

# District 12 Little League Junior Umpire Program

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*Working in the pursuit of a better game. Practice makes permanent.*

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***Character – Competency - Commitment***



## **ARTICLE I – GOALS**

## **ARTICLE II – LEVELS AND THEIR DEFINITION**

## **ARTICLE III – AGE REQUIREMENTS & COMMUNICATION**

## **ARTICLE IV – SAFETY OF THE JUNIOR UMPIRE**

## **Article I.        GOALS**

**Section 1.01** Provide the guidelines and expectations set for Junior Umpires and their desired development. Outlined are the levels of a Junior Umpire and requirements to achieve each level and the procedure for promotions to assist in ensuring the individual growth and desire to continue to become a District Umpire, but most importantly an Umpire able to umpire anywhere in Little League through adulthood.

**Section 1.02** Encourage the recruitment and retention of Junior Umpires by providing a clear and decisive program which outlines the expectations and opportunities for a Junior Umpire.

**Section 1.03** Promote standards so that officials can set goals and paths to achieve them.

**Section 1.04** Ensure the Safety and Protection of all Junior Umpires at any age in the program.

## **Article II.        LEVELS AND THEIR DEFINITION**

**Section 2.01** Junior Umpires shall be graded at 1 of 3 different levels. Each level will outline the requirement to achieve the level and how an official can meet those requirements.

**Section 2.02** All requirements must be met in order to reach the stated level.

**Section 2.03** A waiver may be submitted to the District UIC to waive a requirement for a reasonable and substantiate reason. The District UIC will consult with at least two (2) staff umpires for input prior to approving or denying the waiver.

- (a) The only requirement that cannot be waived is the minimum age to move out of the Junior Umpire program. Legal age of 18 years must be reached by any person.

**Section 2.04** Level J3

- (a) Level J3 shall be designated to any out of state Junior Umpires who need evaluation for placement at higher levels
- (b) Level J3 shall be designated to any new Junior Umpire who has none/limited prior officiating experience
- (c) Level J3 official shall be at least 10 years of age and meet the following criteria
  - (i) Have the ability to have their parent or guardian transport them to and from games or coordinate such transportation with a District Umpire only.
  - (ii) Be at games at minimum 45 minutes early
  - (iii) Acknowledge communication with their adult partner umpire (via email, phone or text message) 48 hours before game time to confirm game time location and uniform
  - (iv) Be willing to start learning the rules and regulations that apply to the game they are working.
  - (v) Be willing to attend the next available mechanics/rules training session offered by the District or other local Little League training in the area.
  - (vi) Be assigned and work with a mentor (District Umpire)

- (vii) Is willing to listen and learn to honest but softly given constructive criticism knowing that they will grow from that.
- (viii) For ages 12 and under, is willing to have parents present if necessary during coaching/mentoring sessions before or after a game with their partner.
- (ix) May officiate in either baseball or softball.

#### **Section 2.05 Level J2**

- (a) Level J2 umpire shall have completed all the criteria for a level J3 prior to consideration at this level
- (b) In addition, a Level J2 umpire shall meet the following criteria
  - (i) Been a level J3 umpire for a least a year
  - (ii) Have attended at least 1 mechanics clinic in the last year and willing to attend another clinic in the next year (does not need to be little league clinics but is recommended)
  - (iii) Have attended a Little League rules clinic last year and be willing to attend another rules clinic in the next year (needs to be at least 1 little league clinic)
  - (iv) District Umpire or approved Local League UIC confirms the Junior Umpire officiates in a satisfactory manner.
  - (v) Be willing to work during All-Star and State Tournaments if possible and schedule permits.
  - (vi) It's understandable that an umpire may have a preference of officiating either Baseball or Softball for any given reason. To gain knowledge and skill as a complete Little League Umpire, the Junior Umpire shall be strongly encouraged to umpire in both baseball and softball a minimum of two times each during a given season to gain experience in both specific sports.
  - (vii) To maintain J2 level umpire status, the Junior Umpire shall be willing to have a District Umpire other than their mentor evaluate them for continuous improvement purposes.

#### **Section 2.06 Level J1**

- (a) Level J1 umpire shall have completed all the criteria for a Level J2 & J3 prior to consideration at this level
- (b) In addition, a Level J1 umpire shall meet the following criteria
  - (i) Have 3 evaluations from at least 2 different district evaluating umpires, with an average rating of 6 or greater.
  - (ii) Actively assist in All-Star tournaments and State Tournaments in other districts across the state
- (c) A Level J1 umpire: upon passing their evaluations will receive an award at the Spring Pre-Season District 12 Umpire Clinic each Spring and may also be awarded the opportunity to Officiate The District 12 Season Opening All-Star Game.
- (d) A Level J1 must have an evaluation at least once a year with at least a rating of 6 or better.

## **Article III.     AGE REQUIREMENTS & COMMUNICATION**

### **Section 3.01 Game Eligibility**

- (a) A Junior Umpire...
  - (i) Shall be eligible to officiate a game for which they are older than the age group for which the game is being played.
  - (ii) Shall not be eligible to officiate a game for which they are younger than the age group for which the game is being played.
  - (iii) Is strongly recommended (but not required) to officiate a game if and only if they are assigned to an adult umpire at the age of 18 or older that has already had a background check by District 12. This will be determined on a case by case basis by the District UIC or Local League UIC, to give older and more skilled Junior Umpires the opportunity to officiate an appropriate game at their age & skill level.

**NOTE: Safety and Protection of all Junior Umpires is the First Priority of the Junior Umpire Program**

### **Section 3.02 Contact Information**

- (a) A Junior Umpire....
  - (i) Shall ensure that phone numbers are provided for their parent/guardian as well as themselves to be able to be communicated with by their Mentor Umpire and adult umpires assigned to work with them at an appointed game.
  - (ii) Shall provide (to the extent possible) an email address for communication for themselves and their parent/guardian.

## **Article IV.     SAFETY OF THE JUNIOR UMPIRE**

### **Section 4.01 Game and Event Attendance**

- (a) A Junior Umpire....
  - (i) Shall not be dropped off by a parent/guardian to a game that they are scheduled to officiate without the Mentor Umpire/Adult Umpire assigned to work with them present. Specific circumstances for timing of drop off/pick up for games must be coordinated with the assigned umpire in advance. The Assigned Adult Umpire is not assumed to be responsible for the safe return of the Junior Umpire to their home or place of residence.

**NOTE:** While it is customary for teenagers with their own vehicle to travel to a game on their own, or teenagers may have the approval of their parents to be dropped off at a ball field where a game is assigned, District 12 and it's Umpire Staff are not responsible for the drop off and pick up of the Junior Umpire, and should be communicated with by the parent/guardian if there is any issue with drop off/pick up times for an event.

- (ii) Shall not engage in any one on one discussions on the ball field before, during or after the game with any manager, coach or parent of any team without the Assigned Adult Umpire for that game in attendance, including:
- In-game conversations about a play.
  - Any out-of-game conversations about a play occurring during a previous game or the current game
  - Rules or Judgement Calls
  - Game-time decisions or any other discussions that pertain to the game to be played

#### **Section 4.02 District or Local League Umpire meetings or training sessions**

- (a) A Junior Umpire....
- (i) Shall be dropped off and picked up by a parent/guardian to a meeting or training session with face to face communication between a District Umpire in attendance at that event whenever possible.
- (ii) Shall be aware of all requirements for attendance at meetings and training sessions and not leave the premises of the event they are attending at any time. Specific permission may be required to be granted by the parent/guardian on a signed document prior to attendance of certain events.