

DYA Youth Umpire Program Overview

ELIGIBILITY

The following are required to become a DYA Youth Umpire:

- Grades: 7th - 12th Grade at time of sign-up
- Residency: Must be a current Dublin School District Resident
- DYA Participant: Must meet the following DYA Program (Recreation/Travel/Select) Participation Requirements (*may be relaxed depending on number of applicants*):
- Currently enrolled or participated in a DYA Program within the past 3 years
- Pass Test: New Umpire Applicants must pass a test (See Umpire Qualification Test Section below)
- Sign-Up: New applicants must sign up through DYA's website AND provide a valid e-mail address
- Returning Umpires: Automatically eligible to umpire during the upcoming season if worked at least 4 games the previous year; otherwise, the Umpire Test must be re-taken and passed.

UMPIRE QUALIFICATION TEST

Each new Umpire Applicant must pass a written test to become a DYA Youth Umpire, which is typically offered the first half of April. Study material (DYA Baseball and Softball Rule Books, Umpiring Basics and Guide on Fair or Foul Balls) is available on DYA's website under the Youth Officials tab. Applicants will be e-mailed their assigned test date. The minimum score required to become an umpire changes from season to season, based on how many umpires are needed for the upcoming season (the only guarantee to get a spot is to score a 100%).

Taking the DYA Umpire Test is required (Study the available material, the test is not easy!)

CLINICS

1st and 2nd Year Umpires are required to attend the technique clinic and 1st Year Umpires are required to attend the informational clinic, typically held in the second half of April.

- ✓ Outdoor Technique Clinic at Avery - provides umpires with "on the field" training and practice making calls, the strike zone and many other tips of the trade to help new umpires be successful.
- ✓ Informational Clinic at the DYA Office - for the Umpire and at least one Parent; covers using Arbiter.com (our scheduling tool), unusual situations, myths, how to deal with uncomfortable situations, where to get help, etc.

3rd Year and up Umpires are required to attend a short clinic to review rule changes and information necessary to help working games in the higher leagues (i.e., Jr. Pony and Softball Seniors Rules have some considerable differences than the younger leagues). This clinic is typically held when picking up your umpire gear. Attendance is mandatory to get promoted to the older leagues.

The Clinic Sessions are MANDATORY for ALL Umpires

EQUIPMENT PICKUP

DYA provides the Umpire Equipment (Face Mask, Chest Protector, Shin Guards, Brush and Indicator). Equipment is distributed following your training session at Avery.

To receive umpire equipment, a \$100 Equipment Deposit Check is required (post date for July 31, 20xx); the check is returned when the gear is returned at the end of the season.

Given the new umpire pay structure, ALL umpires must provide the \$100 Equipment Deposit Check.

No Check, No Equipment!

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CONCUSSION CERTIFICATION

Ohio Law requires ALL officials (even youth umpires) to be certified in concussion recognition. Please note that there is no liability to the umpire for failing to recognize a concussion, but they still must be certified. There's a short online course and "test" that can be taken for free - it takes about 30 minutes, which can be found at <http://nfhslearn.com/courses/61037/concussion-in-sports>. More information on this is provided at the clinic.

No Certification, No Umpiring! (take this AFTER you pass the test)

GAME SCHEDULING

It is the goal of the program that all umpires work 10 or more games each year and can work the required number of games for promotion to the next Classification Level (see Umpire Classification on following page). Note that every year a few umpires work over 30 games, and some come close to 50!

- ✓ Umpires (or their Parents) predominately schedule their own games online using Arbiter.com (the website is also used to manage the umpire's availability).
- ✓ Umpire Commissioner reserves the right to schedule available umpires when necessary.
- ✓ Umpire Commissioner schedules ALL Tournament and All Star games.

The number of games worked is only limited by an individual's availability and aggressiveness in self-assigning games (and good weather – minimal rainouts!).

UMPIRE PAY

A few years ago, DYA implemented a new payment structure as highlighted below.

- ✓ **Significant Pay Increases**
- ✓ **Full Pay will be at the field** based on the league and position (plate or bases) being umpired as shown in the table below. *This means that prior years' end of season Class step-up pay/bonus will no longer be needed (i.e., you get your full pay when you actually umpire).*
- ✓ A **new Bonus system** will be implemented that will reward umpires that work the most games.
- ✓ **Umpire Class** (experience) will determine what games umpires are allowed to work.

League	Regular Season Pay		Tournament Pay		Minimum Class	
	Plate	Bases	Plate	Bases	Plate	Bases
AA / Minors	15	10	20	15	1	1
AAA / Majors	20	15	25	20	2	2/1*
Jr. Pony / Seniors	30	20	35	25	3	3
Pony ①	40	30	45	35	4	4
Sr. Pony ①	50	40	55	45	5	5

Notes:

- * Class 1 Umpires may work AAA and/or Majors Bases only **after** working the required number of games listed in the Umpire Classification table on the following page (in-season promotion).
- ① Pony & Sr. Pony Umpires are by invitation only (i.e., no automatic promotion based on experience). See Umpire Classification below.

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UMPIRE CLASSIFICATION

Umpire Classification is used to define the Leagues (Baseball: AA, AAA, Jr. Pony, Pony, Sr. Pony; Softball: Minors, Majors, Seniors) and Positions (Plate or Bases) an umpire is eligible to work. The table below is the typical guideline used to determine promotions based on years of experience and number of games required to umpire any given League and Position. Following the table, some examples are provided. Note that Classifications are set prior to each season based on the previous year(s) games worked. In other words, promotions to the next Class are not made during the course of the season, except Class 1 Umpires (Rookies) can be promoted to Class 2 Bases during the season.

Class	Minimum Years of Experience and Minimum Number of Games Umpired for Promotion*	
	Plate	Bases
1	N/A	N/A
2	1 Year Complete AND 8 Total Games (All Leagues & Positions) AND 6 Plate in AA + Minors AND 4 Plate in AA for promotion to AAA 4 Plate in Minors for promotion to Majors	No Requirement for Years of Experience 6 Total Games (All Leagues & Positions) AND 4 Bases in AA + Minors AND 2 Bases in AA for promotion to AAA 2 Bases in Minors for promotion to Majors
3	2 Years Complete AND 16 Total Games (All Leagues & Positions) AND 8 Plate in AAA + Majors AND 6 Plate in AAA for promotion to Jr. Pony 6 Plate in Majors for promotion to Seniors	2 Years Complete AND 16 Total Games (All Leagues & Positions) AND 6 Bases in AAA + Majors AND 4 Bases in AAA for promotion to Jr. Pony 4 Bases in Majors for promotion to Seniors
4	Invitation Only - Dublin HS Jr. or Sr with 5 Years of Experience and worked 50+ total games	
5	Invitation Only - Dublin HS Graduate and 5 Years of Experience, OR OHSAA Certified Umpire	

* DYA may make exceptions to the requirements above depending on the number of returning and new umpires available for the upcoming season.

Classification Promotion Examples:

- a) Chris is a rookie umpire (Class 1) and after 3 weeks into the season has worked 3 AA Bases, 2 Minors Plate and 1 Minors Bases. Chris is now eligible to umpire AAA Bases (in-season promotion), but cannot umpire Majors Bases until umpiring 1 more Minors Bases game.
- b) After 1 season, Max had worked a total of the following games: 6 AA Plate, 3 AA Bases, 8 AAA Bases, 6 Minors Plate, 4 Minors Bases, and 5 Majors Bases. Max will be promoted to Class 2 for Baseball Plate, Baseball Bases, Softball Plate and Softball Bases. Max cannot be promoted to Class 3 for any league or positions, since Max has only 1 year of experience.
- c) After 2 seasons, Kelsey had worked a total of the following games: 4 Minors Plate, 4 Minors Bases, 8 Majors Plate, 5 Majors Bases, 4 AA Plate, 4 AA Bases, 5 AAA Plate and 12 AAA Bases. Kelsey will be promoted to Class 3 for Softball Plate, Softball Bases, Baseball Bases, but remain Class 2 for Baseball Plate (since Kelsey had not work at least 6 AAA Plate games).
- d) Jake is now a senior in high school and has been umpiring since 7th grade (some years Jake worked over 15 games and some years Jake only worked 3 or 4). Over the years, the umpire commissioner watched Jake work several games and noticed that his knowledge of the rules wasn't great and he didn't have a strong presence on the field. Given these factors, it is unlikely that Jake would be invited to be a Class 4 umpire to work Pony games.