

## Stittsville Minor Softball Association

### 2011 Season - Instructions for Umpires

**Check your e-mail frequently** for game assignments and update the Umpire Centre.

**Be prepared for your game assignments.** Be on time. You should arrive at the field at least 15 minutes prior to game time. Check the field for dangerous obstacles (like glass, holes in the field, holes in fences or backstops, or anything that could cause injury). Bring all your equipment with you to every game just in case.

**Know the local rules (attached).** Start the games on time and watch the time for the last inning. Do not call the game too early, and please announce last inning to both coaches at the top of the inning.

You have learned the **official strike zone**, however, for the younger age levels (particularly Mites) you can be flexible on the strike zone to allow for more hitting and less walks. You should be consistent and make sure both coaches know and understand how you are "calling" the strike zone.

**Limit warm up pitches.** To start a game the pitcher should get 5 warm up pitches and thereafter 3 warm up pitches per inning (no more!). If a new pitcher enters the game he/she should be allowed 5 and then 3. The idea is to keep the games moving and complete as many innings as possible.

**Umpire payments.** You will be paid twice. Expect to be paid in June for May games and in July for June games. **Your last pay will not be given until all of your umpire equipment has been returned.** Please complete your Record of Umpire Service Forms (**attached**) accurately. Try to have them prepared before your assignment. Please allow the coaches 5 minutes after the game before requesting that they complete the form. Keep the forms and bring them with you when you come to collect payment.

During your assignments any **incidents** involving players, coaches or fans that you consider inappropriate or abusive should be reported immediately.

**Rain and/or lightning.** After a game starts postponement for rain is at the umpire's discretion. The decision should be based on field conditions and player safety. Speak to the coaches about your decision to play on, wait or cancel. If the decision is made to cancel a game (i.e. a rainout) prior to its start we will notify you as quickly as possible.

Lightning can be extremely dangerous. If there is lightning nearby the field of play the game should be called immediately...NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Contacts.** If you have any questions about training, rules or other concerns please contact Paul Hansen. If you have any questions about umpire scheduling please contact Claire Moore. If you cannot make an assignment please notify Claire ASAP so that she can reassign another umpire.

**Have a great season!**

Claire Moore

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