

Umpires Clinic/Meeting

Introductions – Greg

PREGAME

1. When to arrive at the ballpark: **NO** later than 15 minutes prior to game-time; however, 30 minutes would be preferable, especially for the umpires working the lower fields, and they won't know that until they arrive. We are in the "new" umpires shack, up the stairs above our previous location. If you cannot make a scheduled game, please let Justin or Greg know as **EARLY** as possible. We realize things come up, but please do not have to make us call you to see if you are on the way. We both carry cell phones, and are very accessible!!!
2. **Uniforms** – DBLL provides hat and t-shirts (NAVY SHIRTS, BLACK HATS this season!), and masks, chest protectors and shin guards; umpire is responsible for belt, bag clicker, shorts / pants (grey, black or khaki), and dark shoes (**NO** Spikes). **HIGHLY** recommend cups!! Please make every attempt to look neat when you take the field; shirts tucked in, hats on properly (**NO** backwards hats), etc. Be sure you have everything when you head to the field, including game balls, score book **AND** pitch count sheets!!
3. **Head to the Field** You need to be at the field approximately 10 minutes prior to game time (give yourself PLENTY of time!). Find the Home Team coach and ask them who their score-keeper is. Also, find out who will be keeping the pitch count, and give them the form. IF the teams are taking infield practice, that needs to be **OVER at 5** minutes before game time!!
4. **Pre-game coaches meeting** – approximately 5 minutes before actual game-time, call the coaches or representative (including players!) to Home Plate. Home plate umpire: introduce your self and the field umpire, proceed to the following:
 - Ground Rules – self explanatory – be sure gates are closed!
 - Sliding – be sure the coaches have their kids sliding into bases and home plate – No head-first except back into the bag;
 - Equipment – be sure it's behind the fence or in the dugout
 - **NO** on-deck batters, including in the bullpens!!!
 - Bullpens – Pitchers and players coming in for defense may warm up
 - Balls and Strikes – remind coaches there will be no conversations regarding balls and strikes during the game – if they want to know the location of a pitch, ask in an appropriate manner!!
 - Remind coaches to have players hustle on and off the fields
 - Length of games – Let coaches know the length of the game, and let them know that the time starts when the Home team takes the field before the 1st inning
 - Ask if there are any questions. If not, shake hands, and have Home Team take the field
 - Start the game timer (80 minutes Minors and Majors; 90 minutes Juniors)

IN-GAME – FIELD MECHANICS

1. Positioning – both home and field umpires
2. Hand mechanics:
 - Balls, strikes, outs, infield fly
 - Signaling other umpires, including check swings, outs, lost count
 - Clicker – **LEFT** hand (Do not constantly look at clicker!)
 - Timeouts – Be sure ball is dead!!
 - Third Strike – Be sure you are **NOT** showing up the players!!
3. Volume – when to say something and when not to!!
4. Calling a game on time limit – Be sure we have a complete game. That means the home team bats if they are behind; if home team is ahead, it is the discretion of the umpire if you allow them to bat. If you let the Home team bat, and they are ahead, be sure to let the Coach know that you will call the game on the time limit!!
5. Field Attitude – Try in every instance to handle yourself with dignity when you are on the field. Know how to talk to coaches, and **WHEN** to talk to coaches. Know how to handle questions from players, and most importantly, **DO NOT** have **RABBIT EARS**. You don't have to listen to every word said. Sometime, coaches, players and fans are just letting out frustration. Know the difference between someone being mad at themselves, and mad at you. **No umpire will be talked to in a derogatory manner; nor will threats, either physical or verbal, be tolerated.** That cannot happen, and needs to be reported **IMMEDIATELY**. That is when action needs to be taken, by either yourself, Justin, Greg, or Jeff. If the situation ever arises where you think a coach or player or fan needs to be ejected, please be sure the circumstances warrant such action, and again, immediately find one of the Supervisors (Justin, Greg, Jeff).

POST GAME

1. After the 1st game, please advise the next game coaches that you will be back in just a few minutes. Be sure the score book gets to the new Home Team, and that the next Home Team also has a pitch count sheet. **TRY** to get back to the field by 5 minutes before the next game to have the coaches meeting.
2. After the 2nd game, **be sure the score book AND the pitch count sheets** get back to the umpires shack. Also, please be sure the game timer is back at the shack. Be sure that any water bottles, Gatorade bottles that you took to the field are cleaned up.

COMPENSATION

Umpires are paid per game. You will always be scheduled two games per night, barring unforeseen circumstances. If the games are rained out prior to start time, you will not be paid. If we are in the middle of games, and they are “weathered out”, you will be paid for the whole game.

COMPENSATION (Cont)

Per-game compensation starts with your last years pay (either summer or fall) for existing umpires. New umpires will be paid according to their experience / skill level. We will work with the Board to see if we can get raises approximately 3 to 4 weeks into the season. Pay checks will either be direct-deposited, or brought to the ballfield.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Weather** – The Home Plate umpire is the umpire in charge for the individual field. **Lightning:** If either umpire sees lightning in the vicinity, please suspend play immediately by sending both teams **OFF OF THE FIELD** (Field umpire should immediately call timeout and consult the Home plate umpire if they sees the lightning. The Home Plate umpire calls for suspension of play). Immediately find Justin, Greg, Jeff, or the Board Member-of-the-Night (check with concession stand personell). As a group, we will determine if the game needs to be cancelled, or just postponed. Please be sure that the lightning is close enough to render suspension, however, don't take any chances. **Rain:** If the field becomes dangerous (the mound gets slick, or the bases become treacherous), suspend play by sending teams to the dugout. Again, find Justin, Greg, Jeff or the Board Member-of-the-Night (so designated by their shirt). As a group, we will determine if the game needs to be cancelled, or just postponed. Rainouts prior to gametime: Please check the website, http://dbll.clubspaces.com/Default_css.aspx, or sign up with **KOMU** for text alerts. We will try hard to call the umpires scheduled, but the alerts will be out before we can make the call!

2. **Concession Stand** – Umpires get food and drink for half price. **Please, do not go into the concession stand!!** If you need something, but do not have time to stand in line, knock on the door and identify yourself as an umpire and ask for water, etc. There should be a Board Member on duty. Justin, Jeff and/or Greg are allowed into the concession stand, if other material is needed.

3. If as an umpire you ever need to talk to someone about a particular incident, a particular play or call, a coach, the number of games you are scheduled, anything, **PLEASE** see Justin, Greg or Jeff. That is mostly what we are here for. We can work situations out. We have 40+ umpires this summer, so you might not always get the number of games you may want. We will do everything in our power to even things out, and as situations arise, work them out!!! Communication is the only way we will know if there is a problem!! **Justin cell-573-673-9414, Greg cell-573-999-9572, Jeff cell-573-529-7259**

4. Pitch Hit and Run-Saturday, unsure of date at this time...need some umps to help with judging. If you can make it please try and come help out.

5. Games will begin on Monday, April 30. Opening Day is Saturday, May 12th. It is really a fun day, so even if you cannot umpire, plan on getting to the ballpark for the bar-b-que, raffle, etc. It's a lot of fun!!

6. We will be hosting some post season tournaments this summer and selections for those will be made at the end of the season. The tournaments run in early July, and Justin, Greg and Jeff will select the post season umpires, based on the leagues DBLL is hosting, umpires experience, performance on the field, etc. Umpires will be notified if they have been selected for post season. Post season umpires will receive their personal uniform shirt and hat.