

BECOMING A DISTRICT 12 UMPIRE

Becoming a District 12 staff, (numbered), umpire demonstrates a commitment to excellence in umpiring, a spirit of volunteerism and a desire to be a positive role model. District 12 staff umpires are eligible to work in the post season Tournament of Champions and the All-Star Tournaments. Here are the steps to become a District 12 numbered umpire:

- Attend the Mechanics and Rules clinic conducted by our own District 12 Umpire Consultant staff. These are one day clinics offered at various times throughout the year. Information and dates for the clinics can be obtained from the District 12 web site, your local league crew chief or District 12 Umpire Consultant staff. The clinic introduces the new umpire to the 2 man umpiring system, covers playing rules, common game situations and basic plate & base mechanics. This clinic is also an excellent refresher for the more experienced umpire.

OR

- Attend one of the Umpire Mechanics clinics offered at Southern Region headquarters in Gulfport, FL. This clinic places strong emphasis on plate and base mechanics. Attendees, with the aid of a pitching machine, will also be instructed on the finer points of plate mechanics. This clinic runs from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon and is given in November, December and January each year. Effective with the 2007 season, if you as a District 12 staff umpire wish to be selected to umpire in a Sectional, State or Regional All-Star Tournament, you must have attended a Southern Region Umpire Clinic within the previous 2 years.
- Be affiliated with your local league for at least one year and umpire at least 40 games, the majority behind the plate. Some of these games should be during one or more of the mid-season inter-league tournaments.
- Know the District 12 crew chief for your local league. Let them know you want to become a District 12 staff umpire, ask to partner games with them or other staff umpires from your league.
- Invest in the required uniform and present a professional appearance. An evaluation will not be scheduled unless the umpire has the required uniform.
 - Plain navy blue cap. "Combo" cap acceptable for use behind plate and on bases.
 - Umpire's mask, preferably with "dangling" type throat protector.
 - Navy blue jersey with red undershirt, (standard). Light blue jersey having red, white and blue trim with navy undershirt, (optional). Shirts should have the Little League umpire patch on the left sleeve.
 - Black umpire's belt, preferably patent leather, (shiny).
 - Professional heather gray umpire's pants. "Combo" pants for plate and base use acceptable.
 - Black socks
 - Black steel toe umpire shoes strongly recommended for plate work. Black umpire shoes for field work. Shoes must be clean & polished.
 - Shin guards worn under pants for plate work.
 - Inside chest protector worn under shirt.
 - Ball/Strike/Out indicator, plate brush and either navy blue or heather gray ball bag.
 - Protective cup for male umpires essential when working behind the plate.

When you have met the above requirements contact your local league crew chief to have him/her schedule an evaluation. You will be evaluated by a District 12 Umpire Consultant. They will need to see you umpire at least 2 games, one behind the plate and one on the bases, giving you input

on what you need to work on. If further evaluations are needed they will schedule them for later in the season with enough time for you to become a District 12 staff umpire and umpire in the Tournament of Champions and All-Star Tournament if you are ready.

The above requirements may seem daunting at first glance but don't be discouraged. Your local league crew chief and the District 12 Umpire Consultant staff are here to work with you and help you. District 12 prides itself in having the best trained umpire staff in the state of Florida. Are you ready to be one of the best?