

World Series/Regional Umpire Assignment Policy Statement for Little League Baseball

Procedures for all Regional Offices to use for making Regional and World Series umpire assignments.

While most of the volunteer umpires that are assigned are true Little League umpires, some have taken on additional umpire responsibilities in other baseball and softball programs in order to make themselves better umpires. While these umpires are sometimes more experienced and technically more qualified, they are in fact not necessarily better umpires than the umpire who only umpires Little League games. We should give extra credit to the individual who officiates only Little League games over the individual who umpires in several programs and only a few Little League games.

For any volunteer umpire to get an assignment to a Regional Tournament or a World Series, that umpire must be recommended to the Regional Director by the District Administrator where the individual lives. Too often, the Regional Centers receive nominations from only a few of the districts and states in their region. District Administrators -should know how important it is to nominate those individuals in their districts who are volunteering their time and effort to make the District Little League program successful.

To ensure the volunteers are currently umpiring and still dedicated to the local Little League, a recommendation must be submitted on the enclosed form every year. To be eligible for assignments outside the local league, the individual must:

- A. Umpire in the local league and get recommended for;
- B. District, and get recommended for;
- C. Section (if applicable), and get recommended for;
- D. State, and get recommended for;
- E. Region, and get recommended for World Series.

For the Regional Office to consider an individual for Regional assignments in a specific division the individual should umpire during the current regular season:

- A. Little League Baseball (Majors)** - to get recommended for Little League Baseball Section/State/Regional/World Series. (Would qualify for 9/10 year old Baseball)
- B. Little League Softball** - to get recommended for Little League Softball Section/State/Regional/World Series. (Would qualify for 9/10 year old Softball)
- C. Junior League Baseball and/or Senior League Baseball** - for recommendation to Junior Baseball Section/State/Regional or Senior Baseball Section/State/Regional/World Series.
- D. Big League Baseball** - for recommendation to Junior, Senior or Big League Baseball Section/State/Regional/World Series.
- E. Junior, Senior or Big League Softball** - for recommendation for Little League, Junior League, Senior League or Big League Softball Section/State/Regional/World Series.

Each Regional Director will assign an appropriate number of umpires to each of their Regional Sites. The volunteer umpires will be evaluated, on the enclosed form, by an individual who is knowledgeable in the intricacies of umpiring. At the completion of the Regional tournament, these evaluation forms will be sent to the Regional Director for review and in making the following year's assignments. Every Volunteer umpire is a valuable asset to the Little League Baseball program and should be rewarded with a Regional and/or World Series Assignment, when deserved. While every umpire might have the desire and motivation, not every umpire has the ability. Those umpires who have the ability shall be limited to no more than two (2) World Series assignments in a career (this includes those invited by a World Series director). This restriction will take effect beginning with assignments in 1999. Those umpires who have previously umpired in two (2) or more World Series prior to 1999 **will not** be eligible for further assignments. This restriction will certainly open up more opportunities to more umpires in each Region. Each U. S. Region will have two (2) World Series umpire slots for each world series and each international region will have one (1) world series umpire slot. If any of these slots are not filled by December 7 of each year Little League Baseball will, on a rotating basis, fill those slots from another region.

All Regional sites must be informed as a matter of policy that volunteer umpires assigned by the Regional Office must get priority when it comes to game assignments. Each volunteer umpire assigned from the Regional Office will be assigned to the Home Plate, First Base, Second Base, Third Base, and if using a six umpire rotation, Left Field and Right Field positions before any host umpire gets those positions.

Every effort must be made to maximize the use of the volunteer umpires assigned by the Regional Office. However, in championship game situations one staff or host umpire certainly may be assigned for the purpose of game continuity and stability. The assignment of a host umpire or staff umpire to a championship game will be at the discretion of the tournament director after consultation with the tournament umpire in chief.

TIMETABLE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SEPTEMBER 1	Region to mail Tournament Umpire Request Form to all District Administrators
NOVEMBER 1	All Tournament Umpire Request Forms returned and received at Region Centers
DECEMBER 1	World Series Umpires recommendations received at Headquarters
DECEMBER 7	World Series Directors receive names of their World Series Umpires
DECEMBER 15	World Series Umpires are notified by mail of their assignment by World Series Directors
JANUARY 31	All Regional Assignments made and all umpires notified