



LITTLE LEAGUE®

2007

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

HOUSTON, TEXAS

# Welcome and Introductions





# Agenda Topics

- **Role and Responsibilities of the District UIC**
- **Characteristics of a Good UIC**
- **Recruiting Umpires**
- **Recognizing and Rewarding Volunteer Umpires**
- **Selecting Tournament Umpires**
- **Making Regional and World Series Recommendations**



# Brainstorming Activity

## Role and Responsibilities of the District UIC

- In small groups, take 15 minutes to discuss the role and responsibility of the District UIC
- Record and make a list of those responsibilities generated by your group
- Appoint a spokesperson for your table



# Role and Responsibilities of the District UIC

- Brainstorming Activity Debrief



# District Umpire-in-Chief

- Appointed annually by DA
- Serves at the pleasure of DA
- Must be on DA profile
- Covered by DA insurance



# Role of District UIC

- Recruit volunteer umpires
- Train umpires – help set up & instruct clinics
- Communicate rule changes
- Set an example & provide “on the job” training
- Schedule umpires
- Evaluate umpires



# Role of District UIC

- Communicate & maintain standards for umpire advancement
- Recommend/Select tournament umpires
- Schedule tournament umpires
- Recommend umpires for Regional or World Series Tournaments



# Role of District UIC

- Recognize the volunteer umpire
- Retain umpires
- Provide input & expertise in protest situations
- Assist District Administrators and League Presidents as needed or requested



# Characteristics of a Good UIC

- What are the characteristics of a good UIC?



# Characteristics of a Good UIC

- People Person, Accessible
- Good Communication Skills
- Organization Skills
- Reliable, Available, Flexible
- Leads by Example – Role Model
- Knowledgeable, Diplomatic
- Motivator, Positive Attitude



# Volunteer Umpires

- Why are volunteer umpires important?



# Importance of Volunteer Umpires

- Paying umpires is contrary to the mission of Little League being a volunteer organization
- Volunteer involvement sets proper civic role model
- Frees up money for league improvement
- Knowledge of LL rules & safety regulations



# Importance of Volunteer Umpires

- Paid umpires are no more competent than volunteers
- Only volunteers should umpire tournament games
- Background checks – required for paid and volunteers
- Clearer issues of liability and tax reporting



# Brainstorming Activity

## How do you recruit volunteer umpires?

- In small groups, take 15 minutes to generate a list of ideas on how to recruit volunteer umpires – think about how you first got involved
- Make a list of those ideas generated by your group
- Appoint a spokesperson for your table



# Brainstorming Activity

## How do you recruit volunteer umpires?

- Brainstorming Activity Debrief



# Recruiting Umpires

- Interest identified on Volunteer Application
- Advertisements in newspaper and web sites
- Recruit with player registration
- Recruit at try-outs
- League policy for teams to provide
- Find people who love the game or show interest



# Recruiting Umpires

- Use of Managers & Coaches & former managers and coaches
- Use of Parents; draft from the stands
- Use of Junior Umpires; former players
- High School Community Service Projects
- Retirees/Senior citizens
- Convert paid umpires



# Retaining Umpires

- How do you retain umpires?



# Retaining Umpires

- Make Sure They Feel Needed
- Use as Many Umpires as Possible
- Recognize the Volunteer Umpire
- Recommendations for Regional & World Series
- Support from Local League and District



# Retaining Umpires

- Do not use same Umpires
- Provide them with uniforms or equipment
- Recognize



# Recognizing and Rewarding Volunteer Umpires

- District Numbers, Patches
- Providing Umpires Shirts and Hats
- Gifts Based on Number of Games Worked
- Special Awards (Rookie Umpire, MVP)
- Assistance with Expenses for Regional and World Series Umpires



# Evaluating Umpires

- Use of Little League Baseball's Evaluation Form
- Need a Point System
- Advise Umpire Being Evaluated
- Find Something Positive
- Be Honest
- Use Special Games to Evaluate Umpires



# Evaluating Umpires

- When you evaluate umpires, what do you evaluate?



# Evaluating Umpires

- Appearance
- Game Management
- Field Presence
- Knows responsibilities
- Fair/Foul Coverage
- Positioning
- Rules knowledge/Application
- Timing
- Composure/Game situations
- Mechanics



# Selecting Tournament Umpires

- Recommendations from Local Leagues
- Personal Knowledge
- Must be Available



# Scheduling Tournament Umpires

- Meeting of All Tournament Umpires
- Check for Availability
- District Umpire not League Umpire
- Easier Scheduling with Pooled Format
- Use of Crew Chiefs



# Regional & World Series Recommendations

- Submitted by deadline annually
- Must meet requirements
  - Have World Series recommendation
  - Be a volunteer
  - Pass background check
  - Signed by District Administrator
- World Series appointments mailed in December
- Regional appointments mailed in January



# Closing

- Questions???