

Harrisburg Township Park District

Umpire Information

1. Requirements of a Good Umpire:
 - a. Knowledge of the Rules
 - b. Judgment
 - c. Good Mechanics and Technique
 - d. Make decisions positively and promptly
 - e. Block out spectators or tone out fans and parents...
 - f. Keep the game moving
 - g. Communicate and work with your other umpire (your partner)...

2. Getting Ready for the Game:
 - a. Keep assignment
 - b. Arrive at least 15 minutes before game start and get ready and make sure game starts on time. In recreation league, no new inning may start after 1 hour and 10 minutes.
 - c. Get with your partner and come on the field together and ready to go.
 - d. You are required to wear a respectable shirt.
 - e. Wear pants and /or shorts (Khaki, Blue, Black)
 - f. If you are the home plate umpire, you must wear chest protector, shin guards, and mask.
 - g. If a recreation league game, get coaches together and discuss any issues and make sure we start promptly. There is no longer a Bat Rule in place.
 - h. If there is a second game, do not wander off... make sure we start on time or even early if both teams are there and agree to start earlier... this is very important. No infield practice will be allowed before the start of second game.
 - i. **NO** cell phone use while game is going on.

3. Before the pitch... think like a ballplayer
 - I. Home Plate Umpire:
 - a. Proper positioning behind home plate
 - b. Stay in proper position at home plate and do NOT bail out or move out of position. This takes away your respect and authority as an umpire.
 - c. Make sure you have indicator
 - d. Make sure you have a brush for home plate
 - e. Keep home plate clean
 - f. Call out all balls and strikes and give count often and loud.
 - g. What is considered the strike zone
 - h. Silence sells calls – foul and fair balls
 - i. Make sure all your equipment goes back in storage area after each game...and take care of it... please notify us if you need anything.

 - II. Base Umpire:
 - a. Stand 10-15 feet beyond 1st base in foul territory
 - b. DO NOT stand with arms folded
 - c. Be prompt and forceful on safe or out calls
 - d. Keep track of balls, strikes, and outs...
 - e. Communicate with home plate umpire
 - f. Keep bases and pitchers plate clean
 - g. Positioning for call at 2nd base and 3rd base... are there different positions for baseball and softball for field umpire?

4. Special Rules:
 - a. 12U Boys & 12U Girls
 1. Maximum number of runs scored each half inning is 5.
 2. Dropped 3rd strike by the catcher, batter will be out.
 3. Game length is one hour forty-five minutes. No new inning will start after one hour ten minutes.
 4. No stealing allowed.
 5. May advance one base on a wild pitch or a passed ball.
 6. Boys only – leads off bases – lines will be placed on field.
 7. Pitching distance: Boys 44 feet
Girls 35 feet
 - b. 9U Boys & 9U Girls
 1. Dropped 3rd strike by the catcher, batter will be out.
 2. Maximum number of runs scored each half inning is 5.
 3. Game length is one hour thirty minutes. No new inning will start after one hour ten minutes.
 4. No walk rule: if pitcher walks batter then coach will be allowed to throw 3 strikes or hittable balls to the batter. Have umpire stay in position to call the pitch and if batter doesn't swing at a hittable pitch then a strike will be called.
 5. No stealing bases.
 6. No advancing any bases on a wild pitch or passed ball.
 7. Pitching distance: Boys 40 feet
Girls 30 feet
5. Important Reminders:
 - a. Know the rules
 - b. Be timely
 - c. Take pride in what you are doing.
 - d. If you are **NOT** dependable you will not be asked to umpire again. Be responsible.
6. You will be paid by the Harrisburg Township Park District. You may pick up your check from the previous weeks work on the following Tuesday at noon or after. The Park Office closes at 4:00 PM.

Contacts:

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The following is EXPECTED of all persons officiating in the baseball/softball program:

1. Learn and abide by the league rules. List of rules is at www.harrisburgpark.net/sportrules
2. Become familiar with concussion awareness. Additional information is available at www.harrisburgpark.net/concussion-info
3. Become familiar with child abuse awareness. Additional information is available at www.harrisburgpark.net/abusedchildren
4. Treat players, coaches, fans, and parents with RESPECT. Teach and show sportsmanship at all times.
5. Umpire shall NOT use alcohol, tobacco products, or use of inappropriate language while at any Park facility. No firearms are allowed on Park property.
6. Umpire Information Page - <http://www.harrisburgpark.net/umpires>

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