

UMPIRE ADVOCATE POSITION

Umpire Advocate – Assignments and Responsibilities

Youth umpires will be working the majority of the games in Granby Little League. This sets up a challenging situation as they are asked to be the authority on the field yet they often feel intimidated by coaches and parents who are older and, well, larger.

Our youth umpires should be allowed to work in a supportive environment that will allow them to do their jobs successfully. The umpire should not feel intimidated by the coaches, fans or players. The umpires need to command a presence on the field and in order to create this environment and give them a sense of control, the Umpire Advocate position has been developed. Little League International refers to this position as “Game Coordinator.”

In accordance with the Little League International rules, Granby Little League will require that an Umpire Advocate be available for **every** game in which no adult umpire is present. No game will begin without identifying the Umpire Advocate for that game. The Umpire Advocate’s responsibility is solely to support the youth umpire and support decisions the umpire makes. *They are not umpires. They will not make calls on the field or help sort out the technicalities of a disputed call. They need not be an expert in the rules of the game.*

The Umpire Advocate will, however, be asked to support the umpires decisions, be present in any meetings coaches request of the umpire or meetings in which the umpire requests to speak with the coaches. The Umpire Advocate will provide necessary enforcement of the umpire’s decisions regarding calls, unruly fans, critical/vocal parents, coaches who are threatening or attempting to persuade the umpire’s decisions and players displaying poor sportsmanship. They will also be consulted in decisions regarding safety (weather, field conditions, injuries, etc.)

The Umpire Advocate’s responsibilities and procedures for dealing with these challenging situations will be outlined in a separate document and discussed during Umpire Advocate training.

The Umpire Advocate will:

- Be provided by the Home Team
- Wear a red shirt and be noticeably the Umpire Advocate
- Sit in the front row of the bleachers on the side of the Visiting Team
- Be attentive to the situations on the field and the needs of the Umpire
- Sign off on the Umpire Game Form after the Umpire has returned all of the equipment to the shed
- Forward any concerns regarding the umpire’s performance and the proceedings of the game to the Granby UIC (Jim and Carol Kidd) via phone call or text (Carol: 860-558-4440; Jim: 860-614-0931), or email (YouthLeadership@cox.net)
- Help create an environment that supports the Little League Parent/Volunteer Pledge:

I will teach all children to play fair and do their best.

I will positively support all managers, coaches and players.

I will respect the decisions of the umpires.

I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game.