

West Mountain Baseball Association

Umpires Policy and Procedures

As an umpire in the West Mountain Baseball Association (WMBA) system, you are expected to be familiar with and abide by these terms, guidelines and procedures. We must have a consistent effort from everyone for the system to work properly. Remember this is a job – take it seriously.

Website: All appropriate documents and information will be posted on the Umpire home page of the WMBA website. Make it a habit of visiting regularly to stay current. Contact information for the Umpire-in-Chief and the Umpire scheduler is also there for your reference.

Umpire Uniform: Each umpire is provided with a shirt. Gray pants and proper shoes are also required. The uniform must be worn for all games. Face mask, chest protector and shin guards MUST be worn and used properly by the plate umpire. To earn the respect of the coaches, players and fans, you must look and act professional.

Scheduling: The number of games you are scheduled depends on several of factors. They include your age, experience, availability, dependability, skill and competence. Schedules are usually prepared at least 3 weeks ahead of time. You will be given an umpire availability form, please fill this out (ie. vacations, days off – games days will be looked after by the umpire scheduler). The schedule will be set and posted on the website. You will be emailed when it is ready. It is the umpire's responsibility to check the schedule and report any conflicts. You are encouraged to keep a calendar for the games you are working.

Assignments: You will be assigned to work either the plate or base. These assignments are not to be changed without the approval of the Umpire Scheduler. If you have a conflict or are unable to make an assignment, it is the umpire's responsibility to contact the Umpire Scheduler as soon as possible or at least two (2) hours prior to the start of the game.

Working Alone: With the exception of Tball, every effort is made to ensure that there are two umpires scheduled for each game. If you end up working the game (rookie or above) alone, you will be paid plate rate plus half of the base rate.

Equipment: The plate umpire must obtain and return all equipment after each game. A brush and indicator will be provided to you and must be returned at the end of the game.

Game Time: Umpires are required to be at the park 20 minutes prior to game time. This will enable the umpire to get the required equipment, ask any questions and get to the diamond. You should be at the diamond 5 minutes prior to game time to conduct the plate conference and start the game on time.

Rules: Umpires are responsible for being familiar with the rules at all levels they are umpiring. Rules are posted on the website.

Home Plate Conference: Rehearse your home plate meeting and start it 5 minutes before game time. It should be level-specific to review special rules and procedures at the level. It is okay to read from or refer to a “cheat sheet”. Home plate umpire conducts the meeting.

Rainouts: If games are called off because of rain or playing conditions, it will be posted on the website, Facebook and Twitter. You will not be paid for this game. Once a game starts, umpires will be paid in full. It is inappropriate conduct for umpires to start a game with the intention to call it soon after. Once a game starts and weather conditions deteriorate, the game should be called off by the Umpire-in-Chief or their designate for safety concerns. Umpires should call a game if lightning is sighted or thunder is heard.

Payment: Will be made at the end of each game. Umpires will take a game sheet to their scheduled game. At the end of each game, the umpires will wait for the coaches to fill out the sheet. The umpire then will bring the sheet to concession to receive their payment for the night. Arrangements can be made if you do not wish to be paid nightly.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices: Umpires who use electronic devices on the field of play for texting, tweeting, phone calls or internet are subject to discipline. Exception: where the device is used to check time; when an umpire needs the help of the umpire-in-chief or board member in an emergency situation, this call must be made off the field of play.

West Mountain Baseball expects the following standards of conduct and behavior of all umpires:

1. Fairly call the game based on your best judgment of the rules as established by the league.
2. Communicate the rules of the game effectively to the coaches and players.
3. Respond professionally when asked for clarification of rules and judgment calls.
4. Treat both teams and all players equally and fairly and ensure the rights of players.
5. Treat coaches, other volunteers, players and parents with dignity. Attempt to pursue positive approaches to dealing with all parties.
6. Show good sportsmanship, a positive attitude and remember the real reason for the game: To have fun!
7. Report to the Umpire-in-Chief any issues or problems beyond your authority or are unable to resolve.

If you are in doubt – contact the Umpire-in-Chief or a WMBA board member with any questions, problems or comments.

Website: www.wmbacougars.com