

SRVGAL Umpire Safety Discussion - 2011

Opening:

Highest Priority for umpires is to maintain the safety of their self, the players, coaches and those watching the games.

Purpose:

The safety discussion has been developed to provide additional time to discuss the expectations for umpires in regards to safety and to document that all umpires participate in one of these discussions.

Topics:

Umpire Safety Equipment:

SRVGAL provides umpires with face mask, chest protector and shin guards; this equipment is in the lock box for each field. The expectation is that all umpires will wear this basic umpire equipment for all SRVGAL games they umpire – regardless of division. Additionally, male umpires are required to wear a cup while umpiring games at all levels.

If you find the equipment is in need of repair or replacement please coordinate with the coaches to use their catchers gear during the game and report the condition immediately following the game to the umpire coordinator.

Umpire Injuries:

SRVGAL coaches are responsible for documenting and reporting safety incidents if a injury to umpire, player, coach or other person occurs during a game. If you are injured while umpiring a game your responsibility is to report this to one of the head coaches and ask that they complete a injury incident form and submit it to league administrator. Also, umpires are responsible to report any incident to the umpire coordinator or umpire-in-chief within 24 hours.

Umpires are required to complete a consent of treatment and release of liability form before they are allowed to umpire a game. The Umpire-In-Chief and League Administrator will have copies of this information. Umpires who are 18 or younger must also keep a copy of this form with them while umpiring games.

Field Conditions:

At any time if the umpire determines that there is a safety issue at the field they halt play and discontinue the game if they feel the game can not continue. We would like the umpires to consult with the coaches of both teams but the final say on this is with the lead umpire (home plate umpire, when two umpires are a game).

Examples: halt game to ask a bat be pulled from field of play, player is outside dugout on offensive team without a helmet, people are walking across outfield, etc... Games might be called when it becomes too dark to continue safe play, outfield or infield is in very bad shape and players are at risk of twisting ankle or other injury, etc.....

Other Resources:

The ASA Umpire and Participant rule manuals have a section called “Safety Awareness Guide” this section should be read prior to umpiring your first game.

SRVGAL rules and mechanics clinics are required for first year umpires and both have additional important messages to help keep umpires, players, coaches and spectators safe.

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