

# COVID-19 Umpiring Notes 03/25/21

Our first priority is safety. Safety of the children, coaches, and umpires. These protocols are in effect to protect everyone.

This document may be updated periodically as we evolve the protocols.

- COVID-19 mask is required for all umpires at all times.
- **Lineups:** Since all our leagues are using continuous batting order (CBO), the need for the plate umpire to handle paper lineups from the managers is greatly diminished. You may obtain paper lineups if you want, but you are not required. If anyone has done a game with me, you know I have my personal lineup cards which I transcribe the coaches often randomly sized sheet of paper into a standard sized lineup card. It's up to you.
- **Baseballs:** Only the defensive team will handle the baseballs. As a team comes out on defense, they will bring a baseball. Replacement baseballs will come from the defensive dugout. When the defensive team departs the field at the end of the half-inning, they take the baseball with them. The new defensive team brings out their own baseball. Umpires should never need to touch the baseball. Managers/coaches should inspect the baseballs for game worthiness.
- **Umpire Equipment:** We will not be sharing umpire masks, chest protectors, or shin guards this year. If you have your own equipment you can assume your position behind the plate. If not, you'll be calling from behind the mound. Shared indicators and plate brushes are available in the score sheds and should be wiped down before and after use.
- **Equipment Inspection:** We still need to check batting helmets, catcher's helmets, and bats. This should be the process: Sanitize your hands (sanitizers are available at the doors of the dugouts), inspect equipment for one side, sanitize your hands, inspect equipment for the other side, sanitize your hands again. Handle bats by the barrel and avoid touching the handles.
- **Umpires are not the COVID police.** Teams should be monitoring their players and enforcing protocols. Fans are not your responsibility. If you observe unsafe behavior on the field, please bring it to the attention of managers.
- **Get vaccinated as soon as you're eligible.**
- Almaden COVID-19 protocols are available on the Almaden Little League web site ([www.almadenll.org](http://www.almadenll.org))