

BPA / NSA Tournament Umpire Policies & Procedures

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1. Timeliness -- Be at Your Assigned Tournament Site **NOT LESS THAN 30 MINUTES** before your scheduled game time. **YOU MUST CHECK IN** with the Site UIC, Site Supervisor, or Tournament Director upon arrival. **AFTER CHECKING IN**, go back to your car and dress for plate or base.

- **POLICY: If and When You Arrive LATE for Your First Game, or Do Not Check In as Noted, Your Pay Will Be Docked a ½ Game Fee.**

2. Mandatory Dress Code -- UNDERSTAND that it is **YOUR** Responsibility to have the proper and complete **BPA / NSA** uniform -- NOT the UIC's, not the Tournament Director's, not the Site Supervisor's.... **YOURS!**

ALL NSA / BPA Apparel and/or Approved Equipment is ONLY AVAILABLE....

- (A) DIRECTLY THROUGH THE [BPA / NSA APPAREL](#) WEBSITE; or
- (B) POSSIBLY FROM UIC, **IF AND ONLY IF** THEY HAVE ON-HAND INVENTORY. *But DO NOT Count on That!!!*
- **You MUST Annually Sanction NSA and/or BPA (or BOTH) in order to obtain your current-year Sanction Number** which then allows you to order uniform apparel directly from **NSA / BPA** headquarters.

A. **BPA or NSA Uniform:** Official **BPA / NSA** cap, White **BPA / NSA** White Shirt with logo initials embroidered into trim, Embroidered Logo Ball Bag, Heather Gray Pants, Black Shoes / Black Socks / Black Belt; Also Official **BPA / NSA** Jacket when weather dictates. **NOTE:** For the 2012 Season, Newer **OR** Older-style Shirts can still be worn, **but NOT for State or World Series Events!** To work those events, **You MUST Wear the Newest Style Shirts!... MANDATORY!**

B. **POLICY:** Fine of **One Full Game's Pay** for **EACH DAY** that You Officiate Not in Proper Tournament Uniform.

3. On-Fence Digital Timers -- UMPIRES MUST HAVE AND USE VISIBLE FENCE-MOUNTED DIGITAL COUNT-DOWN TIMERS (**NOT** wrist watches or cellphone timers; these items can be used as **back-ups only!**) for the game time limits. Plate Umpire's Timer will be hung somewhere on backstop; base umpire's time should be on fence near 1st Base.

- For All Illinois **NSA** Tournament Games, **Clock Starts at The Conclusion of the Pre-Game Meeting.**
- For All Illinois **BPA** Tournament Games, **Clock Starts on Pitcher's 1st Warm-up Pitch to Catcher.**

POLICY: If You Do Not Use a Visible, Fence-mounted Count-down Timer, **Your Pay Will Be Docked a ½ Game Fee.**

4. Pre-Game Meeting -- In all Tournament Play, a Pre-Game Meeting will be held at home plate, between the Home Plate Umpire and the Manager/Head Coach of each team. Specific points to be covered are contained in the **Pre-Game Meeting Guideline PDF** ([click to Download](#)). Base Umpire shall also be involved, and shall contribute only if asked, or if something that should have been covered was not touched upon.

5. NSA / BPA Batted Ball-Injury Procedure – **PLEASE PAY SPECIAL HEED!**

- Home Plate Umpire shall secure the Bat and Ball; Label and Mark Team Name on the bat and give to the tournament director or tournament staff representative, or onsite UIC.
- Base Umpire observes player(s), directs coaches/managers to come out, at the conclusion of the play where and when the injury occurred.

6. Balls Out-of-Play -- All Balls Going Out-of-Play and **out of the Umpires' field of vision** **MUST RETURN TO PLAY ONLY THROUGH THE PLATE OR BASE UMPIRE.** This relates specifically to a **Liability Issue** that may come into play if and when a non-NSA-approved ball may be involved in a player injury.

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7.1 -- 2012 **NSA GFP Softball**; **BASE Pay Scale** -- \$30.00 per Game (all age levels)

7.2 -- 2012 **BPA Baseball**: **BASE Pay Scale/Gm.** -- \$33.00 (9u-12u); \$36.00 (13u-14u); \$39.00 (15u- and up)

- When you attend a **State Level NSA / BPA Clinic / Rules Interpretation Meeting (MANDATORY)**, your **NSA / BPA Tournament Pay Rate** will **INCREASE \$3.00 PER GAME throughout the entire season.**
- When You Attended the **Zone or National Clinic or Convention** at Least Once Every Three Years, your **NSA / BPA Tournament Pay** will Again **INCREASE an ADDITIONAL \$3.00 PER GAME**, over that Entire 3-year Period.
- **In order to maintain those pay grades, You MUST attend the Zone or National Clinic/Conv. not less than Once Every Three (3) Years, AND the Annual Clinic / Rules Interp. Meeting Yearly.**

8. **Tournament Payment Policies** -- As a General Rule, Payments to Officials for Tournament Games Worked are handed out at Conclusion of the Tournament. An Exception would be if and when a Tournament's Schedule experiences Major Disruption due to weather or other "beyond our control" circumstances, in which case checks are generally cut and mailed within 72 hours of conclusion of the event.

- **NOTE:** Tournament Checks distributed following completion of your umpiring work are usually dated for the **WEDNESDAY following that weekend's tournament**. That allows sufficient time to get the Tournament Director's check deposited in the bank, and the bank to clear the check, so that the funds are then available.
- **BE ADVISED!**... Tournament Checks should then be deposited or cashed by officials **WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF PAYMENT** (plus the Wednesday / 3-day flex period). When you get a check from us, it's because we've received the check and that money for your officiating is in the account. After 30 days, the odds are it's gone!
- **Neither PlayBallServices nor UIC Shall Be Held Responsible nor Liable for Payment of Checks Attempting to be Cashed Beyond the Initial 30(+3)-day Period!**
- **Nor Shall PlayBallServices / UIC be Liable / Responsible for Any Bank Charges that May Be Incurred by Any Official Who Does NOT Conform to This Policy!**

Please Follow These Guidelines -- for Your Benefit AND for Ours!

9. **State Tournament and World Series Tournament Selection** – Will be on the basis of **Merit**, **AND** with Strong Emphasis and First Consideration given to those who attend the Annual Clinics. The Harder You Work at Being Good, Consistent, Competent, Reliable and Professional in your Officiating Duties, the better your chances of earning a World Series Invitation.

- A. **NOTE:** WORLD SERIES EVENTS ARE MULTI-DAY OFFICIATING COMMITMENTS (which for **NSA** requires generally as much as a Full Week Commitment; for **BPA**, it's typically Thursday through Sunday, if you get to work the finals).
 - 1. THIS YEAR'S **NSA CONTESTS** are slated for July 22 - 29.
 - 2. THE **BPA WORLD SERIES EVENTS** Run from July 24 (East Peoria) or 25) - 29 (Bourbonnais).
- B. In order to qualify to work any of these events, you are expected to work a reasonable number of **NSA** and/or **BPA** W.S. Qualifier Tournaments throughout the season. These W.S. Events are Invitation Only Opportunities.
- 2012 Umpire Availability Forms are being drafted / updated, and are expected to be available approximately Dec. 15. An e-mail will be sent out, advising when those are available for download.

10. **NSA / BPA Illinois Tournament Dates** -- While this site has what is believed to be the most up-to-date 2012 schedule (under the [Schedules](#) link), the most current versions can be found at:

- **BPA Baseball** -- www.playillinoisbpa.com
- **NSA GFP Softball** -- www.illinoisnsa.com

A PDF Copy if this file is now available for download.

If questions or concerns, contact **Barry Parks**, **BPA Illinois State UIC**, and **NSA Illinois / Chicagoland South GFP Area UIC** – 708.946.1439, or barry@playballservices.com