

# **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 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.
4. The Commissioner will attempt to contact the umpire a maximum of 3 times about game changes. After 3 attempts, it is the umpire's responsibility to contact the Commissioner.

### **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 5 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 day prior to scheduled game time. If this is 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 two days 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. 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.
7. 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 cell phones, etc., by the designated time.
2. Umpires going to the game site, after the Commissioner has left a message of cancellation of the game by the proper time, will receive \$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.
  - 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, cell phone, 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 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).
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 a black 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. Solid navy blue hat
  - e. Solid navy blue jacket or sweater
2. Jewelry: Umpires are not to wear any jewelry (other than wedding bands), earrings, or have cell phones or 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 5 evaluations (3 varsity and 2 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 full 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
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 have the same or higher ranking than the member requesting a ranking re-evaluation. 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 umpire's current rating.
- Number of regular and scheduled meetings attended.
- Contribution to improve the Association.
- Attendance at 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 Secretary 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. 6 Association meetings or 10 hours in the current year
2. Meet all requirements listed in Rule 8 of the OSAA Athletic Officials Handbook
3. 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
4. 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).
5. 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

All Umpires will receive for each trip to a game site the then current OSAA mileage minimum ("Mileage Minimum"). (The Mileage Minimum as of January 1, 2023, is \$5.) The Mileage Minimum will be paid to Umpires each pay period and will be included in the game fee check. The total Mileage Minimum amount paid to all Umpires during the season will then be deducted from the total mileage fees collected by MVSUA from all member schools. The balance remaining will then be available to Umpires as set out below.

Umpires will be reimbursed for all Logable Miles determined as follows:

1. The starting point for the counting miles is the Umpires actual point of departure or their residence, whichever is closer to the actual game site.
2. The ending point for the counting of miles is the point where they meet their partner to carpool or the actual game site.
3. If the Plate Umpire cannot/does not offer to drive, the Plate may not claim mileage for said game(s). Only the Base Umpire may log those miles. (However, the Plate may still claim miles driven to meet the Base if the Base then drives to the game site.)
4. If the Plate Umpire offers to carpool and the offer is declined, the Base may not claim mileage for said game(s). Only the Plate may log those miles.
5. If Umpires are traveling to a game site from different directions, they should each log their miles, even if they are not the Plate.

The goal of the above is to reimburse each Umpire for the actual number of miles driven in the performance of a game assignment. Therefore, their Logable Miles should never exceed this amount. Additionally, to the greatest extent possible, all Umpire crews are expected to minimize the total amount of combined miles driven to game sites.

All Umpires shall follow the Umpire-to-Umpire Communication requirements set out above in these Standing Rules and confirm driving arrangements to the game site a minimum of two days prior to the scheduled game time. If a substitute Umpire becomes the driver, the new driver must contact all riders.

All Umpires are to keep a journal of all Logable Miles for which they desire to be reimbursed. Each Umpire desiring reimbursement will submit the journal of Logable Miles to the Treasurer no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. 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 Treasurer will process the Logable Miles 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 Treasurer has the freedom to check individual schedules, if need be, to verify the accuracy of one's total Logable Miles. If the Spring season mileage checks are late (after the

date due in being made available and/or postmarked), the Treasurer 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 Treasurer shall pay the late fee amount directly to the member that is due the late fee.

### **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

Last Updated 5/18/2019 by Rylan Owen MVSUA Secretary (Deleted section regarding pro-rated pay for weather related games as OSAA as set a policy on what umpires get paid now)

Last Updated 6/7/2019 Removed the plate and bases fee only from the ranking system / removed rank 6 all together

Last Updated 1/29/2020 by Rylan Owen MVSUA Secretary Removed a variable list of language changes can be found in the Standing Rules folder.

Last Updated 4/17/2023 by Bob Quintero MVSUA Secretary. Updated Standing Rule 6.B.2 (Umpire Evaluations/Ratings/Playoffs) to provide that endorsements be required from at least two Varsity members who have the same or higher ranking than the member requesting a ranking re-evaluation. Deleted Section 1 of the State Championship Criteria. (This Section had previously provided that to be eligible for consideration for selection to a State Championship Tournament, the umpire must have a '1' in their ranking.) Revised the Mileage Fee section.