



## 2026 UMPIRE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2026 RGS Umpire Program. This document contains important program information for all new and returning umpires.

### **TRAINING**

Training is an essential part of the umpire program and all new and returning umpires are required to attend and complete the annual certification process. Please refer to the 2026 Training Schedule document for specific training dates and times.

Level-Specific Training: It is expected that all umpires attend their level specific training sessions. Umpires will need either an invitation or permission to attend sessions outside of their level.

### **REGISTRATION FEES**

RGS is a partner of USA Softball. The league requires all umpires to be USA Softball Certified. USA Softball charges a registration fee for umpires that is not included in RGS registration fees. Umpire registration includes training, certification, equipment, and insurance (should an umpire be hurt during a league assignment).

### **PAY INFORMATION**

Senior NUS, Adult USA, Senior USA, Mid-Senior USA

Senior Umpires who attend National Umpire School (NUS)	\$65
Adult & Senior Umpire (USA Certified)	\$60
Mid-Senior Umpires (USA Certified)	\$55

Division	With Partner	Solo
14u	\$35	\$70
12u	\$30	\$60
10u	\$25	\$50
8u	\$20	\$40
6u	\$10	n/a

### **BONUS PROGRAM**

For non-Senior Umpires, a bonus of \$45 will be given at the end of the season for all junior umpires with a minimum of 10 games worked (excluding tournaments) provided the post-game report was completed for each game.

The bonus is awarded in full for umpires that worked their assigned games and did not have any “no-shows” during the season.

- One “no-show” the bonus is \$22.50.
- Two “no-shows” the bonus is \$0.
- After three “no-shows”, the umpire will be dropped from the program.

## **UNIFORM**

All umpires will need an RGS Umpire Program shirt. This can be purchased through RGS. There is also an optional sweatshirt that can be ordered through the league – this is NOT required. Please know that should an umpire choose to not purchase a sweatshirt; any non-umpire sweatshirts being worn must be worn underneath the umpire shirt.

### **Game Uniform Requirements**

All umpires to be dressed appropriately and in full uniform.

- Plate umpires are not permitted to wear shorts for their assignments. Pants must fall below the knee and must be gray, black, or navy blue. NO jeans, softball pants, or leggings or other tight-fitting bottoms may be worn.
- Base umpires may wear shorts that are knee length. If shorts are shorter than knee length, leggings or other such bottoms may be worn underneath to reach or fall below the knee.
  - If you are assigned base but qualified to work plate for that division, bring pants or other acceptable bottoms just in case.
- All umpires MUST wear their RGS umpire shirt or RGS umpire sweatshirt. Your uniform shirts are to be clean and free of stains, rips, or tears.
- All umpires should wear dark colored shoes with closed toes and good tread.
  - Vans, slippers, flip flops or other such footwear is inappropriate for umpiring.
  - Molded or rubber cleats are allowed.

ANY umpire out of uniform (including Senior and Mid-Senior umpires) will be relieved from their assignment, without pay, and issued a warning. A second infraction may result in further action taken up to and including dismissal from the program.

## **EQUIPMENT**

All umpires will need an indicator (commonly referred to as a clicker), and a timer. The indicator and timer will need to be supplied by the umpire.

- Indicators may be purchased at any sporting goods store or online retailer.
- Timers can also be purchased online (or can be found in the kitchenware section of Walmart or Target).

Safety equipment (chest plate, face mask, etc) will be supplied by RGS. This equipment is stored in the equipment boxes onsite at all RGS fields.

## **ILLNESS OR INJURY**

Should an umpire be unable to attend an assignment due to illness or injury, they are to contact the UIC immediately. If it is possible, the UIC will put an email out to the crew requesting a replacement. If the UIC is unable to send out the email, it is the responsibility of the sick or injured umpire to find a replacement.

ALL REPLACEMENTS OR SWITCHES ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE UIC/AUIC.

Replacements MUST be qualified to work that position and division; the qualifications of each umpire are found on the umpire roster (most up to date rosters will be sent after practice games).

Any non-Senior umpire looking for a replacement cannot give the game to a Senior without approval from the UIC.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### **Program Knowledge**

It is essential that umpires spend time reading and understanding the rules outside of training. While the program offers comprehensive training, there is a lot to know. When an issue arises, especially in the younger divisions, the question is most often related to a league specific rule. It is strongly recommended that our umpires have a firm knowledge of the Local Rules - certification is based 60% on rule knowledge.

### **Conduct**

In addition to earning a paycheck, the umpire program is designed to teach responsibility, accountability, teamwork, conflict resolution and leadership. Umpires participating in this program are role models to other umpires and league players and are expected to remain respectful, whether they are on the field working, as a player within the league, or off the field as a spectator.

Bullying, teasing, harassing or ridiculing a fellow umpire or other individual, whether in person or on social media, will not be tolerated in our program. The league holds umpires to the highest standards possible and expects them to be good citizens on and off the field.

### **Sportsmanship and Support**

Many of our umpires also play in our league. As such, many of your peers may be working your games. It is essential that you, as a part of our umpire program, show respect to the umpires whether you agree with the call or not.

It is expected that you show the highest level of sportsmanship and NEVER ridicule a fellow umpire in front of your teammates. We expect that our player-umpires lead by example and show the proper respect to our hardworking umpires!