

2026 Umpire Info Meeting





Welcome

Joel Miller - Baseball Umpire Assigner

Eric Pittman - Umpire Trainer

Registration - <https://www.playinfo.org/baseballumpires>





Welcome

Agenda

- **What to expect**
- **What we expect**
- **Umpire Levels and Advancement**
- **Game Assignment**
- **Uniforms**
- **Equipment Distribution - April 12 and April 14th**
- **Game Conduct/Expectations**
- **Game Knowledge and Education**
- **Q&A**



Umpires- What to Expect

- Umpires are paid contractors working for PLAY and will be managed as employees
- There is a distinction between an umpire for PLAY and a player/participant within a PLAY athletic program
- Policies, procedures, and other aspects of the athletics programs of PLAY (example the 24-hour rule, parent communications, etc.) does not apply to individuals while working as an umpire unless specifically detailed in the handbook
- This is an employer/employee relationship



Umpires- What to Expect

- Umpires under 14 years old
 - Interviewed prior to training
 - Potential for a limited number of 13 year olds in the program
 - Numbers will be determined once we know the total umpire crew size and experience.



Umpires- What to Expect

- Games are typically scheduled Monday - Sunday
 - Monday - Friday times are typically from 5-10PM
 - Saturday and Sunday are typically from 8am-8pm(Tournaments)
- Summer Games/scrimmages start in late April
- Summer season ends in Mid to Late July
- Fall Season runs roughly from September through Mid October
 - Fall games are generally Sunday Only.



Umpires - What to Expect

2026 Pay Rates

- In-house: \$45.00/game
- 9-11u Travel: \$70/game
- 12u Travel: \$75/game
- 13-15u Travel: \$80/game

All Travel Tournaments paid at \$80/game regardless of age.

Payroll is processed on the 15th and last day of the Month- Starting in May.



Communications

- All Umpires must have a personal email (not parents), cell phone, Assignr app
- Assignr App – <https://www.assignr.com> – Used for the majority of all umpire messages, scheduler messages, work related notes
- Personal Email for individual contact – assessments, incident follow-ups, reports, etc...
 - Umpire email
 - Assignr push notifications for urgent messages
- Cell phone – Urgent reach out by text or call.
 - SAVE the scheduler's number as a contact, treat that as a top priority to respond.





Communications

- PLAY expects the communications to be directly to the umpires
- Umpires will communicate with PLAY with regards to umpire business
- Parent communications regarding umpire assignments, status, issues, etc... will be deferred unless the umpire is in the direct communication loop
 - Any/All phone calls will have the umpire on the line

If you as an umpire cannot communicate on your own behalf, how do you plan to officiate a baseball game by yourself?



Umpire Levels

- Umpire Levels
- Levels will determine an umpire's assignments and are based on:
 - Umpire experience
 - Umpire knowledge
 - Umpire performance/feedback
 - Umpire conduct/professionalism
 - PLAY Umpire Leadership Discretion

In most cases, umpires will not be assigned to a grade level the same or higher than their age (13/14 yr. olds)

A 14 yr. old will not umpire 14U+ games



Umpire Levels

Three Levels

- Level 1: In-House
- Level 2: Travel League Games
- Level 3: Travel Tournaments



Umpire Levels – Advancement

- Level 1: In-House
 - All first year start here
 - All first-year umps, under the age of 15, starting assignment will be 3rd grade in-house.
- Level 2: Travel League
 - First year 15+ yrs. old will be assessed for assignment readiness
- Level 3: Tournaments
 - Umpires must work a minimum of 4 league games, with positive feedback.



Umpire Levels – Notes

- Advancing to Level 3 does not guarantee that you will be assigned exclusively Level 3 games
- Umpires are expected to work the games assigned as needed, this means In-House through travel level
- No umpire is entitled to request any assignment level
 - *If you are available in Assignr, you will work the game assigned*

The goal is to get umpires as many games as possible at the highest pay level available.



Additional Opportunities

- MBT State Tournaments – PL Hosted - (9AAA July 17-19th)
- August Classic
- Fall Baseball
- Club tournaments
- In-House Year End
- And potential for more...



Game Assignments

- Assignments are based on Availability
 - You control your availability within AssignR.
- If your availability changes-Immediately update your availability in AssignR.
- When assigned a game you have the option to “Accept OR Deny”

Avoid Denying games.

- Mistakes happen, but it is HIGHLY important to keep you schedule accurate
- When you make a mistake “Own It” - Connect with Joel Immediately.



Game Assignments

- Each Monday Games are assigned.
- If today is Monday the 16th We will be scheduling the week of the 23rd.
- Weekly schedules run Monday through Sunday.

Start a routine each Sunday of updating your schedule for the next week.



Uniforms

- Partial uniforms and equipment are provided by PLAY
 - Blue shirt, helmet/mask, pads
 - Bag, clicker, plate brush, equipment bag
 - Limited amount of umpire pants and gear bags available (reserved for returning umps)
- \$100 deposit check on pickup, shredded on return in good condition, cashed for unreturned/damaged equipment
- **Equipment distribution: April 12, 2026 2-4pm**
April 14, 2026 6-7pm



Uniforms

- Umpires responsible for
 - PL Umpire Hat - Wore Pre/post game and Field umps.
 - Pants – Dark gray/black in color
 - No shorts ever for plate umps
 - No athletic pants or jeans
 - Belt for ball bag
 - Shoes – preferred black (Athletic or Umpire shoes)
 - No crocs, slides, sandals, etc...
- Shirt tucked into pants.
- Look professional



Game Conduct

- Professionalism on/off the field
- Home plate meeting before every game
 - Verify time limits, pitch counts, clarify rules and set expectations as an umpire to coach/team conduct
 - *YOU CONTROL THE GAME*
- Cell phone use is prohibited except for clock and rules check during games.



Game Conduct Enforcement

- Coaches will push the limits
- Spectators will push the limits
 - Noisemakers
 - Profanity
 - Umpire Engagement
- Warn directly, warn the head coach, eject for cause
 - Spectators' ejection also eject the head coach
 - If you are uncomfortable with a situation place a warning.
- MBL adding to the scoring submission ejection question



Game Knowledge

- All umpires are expected to know the rules of the level of game they are officiating as completely as possible.
- Prior Lake, MBT, NFHS knowledge
- Main areas to focus on but not limited to:
 - Field time limits/age
 - Innings
 - Unique rules for age and level 9U locked 3rd base
 - Age based leadoff rules
 - Balks etc.

EDUCATION

Umpire on Field training.

Tuesday April 14th, 8-9pm

Thursday April 16th, 8-9pm

Location: Savage Sports Dome

Umpires should plan to attend one if not both of these sessions.



Contact

- Joel Miller
- Umpire Scheduler
 - baseballumpires@playinfo.org

Phone/Text # 612-424-0007