



Little League Baseball Canada Regional Tournaments

Umpire Operations



Stronger umpires = A better game = A better experience



Governing Documents

- ▶ Umpire Policy
- ▶ Tournament Policy

- ▶ Others that have been created
 - LLBC Uniform Standard
 - LLBC Umpire Code of Conduct
 - LLBC Crew Checklist
 - LLBC Evaluation Rubric and Report Form
 - LLBC How to Receive an Evaluation



General Expectations

- ▶ On field officials are a representative of LL Canada
- ▶ Be familiar with and follow the governing documents e.g. uniform policy
- ▶ Work with players, team and tournament personnel in a professional manner
- ▶ Work with off field personnel in a professional and efficient manner
- ▶ Follow decorum protocols e.g. national anthems, LL pledge, entry to and from the field



Uniform

- ▶ LL black hat
- ▶ LL black shirt
 - LLC umpire *patch* on left shoulder
 - LLC Corporate logo on back at collar
- ▶ Charcoal grey pants
- ▶ 1.75" black belt
- ▶ Black athletic shoes



See uniform standard document

Photo credit - M. Alenius



Travel

- ▶ Umpires travelling to a tournament site are responsible for their own costs
- ▶ Once at the tournament site, hosts are responsible for accommodations and two meals per day*
- ▶ Travel around the host city can usually be arranged amongst the umpire crew



Media

- ▶ CBC (LL)
- ▶ Local media
- ▶ Be media aware but not consumed by media presence
- ▶ Appearance requests – facilitated via Tournament Director or UIC
- ▶ Appearances would only be granted if umpires were depicted appropriately
 - E.g. baseball mud segment 2017



Tournament Events

- ▶ Media Day and equipment checks
- ▶ Coaches meeting
- ▶ Umpire meeting
- ▶ Opening Ceremonies
- ▶ Official photos
- ▶ Banquet
- ▶ Challenger Game

* Not an exhaustive list



How evaluation works

- ▶ Umpire evaluators are present on behalf of LL Canada
- ▶ Evaluators are there for the purpose of umpire development and consistency across the country
- ▶ Evaluators will provide feedback and support to on field officials – based on LL Canada Rubric and LL international content
- ▶ Evaluators do not have an official capacity in the operations of the tournament e.g. protests



Rotations and Mechanics

- ▶ Little League University
 - <https://www.littleleague.org/university/umpires/>

- ▶ Clockwise rotation



Evaluation Rubric

Mechanics					
Stance	Plate: Footwork, Head Height, Slot positioning, Adjustments, Square to pitcher. Base: Square to play with head and shoulders, Balanced, Hands on knees or standing.	The umpire shows inconsistency in stance and is either unable or unwilling to improve their stance throughout the championship.	The umpire shows inconsistency in stance but works hard to improve their stance and makes positive strides throughout the championship.	The umpire's stance is generally sound. The umpire works on suggestions throughout the championship	The umpire shows confidence and consistency demonstrating proper mechanics, throughout all aspects of the game including calling pitches and between innings
Signals	Are the signals clearly visible? Are the signals crisp and assertive? Does the umpire sell the call when required?	Umpire's signals are weak and do not improve with suggestions from debriefing.	Signals are inconsistent throughout the game, umpire gives unnecessary signals	Umpire's signals are appropriate throughout the entire championship regardless of the situation.	Umpire continuously demonstrating sharp, consistent, crisp, assertive (when required) signals.
Voice	Does the umpire use an appropriate voice when calling balls and strikes? Does the umpire fluctuate their voice when emphasizing close calls? Does the umpire's voice demonstrate confidence?	The umpire had no improvements throughout the championship with voice control. E.g. Too loud, too quiet, not verbalizing when needed.	The umpire shows minor improvements throughout the championship however still requires work at the end of the championship.	Umpire demonstrates appropriate voice at variety of situations.	Umpire uses voice to manage and control situations as they arise.
Footwork	Does the base umpire correctly use a read step? Is the umpiring cross-stepping or back-peddling? Is the umpire continually moving or do they let the play dictate their movement? Do they utilize and understand the working area?	Umpire requires improvement in the mobility to keep up with the pace of the game.	Umpires can be found "behind" the play. E.g.: Last minute movements to be in a basic position.	Umpire keeps up with the play and uses appropriate footwork to get where they need to be.	Umpire moves well, staying ahead of the play, shows good instincts consistently knowing where the play will take them.
Positioning/Angles	Is the umpire in the correct starting position? Is the umpire the correct distance from the play in making a call? Does the umpire read 'pressure' when appropriate? Is the umpire getting a better angle versus distance? Is the umpire making adjustments not to get blocked out on a play? Plate umpire getting the correct position for plays at the plate?	Umpire is consistently out of position early in the championship and does not show improvement as the championship goes on.	Umpire is occasionally out of position early in the championship but shows improvement as the championship goes on.	Umpire is consistently in correct position and shows instinct and anticipation of plays. Helps partners to be in the right position as needed.	Umpire is consistently in the correct position, they work to get the best angle and "extra" look at a play, they seek opportunities to use advanced mechanics



Evaluation Rubric cont'd

- ▶ 4 categories
 - Needs improvement
 - Developing
 - Effective
 - Excelling
- ▶ Developing is where umpires are expected to be
- ▶ Umpires rated for each game into a category for that game only
- ▶ At the end of the tournament an umpire is given an overall rating



World Series Selection

- ▶ Umpire evaluator reviews umpire performance with each member of of the crew
- ▶ Umpire evaluator submits reports to LL Canada umpire committee
- ▶ All umpires that received an “effective” or higher rating are considered for a WS assignment the following year
- ▶ WS selections are made by the LL Canada umpire committee at their annual fall meeting

Questions?

