MID-VALLEY SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

STANDING RULES

Procedures During Bad Weather

1. The home/host team is required to notify the Commissioner of any postponements, changes in starting time, location, etc. by:
    a. FOUR (4) hours before game time if the game is scheduled at the COAST (Taft, Newport, Waldport, Toledo and Eddyville).
    b. THREE (3) hours before game time if the game is scheduled in the VALLEY.
2. The Commissioner will call all umpires about any changes.
3. The Commissioner will leave a message on any answering machine, with roommates, spouses, etc., and will assume that the umpire has received the message. It is the responsibility of the umpire to do the necessary electronic follow-up.
4. The Commissioner may ask the umpire to contact the remainder of the crew about the changes. If the umpire agrees to do so; he/she is obligated to follow up and complete the phone calls to the rest of the crew.
5. The Commissioner will attempt to contact the umpire a maximum of 3 (Three) times about game changes. After 3 (Three) attempts, it is the umpire's responsibility to contact the Commissioner.

Incomplete Game/Game Not

1. All games that meet rule requirements for complete games (5 innings or 4.5 innings with the home team ahead) will be paid full game fees.

2. A minimum of 50% of a game fee is paid, if the Client does not cancel in time, and Umps are sent, even if they turn around in transit.

3. 60% game fee paid if one (1) complete inning is played.

4. 70% game fee paid if two (2) complete innings are played.

5. 80% game fee is paid if three (3) complete innings are played.

6. 90% game fee is paid if four (4) complete innings are played.

7. Any incomplete innings are "pro-rated" @ "+1.67%per out". The crew chief needs to inform the Commissioner via email of a non-regulation game, and at what point (including number of outs), the game was cancelled.

Missing or Arriving Late to Games

1. Umpires are to arrive at game site at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game and will enter the field of play 15 minutes prior to the game. Any recorded tardiness of an umpire may result in a $5 fine by the Association. Repeated tardiness may result in loss of assigned games and/or sanctions. If an umpire informs his/her partner that he/she may be late to an assigned game there will be no penalty. (The umpire who anticipates the late arrival must let his/her partner know within 24 hours of the scheduled game.)
2. Umpires arriving at the game site after the scheduled start time (but before the game has started) will be fined $5 unless partner has been notified in advance.
3. Umpires' arriving late at the game site and a fellow umpire is forced to work any part as a single umpire; the late umpire will be fined a full game fee.
4. Umpires missing a complete assigned game will be fined twice (2x) the full game fee.

Umpire-to-Umpire Communication

1. Umpires must contact their partner a minimum of one (1) day prior to scheduled game time. If this impossible, (i.e. Commissioner had just made the assignment or substitute umpire assignment), umpire is to make the phone call ASAP.
2. Umpires not designated the primary driver must contact the driver a minimum of one (1) day prior to scheduled game time, if possible. Contact must be made even if the umpire is meeting the driver at the site of the game.
3. If a substitute umpire becomes the driver, the new driver must contact all riders.
4. If a rider does not contact the driver, the driver is to contact the rider no later than 10:00PM the night before the game. The driver shall then notify the Commissioner and the Association President of the violation of the SOP's by the rider.
5. Umpires missing rides are still responsible for making the scheduled game.
6. If contact is made and one of the umpires states that he/she is no longer working that assignment, the umpire without a partner must call the Commissioner ASAP.
7. Penalties for not following the above protocol:
    a. First (1st) Infraction: The Commissioner and Association President will speak with the umpire about the importance of following the Standing Rules.
    b. Second (2nd) Infraction: The Commissioner and Association President will notify the Executive Board about appropriate disciplinary action.
8. Any Umpire that works a game alone, and who has not made the appropriate contact with partner, will not be paid the 1 umpire game fee rate. He/She will

only earn the standard 2-umpire rate.

Commissioner-to-Umpire-to-Commissioner Communication

1. Game cancellations will be left on an umpires message machine, cell phone, pager, etc., by the designated time.

2. Umpires going to the game site, after the Commissioner has left a message of cancellation of the game on a machine by the proper time, will receive zero (0) compensation (game and mileage fee).

3. If a game is cancelled after the designated time, The Commissioner will attempt to stop the umpires from traveling to the game site. If some travel has already occurred, the Commissioner will bill the client school and pay the umpire(s) a fair fee (mileage plus possible fractional game fee)

4. Games that are not a regulation game:
   a. The plate umpire must call the Commissioner immediately after arriving home from the game to inform the Commissioner at what point (innings and outs) the game was stopped. This affects the umpires' game fee.
   b. It is up to the Commissioner's discretion to reassign the make-up to any umpire who is available on the date the game is rescheduled. The commissioner will give the umpires that were first assigned the game first priority to be rescheduled unless they are already scheduled a game.

5. Game change information: (i.e. time, location, partner, driver change, etc.), A message will be left on the umpires message machine, cell phone, pager, etc., by the proper time. If the umpire fails to receive this message, and misses a ride, his/her partner, game, etc., the normal Association penalties will apply.

Umpires will receive their new schedules via the Arbiter. The umpire is allowed two (2) free declines per schedule. If a umpire must decline more than two (2) games per schedule they may be fined $5.00 per assignment. If an umpire accepts an assigned game and later turns the assignment back to the Commissioner for reassignment, the member may be assessed a $10.00 administrative fee. This shall be at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Umpire-to-Host School Communication

1. If problems arise en-route to an assigned game (traffic accidents, highway blockages, etc.), the plate umpire, or a member of the crew, must contact either the Commissioner or the host school to inform them of the problem(s). Association members will be given Athletic Director phone numbers of client schools.

2. Once the umpire crew has arrived at the host school, the base umpire should go immediately to the host school coach to inform him/her of your arrival and let the coach know that the plate umpire is there and getting ready to work the game.

Uniform

1. Attire: All members of the Association are expected to be professionally dressed at the game sites. The official dress for an Association umpire includes:

    a. Black shoes with black or navy blue socks
    b. Heather gray slacks with black or navy blue belt
    c. Powder blue shirt, either polo or button front. If an undershirt is worn, it must be a white short-sleeved T-shirt
    d. Navy blue hat
    e. Navy blue over-garments

2. Jewelry: Umpires are not to wear any jewelry (other than wedding bands), earrings, or have cell phones or pagers while on the field. Any violation will result in a request for the umpire to comply with the dress code. Any subsequent violations will result in sanctions by the Executive Board. Any sanctions (probation, suspension or expulsion) levied by the Executive Board against any Association member will result in that member being considered "Not In Good Standing" (See Association By-Laws).

Umpire Evaluations/Ratings/Playoffs

1. The Commissioner shall be responsible for the supervision and evaluation of all umpires. This requires the Commissioner to personally evaluate every Sub-Varsity rated umpire primarily and Varsity rated umpires secondarily at least one time during the season.

2. Varsity official must complete 4 evaluations (3 varsity and 1 sub-varsity) Any varsity umpire, who does not fulfill this requirement, will be ineligible for post-season playoff game assignments.

3. An official transferring or returning after an absence of more than one year may submit a letter of officiating experience, letters of references from other associations with contact person(s), or other information that might help in determining their status in the MVSUA. An initial rating of 3-3 will be given when registering with MVSUA. After an evaluation is given, the umpire could be raised to a higher level that represents their ability.

4. An umpire may take a Sabbatical for a period of no more than one year. A sabbatical shall be defined, as an approved leave of absence from the MVSUA for

a period of no more than one year, during which time the member will maintain their present rank. After the one-year period a member may return to full status and rank upon the fill payment of dues and other fees. A member may not take more than one sabbatical in a five-year period.

5. Rating System for MVSUA:
    a. 1= Any Varsity Game
    b. 2= Average Competitive Varsity Game
    c. 3= Not-to-Competitive Varsity Game
    d. 4= Sub-Varsity Umpire w/ prior experience
    e. 5= Sub-Varsity Umpire w/o prior experience (Plate only)
    f. 6= Sub-Varsity Umpire w/o prior experience (Bases only).
        1. "Bases-Only" Umpires earn $2.00 less than the 'sub-varsity' fees. The $2 is paid to the plate umpire.
        2. Umpires may elect to be "Bases-Only" for their 1st year (rookie year) only; and may "upgrade" at any time.

6. Re-Evaluation of MVSUA Umpire Ranking:

A. Any member who feels his/her rank is not reflective of his/her current ability may petition to have their rank re-evaluated.
B. A member requesting a re-evaluation must submit all the following documents either by email in attachment form or in person. All documents must be submitted together at the same time by the member requesting the re-evaluation to the secretary and member-at-large.
1. Petitioner's statement indicating reasons(s) a re-evaluation should occur.
2. Written/Electronic endorsements from at least two Varsity members who are 3-3 or higher to the petitioner's current rank. Each endorsement/letter must include reason(s) the petitioning member should be re-evaluated, reflective of his/her current ability.
C. The petitioner will be notified by the MVSUA Executive Board that the required documents have been received. After which, the petitioner may request a meeting with the E-Board to discuss his/her request for re-evaluation.
D. The re-evaluation committee may consist of two (2) members of the E-Board/Tournament Selection Committee. The president may assign the committee members. Members of the committee may be assigned to work with the umpire or go watch him/her work.
E. The E-Board may consider any information regarding an umpire's abilities from any outside source that pertains to softball.
F. The E-Board will notify the member of the decision no later than one month after submitting their re-evaluation request. If the member submits the request before the current season starts the member will be notified of the board's decision no later than one month after the first scheduled season game.

Playoff Criteria:

- A "2" or better in any part of the umpires current rating.
- Number of regular and scheduled meetings attended, in their entire duration; only one (1) excused absence and one (1) unexcused absence will be allowed.
- Contribution to improve the Association.
- Attendance at training sessions.
- Attendance at sub-varsity umpires training sessions.
- Recruiting and training of new umpires.
- Varsity official must complete 5 evaluations (3 varsity and 2 sub-varsity)
- Evaluations must be turned in prior to the last regularly scheduled general meeting. Evaluations are to be turned into to either the Trainer or Vice President in digital or paper form.
- Acceptance of regular season assignments.
- Number of assignments taken/refused based on availability.
- Acceptance/rejection of miscellaneous assignments that are added on to/or in addition to published assignment.
- Professionalism
- Punctuality to game assignments.
- Ability to work with partner.
- Positive interactions with players, coaches and fans.
- Professional appearance per Federation and/or OSAA standards.
- Ability to work with the Executive Board and the Commissioner.
- Test Score of 90 or Better
- Member in Good Standing
- Years of Service to the Association

State Championship Criteria:

1. The umpire must have a "1" in their ranking whether it is on the plate or base. A ranking of 1-1, 1-2 or 2-1 would qualify an umpire for a state championship.
2. 6 Association meetings or 10 hours in the current year
3. Meet all requirements listed in Rule 8 of the OSAA Athletic Officials Handbook
4. Three consecutive years of varsity level experience with MVSUA
    a. One year may be waived by the board for previous varsity experience with MVSUA
    b. One year may be waived by the board for verifiable documented varsity level experience with another association
    c. Only one year in total may be waived under a. or b. above
5. Once selected for a state final, the official must wait 3 consecutive complete years before their eligibility returns their fourth year (off 3 eligible the next).
6. Turn in a minimum of 5 peer evaluations within accordance of playoff eligibility.

Selection Procedure:

1. The selection shall be made by a committee of three officials who are not currently eligible for selection.

2. If possible, the past three championship officials will comprise the committee. If any of those are not available, the president shall appoint a replacement with a one in any part of their rating.

3. When possible, at least one of the officials on the committee must have previously served as the championship official for MVSUA.

4. The president shall appoint the chairman of the committee.

Selection Criteria:

Selection criteria for evaluating officials eligible for state championship representation is as follows: By rank, 1 being most important, 7 being least important.

Rank Criteria

1. Appearance/uniform/professionalism
2. Test score
3. Physical mobility
4. Evaluations from trainer
5. Meeting attendance
6. Contribution to improve the association
7. Length of time in association affiliation

MILEAGE FEES

The assigned drivers will receive/calculate the mileage

Each assigned driver is to calculate mileage roundtrip from his/her hometown (i.e. the nearest school/town that MVSUA services to where each one lives) to the game site using the mileage chart provided by the MVSUA. Mileage calculations using any method other than the chart are not allowed. The umpire is to keep a journal of all travels for which they desire to be compensated.

At the end of the season, the Commissioner will request each umpire to submit his/her driving mileage. Each umpire will send a spreadsheet in an email to the Commissioner showing his/her total mileage for the season. If a person does not have a computer, they may mail their spreadsheets to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner will process the mileage and have the Spring Season mileage checks available and/or postmarked for mailing to all MVSUA members by the first Monday after Fathers day.

The Commissioner has the freedom to check individual schedules, if need be, in order to verify the accuracy of one's total mileage. If there was a discrepancy between what was submitted and what his/her schedule on the Arbiter showed, that umpire will receive no mileage compensation for the discrepancy. This encourages accuracy in computing mileage. The Commissioner will contact the Member at Large of the discrepancy.

If the Spring season mileage checks are late (after the date due in being made available and/or postmarked), the Commissioner shall be assessed a late fee for each day late in the amount of $1.00 a day per umpire receiving a mileage check. The Commissioner shall pay the late fee amount directly to the member that is due the late fee.

Umpires not designated primary driver, but meeting at the site, must contact the designated driver preferably a minimum of one (1) day prior to the scheduled game time, if possible. This contact must be made, nevertheless.

If a substitute umpire becomes the driver, the new driver must contact all riders.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Standing Rules may be made during any regular Executive Board meeting upon a majority vote of the Executive Board present and voting.

Last Updated 3/21/17 by Rylan Owen MVSUA Secretary Added (2 Sub-Varsity Evaluations in State Championship Criteria and Playoff Eligibility)
Last Updated 2/20/2017 by Rylan Owen MVSUA Secretary