

ULT Policies

I. Team Requirements For Volunteer Umpires

A. All teams from Pioneer through Western divisions have the following requirements regarding providing team umpires for the season:

- Every team is required to provide umpire coverage for 8 games
- Provide a maximum of two parent volunteers as umpires to meet team's 8-game requirement
 - Team may provide 1 parent as team's volunteer umpire
 - Single team volunteer umpire must understand they are responsible to cover team's 8-game requirement
- Any team failing to provide a legitimate parent volunteer as team umpire is required to pay the TURI requirement (currently \$800)
 - TURI fee is not expected of managers/coaches; this is a team parents fee for failure to volunteer
 - TURI fee is required at time of team equipment pickup; ULT member to be in attendance
- Umpire volunteers will be **Adults Only**
 - Youth (ages 17 or under [Seniors and below]) **cannot** be a team umpire
 - Youth (ages 14-17) can be part of PHBA's Youth Umpire Program

II. Volunteer Umpire Requirements

A. Any new parent who volunteers to umpire (Pioneer thru Western) is required to meet the following requirements:

- Attend 1 classroom clinic
- Attend 1 Field Day clinic
- Complete a minimum of 4 games (Pioneer and/or American division)

B. Completion of the above requirements will meet League Service Hours (LSH) requirements

- Failure of the parent who volunteered to be team umpire to complete the above requirements will result in forfeiture of their LSH check

III. Active Umpire Who Is A Manager/Coach Of A Team

A. Any member of the **Blue Crew** who is also a manager/coach of a team **cannot** umpire any game within that team's division.

IV. Parent Umpire Umpiring Their Child's Game

A. The only divisions in which a member of the **Blue Crew** can umpire their own child's game are Pioneer and American.

V. Parent Umpire Umpiring Their Child's Game Above American

- A. **Authorization** for any member of the **Blue Crew** to umpire their child's game at the National and Western level **must come** from either a ULT Crew Chief or Chief Umpire.

VI. Umpire Coverage For Playoff Games, Semifinal And Championship Games

- A. ULT has final determination of umpire coverage for playoff games, semifinal and Championship games.

VII. Games Counting Towards Performance/Recognition Pins/Awards

- A. All games (No Scrimmages) covered voluntarily by a PHBA umpire during the regular season, playoffs, PHBA tournaments, and Cooperstown will count towards any performance/recognition pins/awards.
 - Includes any game mentored by a senior member of the **Blue Crew or ULT**.
- B. Not counting towards performance/recognition pins/awards will be any games performed for money (includes PHBA and non-PHBA tournaments).

VIII. Ejections

- A. Any ejection must be reported by the ejecting umpire (EU) to the following people:
 - Official Scorekeeper – At the time of ejection
 - Person ejected
 - Time and inning of ejection
 - Division Crew Chief (DCC) – Immediately upon completion of the game
 - Chief Umpire (CU) – Immediately upon completion of the game.
- B. Ejecting umpire must do the following after notifying the DCC and CU of the ejection:
 - Ensure both the EU and their partner depart the field **immediately** upon completion of the game. No lingering after the game handshake.
 - Ensure any elements of the ejection are **only** discussed with their partner, the DCC, or CU.
 - The ejecting umpire will be required to complete the basic details of the ejection before leaving PHBA facilities
 - Hard copy or online Ejection Report
- C. Chief Umpire will notify the following people of the ejection:
 - Head Commissioner (HC)
 - Division Commissioner (DC) of the team involved in the ejection
 - The CU advises the HC and DC the ejection report will be submitted in 24 hours.
- D. Division Crew Chief will commence investigation of the ejection incident

- DCC will interview the ejecting umpire and the EU's partner for details surrounding the ejection. No other persons need to be interviewed about the ejection.
- Within 18 hours of the ejection, the DCC must complete their investigation and submit the Ejection Report, with their penalty recommendation, to the Chief Umpire for review.
- The Chief Umpire will review the Ejection Report and recommended penalty, seek clarification on the report from the DCC (if necessary), and submit the Ejection Report to the Head Commissioner supporting the DCC's recommendation or providing an alternative punishment.

IX. Conduct And Behavior

- A. **All members** of the *Blue Crew* will conduct themselves at all times with the highest level of professionalism and decorum as befits a PHBA umpire and the best interest of the kids and PHBA.
 - If, after proper investigation, it is determined an umpire has failed to adhere to the umpire's Code Of Conduct, the ULT will remove the umpire from the rolls of the *Blue Crew*, remove the umpire's ability to umpire games, and pursue forfeiture of their LSH.

X. ULT Composition (*Required) And Eligibility To Join Requirements

A. Basic eligibility to join ULT

- Minimum 2 years as member of Blue Crew*
- Minimum Bronze Elite status last 2 years as a Blue Crew member*
- Playoff and tournament qualified each year as Blue Crew member*
- Vetted by the ULT and Chief Umpire for eligibility*

B. Composed of minimum of 6 to a maximum of 10 members

- Chief Umpire**
- Crew Chiefs**
 - *Pioneer**
 - *American**
 - *National**
 - *Western**
 - *Rules**
- ULT Associate*
 - *1 – 4 depending on candidates*

C. Chief Umpire

- Minimum 4 years as a Blue Crew member*
- Minimum 2 years as ULT member*
- Minimum Gold Elite status as ULT member*

- Maintain Gold Elite status during tenure as Chief*
 - *Includes game credit for mentoring*

D. Crew Chief

- Minimum 3 years as a Blue Crew member*
- Minimum Silver Elite status the last 2 years as a Blue Crew member*
- Minimum 1 year as ULT Associate*
- Maintain minimum of Silver Elite status during ULT tenure*
 - *Includes game credit for mentoring*
 - *Eligible to vote on all issues put before the ULT requiring ULT approval*

E. ULT Associate

- Minimum 2 years as Blue Crew member*
- Minimum Bronze Elite status the last 2 years as a Blue Crew member*
- Playoff and tournament qualified the last 2 years as a Blue Crew member*
- Maintain minimum of Bronze Elite status during ULT tenure*
- NOT eligible to vote on any issue put before the ULT requiring ULT approval*

XI. ULT Responsibilities

A. Chief Umpire

- Elected by ULT members; confirmed by PHBA's Board Of Directors*
- Serve as Director on PHBA's Board Of Directors*
- Direct accountability for all officiating of baseball, softball, and umpire-related issues at PHBA*
 - *Authority to act as necessary in all situations involving umpires*
 - *Take actions as required to enforce rules of the game, PHBA rules and bylaws regulating umpires and the officiating of the game*
 - *Investigate umpire behavior and conduct during games and throughout season*
 - ❖ *Determine appropriate disciplinary action as necessary*
 - ❖ *Report all such action to the Board*
 - *Investigate the conditions and circumstance leading to an ejection*
 - ❖ *Based on the Division Crew Chief's investigation and Ejection Report, make recommendations to the Head Commissioner on possible courses of action for the ejected individual*
- Reports to the Head Commissioner on all officiating matters within the Chief Umpire's authority affecting PHBA*
- Recruitment, training, equipping, game coverage, performance, and retention of PHBA umpires*
- Establish, recruit, maintain, and lead the ULT for the management, administration, training, and supervision of PHBA umpires*

- Create and maintain appropriate awards and recognition program for PHBA umpires*
 - *Establish various awards and recognition programs to recognize the volunteer efforts of deserving members of the **Blue Crew***
 - ❖ *Define the criteria necessary to achieve each award*
 - *Annually identify those members of the **Blue Crew** who have met the requirements established for receiving recognition*
 - *Oversee acquisition program for acquiring the necessary awards/pins/plaques and any other items that support the awards and recognition program*
- Establish and maintain a program for outfitting PHBA umpires (shirts, hats, Plate gear, and any other items necessary to put an umpire on the field)*
 - *Oversee purchasing program for acquiring necessary umpire gear*
 - *Oversee inventory control program*

B. Crew Chief Responsibilities

- Crew Chief – Rules*
 - *Report directly to the Chief Umpire on the following:*
 - ❖ *all areas of officiating and rules at PHBA*
 - ❖ *Administration, management, training, recruiting, retention, conduct, behavior, evaluation, equipment, umpire scheduling, and game Coverage of PHBA's umpires, the **Blue Crew***
 - *During the season, routinely review PHBA's House rules for clarity and proper interpretation*
 - ❖ *From **Blue Crew** comments and ULT discussion, identify gaps in the House rules requiring new rules, rules needing clarity or modification*
 - ❖ *Work with Division Commissioners on rules specific to their division to confirm validity or possible changes to be made*
 - *In the offseason, review PHBA's House rules for the addition, removal, or modification of any rules*
 - *Identify for presentation to the ULT, possible changes to the rules*
 - ❖ *Upon confirmation from the ULT, present proposed rule changes to Board of Commissioners for their adjustments and ratification NLT 3 months prior to the beginning of the year*
 - *Maintain The "Official PHBA Baseball/Softball Rules" Page On PHBA's Website (phba.org)*
 - ❖ *Assist Board Of Commissioners With Ratification Of The "Official PHBA Baseball/Softball Rules" For Each Season*
 - ❖ *Includes Coordinating The Annual Printing Of The "Official PHBA Baseball/Softball Rules" Book After The Board Of Commissioners Ratify*

- *Maintain The Eligibility Requirements Established For Crew Chiefs To Remain On The ULT*
- *Eligible To Vote On All Issues Put Before The ULT Requiring ULT Approval*
- *Crew Chief – Division*
 - *Report Directly To The Chief Umpire On The Following:*
 - ❖ *All Areas Of Officiating And Rules At PHBA*
 - ❖ *Administration, Management, Training, Recruiting, Retention, Conduct, Behavior, Evaluation, Equipment, Umpire Scheduling, And Game Coverage Of PHBA's Umpires, The **Blue Crew***
 - *Direct Authority Over All Officiating Activities In Their Respective Divisions*
 - ❖ *Monitor, Review, And Confirm Umpires Assigned To Cover Games In Their Division.*
 - ❖ *DCC's Will Have Primary Authorization To Add, Remove, Or Reassign Umpires Covering Games In Their Divisions*
 - *Umpires Can Only Be Reassigned To Another Game Within The Same Date And Time Slot.*
 - *DCC Will Notify (Phone Call Or Text Only) Reassigned Umpire The Change In Their Game Assignment*
 - ❖ *Authorization To Add, Remove, Or Reassign Umpires May Be Extended To Other Divisions When Warranted.*
 - *Investigate All Ejections In Their Division And Submit An Ejection Report IAW With The Ejection Reporting Parameters Established In **Section F** Of The **ULT Policies**.*
 - *Maintain The Eligibility Requirements Established For Crew Chiefs To Remain On The ULT*
 - *Eligible To Vote On All Issues Put Before The ULT Requiring ULT Approval*
- *ULT Associate*
 - *ULT's Crew Chief And Chief Umpire Ascendancy Program*
 - *Report Directly To The Rules Crew Chief And Division Crew Chiefs*
 - *Support The Chief Umpire, Rules Crew Chief, And Division Crew Chiefs In The Following Areas As Assigned*
 - ❖ *Umpires, Umpire Training, Recruiting, Retention, Conduct, Behavior, Evaluation, Equipment, Umpire Scheduling, And Game Coverage*
 - *Actively Participate In At Least One ULT Meeting A Month*
 - *Maintain The Eligibility Requirements Established For Associate Crew Chiefs To Remain On The ULT*

- *Not Eligible To Vote On Any Issues Put Before The ULT Requiring ULT Approval For The First Two Years Of Their ULT Tenure Or Until Selected To Crew Chief*

XII. Cooperstown (Dreams Park or All Star Village) Requirements

The Cooperstown umpire invitation is a significant recognition from the ULT's Recognition and Awards program. The **Blue Crew** member invited to Cooperstown will join PHBA's Hawks travel or House All-Star team as the team's required umpire for this prestigious 6-day tournament at either **Cooperstown Dreams Park** (CDP) or **Cooperstown All-Star Village** (CASV). This invitation recognizes and rewards those veteran, elite members of the **Blue Crew** who, by their conduct, dedication, professionalism, and performance, the ULT feels will represent PHBA and the **Blue Crew** in the highest standards of umpiring

- A. Minimum 3 years as a member of the PHBA's **Blue Crew**
- B. Minimum Bronze Elite status each of the years as **Blue Crew** member
 - LEVEL 5 or above
 - Plate and Base qualified
 - Playoff and Tournament qualified
- C. ULT has discretion on **Blue Crew** members to be invited
- D. Any **Blue Crew** member invited to join the Hawks travel team or House All-Stars for Cooperstown will have the following costs covered by PHBA/ULT:
 - Airfare – Lowest possible rate available (*try to acquire tickets 70 days prior to departure*)
 - Car rental – Maximum 8-day rental
 - Hotel rental – For day prior to CDP/CASV check-in
 - Lodging at CDP/CASV is provided by CDP/CASV
 - ◆ Selected umpires will reside in the CDP/CASV compound
 - PHBA/ULT will not cover lodging expenses for staying offsite
 - ◆ Selected umpires may reside outside the CDP/CASV compound but will do so at their own expense
 - 1 meal going to Cooperstown*
 - 2 meals outside CDP/CASV compound during tournament period*
 - CDP/CASV provides all meals in compound
 - 1 meal returning home*
 - Admission to Baseball Hall of Fame (if not provided by CDP or CASV staff)

XIII. Background Checks and SafeSport Certification

All volunteers who successfully complete umpire training are **required** to complete a background check and SafeSport certification **before** they can work any games with the kids. This is **required by law**.

- A. Umpires will use LiveScan to complete the background check
 - All LiveScan costs to be covered by PHBA
 - Location for LiveScan background checks to be provided by ULT
 - The only exception to this is if you already completed a background check as a PHBA manager or coach.
- B. *Umpires will use (SafeSport.com????) to complete SafeSport certification*
 - All certification costs to be covered by PHBA*
 - Details for SafeSport certification to be provided by ULT*
 - There are no exceptions for SafeSport certification*
- C. ***There are NO exceptions to SafeSport certification.***
 - Required by state law for any individual having any type of continued contact with kids in any youth sports organization*