



## 2018 Umpires Frequently Asked Questions As of 4.25.18

- 1. Who is the JSL Umpire Coordinator and how will he communicate with JSL umpires?** Bob Hanzlicek is the 2018 JSL Umpire Coordinator. He will primarily use email to communicate with umpires. Please make sure both of his email addresses ([jslumpires@jrsaltdogs.com](mailto:jslumpires@jrsaltdogs.com) and [Robert.hanzlicek1@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.hanzlicek1@gmail.com)) are added to your safe recipients list so they don't get caught in your spam filters. Also make sure you have one phone number listed in Arbiter so he can reach you by phone if needed.
- 2. How much and when will umpires be paid?** For U10 and U12 games, the pay rate is \$25/game for the base ump and \$35 for the plate ump. For U14 and U16 games, it is \$30/game for the base ump and \$40/game for the plate ump. All checks will be automatically deposited into your account. Below is the payment schedule.

<u>Pay Period Cutoff</u>	<u>Pay Checks Auto-Deposited on</u>
Fri, May 25	Fri, June 1
Fri, June 8	Fri, June 15
Fri, June 22	Fri, June 29
Fri, July 6	Fri, July 13
Fri, July 20	Fri, July 27
Tue, July 31	Fri, Aug 10

Umpires should keep track of the games they ump. In the event of a discrepancy on their check, contact Bob ASAP.

- 3. What do I do if my mailing address or phone number should change?** Please correct it in Arbiter per the handout instructions AND also email Bob directly with the information so he can notify our accountant of the change.
- 4. When will umpires receive tax information?** W2's will only be mailed to umpires who make \$600 or more in the 2018 season. They will come from the Lincoln Youth Baseball Organization (the JSL's legal name). Umpires who make less than \$600 should keep their pay stubs to use for tax purposes.
- 5. Is Internet Access necessary to be a JSL umpire?** Yes, all communication with umpires is done via email and all games are assigned using the Arbiter Sports website at [www.ArbiterSports.com](http://www.ArbiterSports.com)
- 6. How do I log on to Arbiter?**
  - For new umpires who have never logged in to Arbiter: go to the website above, enter your email address (the one you provided to Bob on your application). The default password is your last name (all lowercase letters). Once logged in, you'll be prompted to change your password.
  - For returning umpires: log in with the same email and password from last year. We do not receive the passwords so if you don't remember it, click the "forgot password" link in the upper right corner.
- 7. How are games assigned to umpires?**

*Regular season games* -- Umpires will "self assign" themselves games choosing the number of games, nights and times, fields, age division, and umpire positions of their choosing. This also allows umpires to choose as many (or as few) games as they want.

*Tournament games* – The U10-U16 divisions will have an end-of-season tournament through Jr Saltdogs
- 8. Can umpires assign themselves a doubleheader?** Definitely and we encourage this. The only restriction is that if you want to ump a doubleheader it must be at the same complex and on the same field (i.e., Fleming field 2). For a doubleheader, we also encourage (but don't require) that you do bases for one game and behind the plate for the other.
- 9. How often should umpires sign into Arbiter?** At least once a day if not more. This allows you to (1) click "self assign" to see if there are any games you want to assign yourself to; and (2) to read any announcements posted by the Umpire Coordinator or other JSL Board Members.

- 10. When can umpires start assigning themselves games?** Bob will send an email to all umpires to let you know the final date/time when games will be available on Arbiter. Games are self-assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- 11. How many games can umpires assign themselves?** There is no limit for the overall season; however, we have set ArbiterSports so that each umpire can only assign themselves 8 games during each 24-hour period. [i.e., assuming May 1 is the first day umpires can begin self-assigning games, Umpire Joe logs on to ArbiterSports on May 1 at 9:00 am and assigns himself 8 games. Once he assigns the 8<sup>th</sup> game, Arbiter brings up a message telling Joe that he has reached his daily limit and can't self-assign further games until 9:00 am the following day. As long as umpires log in to Arbiter, the 8-game limitation each 24-hour period levels the playing field for all umpires so each has a fair chance of being able to accept games.
- 12. Will all the games be listed in Arbiter at the same time?** All U10, U12, and U14 division games will be listed and available for self-assign. It is possible that they may be added in shifts depending on when game schedules are finalized and ready for posting. Around June 1, the regular season U16 division games will be added; however, only umpires who are at least 18 years old will be able to see those games.
- 13. How long does it take for all the regular season games to be self assigned?** About a week. Because of this, if an umpire is going to be gone (vacation, camp, etc) in early May and won't have access to the Internet, he/she needs to make arrangements with a parent or another responsible adult to self-assign games for them. To do this, they will need your log-in and password for Arbiter as well as the dates you are available to umpire.
- 14. Once all the games are assigned, do I need to keep logging in to Arbiter?** Absolutely! Check Arbiter as many times per day as you can. Many times, umpires take a game and then can't work it so it will be put back out in the self-assign pool. Again, the first-come-first-serve rule applies as does the 8-game limitation during a 24-hour period.
- 15. Why does Arbiter say "there are no self assign games available?"** This means that all the games have been self-assigned. See previous question if you want more games.
- 16. How do I cancel a game that I self-assigned myself?** It depends on when the game day is.
- If it is more than 3 days before the game --** you can cancel it yourself (Arbiter calls this a "turnback"). Simply go to your list of games in Arbiter and if it's within 3 days from the game day, Arbiter will have the turnback option beside the game. Simply select it and Arbiter will automatically remove it from your schedule and notify Bob so he can return the game to the self-assign pool.
  - If it is 3 days or less from the game date** – it is your responsibility to find your own sub using only the JSL umpires listed in Arbiter. Once you find a sub, you must email Bob before the game giving him the game number, date, time, field, your name, and the name of your sub. The sub must also be copied on this email and needs to confirm via email with Bob that they accept the new umping job. This confirmation by the sub will hopefully avoid problems that have occurred in the past when subs were reported to Bob but weren't actually aware of it.
- 17. I have a friend/neighbor who ump's but not for JSL, can I use him for a sub?** No, only JSL umpires listed in Arbiter can be used.
- 18. What if umpires don't show up for one of their games and they don't find a sub?** Umpires who are "no shows" for a game are not acceptable. Many people are counting on you to be there. You must notify Bob immediately with an explanation if you fail to show for a game. He may impose penalties which could include unassigning future games, imposing a monetary penalty from a future check, or removing an umpire for the remainder of the season. Remember, if you don't show up or find a sub, you are casting a poor light on the Junior Saltdogs League and you are also putting the other umpire for your game in the position of possibly having to ump the plate and bases all by him/herself.
- 19. Will umpires receive a reminder for games?** Yes, Arbiter automatically sends umpires a reminder 3 days before each game.
- 20. What is the official JSL umpire uniform and equipment?** JSL umpires must wear the gold umpire shirt, gray pants (no sweatpants), and black cap. If a sweatshirt or jacket is worn, it must be under the gold umpire shirt. In addition, the plate umpire must wear a face mask, chest protector (under the gold uniform shirt), and shin pads and have a clicker, brush and timer. You can purchase this equipment on your own or it is available as a set only from the Junior Saltdogs League for \$60. Refer to the April 14<sup>th</sup> letter that was hard mailed to all 2018 umpires which

indicated if you need to purchase equipment from JSL, you needed to let Bob know by April 21<sup>st</sup> and it was available for payment/pick up at the April 29<sup>th</sup> umpire meeting.

- 21. If I'm the base umpire, do I need to have the equipment noted in question #20?** Yes - ALL umpires must have ALL the equipment and should bring it to each and every game whether they are scheduled for the plate or base ump position. In the event the plate umpire doesn't show, the base umpire must be prepared to ump the plate. And in the event you're scheduled at a multi-field facility, we may move umpires around in the event of no shows. Be prepared!
- 22. When should umpires arrive for games?** Umpires must be on the field ready to umpire at least 15 minutes before game time (earlier is better). Evening games start at 6pm and 8pm. Plan accordingly for traffic delays. Showing up at game time or 5 minutes before is unacceptable and will be disciplined. If you're running tight to the 15 minute before game time, we suggest you job into the complex/field – parents and coaches notice and are quick to let us know if a “late” ump is slowly walking into the field and/or is on his cell phone.
- 23. What should umpires do if they know they are going to be late for a game?** It is your responsibility to be on time but in the event of a rare circumstance which will make you late, you should call your umping partner immediately.
- 24. What do I do if I ump a game and my ump partner doesn't show?** Before the game starts, communicate with both coaches to let them know you will be umping alone due to a no show. After the game is over, email the Ump Coordinator ASAP with your name and game # and tell him that your partner didn't show. Also let him know if you were forced to move from base ump to plate ump so he can adjust your pay rate. On the 4-field complexes, we will also have a JSL Site Supervisor who will be checking in with you prior to and during your game so also let him know (see question #30).
- 25. What if I forget the difference in rules between the divisions?** This can happen – the rules are posted on each division page of our website as well as the umpires page at [www.jrsaltdogs.com](http://www.jrsaltdogs.com). Umpires should print this, review it prior to a game, and keep it in their equipment bag for reference during a game if needed.
- 26. How do umpires find out if games are cancelled due to weather?** Sign up for our JSL rainout text alerts by texting the word JRSALTDOGS to shortcode 84483. Within 30 seconds, you should receive a welcome message to let you know your phone was registered successfully. If you don't receive this, go to the Rainout Info page of our website and see the troubleshooting instructions. JSL also has two phone rainout lines that you can call (402/441-9722 or 402/486-0552). DO NOT call or email Bob to ask about rainouts. Cancellations are made by 5pm, and each field will be cancelled separately so don't assume just because one field is cancelled that another in a different part of town will be too. Some fields are able to handle more rain than others. It is very common for some fields to be cancelled while others have games.
- 27. What happens if it begins to lightning during the game?** Communication between the umpire and coaches is crucial. Lightning up in the clouds is not a reason to call a game as the lightning could be far away but any bolt of lightning does justify calling the game. Safety of the players is our primary concern so use your best judgment. For your information, the game will count as a “full game” as long as half the innings or half of the game time (whichever comes first) has been played. If coaches should have any questions about it, please tell them to email their commissioner.
- 28. Will umpires be paid if the game is cancelled?** No. The only exception to this is if the game is already in progress and is then cancelled. In that event, you will be paid for the first game only (no pay if you're scheduled for another game later that evening).
- 29. Will there be shelter at fields in case of bad weather?** No, most fields do not have any shelters. For non-driving umpires, if the weather looks at all questionable on your scheduled game night, plan to have a parent at the field or close by.
- 30. Will a JSL supervisor be at the fields?** We plan to have site supervisors at Fleming, Optimist, Union, and Densmore. It is not possible for them to cover all the single-field facilities. In case of an issue or problem with a coach or fan, please contact Bob as soon as possible after the game.
- 31. No umpire should be texting or talking on their cell phones.** Since game timers are now used, the ONLY reason an umpire would need to be looking at their cell phones is to perhaps check a weather app. However if you are umping on a field with a site supervisor, they will be monitoring the weather. If a supervisor or coach informs us that the umpire was on his phone at any time of the game, this is subject to discipline by Bob.

32. **Friends or significant others should not be at the field.** You are being paid to do a job. Between innings you should be counting the pitcher's warm up throws and making sure the game keeps moving, not talking to your friends.
33. **A coach should never push, shove, or scream at you.** If the coach has a question with a call you make, you will invite them to talk with you after the inning. If they scream at you then you will tell them that this is their warning and next time they will be ejected from the game. I consider a scream to be a coach leaving the dugout and talking very loudly in front of your face. If a coach lays a hand on you then you will eject him/her immediately. If an ejected coach does not leave the field in 5 minutes then his/her team will forfeit the game and you will be fully paid.
34. **What if a parent is screaming at me?** This is part of the game. You will say nothing to the parents or crowd. The only time you will have any interaction with the parents and crowd is if they run out onto the field. At that point you will eject them immediately. If they do not leave in 5 minutes then that team will forfeit the game (this has never happened before). Most of the crowd will thank you after the game.
35. **What should I do if I eject a coach, player, or parent?** If it's at a 4-field complex, let the JSL Site Supervisor know as soon as possible and give him as much information as you can (which team, # on back of shirt, name if known, and what happened). After the game you should also immediately email Bob and give him all this information as well so he can follow up. FYI – any coach or player that is ejected automatically serves a 1-game suspension for the next scheduled game. Depending on the issue, further consequences may be imposed by the JSL Board.
36. **What if the other umpire did a bad job?** If you feel the other umpire made an incorrect call, was fooling around, slacking, or did a poor job, please email Bob after the game. He will take the appropriate actions.
37. **What if players are using foul language and insulting me?** If you hear foul language, tell the coach and he will discipline his team. If the players are saying insulting things to you then you will ignore them unless they use foul language.
38. **How long are the games?** See the rules sheet as noted on question #25. All U10-U16 games have a maximum game time of 1 hour and 50 minutes OR 6 innings for U10/U12 or 7 innings for U14/U16, whichever comes first. Time starts at the first pitch. All plate umpires will use a game timer which will be clipped on the back fence.
39. **Why do umpires have a timer?** One of the most common complaints we receive is “why did the game end early”. Most of the time this is because parents misunderstand how long the games are. We started using timers several years ago and it has helped tremendously. The timer should be used for every game. Set it for 1 hour 50 minutes, announce in a loud voice that “game time is 1 hour, 50 minutes and begins now”, start the timer and clip it to the back fence. Coaches can check the remaining game time between innings. When the timer goes off, let it ring for just a little bit so that everyone (coaches, players, parents) hears it.
40. **Can a game end before the timer goes off?** Yes, but only if the max number of innings have been played (6 full innings for U10/U12 or 7 full innings for U14/U16). If not, then the game should not end before the timer goes off.
41. **When the timer goes off is the game over immediately?** Not necessarily. There has been a lot of confusion among umpires and coaches on this so we have clarified it with various scenarios as indicated in Section II on the Rules-At-A-Glance attachment. Please review this section carefully to make sure you understand it. If you have any questions, please contact Bob.
42. **What happens if the first game of the night ends late?** Umpires should do everything they can to make sure the games start promptly and keep moving. Count the warm-up pitches between innings and be consistent. Getting the first game started and ended on time is important so the 8pm game starts on time...this is especially important in May on school nights.
43. **Are other players, older siblings or adults allowed to warm up the pitcher?** Yes, they can. But anyone 18 yrs or younger MUST wear a catcher's mask/helmet if they are warming up the pitcher – this applies whether the warm up is on or off the field. If you're unsure how old someone is, ask them.
44. **Can older siblings be a line coach?** Yes, but anyone 18 yrs or younger MUST wear a helmet. No exceptions! Again, if you don't know how old someone is, ask them.
45. **When must a player slide?** Sliding is a rule in U10-U16 for all bases (except 1<sup>st</sup> base) WHEN THERE IS A CLOSE PLAY. Please see Section III(B) on the Rules-At-A-Glance Clarifications on what happens if a player does

not slide. At the coaches meeting, coaches will be told that early in the season a warning may be given to each team; however by mid-season, umpires may give the warning at the plate meeting prior to the start of the game.

- 46. Is there a pitching limit?** Yes, pitchers can only pitch 3 innings in U10-U14 and 4 innings in U16. 1 pitch to 1 batter is considered an inning. Once a pitcher leaves the game, he can NOT return at a later time to pitch in the same game. Example: Joe pitches the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> innings, Sam pitches the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Joe can NOT return and pitch in the remaining innings.
- 47. How many warm-ups pitches are allowed?** New pitchers are allowed up to 6 warm-up pitches. Returning pitchers are allowed up to 3 pitches. Please be sure to watch and count this carefully. Every season we get calls from coaches/parents, that umpires are not following this. More warm-ups means longer games which makes games end late and the following game start late.
- 48. Can any bat be used during JSL games?** No, in order for a bat to be used during a JSL game, the bat must have an orange “Approved” sticker (for U10-U14) or a green “Approved” sticker (for U16) above the bat’s grip. We have new bat rules for 2018 for U10-U14 games. In past, the orange sticker was white – beginning in 2018, bats with the white sticker can NOT be used in 2018. They must be re-inspected and the new orange sticker placed on it. This has been communicated to all JSL parents multiple times during registration and before season games began. Bat inspections are not done by umpires at the field, and no game should be delayed for a bat inspection. All coaches will be notified at the coach meeting about the process for a bat inspection once season games begin. As a point of information, parents were told bat inspections would be very limited once season games begin so they were highly encouraged to get them done on numerous dates/times that were communicated to them via email as well as listed on the website.
- 49. How many coaches are allowed per team for U10-U16?** Due to problems we’ve had the last couple seasons and some complaints of too many people in the dugout, we are allowing a maximum of 3 coaches per team (and we’re providing 3 coach shirts for each team). Parents/adults in the dugout are considered coaches. The max of 3 per team includes coaches on the field and those in the dugout. Coaches can be in the dugout without the team shirt on; however, they are not allowed on the field unless they have the team shirt. When the team is batting and coaches are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base lines, only 1 additional adult (either the team’s 3<sup>rd</sup> coach or another adult) can be in the batting team’s dugout. All other adults, must be outside of the dugout or in the stands. Umpires should cover this at the plate meeting before each game begins. Umpires and JSL Site Supervisors will work together to enforce this.
- 50. What if I have a question or concern?** Feel free to email the Ump Coordinator any time. There are many situations that don’t happen very often. If you make a call in a game and then later are uncertain about it and want to make sure you made the correct call, email Bob. That’s the best way to learn.

**MOST IMPORTANT...BE CONSISTENT with all the above rules. It’s very frustrating for coaches (and parents) to do something for several games and then be told in game 3, 4 or 5 that it’s against the rules. It makes all the umpires look bad!**