



What a Volunteer Umpire Program Can Do For Your League!

Why should you have a volunteer umpire program in your league?

- Provides another opportunity for adults to participate in the activities of the league on their own schedule with as much involvement as they desire.
- Provides the right on field support for our players during games with umpires who are in it for the right reason – the kids!
- Helps develop leaders for your league if they are just starting out, and keeps long term volunteers involved.
- Maintains the appropriate safety of our players through the Little League Volunteer approval procedure.
- Helps to keep costs for player registration low. Savings in costs to the league of typically \$30,000 vs. hiring outside umpires.

Why don't we have enough volunteer umpires?

- We don't ask individuals to volunteer; we assume they will without explaining to them the need.
- Volunteer umpires are verbally and physically abused doing their job, so why would anyone volunteer for that?
- Our League Boards decide it's too much work to develop a volunteer program

Where do I find volunteer umpires?

- Parents and other family members of your players are the first choice – they usually attend games so are at the fields regularly
- Target other local community groups such as Senior Citizen clubs, Police and Fire agencies, Service Clubs, etc.

What does a quality volunteer umpire program include?

- Full support from the League Board of Directors to the concept of volunteer umpires, including adequate funding through the budget
- A League Chief Umpire on the voting Board who coordinates the overall Umpire Program.
- Recruiting, retention and recognition programs for all volunteers
- Basic training on umpire skills necessary for the volunteer to be successful.
- Uniforms and equipment needed by the umpires
- A Zero Tolerance policy for any abuse – verbal or physical – of a volunteer umpire.

How can C4UA help your league develop and improve your umpire program?

- We will provide you with a Mentor to work with your League Chief Umpire on how to get started and what to do throughout the season.
- We offer the opportunity to network with other Leagues on how they run a successful program.
- We can provide the resources your league needs to develop training programs.

We are available to visit with your Board of Directors to talk about how to get started with a Volunteer Umpire program or improve what you already have in place!

Don Waddell, District 4 Umpire in Chief 925-788-6346. email: llcad4uic@gmail.com



Why Should My League Have a Junior Umpire Program?

Why a Junior Umpire Program?

- Provides another Leadership Development Program for our youth within the Little League structure.
- Helps to keep players who “age out” involved, both playing and as officials.
- Provides the right level of skill and experience of umpires who typically have baseball or softball playing experience; usually better umpires than other volunteers.
- Demonstrates to your League members that there is more to Little League than just playing ball.
- Helps to keep costs for player registration low vs. hiring outside umpires.
- Face the reality, our current volunteers are not getting younger and we need to replace them!

Where do I find Junior Umpires?

- Former and current players in your league.
- High School students who need Community Service hours, or are school athletes.
- Scouting and other youth service groups with members who are tasked with service.

What does a quality Junior Umpire program include?

- Full support from the League Board of Directors to the concept of Junior Umpires, including adequate funding through the budget
- One or more Junior Umpire Coordinators who manage the Junior program, and provide a point of contact for the youth when issues arise.
- A group of trained “Game Coordinators” who by rule are the supervisors of the games where no adult umpire is involved and oversee the interaction of Junior umpires and others in the game.
- Recruiting, retention and recognition programs for all Junior Umpires. Typical programs include a small cash stipend, gift cards, equipment allowance etc. for Junior Umpires.
- Basic training on umpire skills necessary for the Junior Umpire to be successful.
- Uniforms and equipment needed by the Junior umpires
- A Zero Tolerance policy for any abuse – verbal or physical – of a Junior umpire.

Remember, a Junior Umpire Program is only one element of your overall Umpire Program!

- You cannot staff all your games at all levels of play with just Junior umpires.
- Pairing an adult volunteer and a Junior Umpire on a game provides for better mentoring and development of the young umpire, and improves game conditions.

How can C4UA help your league develop and improve your Junior Umpire program?

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- We can provide the resources your league needs to develop training programs.

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