



# Sparta Youth Baseball Association

Umpire Training

May 21, 2025

# Training agenda

- SYBA umpire expectations
- Game schedules and signup sheets
- Free online training resources
- SRAA rules
- Tips to handle
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct
  - Difficult situations
  - Ejections
- Incident Reports
- Payments

# First things first

- Fill out [SYBA Umpire Contact Details](#) so we have your current information
- Fill out and return [IRS Form W-9](#)
  - Only need Page One returned to spartayouthbaseball@gmail.com
- Fill out and return [Umpire Liability Waiver](#) to spartayouthbaseball@gmail.com

# Communications



- Join the Team Reach Umpire Group: **SYBA Umpires**
  - Enter Code: **Umpire123**
- Email: [SpartaYouthBaseball@gmail.com](mailto:SpartaYouthBaseball@gmail.com)
- Umpire Coordinators
  - Mark Flaig (608-633-1697)
  - Clay Kalember (608-322-2221)
  - Nate Mitchell (608-397-6642)

# SYBA Website

[SpartaYouthBaseball.com](http://SpartaYouthBaseball.com) → Umpire Resources

- Forms and paperwork
- Training slides
- Online Training and Reference sites
- Game SignUp Sheets
- SRAA rules
- Incident Report form
- Field directory

# Seven Rivers Athletic Association 2025 Baseball Rules

# Game dates

- League games in Sparta will be M, T, W, Th evenings
  - 5:30, 7:00, and 8:30 start times
- League game schedules are released around Memorial Day weekend
  - League games start week of June 9<sup>th</sup>
  - League games end July 31<sup>st</sup>
- Sparta Tournaments in 2025
  - 8u (July 12-13)
  - 9u & 13u (June 14-15)
  - 10u (May 31 – June 1)
  - 11u & 12u (June 28-29)
  - 14u (June 21-22)

# How to sign up for games

- Each game (except for 8u) will have two umps:
  - Plate umpire (head umpire) calls balls and strikes from behind the catcher and wears protective gear
  - Base umpire calls safe or out at the bases from various positions in the field
- If you are new to umping, start out being a base umpire for at least a few games
  - We may reassign you to games with an experienced umpire
- We will use an online software called “evite SignUp Sheets”
  - Umpires will use this system to select games they want to umpire
  - [DEMO signup sheet](#) this is a test... give it a try so you understand what it looks like
- Please only sign up for games where the players are younger than yourself
- Contact one of the umpire coordinators if you are unable to cover your game... emergencies only!



# Payments

- Plate umpire = \$50 per game, Base umpire = \$40 per game
- All payments will be made by check
- Payment schedule:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> payment – second week of July (for all games you worked through June)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> payment – second week of August (for all games you worked July thru end of season)
- We will attempt to deliver payments to you in-person
  - We will mail your check to the address you provide if we are unable to connect in-person
  - Please make sure to fill out the [SYBA Umpire Contact Details](#) form
- If you earn \$600 or more from SYBA, we have to submit paperwork to the IRS
  - It takes 12 games (plate umpire) or 15 games (base umpire) to earn \$600

# SYBA Umpire Expectations

- **Be safety-minded** – young children are unpredictable... treat every situation with a safety-first mentality
- Pay attention to the game at all times
- Be courteous and professional
- Don't worry about a little criticism from fans and coaches. Mistakes will happen.
- Communicate with your partner on a rule or a difficult call
  - When in doubt, ask them for help
- Be familiar with the Seven Rivers rules for the game you are umping
- Do not allow distractions during your game
- Be at least 10 minutes early to each game
- Please do not:
  - No-show or ghost us
  - Cancel your assignment on short notice
  - Sign up for games if there's a chance something else will come up
- Notify an umpire coordinator if you have a real emergency and cannot cover your game(s)
- Remind the Sparta head coach to ensure field lights at Memorial Park are turned off at the end of the night

# Ejections

- An ejection is when a player, coach, or spectator is removed from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct
- Anyone ejected from the game must leave the area (out of sight and out of sound)
  - Failure to do so within a few minutes will result in the offending team forfeiting the game
  - If a fan refuses to leave after ejection, ask the coach for help
  - If the situation is extreme, call 911. The Sparta police are right next door to Memorial Park.
- Actions that are grounds for immediate ejection
  - Inciting or participating in a fight
  - Intentionally trying to harm another player (malicious contact)
  - Physical contact with an umpire
  - Threats, personal attacks, insults, vulgar language or gestures
- Delayed ejections (after you have issued warnings)
  - Continued arguing of rules or a judgement call (balls and strikes, out or safe, etc)
  - Light profanity
  - Issue a warning or two. If the arguments continue, ejection is warranted.
- Do your best to avoid ejecting anyone. It shouldn't happen very often



# When to file an Incident Report

- Link to file an incident report: [Report an Incident](#)
- File an incident report (on our website) if there are any problems during your game.
  - SYBA will follow up with coaches, parents, or the Seven Rivers League as appropriate
- Inappropriate behavior or conduct by player, coach, or fan that requires action
  - If you were physically or verbally abused
- If you need to eject a player, coach, or fan for any reason
- If there is a major injury during your game that required medical attention
  - Ambulance, paramedics, etc

# Poor weather situations

- If the weather or field conditions are poor before game time, it is the head Sparta coach's responsibility to make a Go/No-Go decision prior to game time
- If the weather or field conditions become poor or dangerous after the game begins; it is the plate umpire's responsibility to make a postponement or cancellation decision
  - Postpone for 20 minutes... if weather or field conditions do not improve, then cancel the game
  - When in doubt, play it safe
  - Tournament director will help make this decision during a tournament

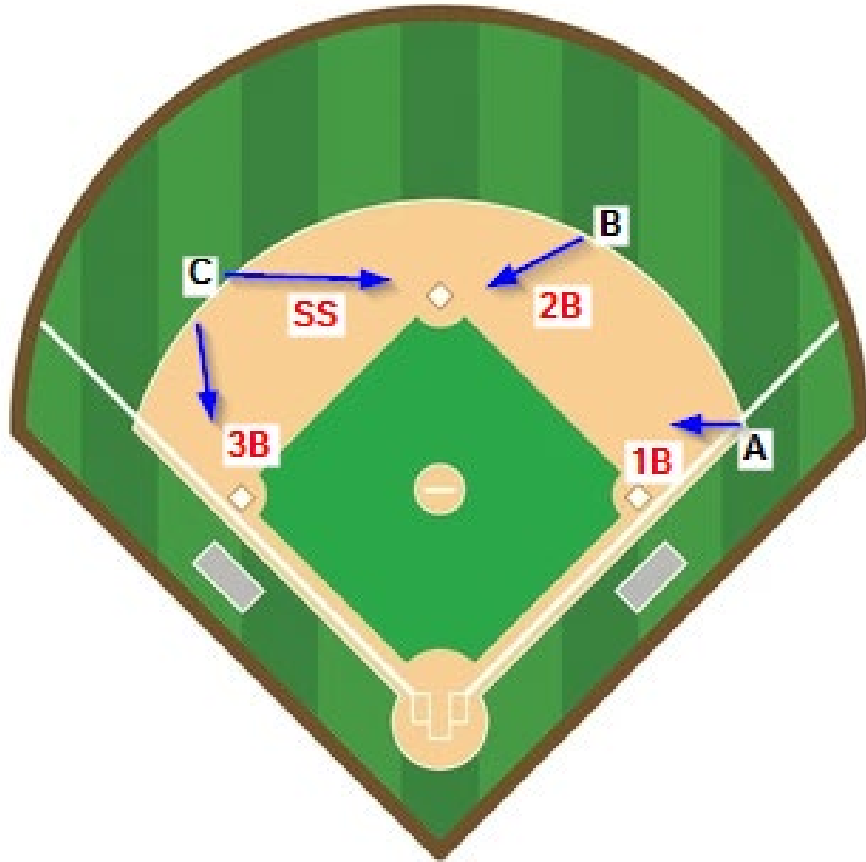
# Umpire Mechanics

- Start your games on time
- Inform the coaches what time the first pitch was and let them know when time limits are approaching
- Make your calls clear and loud enough to hear
- Use hand signals with your verbal calls
- Incorporate a brief pause after the play unfolds, before making any calls
  - This allows you time to think about your call before making it
- Communicate with your partner prior to the game, in between innings

# Other Guidelines, Tips, and Suggestions

- Make sure games start and end on time
  - Stick to the time limits specified in the rules
  - Announce the start time of the game to both coaches after first pitch
  - Announce to both coaches when it is the last inning or last at-bat, so everyone knows when the game is supposed to finish
- Review the age division SRAA rules before the game (posted on our website)
- Move around and get into appropriate position to make calls
  - Do not stand still when you can get yourself into a better position to observe a play
  - Watch the ball, batter, and base runners carefully in case your umpiring partner needs your help to make a call
    - Check swings
    - Fair/Foul ball
    - Missed touching bases by runners
    - Tag up plays

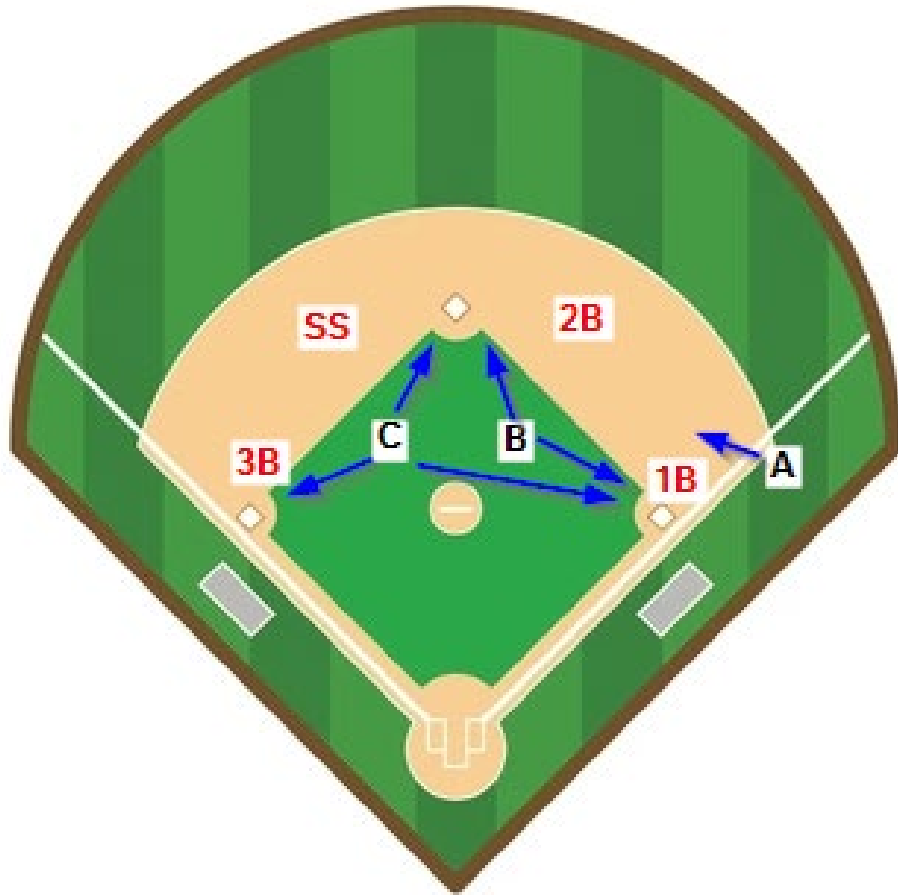
# Positioning for base umpire on small diamonds (short base lengths)



- These age divisions use small baseball diamonds:
  - 8u, 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u
- On smaller baseball diamonds, the base umpire is positioned behind the infielders in Position A, B, or C because there is not enough room to maneuver in front of the infielders
- Base umpire moves to position A when no one is on base
- Base umpire moves to position B when there is a runner on first base
- Base umpire moves to position C when bases are loaded or runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> or solo runner on 2<sup>nd</sup>



# Positioning for base umpire on large diamonds



- These ages use large baseball diamonds:
  - 13u, 14u
- On larger baseball diamonds, the base umpire is positioned to the side and behind the pitcher when in Position B or C
- Base umpire needs to watch and make calls at multiple bases when in position B or C (blue arrows)
- Base umpire begins in position A when no one is on base
- Base umpire moves to position B when there is a runner on first base
- Base umpire moves to position C when bases are loaded or runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> or solo runner on 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Plate Umpire Equipment

- Each Sparta coach has a set of umpire gear for plate umpires to borrow if needed
- Arrive to the game at least 15 minutes early so you can adjust the gear before game time
- Make sure to give the gear back to the coach at the end of your game so others can use it
- If you have your own gear, you are welcome to use it
- Gentlemen – please wear a protective cup when umping behind the plate

# Plate Umpire Tips

Slot position for right and left-handed batters

Catchers moving and blocking your view

Protect your hands and sensitive areas!

Questions?