

Umpire Guidelines

North Issaquah, Washington, Little League

Before the Game — Meet at home plate

- Introduce plate and base umpires, managers/coaches
- Receive official lineup cards from each team
- Discuss any local playing rules (time limit, playing boundaries, etc.)
- Discuss the strike zone
- Discuss unsportsmanlike conduct by the players
- Discuss the innings pitched by a pitcher rule
- Clarify calling the game due to weather or darkness
- Inspect playing field for unsafe conditions
- Discuss legal pitching motions or balks, if needed
- Discuss no head-first slides, no on-deck circle rules
- Get two game balls from home team
- Be sure players are not wearing any jewelry
- Be sure players are in uniform (shirts in, hats on)
- Inspect equipment for damage and to meet regulations
- Ensure that games start promptly

During the Game — Umpires and Coaches

- Encourage coaches to help speed play by having catchers and players on the bench prepared and ready to take the field with two outs
- Make sure catchers are wearing the proper safety equipment
- Continually monitor the field for safety and playability
- Pitchers warming up in foul territory must have a spotter and catcher with full equipment
- Keep game moving — one minute or eight pitches to warm up the pitcher between innings or in case of mid-inning replacement
- Make calls loud and clear, signalling each properly
- Umpires should be in position to make the call
- No protesting of any judgment calls by the umpire
- Managers are responsible for keeping their fans and players on their best behavior
- Encourage everyone to think “Safety First!”