



Zeeland Little League Umpire Policy

Signing Up to Umpire

- **Per Michigan Law, persons wishing to umpire must be at least 11 years old.**
- If you would like to umpire with Zeeland Little League, fill out the form on the website in the Umpire Area called [Sign Up To Umpire](#)
- After completing the form, a ZLL Board member will contact you for additional steps.
 - Umpires younger than 18 must fill out a work permit.
 - All umpires must complete a W9 (even if you have filled one out in the past for Zeeland Rec).
 - All umpires will go through and must pass a background check.
 - All umpires will be given a username and password to access the ZLL website and access the Umpire Area.

Training and Certification

- ZLL will provide umpires with a ZLL Umpire Guidebook. The guidebook will contain:
 - How to use the umpiring feature on the ZLL website to schedule games.
 - Playing Rules in each division.
 - Mechanics on calling balls, strikes, safe, and out.
 - Positioning for the Field Umpire.
 - Other unique rules and mechanics that are common for Little League.
- Umpires will be given 1 Tee-Shirt and hat to be worn while umpiring games. ZLL requires wearing the shirt when umpiring unless prior authorization is given.
- Umpires must wear dark (navy/black) pants or shorts unless prior authorization is given.
- ZLL will offer an “Umpire Certification Training”. By attending the training, umpires will receive an increased pay rate per game worked (see Pay section).
 - If an umpire is MHSAA certified, he/she will also receive the higher pay scale.
 - Attendance of the Training is not required, however it is highly recommended and will lead to preference when ZLL schedules umpires.
- Equipment for the Home Plate Umpire will be available in equipment sheds depending on the location of the game. Equipment includes 2 shin guards, 1 chest protector (pad or vest), helmet/mask, indicator, and home plate brush.
 - Homeplate umpires **MUST** wear all appropriate equipment regardless of division they are umpiring.
 - Umpires may use their own equipment so long as it is in a good condition and properly protects the umpire.



- Rulebooks will be provided at the Umpire Equipment Shed. These rulebooks are to be kept at the fields and not taken home.

Scheduling

- Zeeland Little League handles all scheduling of umpires for games at a Zeeland Home Field during the regular season and team tournaments.
 - Umpires may schedule themselves for games that are over 7 days away.
 - ZLL will schedule umpires for unfilled games that occur in less than 7 days based on umpire availability.
- All AA and Minors games will be scheduled 1 umpire who will be the home plate umpire by default. Additional umpires will not be scheduled.
- All AAA, Majors, 50/70, and Junior games will be scheduled with 2 umpires if possible.
 - Based on availability, ZLL may adjust the schedule to account for a game that has 0 scheduled umpires by using an umpire from a game with 2 scheduled umpires.
 - If only 1 umpire is scheduled and/or available, he/she will be the home plate umpire by default. Coaches are allowed to request a parent at the game to be the field umpire, and will coordinate with the home plate umpire when doing so (see Umpire No-Show section)
 - In games with 2 umpires, one umpire will be the home plate umpire, and the other umpire will be the field umpire.
 - Preference will be given to adults or the older of the two umpires when scheduling the home umpire. If umpires agree to switch positions for a game, notification must be sent to the Little League President or Umpire in Chief.
- 72 hour notice is required for an umpire to remove him/herself from a scheduled game.
 - If an umpire gives notice of missing a game that is within 72 hours (*ie. sick*), the Little League President and Umpire in Chief will handle such situations on a case by case basis, and may result in discipline for the umpire.
 - If an umpire misses a game and does not give notice to either the Little League President or Umpire in Chief, that umpire will be disciplined.
- **The following process is highly recommended when an umpire knows he/she will not be available for a scheduled game:** If an umpire finds another ZLL umpire to replace him/herself for a game, approval must be granted by either the Little League President or Umpire in Chief.
- Umpires must confirm attendance at a scheduled game through the ZLL website.
- Umpires are expected to arrive to the field at least 10 minutes prior to game time.



Pay

- Umpires are paid for games worked based on the confirmed schedule on the ZLL website.
- Umpires will receive a form via email indicating the games worked and the total pay by June 15 (for games worked from April-May) and August 15 (for games worked from June-July).
 - Umpires are required to print and sign the form, and return the form to the Zeeland Recreation Office (320 E Main Ave, Zeeland MI 49464).
 - If there are any discrepancies with the form (*ie. umpire worked more games than what is indicated*), umpires must contact either the Little League President or Umpire in Chief to resolve the issue.
- Checks will be processed after the signed form is returned and processed by Zeeland Recreation staff.

Payment Breakdown Regular Season and Team Tournament Games

Division	Umpire Position	Youth (Non-Certified)	Youth (Certified)	Adult (Non-Certified)	Adult (Certified)
Juniors 50/70	Plate	\$20.00	\$23.00	\$30.00	\$38.00
	Field	\$16.00	\$19.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Majors	Plate	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$32.00
	Field	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$25.00
AAA	Plate	\$17.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$28.00
	Field	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$18.00
AA/ Minors	Plate	\$17.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$28.00
	Field	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- “Youths” are all umpires who turn 18 years old after April 1, 2020
- “Adults” are all umpires who turn 18 years old before April 1, 2020
- If an umpire works a game with no partner, that umpire will be paid the normal rate for the field umpire as well.
 - For instance, a certified adult umpire working a Junior game alone will be paid \$68 for the game.
 - This policy excludes AA and Minors games, as only one umpire is scheduled.



Pool Umpire

- On Monday-Friday, during days where games are being played, a position of Pool Umpire will be available for Baseball and Softball
- An umpire signing up in this position must show up at Kaat Park for baseball or Huizenga Park for softball
 - As long as the umpire shows up at the park, he/she is paid \$15 for the day.
 - The Pool Umpire is required to stay at the fields until verifying all games scheduled at the field have umpires before leaving.
- If an umpire is a no-show, or an umpire spot is vacant at game time, the Pool Umpire will be assigned to that game and be paid the normal pay for working that game.

All-Star Games

- District 9 will request ZLL umpires for select All Star games. These games will not involve ZLL teams and may require travel to other fields in District 9.
- When ZLL umpires are requested, the Umpire in Chief will schedule ZLL umpires for those games. Preference will be given to umpires who are certified and worked a higher volume of games during the regular season.
- Umpires will be paid an additional \$5 per game per the pay scale of Regular Season games.