



Umpire Policy

Revised December 7, 2016

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Roadrunner Little League recognizes that a quality umpiring program is essential to ensure a safe and fun experience for all athletes, spectators, and game administrators. Roadrunner Little League recognizes that a quality umpire development program enhances the overall skill level and quality of umpiring.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

1. Set forth requirements for umpiring league games.
2. Encourage participation of volunteer umpires.
3. Define rules of conduct for interaction with umpires.

Umpire Assignments: For regular season games, all team managers or their delegates are responsible for providing umpires. The home team is responsible for providing a plate umpire and the away team is responsible for providing the field umpire. For end of season tournament games, the division VP in conjunction with the Chief Umpire will be responsible for umpire assignments. Managers and coaches may be required to umpire end of season tournaments at the discretion of the division VP and Chief Umpire.

Umpire Training and Development: The Chief Umpire is responsible for providing annual training to all umpires. The Chief Umpire is responsible for evaluating the performance of volunteer umpires and providing constructive feedback to continuously develop the umpire pool.

Substitute Umpires: The Chief Umpire shall maintain a list of available substitute umpires. Teams requesting a substitute umpire must contact the Chief Umpire to request a substitute. If a substitute umpire is not available for game coverage, the team is still responsible for providing their umpire.

Umpire Approval Requirements: All umpires must be a minimum of 14 years old. All youth umpires must complete the umpire clinic annually and be approved by the Chief Umpire prior to umpiring ANY games at Roadrunner Little League. All adult umpires must be approved by the Safety Officer, Chief Umpire, and have successfully completed a background check. Teams using unapproved umpires are subject to disciplinary action by the Roadrunner Little League Board.

Additional age requirements are as follows:

Division	Plate	Field
TBall	14 years old	14 years old
Rookie	14 years old	14 years old
Minor	14 years old	14 years old
Major	16 years old	14 years old
Junior	16 years old	16 years old
Senior / Big League	18 years old	18 years old



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Adult Game Coordinators: In accordance with rule 9.03 (d); if all umpires are minors (under 18 years old), then an adult coordinator must be used or the game cannot be played. See Little League playing rules for more information. Team managers from both teams must provide a game coordinator, as necessary, for duties as outlined in the official playing rules.

Spectator interaction with umpires: Spectators must enter every game with the understanding that missed calls may happen and that some of those calls may influence the outcome of the game. There is to be **NO** questioning or comments from the spectators regarding umpire calls or performance. There is to be **NO** questioning of umpires after games. If any spectator has concerns about the performance of any umpire, then those concerns are to be addressed to the Chief Umpire for resolution.

Manager/Coach interaction with umpires: Coaches must recognize that their actions on the field are viewed by players and spectators of both teams, and that all actions must be above reproach. Any and all communications with umpire shall be done in a respectful and deferential manner. Team managers are expected to exercise control of their teams and spectators. Any concerns about the performance of an umpire shall be addressed with the Chief Umpire.

- Judgment calls shall never be questioned.
- Rule interpretations may be questioned, but only in a quiet and respectful manner as outlined in the Little League official rules.
- Questions must be addressed to the umpire who made the call. Demanding that an umpire “seek help” from another umpire is not acceptable. Umpires have equal authority on the field, and may not over rule each other.
- Yelling across the field to an umpire regarding calls is not acceptable. Request time-out to approach the umpire and discuss the situation in a respectful and conversational manner.
- Absolutely no threatening behavior directed towards or about an umpire.
- Absolutely no form of verbal abuse shall be directed at or about an umpire.
- Absolutely no touching, bumping, or any other form of physical abuse directed towards an umpire.

Teams that violate the standards of umpire interaction are subject to disciplinary action by the Roadrunner Little League Board.