is a **FAIR BALL!**

Rule Book Review: (let me know if you don't have a rulebook – any year is fine)

- **Infield Fly** (discuss at meeting – Minors/Majors only)
- **Tag/No-Tag** A runner needs to be tagged by the ball or a glove possessing the ball, if he tags him with his other hand, foot or leg, he's **SAFE!**
- **Control of the ball** In order for a runner/batter to be called out, the fielder making the play must have **control** of the ball. It can't just be resting on his elbow or anywhere else, he has to have full control of the ball to make the play!
- **Runner missed the base** DO NOT SAY ANYTHING! If the defensive team wants to "appeal" they will throw the ball to 1st or whichever bag they thought the runner missed and tag the bag with the ball while showing you. If you know the runner missed the base, and there hasn't been another pitch thrown yet, call him **OUT!** If a runner missed the base, and the next pitch is thrown, it doesn't matter. That play is final.
- **Runner is hit with ball**
 - o If a runner is hit with a **HIT** ball and he is in **FAIR** territory, he is **OUT**
 - o If a runner is hit with a **THROWN** ball, play on
 - o If a runner **INTENTIONALLY** swipes or knocks the ball, hit or thrown, the runner is **OUT**
- **Batter is hit with pitch**
 - o If a batter is hit with a pitch anywhere on his body he is awarded first base. Hands included! Some coaches might tell you "Hands are part of the bat – he doesn't get first" **WRONG!** Hands are just like any other part of the body and if the ball hits them he gets 1st.
 - o Not on a foul ball/swing! If the batter swings the bat and gets hit with a pitch, whether it's a foul, deflection or nothing, he does not get first base, a strike is called and you go to the next pitch.
 - o This one is rare, but if a batter make no attempt **at all** to get out of the way and **clearly** made no attempt to not get hit, or even tries to get hit with the ball, he does not get first base. **Call a strike** and go to the next pitch.

General Attitude/Things to Remember:

- 1) **Making mistakes is OK!** We all do it, from the MLB umps and below, everyone makes mistakes as an umpire. Learn from your mistake and move on.
- 2) **Be in the right position.** If you're standing in the right position making a call is much easier and you'll have less chance of making a mistake. I don't care about anyone blowing a call as long as you're in the right position! If you blow a call because you're standing on the first base line when you should be behind the shortstop, work on your positioning and get it right next time!
- 3) **Be confident.** If he was out by a mile or so close you're not sure, be confident with your calls. If you aren't sure of yourself, how are the coaches going to be? A good umpire is loud, confident and cool. If the runner is safe or out by a mile and everyone in the park knows he's safe, you don't need to yell "SAFE!" Just a quiet safe signal will do.
- 4) **Tie goes to the runner?** I don't buy it. In Little League we want to reward good effort and keep the game moving. If it's so close you can't tell, call him **out**. *"When in doubt, call him out!"*
- 5) **Support your partner.** You guys are a team out there, discuss situations between innings and go over rules before the game. If your base umpire makes a call that you don't agree with, do not **overrule** him! You can call time, get together and discuss the play and then make the right call.
- 6) **You are in charge.** You and your partner are the only two people in the park who are allowed to make calls. Not the coach, scorekeeper, parent, or scary looking guy yelling at you. What you say goes and that's final. If someone is trying to influence your calls or bully you into making the call they want, call me after the game.
- 7) **Act professional.** Don't sit down ever. Don't play with your phone. In between innings stand to the left of home plate with your partner. Keep a water bottle discreetly nearby to keep hydrated (in the fence or out of field of play).

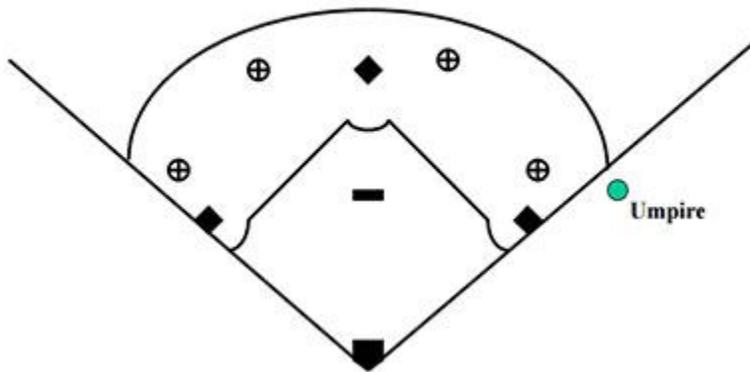
Base Umpire Positioning (1 Base Umpire)

With only 1 base umpire, you are in charge of a lot out there! Make sure you know where to stand so you can have the best chance of making the call right. There are only 3 positions you should ever stand in as a base umpire.

- Being in the right position is more important than getting the call right.
- Having a better angle on the play is better than being closer

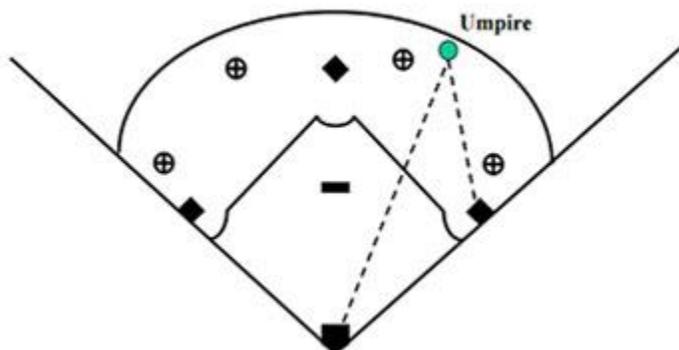
“A” Position

When: BASES EMPTY! Always start a new inning at **A Position**. 10-12 feet behind 1st base with your right foot up against the foul line. You are standing in foul territory so if a hit ball accidentally hits you, you know it was a foul ball.



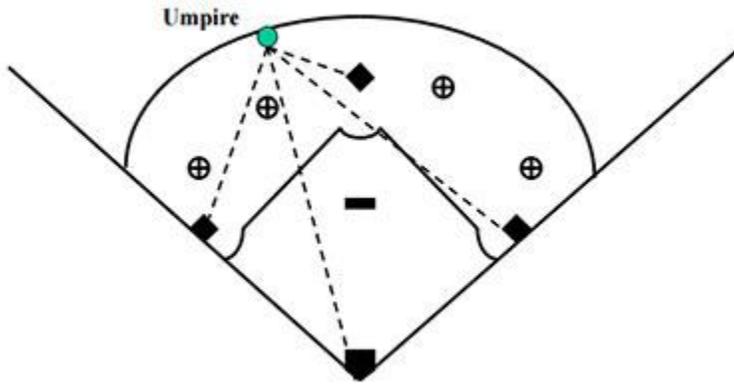
“B” Position

When: RUNNER ON 1st About halfway between 1st and 2nd base, far enough back to be able to see the ball pitched but also to keep an eye on the runner on 1st. Stay out of the way of the 2nd baseman, position yourself accordingly. Make sure you're not in the path of the runner!



“C” Position

When: ANY OTHER TIME! Unless there are no runners on, or just a runner at 1st, you are in “C” Position! From here you can make a call easily on 2nd or 3rd base, and you still have a good angle on the play at 1st.



Remember: With only 1 base umpire it's not always easy and sometimes you'll be far away from a close play. We aren't always going to have it easy as umps but if you stick to these 3 positions you'll give yourself the best opportunity to make the right call. Mistakes happen, position is key!

National Umpire List 2019 Season

Umpire in Chief:

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Senior/Majors Umpires:

Matt Porcher	250-580-8483 / porchers@telus.net
Basil Parkins	778-440-0142 / tnt269@shaw.ca
Clare Keating	michaelkeating5@gmail.com
Carter Roland	joshroland@me.com
Peter Ross	pluckyduckies@gmail.com
Kaleb Manton	778-587-0077 saraleigh@shaw.ca
Oliver Hazzard	shconsulting@shaw.ca / abaigaelsmum@shaw.ca

Junior/Majors Bases Umpires:

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