



2026 Madison Little League Youth Umpiring Program

Building on the success of the Madison Little League (MLL) Youth Umpire Program during the last eighteen seasons, MLL is continuing the Program for 2026 with the objective of developing a pool of qualified young umpires while teaching participating teens responsibility and leadership skills and involving them in baseball and softball beyond Little League.

Madison teenagers between 13 and 17 years old that have participated in Little League for a minimum of 2 years, including one year at the Majors level, are qualified. Youth umpires can only umpire games involving players younger than themselves (must be at least 13 to umpire at Majors level).

Candidates for the MLL Youth Umpire program must be willing to meet the following requirements:

- Adhere to the MLL Umpire Code of Conduct.
- Fulfill commitments to scheduled games, and take responsibility when conflicts arise to provide coverage by a qualified umpire.
- Take responsibility for their own transportation to and from games.

Youths are eligible to be paid for umpiring after attendance and certification at our mandatory training sessions, including the Clinics to be held during the pre-season.

Initially, youth umpires will be allowed to umpire the bases. Eventually, youth umpires, 16 years old or greater, may be allowed to umpire the plate based on performance evaluation and recommendation of the Umpire in Chief. Players younger than 16 years old may be approved by the Umpire in Chief on a case-by-case basis.

The Umpire in Chief, or other assigned league officer(s), will keep track of attendance, timeliness and on-field performance. Preference for game assignments will be given to umpires who consistently arrive early to assigned games and demonstrate knowledge of the Rules, their proper application, and respect for the game. Assignments will be made in response to game schedules provided by League Commissioners.

Priority in game coverage will be given to regularly scheduled games ahead of make-up games, unless otherwise directed by a League Commissioner. Within budget constraints, assignments will be made first to Major league games, and then AAA, with the goal of providing a 2-man umpire crew at as many Major league games as possible.

Youth umpires are paid by the League Treasurer. Umpires will be responsible for having Timesheets duly signed by the Plate Umpire or respective Managers following each game and submitting them to the League for compensation.