

2015 Junior Umpire Program Protocols for Managers

The protocols listed below are only for those divisions that use the Junior Umpires.

American- Baseball
Minors - Softball

Overview: Great Valley Little League has a sizable Junior Umpire Program that has, on average, 35-50 annual participants. The program was established for current registered GVLL players with a playing age of 12 and up and covers the American Baseball Division and the Minors Softball Division. The goals for the program are as follows: 1) to enhance the rules knowledge of our career/older players; 2) to give our career players a better appreciation for the difficulty umpires face when calling games; 3) inter-division connectivity between our younger and older players; 4) additional outdoor activity for our career players.

Appropriate Conduct: All Managers and Parents should have signed the Parent Conduct Code prior at the start of the season. The conduct of the parents of your players and your coaching staff are YOUR responsibility as the Manager. Under NO circumstance, will verbal berating of the Junior umpires be tolerated. Excited utterances are one thing, but continued chirping about a bad call long after its over is unacceptable at this level of play. It is your responsibility to handle the issue and address the coach or parent. These umpires are also players of GVLL. Many are also learning the intricacies of being umpires. Unfortunately, judgment calls, right or wrong, are part of this great sport. Please be extremely mindful of the age of the umpires and the difficult job they have calling the games.

Issues with Umpires: Any issues related to the Junior umpires should be addressed to both your Division Commissioner and the Umpires Director who will address it with the umpire. This includes, no show umpires, extremely poor performance, inappropriate conduct, and inattention to the game (texting during game play). Please submit a brief e---mail with the game specifics, the issue, and the name of the umpire (extremely important as we track umpires with multiple complaints).

Fees: The home team Manager is responsible for paying the umpires. The fee is \$15 each for a 2 umpire team and \$25 if there is only a single umpire. Please complete the Umpire Payment Form for the Junior Umpire Program (not TUG) and submit the receipts as directed by your Division Commissioner or the League Treasurer.

Scheduling Games: All game scheduling and rescheduling must be done by the Umpires Director. Managers and Commissioners should not contact umpires directly regarding game changes without first checking with the Umpires Director.

Cancellations: The Umpires Director must be notified of all game changes and cancellations. Weather related cancellations are usually well communicated although there have been times when some fields ultimately are not playable. The

Responsible Board Member: Umpires Director
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Umpires Director will make contact with the Junior Umpires. Keep in mind there are GVLL parents driving these umpires to the fields. Any game cancelled after the umpires show, full payment is required. The most important cancellations are those where the Managers agree in advance to cancel or move a game (Communion weekends, etc). The Umpires Director must be advised of this to notify the umpires.

No Shows: This is a rare circumstance and is one of the reasons we schedule 2 umpires for all games. If this occurs, please call the Umpires Director immediately. If you do not receive a call back within 10 minutes, contact your Division Commissioner.

Forfeits: The Junior Umpires have been instructed to call any game that maybe played. If it's an unofficial game, they will call a game/scrimmage for up to 2 hours of play time.

Safety: The Junior umpires have been advised that they are expected to address player safety issues (swinging bats in the dugout, etc). They are instructed that if there is a parent safety issue (encroachment onto the field for pictures seems to be the main issue) they will report this issue to the Manager to address with the parent. As for the umpires safety, they are not allowed to call from behind the plate unless they have all mandatory gear. Each field has a mask, chest protector and shin guards in the lock box. At times, the equipment has ended up in a gear back and goes missing. If they cannot find substitute equipment, they MUST call the game from behind the pitcher.

Issues Arising During the Game: This is most often related to Division Rules and strike zone. Please go over the Division specific rules during the pre-game ground rules meeting. Things such as inning run limit, advancing bases, infield fly rule should be discussed. Also, note who is responsible (run maximum is usually handled by the Managers). The Junior Umpires have been instructed to call a strike zone that is 1 to 2 baseballs larger than the higher levels. The teaching is that you want the ball to be put in play, but not create bad batting habits. Please discuss expectations before the game. If, during the game, both Managers agree that they want the strike zone adjusted (too many walks, no one is swinging the bat), please discuss with the umpires at the end of a full inning.

Umpires Director: Matt Wilson
Cell – 610-348-1563
Email: gvllumpires@gmail.com