THE FUTURE OF LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT
WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

1. The need to structure a worldwide training and advancement program leading to selection for upper level tournaments

2. The necessity of not reinventing the wheel

3. How to harness the passion and commitment that already exists

4. Designing a clear path forward
WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

Objectives:

• To provide a comprehensive plan of training and support to all Little League Umpires
• To utilize the knowledge and passion of current Little League umpires to continue to build the training curriculum while growing the volunteer umpire base at the local league and District level through recruiting and retention strategies
• To provide higher level training and evaluation tools to identify umpires ready for the more visible umpire selections (Regional / World Series)
WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

• THE MAJOR TASKINGS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Advisory Committee

- Recruitment & Retention
- Training & Education
- Evaluation & Selection
- LLU Content & Publications
WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

Members of the Committee:

- **Jason Kelley** - Central Region
- Stu Hartenstein - Central Region
- Frank Policano - East Region
- **Mike “Doc” Lantiere** - East Region
  - **Brad Johnston** - Canada Region
  - **Bruce Marburger** - Southwest Region
    - **Gerry Davis** – At-Large
  - Doug Perret - West Region
    - Mark Bernstein - West Region
- **Marshall Casey** - Southeast Region
  - Rich Ealy - Southeast Region
- **Tom Rawlings** - Headquarters
- Jim Smith - At-Large
- Mike Legge - At-Large
THE UMPIRE REGISTRY
MOVING INTO THE DIGITAL AGE

1. Umpire Registry

2. Tournament Umpire Request Forms
BENEFITS OF THE UMPIRE REGISTRY

1. NO Cost to join as a Member
2. Online registration
3. Tournament Application process/forms will be embedded in Registry
4. Live-time updates of education and experience
5. Access to Webinar Series
6. Publications, including Rule Updates and Interpretations
7. Access to training aids on Little League University
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR REGISTRY MEMBERS

• Umpire Patch
• Bat Gauge
• All 3 Rulebooks
• Umpire Indicator
• FREE SHIPPING

• Total Cost of Package is $19.99; a savings of $5.00 from previous years.
• eBooks will be available

Special discount for registry members.
PRESENTER:
MARSHALL CASEY
SOUTHEAST REGION UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF

A Different Approach
WELCOME TO THE UMPIRE REGISTRY

• Why Join?
  • Being a member of the Little League Umpire Registry provides Little League Umpires access to:
    • Current Baseball, Softball, Challenger Rulebooks
    • The latest information on rule updates/interpretations
    • Umpire mechanics training manuals
    • Umpire mechanics training videos
    • Information and registration for available training programs.

• NOTE: Volunteer umpires seeking assignment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments will be required to become members of the Little League Umpire Registry.
UMPIRE REGISTRY: WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

**Umpire Resources:**
- Rule Interpretations
- Fair Ball Newsletter
- Umpire Mechanics Manuals
- Umpire Training Videos

**Umpire Resources:**
- Umpire Training Programs
- Tournament Umpire Request Form
- Little League Volunteer Application
- Other
Welcome to the Umpire Registry

• Volunteer umpires seeking assignment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments MUST provide social security number prior to completing the Tournament Umpire Request form.

• All personal information provided through this website is encrypted and is used only by Little League International. This information will not be distributed to any marketing resources.
BIOGRAFIC/PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please complete the following information:

• Name
• Social Security #  (Must be provided for appointment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments)
• Street Address
• City, State Postal/Zip Code
• Country
• Email
• Phone #
• Cell Phone #
BIOGRAPHIC/PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following information regarding your current league affiliation for umpiring Little League Baseball/Softball programs.

- State
- District
- League Affiliation

Indicate the year in which you first started umpiring Little League Baseball/Softball programs.
UMPIRE PROFILE INFORMATION

• All personal information can be updated as necessary.

• Additionally, on the Umpire Profile page you will be able to enter information pertinent your umpire training or umpire experience not directly connected to Little League.
# Little League Training Program History

## An Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LLUR#</th>
<th>Name, Last</th>
<th>Initial, Middle</th>
<th>League State</th>
<th>League District</th>
<th>Training Date</th>
<th>Training Program Title</th>
<th>Provided By:</th>
<th>Completed Program</th>
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<td>1/5/2009</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td>Umpire Outreach Clinic</td>
<td>LL SE Region</td>
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STATE/REGIONAL/WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT HISTORY

AN EXAMPLE:

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<th>Name, First</th>
<th>Initial, Middle</th>
<th>League State</th>
<th>League District</th>
<th>League Affiliation</th>
<th>Tournament Appointment</th>
<th>Tournament Year</th>
<th>Completed Assignment</th>
<th>Evaluator Recommendation</th>
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<td>SE REG JRBB</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>WS</td>
<td>Click Here</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOURNAMENT UMPIRE REQUEST FORMS

• *Tournament Request forms MUST be submitted annually to keep names active for tournament selection!!*

• Tournament request forms will be accessed directly from the Umpire Registry MEMBERS ONLY Page.

• All personal information for the form will be automatically populated from the Umpire Profile information.

• Any required updates must be made in the Umpire Profile section.

• Your Social Security Number must be provided in the Umpire Profile section prior to completing a Tournament Request form.
TOURNAMENT UMPIRE REQUEST FORMS

REQUESTING **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT** ASSIGNMENT:
(Check all divisions that are being requested)

Baseball: □ LL □ INT □ JR □ SR

Softball: □ LL □ JR □ SR

Volunteer Status must be affirmed in order to continue the process.
TOURNAMENT UMPIRE REQUEST FORMS

REQUESTING **WORLD SERIES** ASSIGNMENT:
(Check all divisions that are being requested)

**Baseball:** □ LL □ INT □ JR □ SR

**Softball:** □ LL □ JR □ SR

Volunteer Status must be affirmed in order to continue the process.
TOURNAMENT UMPIRE REQUEST FORMS

- Electronically Attach the Volunteer Application Form
- Electronically Attach a Government Issued ID Form
- Electronically Attach a Recent Photograph (within last 12 months)
- Electronically Initial and Submit Form
1. Requests are stored in database
2. Email is sent to DA indicating forms awaiting action
THE PROCESS

UMPIRE SUBMITS REQUEST

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REVIEWS APPROVES/DENIES Provides Comments

DISTRICT U.I.C. Denied

Approved

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS REVIEWS SELECTS/RECOMMENDS

Umpire

REGIONAL

LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS SELECTS/NOTIFIES

WORLD SERIES

TRAINING CONSULTATION
PRESENTATION:
JASON KELLEY  CENTRAL REGION UMPIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What’s the Point?
QUESTIONS NEEDING ANSWERS

• What are the touchstones of a “Qualified” Tournament Umpire?
• How should they be rated?
• What intangibles should be considered, if any?
• Does training have a shelf-life?
• Should longevity be a factor?
Regional and World Series Umpire Applicants

• Individuals requesting appointment to umpire the various Regional and World Series Appointments in Little League Baseball and Softball need to be the most highly qualified, trained, and dedicated volunteers within the program.

• Our entire Program is judged by the product that is on the field during the tournament season.
ASSESSING QUALIFICATIONS

- Formal Training
- Performance Evaluations
- Continuing Education
- Volunteer Commitment (Length of Service)
ASSESSING QUALIFICATIONS

• Formal Training
  • Ideally, applicants will have attended Umpire School/Umpire Outreach Program 5 or more seasons within year of applying for Regional or World Series Tournament Appointment
    • The Umpire School is our system’s most comprehensive training program, and, as many have proposed, should be a requirement for applying for Regional & WS Assignments
    • Of training resources, attendance at umpire school also indicates the commitment level of the individual as attending the school requires sacrifice and investment of time and resources far beyond any other endeavor.
    • The greater purpose is to develop umpires over the course of their career, this process will allow D.A.s, District U.I.C.s, and Regional Staff to communicate how much we value continued improvement and development of our umpires. Essentially, this serves as a model that rewards continuous improvement and development.
ASSESSING QUALIFICATIONS

• Formal Training, Continued
  • Little League Umpire School Attendance at a Little League Region or in Williamsport (in the capacity of an instructor) within the previous 4 or more years.
  • Demonstrated history of instructing at the District or local league level.
ASSESSING QUALIFICATIONS

• Performance Evaluations
  • Has an umpire received a written evaluation and recommendation from the District and/or State to work a Regional Tournament?
  • Has the umpire received a written evaluation and recommendation from most recent Regional Tournament to work a World Series?
  • Has the umpire previously received an appointment to any World Series Tournament and received a written evaluation of their performance?
ASSESSING QUALIFICATIONS

• Volunteer Commitment (Length of Service)
• Does the umpire have
  • More than 20 years of unbroken service as a Little League umpire?
  • 10 – 19 years of unbroken service as a Little League umpire?
  • Less than 9 years of unbroken service as a Little League umpire?
ASSESSING QUALIFICATIONS

• Continuing Education

• Has the umpire attended:
  • Any Little League sponsored Rules or Mechanics Clinics at a Little League Regional or in Williamsport, Pa., including, but not limited to, Rules Clinics, Train the Trainer Clinics, Multi-Member Crew Clinics, or a Little League Road Show Umpire Clinic.
    • This may be in role of either a student or an instructor
    • Within the past two seasons.
THE FUTURE OF LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Have any of your District/League umpires attended a formal Little League Training of any type within the last five years?

Yes ___
No ___
STANDARDIZING THE CURRICULUM
STANDARDIZING THE CURRICULUM

• Collection and Review of All Current Training Materials
  Training Aids, Presentations, Lecture Topics, Field Drills, Video Instruction

• Standardization of Content NOT Presentation Styles

• Best Training Practices Will be Available on LLU

• Consistent Instructor Training

• Identifying Areas/Topics That Require More In-Depth Attention Based On Input From The Field  What Do you Need?
STANDARDIZING THE CURRICULUM

• In depth review of all written training materials
• Re-write of manuals where necessary
• Provide updates to manuals
• Development/Refinement of other Training Courses
  District U.I.C. Training
  Tournament Evaluators Course
  Instructor Course
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

Central Region--Indianapolis, IN

- **RULES CLINIC**
  February 2-3        Hilton Indianapolis North

- **UMPIRE CLINIC**
  February 24        New Albany, OH

- **UMPIRE CLINIC**
  March 3            Downer’s Grove, IL

- **UMPIRE SCHOOL**
  April 17 - 22     Grand Park Events Center, Westfield, IN

Southeast Region--Warner Robbins, GA

- **RULES SEMINAR**
  February 10-11

- **2-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC**
  February 23-25

- **4-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC**
  June 1-3

- **UMPIRE SCHOOL**
  October 9-14

- **UMPIRE OUTREACH TRAINING**
  AL - TBD
EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

East Region--Bristol, CT

• **UMPIRE CLINIC**
  February 10

• **SOFTBALL CLINIC**
  March 4

• **UMPIRE SCHOOL**
  April 18-22

• **UMPIRE SCHOOL**
  September 19-23

Southwest Region--Waco, TX

• **4-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC**
  February 23-24

• **2-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC**
  March 9-11
EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

• West Region--San Bernardino, CA

• **RULES CLINIC LEVEL 1**
  January 26-28

• **RULES CLINIC LEVEL 2**
  February 9-11

• **MECHANICS CLINIC**
  February 9-11

• **UMPIRE ACADEMY**
  February 24-March 2

• **90-FT. BASE MECHANICS CLINIC**
  Feb 10-11  Danville, CA

• **JR. UMPIRE OUTREACH CLINIC**
  Feb 16-18  Huntington Beach, CA

• **MECHANICS CLINIC**
  Feb 17-18  Rosedale, CA

• **MECHANICS CLINIC**
  Mar 10-11  Seattle/Tacoma WA

• **MECHANICS CLINIC**
  Apr 13-15  Missoula, MT
EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

• Headquarters--Williamsport, PA

• OUTREACH CLINIC
  March 23-25       Grand Island, NY

• RULES CLINIC
  March 16-18

• MECHANICS CLINIC
  April 6-8

• UMPIRE SCHOOL
  April 17-22

• 3- AND 4-UMPIRE MECHANICS & ADVANCED TOPICS
  TBD
EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

• PROPOSED WEBINAR TOPICS FOR 2018
  • OBSTRUCTION  Types A & B
  • INTERFERENCE  Baserunner, Batter & Umpire
  • FORCE OUT vs. TIMING OUT
  • ILLEGAL PITCH  Baseball & Softball
  • CIRCLE RULE  Softball
  • TOURNAMENT RULES
THE FUTURE OF LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

• Does your League/District Currently Have an Umpire Training Program?

  Yes____
  No____
QUESTIONS?

trawlings@littleleague.org
(570) 326-1921 ext 2326
(570) 447-5282 Cell Phone