



# AZ DISTRICT 5 RULES & REGULATIONS





## **PRESENTERS**

Parker Shibuya: District 5 Umpire-in-Chief Willie Treatch: Staff Umpire Steve Lawley: Staff Umpire Tracy Henegar: District Umpire







#### THANK YOU for your attendance!

#### PLEASE silence cell phones

# Feel free to ask questions as we go, presenter may take note of you and answer your question later





- Rule Changes
- Rule 9: The Umpire
- Rule 7: The Runner
- Rule 1: Objectives of the Game
- Rule 2: Definition of Terms
- Rule 3: Game Preliminaries
- Rule 4: Starting & Ending the Game
- Rule 5: Putting the Ball in Play
- Rule 6: The Batter
- Rule 8: the Pitcher



Text is applicable to both baseball and softball, should there be a rule difference for softball text will appear in blue NOT EVERY RULE IS COVERED!!





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- 2.00, 5.10(f) Dead Ball Area, defined the term removing "Catch and Carry" as a local option
- 3.11 Doubleheaders, deleted as a duplicate of rule 4.13
- 8.01(g) Disengaging, Softball Pitcher is allowed to step off Pitcher's plate after bringing hands together
- 8.02 (a) (1), allows the Pitcher to bring hand/fingers to his/her mouth within the circle (SB) or while on the mound (BB)...wipe off required
- 8.06, Visits to Pitcher, formalizes if a manager reports replacement of the pitcher to the umpire prior to talking to any Defensive Player is NOT a visit





- Tournament Rules
  - Managers/Coaches, for teams with 11 or fewer players present for a game, only one Coach allowed
  - TR-14 Tiebreaker, starting in the second extra inning, each team will player a runner at second base to start the inning. Placed runner is last our from previous inning
- Regulations
  - Reg VI Player Safety
    - Limits a player's return as a catcher after catching then pitching in the same game
    - Adds an exception allowing the pitcher flexibility after pitching and going to play catcher
    - Extends allowance to pitch in second game/day



# RULE 9: THE UMPIRE





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### Each umpire has authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules







9.01 (D)







 Umpires may order both teams into their dugouts and suspend play until such time as league officials deal with unruly spectator can result in the game remaining suspended until a later date.







 Any umpire's decision which involves judgement, such as, but not limited to, fair/foul, balls & strikes, safe/out, is final. No player, manager, or coach shall object to judgement decisions





 (b) If there is reasonable doubt that any umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision.

9.02

 (c) if a decision is appealed, the umpire making the decision may ask another umpire for information before making a final decision. No umpire shall criticize, seek to reverse, or interfere with another umpire's decision unless asked to do so by the umpire making it.





• (a) If there is only one umpire: that umpire must be an adult & will have complete jurisdiction in administering the rules.

- (c) The Umpire-in-Chief may be a plate or field umpire. The UIC duties shall be to:
  - Take charge of and be responsible for proper conduct of the game
  - Make all decisions except those commonly reserved for the other umpire
  - Announce any special ground rules





\*\*9.03 (D)\*\*

- Pg.119
- If no adult umpire is available for a game, and non-adult umpires are used, then the local league MUST assign an adult as Game Coordinator, or the game cannot be played. The Game coordinator must not be a manager or coach of either team in the game, and cannot be assigned as Game coordinator for more than one game at a time.





## \*\*9.03 (D)\*\*

- Duties include
  - To be included in the pregame meeting as noted in Rule 4.01
  - To remain at the game at all times, including between half innings, in a position to see all actions on the field, and in close proximity to the field.
  - If for some reason the Game coordinator is not present or is unable to perform his/her duties, the game MUST be suspended until Game Coordinator returns or a new adult Game Coordinator is present and assumes duties of the Game coordinator for the remainder of the game.
  - To oversee the conduct of all players, managers, coachs, and umpires in the game





## \*\*9.03 (D)\*\*

### Duties include

- To have authority to disqualify any player, coach, or manager for objecting to the decisions of an umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, or for any reason enumerated in theses Playing Rules, and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field.
- To have the sole ability to judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of inclement weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field.



# RULE 7: THE RUNNER





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 Two runners may not occupy a base, but if, while the ball is live, two runner are touching the base, the following runner shall be out when tagged. The preceding runner is entitled to the base





- Pg.103
- When obstruction occurs, the umpire shall call or signal obstruction
  - Type A: If a play is being made on the obstructed runner or if the batter-runner is obstructed before touching 1<sup>st</sup> base
    - The ball is dead and all runners shall advance without liability to the bases they would have reached in the umpires judgement had there been no onstruction.
    - The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base last legally touched before the obstruction.
  - Type B: if no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call "time" and impose such penalties, if any, as in the umpires judgement nullify the act of obstruction





#### Any runner is out when

 Running more than 3 ft away from his/her base line to avoid being tagged, unless such action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball. A runner's baseline is established when the tag attempt occurs and is a straight line from the RUNNER to the BASE

- After touching first base the runner leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning all effort to touch the next base
- The runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag
- Majors and below: the runner slides head first while advancing
- A.R- there is no "must slide rule"





- Any runner is out when
  - Intentionally interferes with a thrown ball; or hinders a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball
  - Failing to retouch the base after a fair or foul ball legally caught before that runner or the base is tagged by a fielder <appeal play>

- Touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has touched or passed an infielder
- Passes a preceding runner before such runner is out
- After acquiring legal possession of a base, the runner runs the bases in reverse order for the purpose of confusing the defense or making a travesty of the game





 Note 2: if the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitchers circle and is not making a play (a fake throw is considered a play), runners not in contact with their bases must immediately attempt or return to base

7.08

Commonly known as "Look Back Rule"





# 7.13

### Majors and above

 When the pitcher is in the 8ft radius circle and in possession of the ball, the base runner(s) shall not leave their base until the pitched ball has been released by the pitcher

- Penalty: Runner is called out





 (e) when leaving base on a pitched ball in majors and above, the runner must maintain contact with the white section of the base until the ball has been released by the pitcher on delivery (Minors: the pitched ball has reached the batter).

- The runners may extend a foot behind the white portion of the base but must maintain contact with the white section until the ball has reached the batter
- Penalty: the runner is called out





 Majors and below: when a pitcher is in contact with the pitchers plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter.

- If a runner leaves early and
  - Is called out, the out shall stand
  - Advances one or more bases, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made





 Once each inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a SPR one time during a game. The player for whom the SPR runs is not subject to removal from the line up. If the SPR remains in the game as a sub, the player may not be used again as a SPR while in the batting order.



# **RULE 1:** OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME





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Pg.65-66

 Leagues are required to ensure that first, second, and third base will disengage from their anchor

1.06

 Note 1: If a base is dislodged from its position during play, any following runner on the same play shall be considered as touching or occupying the base if, in the umpire's judgment, that runner touches or occupies the dislodged bag or point marked by the original location of the dislodged bag





- Note 1: The on-deck position is not permitted in Little League (Major) Division and below
- Note 2: Only the first batter of each half-inning will be permitted outside the dugout between half-innings in Little League (Major) Division and below

1.08

 A.R- The next batter should be ready with a helmet on, but may not pick up a bat until it is his/her turn at bat





Pg.66-67

• The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standards (USABat) as adopted by Little League.

- It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood
- Or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat Standard (USABat)
- Note 1: The traditional batting donut is not permissible











### 2018 Baseball Bat Chart

Minors & Majors	<b>2018</b> USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum *Approved Tee Ball bats may be used in coach pitch/machine pitch divisions only with the use of approved tee balls.
Intermediate (50/70) & Junior	<b>2018</b> USA Baseball marking <b>or</b> BBCOR marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum
Senior	2018 ALL bats must be BBCOR





• The bat must be a softball bat which meets Little League specifications and stands as noted in this rule.

- Wood is allowed in softball
- Non wood bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20
- Note: the traditional batting donut is not permissible





 (h) Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible [50/70 & Juniors Division: shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted]





 Catcher must wear a catchers mitt (not a first baseman's mitt or fielders glove) of any shape, size or weight consistent with protecting the hand





 The catcher must wear a mitt of any shape, size or weight consistent with protecting the hand. This may be a first baseman's mitt or fielders glove







- Helmets must have a non-glare surface and cannot be mirrorlike in nature
- Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOSCAE stamp as well as an exterior warning label
- Note: players can attach C-flaps if paperwork is presented to umpire that C-flap attachment does not void warranty from manufacturer





- All male players must wear athletic supporters
- All catchers must wear a mask, "dangling" type throat protector and catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm –up and, games.

1.17

Skull caps are not permitted



# **RULE 2:** DEFINITION OF TERMS





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#### APPEAL

- An appeal is an act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by the offensive team
- Includes a runner missing a base, leaving early on a tag up situation
- Appeals do not have to be verbal
  - The act of a fielder stepping on the base with the ball with obvious intent can be interpreted as an appeal





• A bunt is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. The mere holding of the in the strike zone is not an attempted bunt

BUNT

 Softball, players must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball





 A catch is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a ball inflight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground providing such fielder does not use cap, protector, pocket, or any other part of the uniform in getting possession.

CATCH

- Requirements to look for in a catch
  - Control of the ball in hand/glove
  - Voluntary/intentional release





**DEAD BALL AREA** NEW TERM ADDED TO DEFINITION OF TERMS IN 2019!!!!!!!!!

 DEAD BALL AREA is the area beyond any intended physical boundary, such as a fence, rope, chalk line, any stands, bleachers, dugouts, player's benches, or designated media areas, or any other boundary line as determined in the pregame conference. If a ball becomes lodged in a fence, backstop, umpire's equipment, or catcher's equipment, it is considered to be in a dead ball area.





### FAIR BALL

- A fair ball must meet one or more of the following criterion
  - Settles on fair ground between home and 1st or home and 3rd
  - On or over fair territory while bounding to the outfield over 1st base or 3rd base
  - \_ Touches 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base
  - \_ Falls on fair territory on or beyond 1st or 3rd base first before going foul
  - \_ While on or over fair territory touches the umpire or player
  - \_ While over fair territory passes the playing field in flight





## FOUL BALL

- A foul ball must not meet fair ball criteria and meet at least one of the following criterion
  - A batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and  $1^{st}$  base or home and  $3^{rd}$  base
  - Bounds past 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base on or over foul territory
  - First falls on foul territory beyond 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base
  - While on or over foul territory touches an umpire or player or any object foreign to the natural ground





#### **FOUL TIP**



 Foul tip is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike and the ball is in play.





#### **INFIELD FLY**

Pg.75

#### An infield fly is a fair fly ball

- Not including a line drive or an attempted bunt
- Which can be caught by an infielder with ORDINARY EFFORT
- When 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are occupied
- Or 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> are occupied
- Less than two (2) outs

The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul.

A.R- the infield dirt and the outfield grass do not form a boundary line for infield fly purposes





#### INTERFERENCE

- Offensive interference is an act by a member of the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play. If the umpire declares the batter, BR, or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was in the judgement of the umpire, legally touched at the time of interference
- A.R-Interference does NOT have to be intentional for it to be called





### INTERFERENCE

Pg.75

- Defensive interference is an act by a fielder (most likely the catcher) which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch
- Umpire interference occurs (1) when an umpire hinders, impedes, or prevents a catchers throw attempting to retire a runner, (2) when a fair ball touches an umpire in fair territory before passing a fielder

ON ANY INTERFERENECE THE BALL IS DEAD





**OBSTRUCTION** 

Pg.76

 Obstruction is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. A fake tag is considered obstruction

In depth analysis rule 7.06



## **RULE 3:** GAME PRELIMINARIES





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- Before the game umpires shall
  - Require strict observance of all the rules governing team personnel, implements of play, and equipment of players

- Be sure that all playing lines are marked
- Possess an adequate supply of baseball/softballs







Pg.79-80

- A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order provided minimum play criteria has been met.
  - Only starting players may re-enter the game
  - Defensive subs must be made while the team is on defense. Offensive subs must be made at the time the offensive player has his/her turn at bat or is on base. [no projected subs]

Note 3: if during a game wither team is unable to place nine (9) players on the field due to illness. Injury, ejection, or inability to make a legal substitution, the opposing manager shall select a player previously used in the line-up to re-enter the game. An ejected player is not eligible for re-entry





3.04

Pg.80

• A players whose name is on the team's batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team.

"courtesy runner" not permitted





 The pitcher named in the batting order handed to the Umpirein-Chief shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such batter or any substitute batter is retired or reaches first base

3.05

 Unless the pitcher sustains an injury or illness which, in the judgement of the umpire, incapacitates the pitcher from further play as a pitcher





 If no announcement of a substitution is made, the sub shall be considered to have entered the game when-

3.08

- If a pitcher, the sub takes a position on the pitcher's plate and throws one warm up pitch to the catcher
- If a batter, the sub takes a position in the batters box
- If a fielder, the sub reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder and play commences
- If a runner, the sub takes the place of the runner being replaced

Any play made by or on any of the above mentioned unannounced subs shall be legal

No penalty for an announced substitution [provided sub is legal]





• The managers of both teams shall agree on the fitness of the playing field before the game starts. If the two managers cannot agree, the president or representative shall decide

3.10

 The umpire-in-Chief shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension





 When the umpire suspends play, "time" shall be called. At the umpires call of "play" the suspension is lifted and play resumes. Between the call of "time" and the call of "play" the ball is dead





3.13



#### The local league will establish ground rules to be followed by all teams in the league

## **RULE 4:** STARTING AND ENDING THE GAME



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 The umpires shall proceed directly to home plate where they shall be met by the managers of the opposing teams, just preceding the established time to begin the game

- The home team manager shall give the line up to the UIC
- The visiting team manager shall give the line up to the UIC
- The UIC shall make certain the original and duplicates are the same.
   The original copy is retained by the umpire and shall be official
- As soon as the home teams line up is handed to the UIC, the umpires are in charge of the playing field and from that moment shall have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, halted, or resumed on account of weather or the conditions of the playing field





Pg.85-86

 A regulation game consists of 6 inning, unless extended because of tie score or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning or only a fraction of it; or (2) because the umpire calls the game.

- If a game is called it is a regulation game:
  - If four innings have been completed
  - If the home team has scored more runs in 3 and ½ innings than the visiting team has scored in 4 completed half innings









- Protests shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule
- No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgement
- Protests shall be made as followed
  - The protesting manager shall immediately and before an succeeding play begins notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest
  - Following such notice the umpire shall consult with the other umpire(s). If the umpire is convinced that the decision is in conflict with the rules the umpire shall reverse the decision. If, however after consultation the umpire is convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, said umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest.





## **10 RUN MERCY RULE**

- District approved rule for all interleague play
- If the home team is ahead after 3 and  $1\!\!/_2$  full innings by 10 the game shall be called
- If the visiting team is ahead after 4 full innings by 10 the game shall be called





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 If a thrown ball accidently touches a base coach, or a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is alive and in play. However, if the base coaches interferes with a thrown ball, the runner is out





Pg.91-92

- The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out when-
  - A pitched ball touches a batter, or batters clothing; runners, if forced, advance

- The plate umpire interferes with the catchers act of throwing; runners return. If the catcher's throw gets the runner out, the out stands
- A pitched ball lodges in the catchers or umpire's mask or paraphernalia; runners advance



## RULE 6: THE BATTER





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- A fair or foul fly ball is legally caught by a fielder
- bunting foul on a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike
- Infield fly is declared
- Batter attempts to hit a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike and is touched by the ball
- A fair ball touches said batter before touching a fielder
- The bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory. Th ball is dead and no runners advance
- A third strike is legally caught by the catcher
  - A third strike not caught by the catcher when 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied, & less than twos





6.06

Pg.96-97

- A batter is out for illegal action when
  - Hitting the ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batters box
  - Entering the batters box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next play
  - Interfering with the catchers fielding or throwing by
    - Stepping out of the batters box
    - Making any other movement that hinders the catchers actions at home late
    - Failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time fore the batter to move away







- A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when failing to bat in his/her proper turn, and another batter completes an at bat in place of the proper batter.
- When an improper batter becomes a runner or is retired and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the next pitch or play, the umpire shall (1) delcre the proper batter out;
  (2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter
- If an improper batter is not appealed and a pitch is delivered the improper batter thereby becomes the proper batter





 The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to 1<sup>st</sup> base without liability to be put out when-

- 4 balls have been called by the umpire
- Intentional walk
- The batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is not attempting to hit unless (1) the ball is in the strike zone or (2) the batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched



# **RULE 8:** THE PITCHER





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- Wind up Position: Pitcher faces batter, pivot foot in contact with pitchers plate
- Set position: the pitcher engages the pitchers plate with pivot foot parallel to the pitching plate and the non-pivot foot in front of the pitchers plate
  - Pitcher may (in both positions)
    - Deliver ball to batter
    - Step and throw to a base
    - Disengage the pitcher's plate





### The Pitcher shall not

 Bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in contact with the pitchers plate. Exception: the pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10-ft circle provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.

8.02

- Apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball
- Spit on the ball, either hand or glove
- Deface the ball in any manner

Penalty: call the pitch a ball and warn the pitcher. If play occurs on the violation, the manager of the offense may accept the play or penalty.





The pitcher shall not

- Intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher when the batter is in position.

- Penalty: if, after warning, such action is repeated, the pitcher can be removed from the game
- Intentionally pitch at the batter (Intentionally hit the batter)





With a runner(s) on base it is an illegal pitch when the pitcher

- while touching the plate, makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch and fails to make such delivery
- While touching the plate, feints a throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base and fails to complete the throw
- While touching the plate, throws or feints a throw to an unoccupied base, except for making a play
- Makes a quick pitch; umpires will judge a quick pitch as one delivered before the batter is reasonably set in the batter's box.
- Delivers the ball to the batter while not facing the batter





• With a runner(s) on base it is an illegal pitch when the pitcher

8.05

- Makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch while not touching the pitcher's plate
- Unnecessarily delays the game
- Without having the ball, stands on or astride the pitchers plate, or while off the plate feints a pitch
- While touching the plate, accidentally/intentionally drops the ball

PENALTY FOR ANY ILLEGAL PTICH: the ball is dead and no runners will advance. The pitch call be called a ball even if the pitch is not actually thrown. Exception: if an illegal pitch is delivered and a play results, the play shall continue as a delayed dead ball. Upon completion of play, manager of the offense can accept penalty or play. If batter-runner and all runners on base advance at least one base, the play proceeds without reference to the illegal pitch.





## **8.06 VISITS**

- This rule, which applies to each pitcher who enters a game, governs the visits of the manager or coach to the pitcher at the mound
- A manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher
- A manager or coach may come out twice in one game to visit with the pitcher but the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, the player must be removed as putcher



# **RULE 8:** THE PITCHER SOFTBALL





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 A legal pitching delivery shall be a ball that is delivered to the batter in an underhand motion.

- Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24 inch length of the pitcher's plate
- The shoulders shall be in line with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- When taking the pitching position, hands must be separated and must have ball in either the glove or the pitching hand
- A backward step may be taken before or simultaneous with the hands being brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate





### The pitcher must not make two revolutions of the arm in the windmill motion

- The release of the ball and follow through of the hand and wrist must be forward and past the straight, vertical line of the body.
- Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitchers plate is illegal. This includes a "crow hop"





 If a ball slips from pitcher's hand before, during, or up to the delivery of a pitch, a ball is declared on the batter. The ball will remain in play and the runner(s) may advance at their own risk.

### **ONLINE RESOURCES**



### Little League<sup>®</sup> Umpire Registry



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- the latest information on rule updates/interpretations
- umpire mechanics training videos & manuals,

- · information and registration for available training pro
- volunteering for Regional and/or World Series tourn

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Questions? Email support@littleleague.org.

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<ul> <li>the latest information on rule updates/interpretations,</li> <li>umpire mechanics training videos &amp; manuals,</li> <li>information and registration for available training programs, and</li> <li>volunteering for Regional and/or World Series tournaments*</li> </ul>	A     Password       Log In	Forgot Password?
Apply for Consideration for Regional or World Series Tournaments Join the Registry today or sign in above to the Umpire Registry and follow the instructions to be consider for upcoming tournaments. * NOTE: Volunteer umpires seeking assignment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments are now required to become members of the Little League Umpire Registry.		

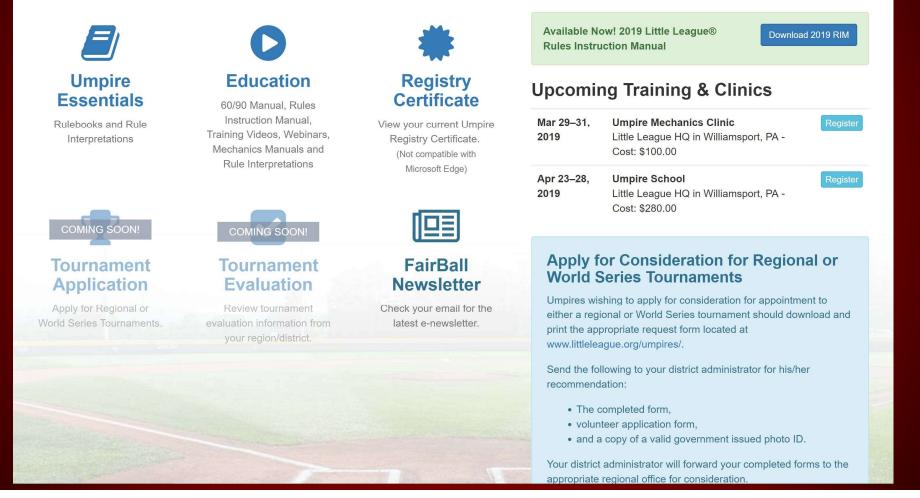
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### **ONLINE RESOURCES**

#### **Umpire Resources**

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### CLOSING COMMENTS





### THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING