



Barry L. Schalkle - Umpire in Chief - (651) 222-3399
Jordan Voit - Assistant Umpire in Chief - (651) 968-7178
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CRITICAL COACH'S INFO and PROTOCOLS

Coaches,

Please take 5-7 minutes to read this and it will save us all considerable time later on as well as lots of headaches.

COACHES SCHEDULE VERIFICATION

All of our umpire scheduling and emailing is done through arbitersports.com. You will be sent an invitation by the arbitersports.com site to join the Pro-Am Umpires group as well as to sign in to the site. It is important that you sign into the website so you will be able verify your schedule with our schedule. **NO the MBL site does NOT** feed into the arbitersports.com site.

When you sign into the arbitersports.com site

When you sign into the www.arbitersports.com site,

- Go to ArbiterSports.com and go to "sign in" information (top right of page).
- User ID: Email address you used to receive this email.
- Password: Your last name (Try first letter capitalized, if that does not work try all lower case)

(Note: the first time you sign in you must accept the Terms & Conditions and change your password.)

Please provide us three things:

1. Cell phone number – we may need to contact you regarding the umpire situation – Important updates may be sent by text message to you.
2. Home phone number.
3. Please upload your photo with a good headshot so we can match faces with names.

Why we have them verify games

The arbitersports.com website schedule verification is important to allow the following:

- Every year we have 6-8 fields which end up with 2 games scheduled at the same time. This helps us sort out the mess before it become a real mess.
- Making sure you have an umpire for your game.
- Making sure we don't send an umpire to a non-existent game. You will be billed if this occurs.
- Allowing you to evaluate the umpire, positive or not so positive.

- So you can receive our “You make the call” game situations with rule clarifications to help your team learn the rules, rather than myths.
- Allows you and us to easily reschedule the game with a game number.

Schedule verification - Takes about 3 minutes

- **If there are any differences in your schedule and our please email us or call us ASAP.**
- Only your home games and away games for/against East Ridge, Oakdale, Cottage Grove, North St. Paul, Mahtomedi, Woodbury or Hudson will show up as those are the associations they we cover. Games that are not in ERAA, Oakdale, Cottage Grove, North St. Paul, Mahtomedi, Woodbury (WAA) or Hudson are NOT in our jurisdictions so we do not have them on our schedule.

When you sign in to the right of your name is “Games”. Please “click” on “Games” and you will see your games. Reference that to your schedule.

Umpire Evaluations (Takes about 2-3 minutes per game)

For 10 and 11 year-old games you may have younger umpires who have acquired certain proficiencies and experience, but are still learning the skills needed to become a great umpire. While we try very hard to train our umpires, it is difficult to teach them all the nuances of the great, but complex game of baseball, so unfortunately there is not a substitute for experience. Your help is critical in helping us:

- To identify issues or things the umpire needs to focus on in order to improve
- Provide the umpires with encouragement if they did a great job

PROTOCOLS

Raining

Should it be raining, unless your association has received a notice from the city cancelling all fields, **Coaches are NOT to assume that we know your game is cancelled.** Some fields are playable while others might not be. If you do not call – the umpire is told to assume the game is being played and will show up. That means he is paid for a game he did not do and when the game is rescheduled another umpire will get paid. That will only serve to increase everyone’s fees. If in the event a game needs to be canceled due to weather and we are not notified 30 minutes before game time and the umpire shows up to the game **you will be assessed a \$30 game fee.** Coaches should use courtesy and common-sense – please. With rare exceptions are games truly canceled at the last minute. We reserve the right to make that decision.

Game Cancellation Protocol – WEATHER related

Unless the city has received a notice cancelling all fields, please let us know by texting Taylor **AND** Jordan or calling one of them. Taylor’s phone number (651) 968-7179. Jordan’s phone number is (651) 968-7178. You can include Barry on the text. His phone number is (651) 222-3399.

Game Cancellation Protocol – Non-weather related

- **Less than 5 hour notice, but more than 1.5 hour notice**

Text Taylor **AND** Jordan, numbers above, as this will allow us to contact the umpire to make certain he does not show for the game. Please be sure to have the game number and the field included in the text.

The home team would be assessed one half game fee, as umpires are not likely to be able to do another game, and have given us commitments to fulfill our games that day. Please remember this is their job.

If game is cancelled, non-weather related, with less than 1 ½ hour notice, you will be charged for the entire game.

- **More than 5 hour notice, but Less than 2 day notice**

If you are cancelling a game within 2 days of the game, please let us know by texting Taylor **AND** Jordan or calling one of them (Phone number above). This will allow us to contact the umpire to make certain he does not show for the game. Please be sure to have the game number included and the field. You will NOT be assessed any fee for canceling and rescheduling with more than 5 hour notice.

- **More than 2 days in advance**

Should you need to cancel a game, even if it will be rescheduled later, please email us if the game date is more than 2 days in advance, so we can let the umpire know in plenty of time.

- **If the game is cancelled, for any reason other than weather, with more than 5 hour notice, there will be no fee assessed. This will give the umpire who was assigned to your association time to try to get another game.**

Rescheduling Protocol

If you are rescheduling a game for any reason, please note – **we NEVER take reschedule game information over the phone.**

Please email us – the following:

Game number – It will be on your schedule on the arbiter

If you do that we know all the original game information

New Game night and time

New Game field

If the head coach will not be there, please put your assistant coach's information in the email.

Please email us that information as soon as possible and give us at least 3 days prior notice to insure we can find you a qualified umpire.

Contacting Us

- Contact us at proamumpires@gmail.com. This goes to both Taylor (Umpire Scheduler), Jordan (Assistant Umpire in Chief) and to Barry, Umpire in Chief.

Rule Issues

If you have an immediate and important rule question on the field you may call or text Barry's cell number to get the correct answer – (651) 222-3399, then if you cannot get ahold of Barry, text or call Jordan's phone (651) 968-7178.

Seriously, I would rather get a call to help settle the rule issue than have a wrong call or an issue between coaches and/or an umpire. This is for rule issues only, not judgment calls.

If you have questions about rules, NOT immediate on field clarifications, please email us at umpires@comcast.net and we will be happy to answer your questions.

Darkness

Plan accordingly that the umpire will stop when it gets too dark to play the game. **This is the umpire's call** – do not cajole a youth umpire into letting the game continue at the risk of someone getting hurt by a ball they can't see. Games that are called because of darkness, revert to the score of the last complete inning.

If you cannot get ahold of Barry, text or call Jordan's phone (651) 968-7178.

Optional Training

If you would like to truly learn the correct rules of baseball, along with some tips of how to pick up an extra run a game or save a run a game, you are free to attend our Umpire training classes, free of charge.

Time - pick one of the two options below

Option #1

Date: Saturday - April 14

Time: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm (Coaches should arrive at 10:00)

Bring a snack/lunch to hold you over until 1:30.

Location: *Woodbury High School* - Lecture Hall (South side of building)

Enter building – Straight through the doors up the stairs to the left

Option #2 - Broke into 2 sessions listed below:

Date: Tuesday - April 17 - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm (Coaches should arrive at 7:30)

Location: *Woodbury High School* - Lecture Hall (South side of building)

Enter building – Straight through the doors up the stairs to the left

and

Date: Thursday – April 19 - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: *Woodbury High School* - Lecture Hall (See Above)

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (651) 222-3399.

Thanks and **Let's Play Ball !!!**

Sincerely,

Barry Schalkle

Pro-Am Umpires

Jordan Voit

Taylor Voit