

# Fairport Little League Umpire Policy update - 2011

In 2010, Little League International in Williamsport implemented a rule change for Little League divisions. Rule 9.01 states that "The League President shall appoint one or more **adult** umpires to officiate at each league game." Based on this rule change, Fairport Little League will implement the following Umpire Policy for our Boys and Girls leagues for ages 9-12 year olds.

Umpires for Little League games in the 9-12 year old divisions must be at least league age 13 to be eligible to perform umpire duties. Our more experienced umpires will be assigned to umpire the older division games. The newer umpires will umpire in our younger divisions; thus giving them the experience needed to move up to the older divisions.

We will strive to ensure that adult umpires are assigned on all fields; if there are not enough adult umpires for all fields, we will field the games with at least one adult umpire in the following priority:

- 1) Bronco/Girls Majors;
- 2) International;
- 3) Mustang/Girls Minors.

We will continue working to ensure there are at least two paid umpires on each field that require umpires.

The remaining portion of the Umpire Policy pertains to Non-Adult Umpired games:

In 2011, Little League International implemented a rule change for when an adult umpire is not available for a game. Rule 9.03 (d) was changed to read "*If no adult umpire is available for a game, and non-adult umpires are used exclusively for that game, the local Little League must assign an adult as **Game Coordinator**, or the game cannot be played. The Game Coordinator must not be a manager or coach of either team in the game, and cannot be assigned as Game Coordinator for more than one game at a time.*"

*The Game Coordinator's duties shall be:*

- 1) *To be included in the pre-game meeting as noted in Rule 4.01.*
- 2) *To remain at the game at all times, including between half-innings, in a position to see all actions on the field and in close proximity to the field (not in any enclosure). If, for some reason, the Game Coordinator is not present or is unable to perform his/her duties for any reason, the game must be suspended until the Game Coordinator returns, or until a new adult Game Coordinator is present and assumes the duties of Game Coordinator for the remainder of the game;*
- 3) *To oversee the conduct of all players, managers, coaches and umpires in the game;*
- 4) *To have the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to the decisions of an umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, or for any of the reasons enumerated in these Playing Rules, and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If the Game Coordinator disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play;*

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5) *To have the sole ability to judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of inclement weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension; and as to whether and when a game shall be terminated after such suspension. Said Game Coordinator shall not call the game until at least thirty minutes after play as suspended. The Game Coordinator may continue suspension as long as there is any chance to resume play.*" [Rule 9.03 (d)]

Each team in the 9-12 year old baseball and softball leagues will identify 1-2 parent volunteers that can step in as Game Coordinator in the event there is no adult umpire available for their respective games.

Prior to the start of the game, the team Managers will be notified whether the Game Coordinator from their team will be needed for the game by one of the following individuals:

- Umpire Director;
- Umpire Scheduler;
- Umpire-in-chief for their game;
- Director on Duty;

Once directed to provide a Game Coordinator, the Game Coordinators from both teams will decide who is going to cover the game (primary) and who is going to be the backup (secondary); both will report to the Umpire-in-chief prior to the pre game Manager's meeting.

- Both Game Coordinators (primary & secondary) will attend the pre game Manager's meeting.
- The Game Coordinator must be in a position off the field where they can observe the dugouts, players, and umpires (preferably along the non-field side of the 1B or 3B line fence; in the bleachers is acceptable).
- In the event the primary Game Coordinator cannot cover an inning, the secondary Game Coordinator will fulfill that role.

In the event a Game Coordinator is not available, the game cannot be played.

The Umpire-in-chief will be in charge of every member of the umpire crew; the Game Coordinator is there to support the umpires and be an impartial observer to oversee the conduct of all players, managers, coaches and umpires in the game.

At no time can the Game Coordinator reverse an umpire's call!

For non-adult umpired games, the following steps will be taken in the event any player, coach, manager, or substitute objects to the decisions of an umpire, or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, or for any of the reasons enumerated in the Official Little League Playing Rules:

1. The Umpire-in-chief will suspend the game and call together the team managers for conference.
2. The Umpire-in-chief will explain the violation and course of action.
3. If the Umpire-in-chief and managers can't come to agreement or the violation is not resolved to the Umpire-in-chief's satisfaction, the Umpire-in-

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chief will call the Game Coordinator into conference and explain the violation and course of action.

4. If agreement or satisfaction is still not reached, the Game Coordinator or the Umpire-in-chief will get the Director on Duty to resolve the issue.
5. If the Game Coordinator or Director on Duty is called in to resolve an issue, then the game cannot resume until the Game Coordinator or Director on Duty has given the Umpire-in-chief the OK to start play.

In the event of unsportsmanlike conduct by a fan, the following steps will be taken:

1. The Umpire-in-chief will suspend the game and call together the Game Coordinator and the managers of both teams to discuss the situation in conference.
2. If the managers cannot resolve the issue then the Game Coordinator will get the Director on Duty to resolve the issue; at no time should the Game Coordinator or Umpire-in-chief confront a fan for unsportsmanlike behavior.
3. If the Game Coordinator or Director on Duty is called in to resolve the issue, then the game cannot resume until the Game Coordinator or Director on Duty has given the Umpire-in-chief the OK to start play.

Remember, at any time the Umpire-in-chief or Game Coordinator can call for the Director on Duty to resolve any difficult situation.

It is strongly recommended that every team in these divisions identify their respective Game Coordinators as soon as possible so that they can familiarize themselves with their responsibilities defined above. In addition, Game Coordinators need to understand the Fairport Little League "Code of Conduct" and "Good Sportsmanship Policy" located on the FLL website under the "Hey Coach!" tab (open the URL: <http://www.fairportlittleleague.org/> and select the "Hey Coach!" tab at the top).

I must stress that the volunteer Game Coordinator cannot be a named coach for either of the teams that they are overseeing and they must be 18 yrs of age or older.

Every Manager in the divisions affected by this change will be notified of this policy. I strongly encourage each Manager to present this information to the parents of their team as soon as possible to help communicate this rule change and why we are making this policy.

Thank you for your understanding as we strive to provide a learning environment for all players, coaches and umpires in our league.

Jim Nashburn  
FLL Umpire Director  
2011 Season