

DISTRICT 12 ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Instructions

- 1. Staff Umpires:** Brush up on your rules now!!! Rules for the International Tournament are located on page T-1 of the **2006 OFFICIAL REGULATIONS AND PLAYING RULES** booklet, both baseball and softball. Don't wait until the first game.

Staff umpires who are also managers/coaches, every effort will be made to accommodate your game schedule. You will be expected to umpire games during the International Tournament. We need everyone's cooperation and help to make the local tournaments a success for the players.
- 2. Crew Chiefs:** Contact your crews and verify their availability for the tournaments. Only District 12 staff umpires, (numbered umpires), can be used during the International Tournament.

Staff umpires who work with other umpiring associations, please clear your calendars and make yourselves available for the District 12 tournaments.
- 3. Crew Chiefs:** Know the District 12 Umpire Consultant staff how to get in contact with them at all times during the tournaments. A list of the Umpire Consultants and crew chiefs with contact information can be found in the Umpire section on the District 12 website.
- 4. Umpire Consultants:** Know the crew chiefs for the leagues and how to get in contact with them at all times during the tournaments. A list of the local league crew chiefs can be found in the Umpire section of the District 12 web site.
- 5. Brush up on your rotations and mechanics. Know your responsibilities. A minimum of 2 man crews will be used for all preliminary, (pool play), games on the 60' diamond. 3 man crews will be used for all quarter-final & semi-final games. 4 man crews will be used on the finals.**

A minimum of 2 man crews will be used for all preliminary, (pool play), games on the 90' diamond. 3 man crews will be used for all quarter-final, semi-final games. 4 man crews will be used on the finals.
- 6. As umpiring assignments are filled, the crew chief will contact the District 12 Umpire-In-Chief as confirmation that the game is covered. Information provided to the UIC is to include the following: date of game, location of game, age level, game number and name(s) of the umpire(s) covering the games. If a crew chief is unable to fill any tournament assignment, they are required to contact and inform the District 12 UIC so appropriate adjustments can be made. The preferred method of communication is via email. Messages left on voice mail are only accepted in emergencies. **NO EXCUSE FOR MISCOMMUNICATION.****

7. Every effort will be made to avoid assigning umpires to officiate games involving their own local league. Please help us avoid this situation. If you notice you are assigned to umpire a game involving your local league notify your crew chief and/or Consultant immediately so adjustments can be made. Should this happen at a tournament site notify the Umpire Consultant assigned to that site or the Site Director immediately. Be flexible and prepared to make a change.
8. **Inclement weather:** You are responsible for covering your assigned game unless notified by your crew chief or Consultant. If your crew chief or Consultant does not contact you, it is incumbent upon you to initiate contact to determine if a game will be played. If no contact can be made then travel to your game site. Contact phone numbers for crew chiefs, umpire consultants and game sites are posted on the District 12 website.
9. During a game you are responsible for the safety of the players. Be on the alert for lightning! All site directors will have lightning detectors and will notify you if the lightning is in range to require suspending the game. Discuss this with the site director before your game if weather looks to be an issue.
10. Arrive at least 45 minutes prior to game time, (1 hour prior to game start time is preferred). All games will start on time unless delayed due to inclement weather or by decision of the Site Director. Allow time for crew pre-game meetings. Also allow time for field inspections and equipment checks. **A thorough equipment check of each team at every game is mandatory, NO EXCEPTIONS!**
11. Plate meeting with both managers is required. The meeting shall be with managers only, no coaches are allowed at the plate meeting. Be firm but polite and friendly.
12. There is a maximum time limit of 1 minute between innings. It's important to keep the games moving. The 1 minute between innings is to be enforced throughout the tournament.
13. There is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy in effect for all managers, coaches, players and spectators. They have worked very hard all season to get to the All-Star Tournament and they have a lot to lose. Managers and coaches know the rules, they are also aware of the zero tolerance policy that pertains to everyone. Be completely sure of any ejection before you use it! Don't have any "itchy trigger finger"...use ejections as an absolute last resort!
14. **Abusive fans:** Remind the manager that they have ultimate responsibility for the conduct of their fans. You as an umpire do not have authority over the spectators. Your area of responsibility falls within the confines of the playing field and dugouts only. If necessary notify the Site Director and let them deal with unruly fans.
15. Verify and sign the official score card immediately after each game. This is Mandatory. No exceptions. Keep good field notes regarding player substitutions, pitching changes, etc. If needed, you may become the necessary backup in verifying the official scorecard.

16. **Uniforms:** The official uniform for all Little League and District 12 staff umpires is a navy jersey, red undershirt, heather gray slacks, black shoes & socks, District 12 hats, (red 12), and all appropriate patches & numbers. If unsure ask the District UIC or one of the Consultants.
Use of a light blue shirt with red, white and blue trim on the collar and sleeves is optional. The undershirt for the light blue jersey is navy blue. Bring both color shirts with you to the game site. Make sure you and your partner(s) wear the same color jersey. If you have a Sectional, State, Regional or World Series cap, feel free to wear it during the tournament.
We pride ourselves in being the sharpest district staff in the state. Let's continue the tradition and strive to look our best.
17. **Equipment/Plate Gear:** Bring your gear to every game whether you are scheduled to do the plate or not. Situations may arise where your services behind the plate are needed. Be flexible and ready to pitch in where needed.
18. If you have any problems or questions please do not hesitate to contact one of the Consultants or the District 12 UIC. There is no such thing as a dumb question to the consultant staff.

Please give as much of your free time as you can during the tournaments. We all must pull together as a team and work hard to carry this out successfully. This may include phone calls late at night. Please be tolerant of this fact. Last minute changes in the time and location of games is routine this time of year. The progression of these games must be kept on schedule during the International Tournament. We as umpires, play a very important role in that process.

Be fair – Be professional – but most of all have some fun and remember who we do this for!

A special thanks from all the players, District 12 administrative staff, and myself for all your hard work and dedication. The young athletes we serve really do appreciate us being there for them!

Many thanks,

Adam J. Lengyel

UIC-Florida District 12

cc: Bob Gibson
Lloyd Davis
Paul McDonald
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