



Officials' Duties For Softball: Umpires and Scorekeepers

UMPIRE:

1. Become familiar with the current rulebook and any rule changes, reviewing the rules as often as necessary. Guidelines for umpires are outlined in rule 10 of the ASA Official Rules of Softball.
2. Look the part of an official. The official's uniform shall be a light blue shirt, dark blue or gray slacks and black shoes. Conduct yourself in a friendly and professional manner.
3. Report to your assigned game 20-30 minutes early. Check in with the tournament representative. Ask about any unusual ground rules for that particular location.
4. Locate the other official. Have a short pre-game conference to clarify specific duties. Introduce yourself to the scorekeepers. Discuss how you can best work together as a team throughout the game.
5. Meet with team captains at home plate prior to the start of the game. Answer any questions about the rules at this time.
6. You must enforce the helmet rule when umpiring youth games.
7. Keep the game moving along as quickly as possible. In tournament play, there are many games and the schedule is usually very tight.

SCOREKEEPER:

1. Become familiar with the current rulebook and any rule changes, reviewing the rules as often as necessary. Pay attention to knowing the hand signals so you can be accurate on the score sheet and scoreboard.
2. Report to your assigned game 20-30 minutes early. Check in with the tournament representatives. They will provide you with score sheets, pencils, scoreboard and any other information you may need.
3. Record the line-ups onto the score sheet. (Line-ups should be checked against the Team Roster.)
4. Record the starting time of the game (time of the first pitch) on the score sheet.
5. Notify the plate umpire when a player is out of batting order.
6. At the conclusion of game, return the score sheet and line-ups to the tournament folder.