



Guidebook

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Prepared by Jim Masie, Chief of Umpires

About Olmsted Umpires

Olmsted Umpires is the umpiring association for Olmsted Community Summer League (OCSL). OCSL offers recreation youth baseball and softball to children of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township.

Olmsted Umpires is managed by **Jim Masie**.

Expectations

1. **Be Responsive** - if you receive an email, text, or Remind message, from the Chief of Umpires - you are required to respond as soon as possible. This ensures we quickly address all issues, conflicts, problems, concerns, etc. Failure to do so will cost you umpire opportunities, removal from the schedule, or dismissal from our program. If you fail to respond at all - you will be placed in a probation status - which means your games will be reassigned to another umpire and subject to removal from our program.
 - a. **General Communications** - anything that is NOT related to a game, a 24 hour response is required.
 - b. **Game Day Communications** - all communications regarding a game require an immediate response. Failure to do so will result in your game being reassigned to another umpire.
2. **Be on Time** - our games have limited time due to lack of lighting on our fields. Make sure you are early and are ready to umpire. Tardiness will be noted as most coaches will contact the Chief of Umpires if an umpire is late.
3. **Know the Rules** - Every age group has specific rules to their respective league, spend some time reviewing the rules. Check with the coaches during the pregame meeting if you are unsure.
4. **Be Consistent** - Olmsted Umpires expects all umpires to be consistent with their strike zone and calling outs. Far as strike zones, try to refrain from calling high strikes in general. Outside pitches as well. It's ok to have a wide strike zone

(especially at the younger ages). However, think about whether the batter has an equal chance to hit the ball.

5. **Always Know the Situation** - know how many balls, strikes, and outs. Keep yourself aware of score and run rules. Keep track of time as well.
6. **Take Command** - an effective umpire is an umpire who takes charge of the game. Be LOUD and communicate. Make sure you command respect and never tolerate disrespect or bad sportsmanship on (and off) the field. In addition, show the same respect to coaches, players, and spectators.
7. **Be Accountable** - if you make a mistake, make a mental note and take accountability. Report the mistake to OCSLUmpires@gmail.com.
8. **Learn** - We don't expect perfection. Try to learn from your mistakes and do your best to avoid making the same mistake twice. Be proactive in learning more about umpiring. Attend in-house training and see out training opportunities.

Rules

League Rules

Every age group has specific rules to their respective league, spend some time reviewing the rules. Check with the Managers during the Pregame Meeting if you are unsure.

- B10U -
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wZiFjbxuEr1ncVuyQInxW01XthdaFmaP/view?usp=sharing>
- B12U -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W60IETpm7SDfb8TtBoMn_XYKa0rsIWZz/view?usp=sharing
- B14U -
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vyvUXzMejEoq3Jykb5kg0arQdPL0lqRu/view?usp=sharing>
- B18U -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i-4dDRIEqWM4vN-e3o0-L_2AZqM8UXQv/view?usp=sharing

- S10U -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KYxR8vQsWuuzCV-4OrxF_nxeo2WeS6Ax/view?usp=sharing

- S12U -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10QhkQbcuYMZ9vWnoOxL-H9lujMNq14iv/view?usp=sharing>

- S15U -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aRh8nL4Enab0dnD6G2e1cnYK4CQ3mf1k/view?usp=sharing>

OCSL In-House Rules

Regardless of specific league rules, all games played on an OCSL field must follow the following house rules. These rules must be enforced, regardless of objection from any coach.

- **Illegal Bats** - an opposing coach CANNOT physically inspect a bat of another team. They can object and ask the umpire to inspect the bat in question. Only the umpire can make a ruling and remove the bat in question (or allow the bat to be used).
- **Softball Plate Rule** - per ASA rules, if a softball strikes any part of home plate (including the black part) it is considered a BALL.
- **Ground Rules** - always be aware of the ground rules. The majority of OCSL's fields do not have fencing in the outfield. If a ball is thrown into an area that is not fenced along the left or right field baselines, it is considered a dead ball. If a live ball rolls under a fence (or becomes lodged) it's considered a dead ball.
- **Designated Spectator Areas** - spectators are not allowed to sit in areas that are considered in the field of play. They are not permitted directly behind the back stop (this includes coaches and players) and can not sit in the outfield and past the fence on the field's first and third base sides. If a spectator is in violation - please ask them to move. A second offense may result in ejection.

Contact Information

We will communicate through OCSLUmpires@gmail.com or the **Remind app**. Make sure to download the app when you have a chance. Our Remind Class is **@olmstedump**. Also, please join the OBSC Field Scheduling Remind Class: **@6bbc9g**. This class is used for rainout info.

Attendance

If you are scheduled for a game, you need to show up and work. If you do not show up for the scheduled game, you will be listed as a "No Show". **No Shows will result in automatic suspension.**

Game Times

Games are played during the week and start between 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Depending on age group, games usually have a 2-hour time limit. Games played on Saturdays and Sundays - times can vary.

Equipment

Umpires are required to provide their own equipment. For baseball, home plate umpires must wear proper protective gear, including a mask, chest protector, and shin guards. While protective equipment is not required for softball umpires, it is recommended, especially for younger officials. All umpires are also responsible for bringing their own indicator (clicker) and a brush to clean home plate.

Uniform

Dress in a clean, professional manner at all times. Olmsted Falls or Olmsted Falls Bulldogs branded clothing is not permitted. Ball caps or visors are allowed, and shorts may be worn. All clothing must be in good condition, with no torn items, and offensive or inappropriate attire is not permitted.

Schedule

Scheduling

The schedule will be determined by the Chief of Umpires based on your availability. It is your responsibility to check the umpire schedule for updates.

The schedule link will be available in late April/early May

The season will start on May 18 and end no later than July 31. Please email any known conflicts by May 1.

Tournament games will be assigned by the discretion of the Chief of Umpires.

Assignments

We assign umpires based on experience. This allows less stress for younger inexperienced umpires and an opportunity to learn on the job. We usually assign senior, more experienced umpires for the older age groups. In some cases we'll team up a senior umpire with a younger inexperienced umpire. We expect our senior umpires to mentor our younger umpires.

If you are working a two-person crew - the home plate umpire is considered the Crew Chief, unless a senior and junior umpire are assigned together. Senior umpires are always the Crew Chief regardless of position on the field.

Assigning Process

When assigning games, we consider the following factors to ensure fair and effective scheduling:

- Availability – Is the umpire available to work on the given date?
- Age – Does the umpire meet the appropriate age requirements for the age group?
- Experience – What level of umpiring experience does the individual have?
- Performance – How has the umpire performed in previous games?

These factors help us create a balanced schedule while ensuring the best possible officiating for each game.

Game Cancellations / Rainouts

On the day of your game, and there's questionable weather in the area, please keep an eye out on the Remind app. Game cancellations will be communicated by the **OBSC Field Scheduling Remind Class**. Any cancellation by **OBSC Field Scheduling** is considered official and you will not be working.

If your game is rained out or canceled, you will have the first opportunity to work the game when rescheduled. If you are not able to work the rescheduled date, the Chief of Umpires will assign another umpire to work the game.

Requests

Requests to work specific games should be sent to the Chief of Umpires no later than 48 hours prior to the start time of the game you'd like to work.

Unable to Work

If you are scheduled for a game and can no longer work, please contact the Chief of Umpires no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled start of your game.

Last Minute Cancellations

If you have a last minute cancellation - please text the Chief of Umpires at 216-990-1571.
DO NOT EMAIL.

Pregame

15 Minutes Prior to Schedule Start

The scheduled umpires should report to their designated field 15 minutes before the scheduled start of their game.

5 Minutes Prior to Schedule Start

The home plate umpire will conduct a Managers meeting prior to the first pitch, and the Manager for each team will be present. Any questions will be answered and all ground rules and any league specific rules should be discussed.

Official Time

The start time will be called by the home plate umpire, the umpire's watch is OFFICIAL.

Pay

Umpires will be paid in cash prior to the start of the game by the home team Manager.

Do not start until you are paid.

Rate Card

Rates are per game.

Division	Age Group	Days	Plate	Bases	Solo
Baseball 10u	9-10	MON/WEDS/SAT	\$60	N/A	\$60
Baseball 12u	11-12	MON/WEDS/SAT	\$60	N/A	\$60
Baseball 14u	13-14	TUES/THURS/SAT	\$60	\$35	\$75

Baseball 18u	15+	WEDS	\$75	\$55	\$90
Softball 10u	9-10	TUES/THURS/SAT	TBD	N/A	TBD
Softball 12u	11-12	TUES/THURS/SAT	\$60	N/A	\$60
Softball 15u	13-15	MON/TUES/FRI/SAT	TBD	TBD	TBD

Show fee for no-contest: \$25

Payment - Rainouts / Suspended Games / Forfeits

You will only be paid for a completed game. Umpires will not be paid for games that are declared rainouts. If a game is not completed because of weather, umpires keep pay and will return to finish the game upon rescheduling. If a game is declared a no-contest (forfeits) you will be paid a show fee of \$25.

Code of Conduct

All in attendance (players, coaches, spectators, umpires) are expected to follow OCSL's Code of Conduct: <https://my.illfiles.com/00049936/OCSL-Code-of-Conduct-form.pdf>.

Suspension

If an umpire is suspended, suspension is determined by guidelines outlined in the Code of Conduct. Suspended umpire(s) will be required to request reinstatement by sending a formal written statement to OCSLUmpires@gmail.com.

In Game Problems

Questionable Calls

If a questionable call occurs - and you're part of a two-person crew, please stop play, and make sure to conference with your fellow umpire and come to a consensus on what is the correct call.

Encountering Problems

If you encounter problems while you are umpiring, stay calm and attempt to deal with the situation. Please keep in mind, it's not personal, so keep it professional.

When encountering problems:

1. 1st violation: issue a verbal warning
2. 2nd violation will result in ejection from the game
 - a. Note the name of the ejected person
 - b. Instruct the ejected person to leave the premises and/or general proximity of the field
 - c. Game play cannot resume until the ejected person complies with removal
 - d. If the ejected person refuses to leave, please call the Olmsted Falls Police at (440) 235-1234 or 911 if deemed an emergency

Reporting Ejections

All umpires must report ejections immediately after the game in which it occurred. Please send a detailed email within 24 hours to OCSLUmpires@gmail.com. Make sure to include everything involved with the ejection (cause, people involved, location, etc.). It may be a good idea to make note of who was in attendance. From there, we will conduct an investigation and submit their findings to the OCSL Board.

Complaints/Concerns

If you need to file a complaint and or address a concern, please contact us.

Player Safety

Always keep a vigilant eye out for player safety. With kids, there's always something to look out for.

Here are a few proactive steps you can take:

- Be aware of injuries - especially concussions
- Check player equipment
- Limit kids with bats
- Require an adult in the dugout at all times
- Ensure helmets are worn during play
- Signal when "plate ready"
- Direct batters to a distance when tending to the plate area
- Don't go too far inside on your strike zone
- Watch for bad weather

Weather & Darkness

Dangerous Weather Conditions

Umpires have full authority to cancel or postpone a game based on Dangerous Weather Conditions. Although these conditions are listed below, please use your best judgment when it comes to dangerous weather -- think safety first!

- A. Lightning. Our organization uses the 30 Minute Rule to determine the threat of lightning for a game and practice.
 - a. If an umpire, or anybody in attendance sees lightning - lightning is considered a threat, all participants are instructed to leave the field and seek shelter.
 - b. 30 Minutes: After seeing the last lightning strike, wait 30 minutes before leaving shelter.
 - c. If a lightning strike occurs again, the clock is reset or the umpire can rule the game is canceled (please conference with coaches)
 - d. However, even though these are general rules, if an umpire or coach feels conditions are unsafe, they have the authority to cease all activities immediately (and highly recommend to do so).

- B. Tornadoes. If the area is under a Tornado Warning/Watch all activities are automatically canceled or postponed. No exceptions.
- C. Excessive Rain and/or Snow. If the umpire feels excessive rain and/or snow is jeopardizing the health and safety for all participants they may cease activities.
- D. Excessive Heat or Freezing Temperatures. No games will take place in temperatures above 95F or below 32F.

Darkness

Please use your best judgment when calling games because of darkness. Be aware of sundown, as our fields do not have lights. Keep in mind player safety is priority.

In Closing

Thank you for umpiring. We hope this will be a positive experience for you. If you have any questions, thoughts, issues, etc. please feel free to email OCSLUmpires@gmail.com. If you have an urgent need, please feel free to call or text Jim Masie at (216) 990-1571 or use the Remind app.

Good luck!

Jim Masie
Chief of Umpires
Olmsted Umpires