

WMLL UMPIRE MANUAL

2022 Spring/Summer & Fall Seasons (updated 1/12/22)

1. Key Contacts:

- **Tom Heneghan** (umpires@wml.org / 608-698-1995) is the Board member responsible for umpire training, scheduling & oversight.
- **Mary Cramer** (marycramermc@gmail.com / 608-274-0672 (home) & 608-332-1471 (cell)) is the Umpire Schedule Coordinator that oversee and manage the Arbiter online system.
- *Questions regarding schedules, cancellations, and trades should be directed to the Umpire Schedule Coordinator.*

2. Eligibility

WMLL umpires must meet the following criteria:

- 1) They must be 12 years-old or older as of August 30, 2022 to umpire spring/summer games & as of August 30, 2023 to umpire fall games.
- 2) They must have successfully completed the umpire training required by WMLL
 - **Spring / summer season - mandatory training for new & second-year umpires:** All new & second-year umpires must attend two mandatory WMLL-approved training sessions. New & second-year umpires are also encouraged to attend the - training for experienced umpires led by District 4 Little League umpires.
 - **Spring / summer season - training for experienced umpires:** It is highly recommended that experienced umpires attend the District 4 Little League umpire training session.
 - **Fall Ball - mandatory training for new umpires:** As an introductory opportunity to umpiring, WMLL allows individuals that are umpiring for the first-time during Fall Ball that have not previously attended a WMLL-approved umpire training clinic to work Fall Ball games if they attend a single training session. Brand new umpires must follow up this introductory session with WMLL's regular spring/summer season umpire clinics if they want to umpire in the spring/summer season.

3. Pay Rates & Procedures

Pay Rates: The pay rates for the 2022 spring/summer & fall seasons are as follows:

League	Home Plate Umpire	Base Umpire (spring/summer only*)
Rookie League baseball & softball	\$16 per game	\$13 per game
Minor League baseball & softball	\$18 per game	\$15 per game
Major League baseball & softball	\$21 per game	\$18 per game
Junior League baseball & softball	\$29 per game	\$26 per game
Senior League baseball & softball	\$31 per game	\$28 per game

* = In Fall Ball, base umping is done by parent volunteers

- In the spring/summer season, an umpire working alone receives 1.5x the regular rate and is required to be the home plate umpire. *NOTE: If a parent volunteers as an umpire, the parent should work the bases (assuming there is one paid umpire who can work the plate.) The parent does not receive pay & the plate ump does not receive 1.5x the regular rate.*

- An umpire whose game is cancelled at the field before it begins (e.g., sudden rain, forfeit) gets half the regular rate if the umpire was at the field and ready to work the assigned game when it was canceled.
- An umpire who starts a game which is suspended for any reason receives full pay.
- An umpire who later completes a suspended game receives full pay.

Pay Procedure: Umpires are paid, and are entitled to a free bottle of water, immediately after the game. Umpires should request payment & water from a concession stand staff member using the designated concession stand windows (do NOT go to a door or enter the concession stand). Payment will be made after the umpire(s) turn in the (white) game card and sign out to acknowledge payment was received.

4. Scheduling and Rainouts

Scheduling: Games are not be assigned by WMLL. Instead, umpires select the games that they wish to umpire using the Arbiter online scheduling system. The system limits the number of games that an individual umpire can sign up at any one time so that all umpires are provided opportunities for games as the season progresses. The details of this system will be explained at the umpire clinics and instructions for using the Arbiter system will be distributed to eligible umpires.

Rainouts: To determine if a game has been rained out call WMLL's field condition hotline, 608-274-6556, or check the Field Conditions page on the WMLL website (www.wmll.org).

5. Punctuality

Umpires should arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled game time and must have on all equipment and be ready to start the game at the scheduled time.

6. No-Show Policy

WMLL recognizes that circumstances may arise that prevent an umpire from fulfilling their obligation to umpire a game for which they had signed up. However, umpiring is a job and includes the responsibility to account to WMLL for those situations.

If an umpire fails to show up for a scheduled game, they have 48 hours to provide a credible reason by phone or e-mail Tom Heneghan (umpires@wmll.org / 608-698-1995), the Board member responsible for umpire training, scheduling & oversight, and to email the Umpire Scheduling Coordinator (marycramermc@gmail.com). Failure to do so will result in a restriction on that umpire's ability to sign up to umpire games in the future.

7. Uniform & Equipment

Mandatory Attire: Every umpire must dress appropriately and look professional. Umpires must wear an official WMLL Umpire shirt (available at the concession stand for \$5) & closed toe shoes. Male umpires must also wear a protective cup when working behind the plate.

Umpire Gear: WMLL provides the home plate umpire with all needed protective gear – a mask, chest protector & shin guards. Equipment for use by umpires is red, labeled "UMP" & kept in the Equipment/Mail Room located in the green storage building behind the picnic porch. After all games, umpires must return the gear they used unless another umpire has arrived on the same field to work the next game & needs to use it. Please keep the umpire gear storage areas neat!

Mandatory Supplies: Umpires must bring a ball/strike counter (available at the concessions stand for \$4) & a watch. They must also pick up a game card & pencil in concession stand before heading to their game.

8. Attitude & Professionalism

UMPIRES MUST:

- Understand all the rules that apply to any league in which they will be umpiring, should review the appropriate league rules before each game, and should have a copy with them at each game.
- Act professionally, hustle, be in position and make calls authoritatively and to the best of their ability.
- Keep teams hustling on and off the field so that games remain on schedule (no more than 90 seconds between half-innings and no more than 4 warm-up pitches).
- Be respectful and expect the same from players, coaches and fans. Accept respectful questions and communications from coaches and communicate with them in the same manner. Your umpire partner is your teammate. In difficult situations, communicate with your partner to try to get the call right.
- Promptly report abusive coaches and fans, by name or by team affiliation, to the appropriate league coordinator or to Tom Heneghan (umpires@wml.org / 608-698-1995), the Board member responsible for umpire training, scheduling & oversight.

UMPIRES MAY NOT:

- Use cell phones during a game or between innings - except for emergencies!
 - *Exception: If umpiring a game NOT at Forward Drive, umpires may use their phones solely for the purpose of establishing the start time and the game time limit.*
- Visit with friends between innings.