

LG YBS Board Member Involvement in Game Conflicts

LG Youth Umpires are trained to handle most game situations, umpire mechanics, and how to avoid conflicts. They attend several hours of preseason professional training each year to become eligible to work league games. *We have to remember, however, that these are our kids, and these are JUST GAMES!*

No amount of training will ever prepare a youth umpire to solve a confrontation with an adult manager, coach, or spectator. We employ a policy of Zero Tolerance for just that reason; so our umpires can run a game without fear of such conflicts.

As we all know, it is not a perfect world, and situations develop which require the intervention of another adult, in this case you, a LG Board Member.

Umpires are taught to make calls and decisions in a timely manner and generally without asking for outside help. They may miss a call now and then, but are trained to stick with the call and keep the game moving. Their decisions are final, and discussion or comments by anyone else on the field or in the stands is prohibited, however...

Board Members can and should intervene in a game where they see that assistance is needed, but if an umpire finds themselves in a situation they can not control, they are instructed to ask, in a loud voice, for a Board Member present near the game to assist. You should immediately introduce yourself to the umpires and intercede to get the game moving again. You are not required to solve a rule interpretation, or even know anything about the game so far!

Most conflicts at this stage will present as one of the following. Use these procedures below simply to get the game going! Do not get your rule book out to solve some arcane situation on the field!

1. **Judgment Call** - the umps original call stands, managers go back to dugouts without comment. A situation should never have developed here. If any continued resistance or comments made, the offending person(s) are to be asked to leave the complex.
2. **Rule Question/Interpretation** - Most of the time, managers and/or board members do not know correct rules and/or interpretation. It's amazing how many myths are out there, perpetuated by coaches and fans. First question should be, do either of the managers have a rule book? They were all issued one. If they don't, the umpire's call should stand unless you are 100% sure of the correct ruling. In any case, send managers back to the dugout without comment.
3. **Personal Conflict** - Often the hardest to handle and well out of the hands of a youth umpire. For whatever reason, things get out of hand, and we now have adults yelling at other adults or worse, to kid umps, whether it be managers, coaches or spectators. **ANYONE INVOLVED IN A CONFLICT AT THIS POINT MUST BE TOLD TO LEAVE THE COMPLEX.** What must be stressed here is ZERO Tolerance - they can not be just words.

All issues, big or small, should get reported to the Umpire In Chief. There is a link on the web site for such a purpose. The goal is to become aware of any issues very early and act to prevent a snowball effect.

Your assistance and cooperation is greatly appreciated and will result in a better league for all of us.

Sincerely,
Lou Gehrig Umpire In Chief