



Junior Saltdogs League Umpire Meeting

April 25, 2021

Thanks to our 2021 Community Partners and Home Run Sponsors for sponsoring today's meeting.



SLIM CHICKENS



Included in this handout are the following:

- ACH Bank Form
 - (New JSL Umps and returning umpers who have changed bank info must complete and return this form **by May 3** to JSL President Dina Euler at jslpresident@jrsaltdogs.com or mail to her at:
Dina Euler
Midwest Bank
2655 Jamie Ln
Lincoln NE 68512
- Lincoln Parks & Rec Covid Release Form
 - (all umpires must complete and return this form to Deb @ jslregistrations@jrsaltdogs.com **by May 3**)
- Instructions for how to use www.ArbitorSports.com
 - Remember this software is how you sign up for games so in essence, if you don't understand how to use it, you may get fewer games which translates into less money for you. So please read through these carefully **before** season games are posted so you are prepared when games go live for scheduling. (NOTE: your first paycheck will be delayed if you don't have your social security number, full mailing address, and at least one phone number entered in Arbitor so make sure you do that.)
- Umpire FAQs
 - There is a lot of information in here and things that you need to know on the administrative end as well as on the actual game side for umping.
- Jr Saltdogs League Rules Matrix for U6-U17 Divisions with clarifications
 - Keep a copy of this on your person at games as a reference for you in case any questions come up.

This complete handout is also linked on the *Umpires* page of our website at www.jrsaltdogs.com for reference throughout the season.

NOTE: Bob is happy to answer questions; however, he has a real 8am-5pm job and a family so don't expect an immediate answer. With nearly 100 umpires, please help him out by reviewing the documents above to see if your question is already answered before reaching out to him.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED (ACH) CREDITS

Company Name: Lincoln Youth Baseball Organization (dba Jr. Saltdogs)

I (we) authorize the above Company to initiate credit entries to my (our) ☐checking/ ☐savings account (select one) indicated below and the depository financial institution named below, called Depository, to credit the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository (Bank)

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Transit/ABA No.: _____ Account Number: _____

Account Type (Please circle): Checking Savings

Payment Frequency: Every other Friday Payment Amount: Determined by number of games completed
(Subject to change upon notification by company or association).

Disclosures

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Company has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Company and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it. In no event shall it be effective with respect to entries processed by the Company prior to receipt of notice of termination.

I (we) further authorize the Company to initiate such debit entries to said account as may be necessary to correct any erroneous credit entries previously initiated thereto. I (we) authorize the Depository to accept and to credit or debit the amount of such entries to my (our) account.

I (we) have the right to stop payment of any entry by notification to Depository prior to the posting of item to the account.

The undersigned hereby agrees that all entries initiated hereunder are to be governed in all respects by the Rules of the National ACH Association as now or hereafter in effect and agrees to be bound thereby.

Umpire/Customer Printed Name: _____

Customer I.D. (social security number): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please attach voided check.

(If you don't have a voided check, please double and triple check that the Transit/ABA and Account numbers above are correct and are very clearly written)



WARNING OF RISK, WAIVER, AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

Participant Obligations. Participant (player, coach, or other participant) agrees to comply with all federal, state, and municipal laws, rules and regulations, health and safety guidelines, Directed Health Measures, and protocols. The likelihood of injury or illness may be reduced by adherence to safety rules or procedures. Participant agrees to conduct the activity in a safe and professional manner at all times.

Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims. Participant is fully aware and understand the specific risks associated with this activity, including physical injury, sickness and disease **including COVID-19 or novel coronavirus**, and death, and that this activity may be hazardous to the Participant. The COVID-19 coronavirus has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization, is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Participant agrees to assume and accept the full risks associated with this activity without limitation, or in the alternative waives all rights to notice of risks associated with this activity and any activities connected or associated with this activity, including any loss or damage to clothing and/or personal equipment; any mental and/or physical injuries, including illness, permanent and/or partial disability; severe social and/or economic loss; attorney's fees; and/or any other damages or loss which may result not only from actions, inactions or negligence of Participant, or of others, or in the condition of the premises or of any equipment used. Participant agrees to waive and relinquish all claims Participant may have as a result of or related to the activity against the City of Lincoln and their officials, officers, agents, and employees. Participant further assumes all the foregoing risks and accepts personal responsibility for all costs associated with the risks or injuries that Participant incurs or causes.

Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Participant shall indemnify, covenant not to sue, defend, release, and hold forever harmless City of Lincoln or their officers, agents, and employees from and against claims, damages, losses, and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from this activity, that results in any claim for damage whatsoever, including without limitation, any bodily injury, sickness and disease **including COVID-19 or novel coronavirus**, death, or any injury to or destruction of tangible or intangible property, including any loss of use resulting therefrom that is caused in whole or in part by the intentional or negligent act or omission associated therewith. This shall not require Participant to indemnify or hold harmless City for any losses, claims, damages, and expenses arising out of or resulting from the sole negligence of the City. City does not waive its governmental immunity and defenses. This obligation shall not be terminated at the conclusion of the activity.

Effect of Waiver and Release. This Warning of Risk, Waiver, and Release of All Claims shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska; contains the entire understanding of the parties superseding any prior negotiations; shall be read as broadly and inclusively as permitted by law; and in the event any provision is rendered invalid, the remainder shall still remain valid and enforceable to the fullest extent of the law.

Acknowledgment and Capacity. In consideration for participation in the activity, the undersigned hereby acknowledges and represents unqualified authority to execute the same on their own behalf. Parent/Guardian of the Participant who sign (if applicable) agree that by signing below they are in addition to binding themselves and binding any minor Participant on whose behalf they have signed, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law as provided herein. The undersigned has read, fully understood, and freely agrees to this Warning of Risk, Waiver, and Release of All Claims.

Participant Name (Player, Coach, or Other Participant): _____

Participant Signature (if Participant is not a minor): _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if Participant is minor): _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Age of Participant: _____



JUNIOR SALTDogs LEAGUE

How to Use the Arbitersports.com Website

updated 4.18.21

2021 JSL Umpire Coordinator:

Bob Hanzlicek - robert.hanzlicek1@gmail.com, jslumpires@jrsaltdogs.com

All announcements/scheduling is done thru Arbiter Sports at <http://www.arbitersports.com>. To log in, use the email address you gave to Bob and your password. If you've never logged in to Arbiter before, the default password is your last name using all lowercase letters. If you have logged in before but can't remember your password, use Arbiter's "forgot password" link.

JSL umpires self-assign themselves regular season games on a first-come first serve basis. The system allows an umpire to schedule themselves for 8 games every 24 hours. After the 8th game is taken Arbiter will say you've reached your max for the day. So wait 24 hours and log back in to assign yourself more games.

Arbiter wants all the early games to be assigned first so on the first day when the schedule is released and games show up on the Self-Assign list, you probably won't see the entire season....and if you "block" yourself (more details on that below) for any dates, then you will see even less games on day 1. But don't worry, just remember to log in again on the next day to see more. But don't forget! If you're going to be on vacation or gone the first few days that the game schedule is released, give a parent your log in information and the game dates/times that you are available to work so they can select games for you.

What you'll see after you log in to Arbiter:

The first page you see when you log in...

- Action items-Get Pay Sooner: ignore this, we don't use ArbiterPay
- Upcoming Schedule – you'll see games here after you select them
- Announcement – this is where Bob and/or other JSL Board Members will post important things for all umpires –it is very important that umpires check their email and also log in to Arbiter Sports at least once a day throughout the entire baseball season.

Across the top of the page are the headers MAIN - SCHEDULE – PAYMENTS – BLOCKS - LISTS - REPORTS – PROFILE. Below is a recap of them:

PROFILE (far right)

On the gray bar under profile you'll see INFORMATION, PREFERENCES, and PASSWORD.

INFORMATION:

- at the far left under Status, make sure the box next to "Ready" is checked.
- make sure your first name, last name, at least one phone number, current mailing address (w/ city, state and zip), and SSN are entered. NOTE: your SSN is not visible to other umpires but it must be entered before you will receive any pay. If any info entered/updated, click "Save" at the bottom

PREFERENCES – Make sure the date range shows 4/1/2021 thru 8/1/2021 then Save.

PASSWORD - go here to change your password

SCHEDULE

In the gray bar below Schedule, you'll see CALENDAR, SELF ASSIGN, and MASTER SCHEDULE

CALENDAR – This is where all of your games will show up. Most are games you self-assigned yourself. But if you see the words "Accept" or "Decline" along the right margin for a game, this is one that Bob has assigned you to (he will talk to you by phone before assigning you to a game this way). But if you see this, you will need to select Accept or Decline to make it official.

Under the list of your games, you will be able to see the Game # – click here to see all the game info, both umpires names and phone #'s. You can also insert a game note by clicking “Notes” and then the green + sign. Type the note, check “officials” if you’d like the officials (umpires) to be able to see the note or leave all unchecked then only Ump Coord and supervisors can see. Then click “save”

A “note” should be made AFTER a game for anything that involves umpire pay (i.e., you signed up for base ump but the plate ump was a no show so you were moved to the plate or vice versa).

You can only create a note for games you have umped. If you were a last minute sub and don’t see the game you did on your schedule in Arbiter, make sure you email Bob right away so he can get the correction made – if you don’t see the game that means you won’t be paid for it.

SELF ASSIGN – this is where you go to assign yourself games. During the ump meeting, Bob will let you know an estimated date of when he’ll be activating the games – at that time you’ll see the list of games. After that, he’ll email all the umpires several days before they go live so be sure to check your email regularly.

If it says “none are available,” check back frequently for any returned games that are put back out to Arbiter by Bob and rainout games that have been rescheduled (Umps change their minds quite often so Bob returns many games – the more often you recheck Arbiter for games, the better your chance of being able to grab one to work.

After you have assigned yourself a game, you can flip to the “Calendar” tab to see a complete list of all the games you umpire.

What do you do if you find out later that you can’t ump that game? It depends on how far away the game day is. **If it’s at least 3 days before the game day**, just go to the Schedule - Calendar page, and on the game you can’t ump, click “turnback”. This automatically cancels you from that game and sends a message to Bob about it. He will then put the game back out into the self-assign pool. **If it is less than 3 days before the game day**, the turnback feature is not an option – you must find your own sub by contacting JSL umpires under the “list” tab. - see FAQs #16 – verify for more info.

MASTER SCHEDULE - lists all U10-U17 season games that require umpires. All U10-U14 regular season games will release first for assignment. U17 games will be added in early June and will only be visible to those who are 18 or older.

PAYMENTS

Disregard this page – we have our own accountant doing our umpire payroll so we don’t use ArbiterPay

BLOCKS

Right now (before the game schedule is released), you should go through your May-July calendar to determine dates you know that you can’t work games. If there are any, on the far left, under Action, select “Block all Day” or “Block Part Day” (if part day, select your time range), and then in the calendar, click the date you can’t work. The Legend shows what each color means.

How does the above help you? The game schedule won’t show any games that are on days that you blocked so it keeps you from accidentally taking a game you can’t work. Obviously, the more dates you block, the fewer games overall you’ll most likely be working though.

Be sure to keep your “Blocks” schedule updated throughout the season.

LISTS

On the Lists page on the gray bar, you’ll only be using OFFICIALS and SITES

OFFICIALS - lists all registered JSL umpires. Click a name to access phone numbers

If you need a sub for a game, they **MUST** be on this list in order to umpire. Note that some umpires will quit or be released during the season so you need to refer back to this list routinely during the season.

SITES - lists all the potential baseball fields; however we won't be using all of these fields. Click the address for Google map.

REPORTS

Disregard both – not needed for JSL umps



WHAT SHOULD I DO RIGHT NOW WHILE I'M WAITING FOR THE GAME SCHEDULE TO RELEASE:

To double check and make sure you are good to go in Arbiter, do the steps below ASAP:

1. Log in to Arbiter – make sure you can get in and are familiar with the system.
2. Go to PROFILE – make sure you SSN, at least one phone number, and complete mailing address (including city, state, and zip) are entered. Remember, the SSN is not visible to other umpires. You must list at least one phone number so Bob can reach you if needed.
3. Go to SCHEDULE and SELF-ASSIGN - Bob plans to add test games (Test games will be available before live games are available) just to make sure all the umps can see them before the real games go live. He will email you when test games have been added.
 - If you can see them, you're good to go (please don't assign yourself a test game - if you do, then the other umpires can't see the test games)
 - If you can NOT see them, email Bob right away and let him know because this means when the real games are added, you won't be able to see them either.
4. Make sure you've been receiving ump emails from Bob. Make sure both of his email addresses listed at the top of the Arbiter instructions are on your safe senders list.
5. If all is good above, then you're ok to wait for the email announcement from Bob that season games are added to Arbiter and are ready to self-assign (don't forget to log in to Arbiter and check email at least daily in case Bob has announcements between now and then)

OTHER:

Ump information is also posted on the "Umpires" page of www.jrsaltdogs.com. Please read the Umpire FAQs carefully as well as the Rules-At-A-Glance with Clarifications. Print the Rules file and keep a copy of it in your umpire equipment bag for reference.

Be sure to register to receive our rainout alerts: Directions on how to register are on the *Rainout Info* page at www.jrsaltdogs.com.

If you have questions during the season, check the FAQs first. If it's not covered or you still have questions, contact Bob. Remember that he also has a "real" full-time 8am-5pm job and a family, so don't expect an answer immediately. Because of this, it isn't necessary for your mom or dad to email him while you are in school. Bob has hired you (not your mom or dad), so you should be the one communicating with him.



**2021 Umpires
Frequently Asked Questions
As of 4.18.21**

1. **Who is the JSL Umpire Coordinator and how will he communicate with JSL umpires?** Bob Hanzlicek is the 2021 JSL Umpire Coordinator. He will primarily use email to communicate with umpires. Please make sure both of his email addresses (jslumpires@jrsaltdogs.com and 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. The pay cutoffs/pay dates below are based on season games beginning May 17

<u>Pay Period Cutoff</u>	<u>Pay Checks Auto-Deposited on</u>
Fri, May 28	Fri, June 4
Fri, June 11	Fri, June 18
Fri, June 25	Fri, July 2
Fri, July 9	Fri, July 16
Fri, July 23	Fri, July 30
Sat, July 31	Fri, Aug 13

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 Deb of 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 2021 season. They will come from the Lincoln Youth Baseball Organization (the JSL's legal name). Umpires who make less than \$600 should track their pay from their banking deposits 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
6. **How do I log on to Arbiter?**
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 – For the end-of-season tournaments, Bob may use self-assign for some tournament games and he may also assign some of them (in which case you will need to accept/decline the game in Arbiter)

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 8th 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 U17 division games will be added; however, only umpires who are at least 18 years old will be able to self-assign 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.
 - a. **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.

- b. **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 umps 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 9th letter that was hard mailed to all 2019 umpires which indicated if you want/need to purchase equipment from JSL, you needed to let Bob know by April 21st and it was available for payment/pick up at the April 28th 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 the *Rules* page at 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?** All umps (new and returning) need to sign up for our JSL rainout alerts – see the how-to directions on the Rainout Info page at www.jrsaltdogs.com. You can register your email or your mobile phone. For phone, simply text the word JRSALTDogs to shortcode 84483. Within a few 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 for the troubleshooting instructions. DO NOT call or email Bob to ask about rainouts. He receives the rainout alerts about cancellations at the same time as everyone else. 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, Lewis, 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/significant other.
- 33. A coach should never push, shove, or scream at you.** If the coach has a question with a call you made, 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. For 2021 due to Covid and to try to allow more time between games, we have shortened the game time to 1 hr 30 min (previously it was 1 hr 50 min). No adjustment was made to the innings so 6 innings for U10/U12 and 7 innings for U14/U17 count as a full game. The game is final at whichever comes first (1 hr 30 min or # of innings). 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 30 minutes, announce in a loud voice that “game time is 1 hour, 30 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 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/U17). 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 which is attached to the back of this document. 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-U17 for all bases (except 1st 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 U17. 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 1st and 2nd innings, Sam pitches the 3rd 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 U17) above the bat’s grip. Bat inspections are not done by umpires at the field, and no game should be delayed for a bat inspection.
- 49. How many coaches are allowed per team for U10-U17?** Due to problems we’ve had in past 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 on. When the team is batting and coaches are on the 1st and 3rd base lines, only 1 additional adult (either the team’s 3rd 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 Bob 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!



2021 Junior Saltdogs League Rules At-A-Glance

	U6 T-ball	U8 Machine Pitch	U10	U12	U14	U17
Game length	6 inns or 1 hr 15 mins	6 inns or 1 hr 30 mins	6 inns or 1 hr 30 mins	6 inns or 1 hr 30 mins	7 inns or 1 hr 30 mins	7 inns or 1 hr 30 mins
Home to 1st	60'	60'	60'	70'	80'	90'
Home to 2nd	84' 10"	84' 10"	84' 10"	99'	113' 10"	127' 3"
Pitching	46'	46'	46'	46'	54'	60' 6"
Innings allowed to pitch per game	N/A	N/A	3	3	3	4
Run rule per inning	7 runs	7 runs	5 runs	5 runs	5 runs	5 runs
10-Run rule to end game	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, 5th Inn, or after
Lead-off base	No	No	yes, after pitch crosses plate	yes, after pitch crosses plate	Yes	Yes
Steal 2nd and 3rd base (see below*)	No	No	yes, after pitch crosses plate	yes, after pitch crosses plate	Yes	Yes
Steal home	No	No	Yes (1)	yes, after pitch crosses plate	Yes	Yes
Advance on overthrow	No	No	Yes (2)	Yes	Yes	Yes
max. # players in field/min. #	10/7-players (3)	10/7-players (3)	9/7	9/7	9/7	9/7
Batting Tee used	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Coaches on field (8)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Maximum bases on hit	2 bases	2 bases	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Balk called	N/A	N/A	No	No	Yes (4)	Yes (4)
Dropped 3rd strike rule	N/A	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes
Infield fly rule	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sliding allowed (7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Metal spikes allowed	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Baseball to be used	Safety - soft outer	Real baseball	Real baseball	Real baseball	Real baseball	Real baseball
Bat size (5)	Any legally mfg bat	Any legally mfg bat	Any legally mfg bat	Any legally mfg bat	Any legally mfg bat	Any legally HS mfg bat
Glove size (6)	Any legally mfg glove	Any legally mfg glove	Any legally mfg glove	Any legally mfg glove	Any legally mfg glove	Any legally mfg glove
Umpires	Coaches / parents	Coaches / parents	League supplied	League supplied	League supplied	League supplied

Clarifications:

NOTE:

* U10s and U12s: If runner is caught leaving the base early, it is a deadball, automatic out.

(1) In U10 players can steal home only when a play is made at another bag, or on the player at 3rd. Players may not steal home if the ball is overthrown from the catcher to the pitcher, wild pitch or pass ball.

(2) Except throws back to pitcher from any position. Once pitcher has control of the ball, players must stop at current bag or bag already advancing to.

(3) Play regulation positions, 6 infield and 4 outfield. Do not cheat the outfield up towards infield. Do not overload any side. Play fair.

(4) Balks are subjective and called at the discretion of the umpire.

(5) No restriction on bat length or barrel size. Bats approved by Little League, USA, USSSA baseball and for current High School play are legal to use for JSL. Bats must have a league approved sticker.

(6) No restriction on glove style or size. Any legally manufactured glove can be used. See FAQs section of Home Page for suggested sizing chart.

(7) If there is ever a close play at any bag or home plate, the runner must slide (with the exception of 1st base). If the runner does not slide, they can be called out by the umpire.

(8) Coaches can not talk to opposing players unless in a positive manor. If the coach does otherwise, they can be removed from the game.

Junior Saltdogs Baseball League In-House Rules
As of 3/30/2021

Rules explicitly amended in this document take precedence over all other rules.

I. Administration

A. Coaches

1. A plate meeting between a coach and an umpire is mandatory
2. Head Coach and Assistant coach must wear a Team Jersey
3. Scorekeepers and other parents in the dugout are assistant coaches
4. Head coach is responsible for all assistant coaches
5. Fan control is the head coaches responsibility
6. A coach that is ejected from a game is also suspended for, at minimum, the immediate following game.
 - a) All Ejections will be reviewed by the Junior Saltdogs Board of Directors and further consequences may follow.
 - b) There is no appeal process to an ejection. All rulings on the field are final.
7. While an inning is in progress, to address an umpire a coach must call "TIME" and wait for time to be granted by the Umpire. The Umpire is not required to grant Time to a coach.
8. Any offensive language is grounds for ejection
9. Coaches are responsible for dugout cleanup at all fields following their game
10. Coaches can not talk to opposing players unless in a positive manner.
11. U10-U17 leagues will have a Max of 3 coaches per night.
 - a) U6 and U8 are allowed 4 coaches
 - b) The total amount of coaches includes any adult on the field or in dugout
12. Only coaches in their teams assigned Junior Saltdogs Jersey will be allowed on the field.
 - a) A coach in the dugout does not need a league supplied jersey, but must NOT step into the field of play for any reason. Any adult in the dugout is considered a coach and must abide by league coaching rules and standards.
13. If Coaches wear a hat, it must be the official Junior Saltdogs League provided hat.
14. Standings in each league at the end of the season will be determined by:
 - a) Win Percentage
 - b) Head to head
 - c) Coin flip

B. Players

1. 7 players is the minimum number of allowed players for a game to be official
 - a) Less than 7 will result in a FORFEIT.
2. Only players on the official roster are permitted. Violation of this rule will result in the dismissal of the head coach and possible further action against involved parties.
3. All players must wear league supplied jersey
4. Players may only wear a league supplied hat
5. Players may request "TIME" from an umpire, but the Umpire is not required to grant Time to a player without a valid reason.
6. Any offensive language is grounds for ejection
7. A player that is ejected from a game is also suspended for, at minimum, the immediate following game.
 - a) All Ejections will be reviewed by the Junior Saltdogs Board of Directors and further consequences may follow.
 - b) There is no appeal process to an ejection. All rulings on the field are final.

C. Umpires

1. Umpires are performing a job and should be treated as so, casual chatting between innings is not necessary. If a rule clarification is needed, a meeting with both umpires can occur between innings. The opposing coach may be present for this meeting.
2. Umpires judgment calls are NOT negotiable. Immediate ejection could occur for coaches violating this rule. There is NO appeal process.¹

D. Equipment

1. All Batting helmets must have a facemask
2. All players warming up a pitcher must have a catchers mask
 - a) On and Off the Field
3. Game baseballs provided by the League must be used
4. All baseball bats must have an "Approved" sticker placed by a league official
 - a) A player using a bat that is not approved is immediately called OUT
 - (1) This must be addressed during the at bat by a coach calling TIME
5. No restrictions on glove style or size. Any legally manufactured glove can be used.
6. Catchers must wear all provided catchers equipment. This includes shin guards, chest protector, face mask, and catchers mitt.
 - a) Equivalent self owned equipment is allowed, but Junior Saltdogs officials hold the right to deem equipment unfit for any reason.

E. Fields

1. Teams are NOT allowed to practice / take infield before the game starts
 - a) Pitchers may not warm up on the pitchers rubber until their team takes the field to start the game.
2. Home team will be in the 3rd base dugout.
 - a) In the event of a double header, teams are not required to switch dugouts.

II. Game Time

- A. Game length is noted on the "Rules at a Glance" for each division.
- B. 6 pm games start no later than 6 pm. They may start earlier with both coaches permission.
- C. A 5 minute grace period is allowed to field a team. Game time still starts when the umpire declares (ex. team must be fielded by 6:05 pm)
- D. No new inning shall be started after the timer goes off.
- E. Timers will be displayed publicly for coaches and players.
- F. In the event of severe weather, A complete game consists of (1) of the following:
 1. 3 full innings played
 2. ½ the game time, before any stoppage (35 minutes U6, 45 minutes all other divisions)
- G. Cases that a game could end:
 1. SITUATION: Timer goes off. Home team is batting and home team is winning.
 - a) ACTION: Game over.
 2. SITUATION: Timer goes off. Home team is batting, home team is losing by less than Five runs.
 - a) ACTION: The game ends when either (3) outs are made or the home team is winning by one run
 3. SITUATION: Timer goes off. Home team is batting, home team is losing by exactly Five runs.
 - a) ACTION: The game ends when either (3) outs are made or the home team scores Five runs. (ends in tie)
 4. SITUATION: Timer goes off. Visiting team is batting and Visiting team is winning by less than Five runs.

- a) ACTION: The game ends when:
 - (1) The visiting team goes up by more than (5) runs,
 - (2) Three outs are made in the BOTTOM of the inning (home team batting),
 - (3) The HOME team goes up by (1) run, or
 - (4) Five runs are made by the HOME team.
 - 5. SITUATION: Timer goes off. Visiting team is batting and Visiting team is losing by less than Five runs.
 - a) ACTION: The game ends when:
 - (1) HOME team is winning and three outs are made in the TOP half of the inning.
 - (2) HOME team is losing and three outs are made in the BOTTOM of the inning.
 - (3) HOME team goes up by one run.
 - (4) Five runs are made by the HOME team.
 - 6. SITUATION: Timer goes off. Visiting team is batting and visiting team is losing by more than Five runs.
 - a) ACTION: The game ends after the current batter. (visiting team loses).
- III. Game Play
 - A. Batting
 - 1. Batters must make an attempt to move out of the way from a pitch
 - 2. Only 1 batter may be On-Deck at a time. All other players must be within dugout.
 - B. Sliding
 - 1. Baserunners MUST slide on all close plays*
 - 2. If a runner does not slide and the umpire rules it a close play:
 - a) If there is no contact to the fielder, the runner's team will be given a warning
 - (1) Only 1 warning will be given to each team per game
 - b) If there is contact to a fielder, the runner will be called OUT and the team will be given a warning
 - 3. After a warning is given, runners who do not slide on close plays will be called OUT
 - C. Baserunning
 - 1. Runners must NOT maliciously contact fielders, regardless if they are making a play*
 - 2. Pinch runners are not allowed.
 - a) Exception: If an injury occurs to a baserunner, a pinch runner may take their place. The pinch runner MUST be the last batter/runner to be called OUT.
 - (1) Example: Runner on 2nd base injures his ankle. TIME should be called and granted by an umpire. It should be determined if Runner on 2nd can resume. If he can not, the last recorded OUT (in this or previous inning) will take his place.
 - D. Pitching
 - 1. New Pitchers will receive a maximum of 5 warm up pitches.
 - 2. Returning Pitchers will receive a maximum of 3 warm up pitches.
 - 3. Each player may only appear once as a Pitcher during a single game. Once removed as Pitcher, a player may not return as a Pitcher in that game.
 - 4. See (IV) Division Specific section for the maximum number of innings a player may field the Pitchers position.
 - 5. Each pitcher can be visited by the coach a maximum of 2 times. Upon the second visit, the pitcher must be removed from the game. This does not have to be in the same inning, but it is during the total innings a pitcher is on the mound. A visit can be determined by the umpire as any time a coach crosses the base line into the field.
 - 6. A balk results in an instant dead ball situation.
- IV. Division Specific
 - A. U6 - Tee Ball
 - 1. A maximum of 10 defensive players on the field

- a) Players must play real baseball positions (6 infield, 4 outfield)
 - b) Players must not overload one side of the field
- 2. Games will be played at 6 and 8:00 on week nights.
- B. U8 - Machine Pitch
 - 1. Batters get 5 pitches to make a hit; after 5 pitches the batter is OUT
 - a) If the Last pitch is FOUL, the batter is given another pitch.
 - (1) Exception: If the pitch is a foul-tip and caught by the catcher, the batter is OUT.
 - 2. Bunting is NOT allowed
 - 3. There are NO walks
 - 4. The Tee will not be used in any situation
 - 5. A maximum of 10 defensive players on the field
 - a) Players must play real baseball positions (6 infield, 4 outfield)
 - b) Players must not overload one side of the field
 - 6. The provided pitching machine must be used and operated by the batting team's coach.
 - 7. The defensive pitcher must stay even to or behind the pitching machine.
 - 8. The pitching machine must not be adjusted at any time. If assistance is needed, Junior Saltdogs Site Supervisors should be notified.
- C. U10
 - 1. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three innings in a game
 - 2. Stealing
 - a) Allowed only after the ball crosses the plate*
 - (1) If caught leaving the base before, it is a DEAD BALL, the runner is automatically out
 - b) Home plate can not be stolen unless a play is made on a runner
 - (1) Ex: Runners on first and third, runner on first steals, catcher throws to second, runner on third may now steal home.
 - (2) Ex: Catcher throws ball to third base after a pitch, runner on third may now steal home.
 - (3) Ex: The ball is hit into play, runner on third may now advance home.
 - c) Home plate can not be stolen on an overthrow to the pitcher from any position*
 - d) Runners must stop their advancement once the pitcher has control of the ball on the pitchers rubber
 - (1) If a runner is between bases, he is able to advance to the next base, but the ball is still live and the pitcher may make a play on him until his progress is stopped.
- D. U12
 - 1. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three innings in a game
 - 2. Stealing
 - a) Allowed only after the ball crosses the plate*
 - (1) If caught leaving the base before, it is a DEAD BALL, the runner is automatically out
 - b) Home plate is open for stealing
- E. U14
 - 1. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three innings in a game
 - 2. Balks are called at the discretion of the umpire*
- F. U17
 - 1. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of four innings in a game
 - 2. Balks are called at the discretion of the umpire*
 - 3. Bats must be legal for high school use

4. If a team is winning by 10 runs or more after five complete innings, the game ends.

ⁱ Articles denoted with * are Umpire judgement calls.