



SPOKANE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION



SSUA welcomes your interest in umpiring with us! Whether your goal is to do local youth or adult recreation games, to be behind the plate for a high school state fastpitch championship, or to make it to a USA Softball national slowpitch championship; softball umpiring is a rewarding endeavor. Calling games is invigorating, your adrenaline gets pumping, you are a part of the game, you should be enjoying it as much the players and fans. The vast majority of players, coaches, and fans appreciate you and the time and effort you put into making their game a gratifying experience.

We have attempted to answer a few of the most commonly asked questions about us. However, we highly encourage you to sit down with any of our veterans, leaders or board members to gain more insight. We might be what you're looking for.

Q: I have participated in many sports, but I wasn't a star athlete. Can I be a successful umpire?

A: It helps to have played softball and other sports, however, it is certainly not necessary to have been an outstanding performer.

Q: What does it take to become a good umpire?

A: It takes a lot of things, but most certainly a very thorough knowledge of the rules and mechanics, a love of athletics, physical ability, self-confidence, the dedication and determination necessary to work hard, and above all, personal integrity. The athletes and coaches look upon each contest as being the most important thing happening in their lives at that moment, and the umpire must look upon each contest the same way.

Q: What are the benefits of umpiring?

A: Individuals may look at this in different ways, but umpires will generally tell you they:
Want to give something back to the sport they enjoy.
Want to stay involved in softball.
Enjoy the challenge of being in a pressure-packed situation.
Want the physical exercise.
Enjoy working with the athletes.
Want some extra money.

Q: How do umpires get games?

A: SSUA members are insured, independent contractors who enter into an agreement with local schools, city and county recreation departments and local softball organizations. Games are assigned through SSUA online via ArbiterSports.com, based upon your experience, availability and rating. We'll help you get set up with your on-line account, payroll information and calendar.

Q: Will umpiring take up much of my time?

A: This obviously varies from person to person, however, it must be understood that to become a good umpire, you must be prepared to devote considerable time and energy. You've seen the umpires at a game, however, you may not be aware that they probably had a pre-game meeting to discuss specific things, had many group meetings and training with other umpires during the course of the year, have required rules exams, have attended a required rules and mechanics meetings, etc.

Q: What will I get paid?

A: Umpires working school ball get paid via ArbiterPay.com. Payment can be EFT, debit card or mailed check. High school varsity contests obviously pay more than junior varsity level or lower. You will find fees ranging from \$30.00 for recreational and tournament games to \$75.00 for a varsity contest. Schools and conferences will pay you a mileage fee for your travel in addition to the game fee. Most recreational and tournament games are paid to you via SSUA; EFT or check.

Q: How much does equipment, uniforms, membership, training and rule books cost?

A: SSUA does have uniform policies and guidelines, and what you need will depend upon what level and type of softball you umpire; slowpitch vs. fastpitch. Uniforms and equipment can be purchased online or through our association. Uniform and equipment purchased through SSUA is very competitive, saves you shipping costs and supports our association. Those costs may be subtracted from your game fees if you wish. Prior to each season, some uniforms and equipment are available for free because many members upgrade.

- SSUA provides free training.
• Membership dues are subtracted through payroll deduction.
• NFHS (high school) rule/mechanics books are provided to you at no cost. USA Softball rules (PDF) can be downloaded for free.

We'll talk extensively about benefits, costs, equipment, insurance, and uniforms throughout our training sessions.

Q: How are SSUA umpires in our region served?

A: SSUA is governed by an elected board of directors, as well as members who deal with assigning, payroll, ratings and training. We are also served by local and regional commissioners and Umpires-in Chief (UICs). Spokane is part of Region 9, USA Softball of Idaho.

2023 SSUA Board of Directors

Table with 3 columns: Name, Phone Number, Email Address. Includes Steve Quaid, Ron Snyder, Carl Durr, Jeff Camp, Gary Kuck, Brian Raschka, Mitch Burman, Marty Boles, and Rich Hobson.

Please feel free to contact any of us for questions you may have.

2023 SSUA Training Schedule – The Hive, 2904 E Sprague Ave High School Slowpitch Outdoor Clinic—date, time and location, TBD