

District Staff U-I-C Job Description

By Allan Palmer

1. Attend U-I-C meetings. Work with other district umpires and league U-I-Cs to make umpiring better, more consistent and uniform district wide.
2. Teach at rules clinics. (You should have attended San Bernadino week long rules clinic.
3. Train umpires in rules, mechanics, attitude etc. Go to games; evaluate and work with umpires. Answer questions from umpires and coaches on rules and rulings.
4. Be available to umpire games for leagues (especially "trouble" games).
5. Think of ways to make training easier and more effective. Be flexible and try new ideas. Find ways to keep people umpiring.
6. Assign umpires to tournament games. Early in the tournament you will call the league U-I-Cs and they will send a crew. Nearer the end of the tournament you will use the umpires that have done the best and assign their positions on the field.
7. Be part of "protest" committee at district tournament games. Have a firm grasp of the rules so you can explain to the game umpires, coaches and other protest committee people what is the proper ruling, but be willing to say "I don't know or "in my opinion this is the proper interpretation" when you are not sure. Also be aware that not every situation has one proper ruling. That's why Williamsport may overrule San Bernadino and San Bernadino may overrule us. If your ruling is changed by someone farther down the line, don't take it personally. Also, don't try to umpire the game from the sidelines. You can point out things that need to be fixed in between innings, but do it gently and let them know that you are just another pair of eyes to help. Let the umpires do their job. If a problem happens on the field, let the umpires on the field handle it. Don't step in until the proper route has been taken to get to you. Calling a game for safety reasons is the umpires' job, but they will look to you for guidance and information. You can give your opinion, but the final decision is the plate umpire's (with powerful input from the district tournament director, who should be getting advice from you). Critique the umpires after the game. Give them information that will make them a better umpire.
8. Work with district staff to make Little League better. Be willing to go to meetings and clinics to learn, and pass on what you learn to the leagues.
9. Don't think that because you are a district umpire, that you are infallible. We all make mistakes and just because we are now on district staff does not make us any smarter than we were on a league level.