

# Lou Gehrig Umpires Policy and Procedures

Umpires: review the items below. As an umpire in the Lou Gehrig system, you are expected to be familiar with, and abide by these terms, guidelines, and procedures. We must have a consistent effort from everyone for the system to work properly. Remember, this is a job; take it seriously!

\*\*\*When in doubt: Contact the Umpire-In-Chief with any questions, problems, or comments. You can find contact information on the web site.

**Website.** All appropriate documents and information will be posted on the Umpire Home Page of the Lou Gehrig website (LGYBS.com). Make a habit of visiting it every few days to stay current. Contact information is also there for the Umpire Coordinators and Umpire-In-Chief.

**Umpire Uniform.** Each umpire is provided with a shirt and cap (boys). It must be worn for all games. Other attire should be neat, clean, and professional. Jewellery of any kind (except a wristwatch) is prohibited. Face mask, chest protector, and shin guards **MUST** be worn and used properly by the plate umpire. You must earn the respect of the players, managers, and fans. Your appearance and demeanor is part of it.

**Scheduling.** The amount of games you are scheduled for depends on a number of factors. They include your age, experience, availability, dependability, skill, and competence. Schedules are usually prepared for 1 month at a time. An Umpire Availability form will be emailed to the address you provided, and can also be found on the website. To be considered for the upcoming month, you must complete the form for that month, and submit it to your Umpire Coordinator by the date specified. The schedule will be drawn up and posted on the website. You will be emailed when it is ready, or check the website daily for the posting. You are encouraged to keep a calendar for the games you work and schedule a sub early in the event that a conflict arises.

**Assignments.** You will be assigned to work either as a plate or base umpire. This is at the sole discretion of the Umpire-In-Chief and not to be changed by umpires at game time. The determination is done to provide experience at both, and also in the best interest of the game. The exception is if an umpire is working another game that has run late. Umpires who start the game as a plate umpire must remain at that position for the game. Plate umpires are responsible for obtaining and returning equipment to the umpire room.

**Substitute Umpires.** You are responsible for working games for which you have been scheduled, or to find a sub to work in your place if a conflict develops. Do not contact an Umpire Coordinator and expect them to find you a sub. Obtain a copy of the Umpire List and keep it at home. Copies can be found either on the web site or in the umpire room. Subs should be eligible to work the level you are scheduled for. If you, OR YOUR SUB do not show up by game time, you will forfeit the game fee, and an additional \$5.00, which will be deducted from your next paycheck. An umpire is considered a No-Show if they are not present on the field at the start of the game. At this point, another eligible umpire present at the complex may elect to work the game and be paid for it. He or she should sign in after the game, cross out the original umpire, write NO SHOW, and print your name in its place. The original umpire will forfeit the game fee and \$5.00 from the next paycheck.

**Playoffs/Tournaments.** The most highly skilled, experienced, and dependable umpires may be given

opportunities to work playoff and tournament games in addition to house games.

**Sign-In.** This is the only way you will get paid! Sign-In sheets are located in the Umpire Room with a pen. Sheets are posted and removed weekly. Sign your name neatly with the pen in the space provided. If you are a sub, neatly cross out the original umpire's name and print your name. Sign on the space provided. In case you had to work alone, write 'NO SHOW' in the space provided for the other umpire. Any defacing of the sheets is grounds for termination.

**Working Alone.** Lou Gehrig uses a Two Umpire system. This provides a level of competence we feel is right for our league. Any 'arrangements' made to intentionally miss a game in order for another umpire to work alone is grounds for termination. If it happens that you must work a game alone, you will receive a \$5.00 bonus for the game. The umpire who did not show up will have \$5.00 deducted from their next paycheck, in addition to forfeiting the game fee.

**Equipment.** The Plate Umpire must obtain and return all equipment after each game. Store all equipment neatly in the umpire room. Hang up chest protectors. Keep shin guards together on shelves. Masks should be wiped off and stored on shelves. Do not leave anything on the floor.

**Game Time.** Be at the complex 15 minutes before game time to sign in, get equipment, familiarize yourself with special rules for the level you are working, and get to the diamond. You should be early enough to conduct the plate conference before the published game time. Wear a wristwatch; start and end the game on time!

**Level Rules.** You are responsible for being familiar with the rules particular to the level you are working. Level rules are posted in the Umpire Room, and/or the dugouts. Review them before the game for things like number of bases on overthrow, steals, machine pitch rules, curfews, lead offs, etc.

**Home Plate Conference.** Rehearse your Home Plate meeting and start it 5 minutes before game time. It should be level-specific to review special rules and procedures at the level. It is OK to read from or refer to a 'cheat sheet.' Home Plate Umpire conducts the meeting.

**Rainouts.** If games are called off because of rain or other playing conditions, the league will post it on the web site by 4pm, and umpires need not show up. If games are not canceled by then, you are to show up for the game. The managers, umpire, grounds crew or Board Member may cancel or postpone a game on site before game time due to game conditions. If a game is canceled for any reason before the game starts, umpires will not be paid and should not sign in. Once a game starts, umpires will be paid in full and should sign in. It is inappropriate conduct for umpires to start a game with the intention to call it soon after, and a decision to terminate employment will be made. Once a game starts and weather conditions deteriorate, the game should be called off by umpires, managers, grounds crew, or a Board Member for safety concerns. Umpires SHOULD call a game if:

- Lightening is sighted ANYWHERE, by ANYONE. Play MUST be suspended IMMEDIATELY, and all players moved to the concession stand. Play may resume after 15 minutes without any more lightening sightings.
- Rain, sleet, snow, etc makes the playing field unsafe. This is a judgment call. For sure, when puddles of any size are observed, the game must be halted. If managers agree, a short delay of 15 minutes may be called, and play resumed if the weather allows.
- Any other condition makes it unsafe to continue play. Safety is our primary concern!