

# SOFTBALL UMPIRES OF MARYLAND



WWW.MDUMPS.COM



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Thank you for registering for the 2018 season with the Softball Umpires of Maryland, Inc.

You should receive each of the following:

- Clinic Agenda
- List of SUM UICs
- List of Uniform Providers
- SUM Summary of 2018 USSSA Fast Pitch Rule Changes
- Quick Summary of USSSA Rule Differences and 10C Rules
- SUM Mechanics New Procedures and Differences from 2018 Mechanics Manual
- SUM Document 3 Part Pregame
- 2018 Maryland/Delaware Youth Fast Pitch Summer Schedule
- USSSA Officials Insurance Program FAQ
- 2018 Maryland Edition USSSA FP Umpire Test and Answer Response Sheet
- Rulebook insert for 2018 rule changes

New Umpires who have not received in training class

- Fourteenth Edition (2017-2018) USSSA Rule Book

Please take the USSSA Umpires Test at your leisure.

Maryland Umpires should return their Answer Sheet to UIC John Dye NLT April 1, 2018.

We will be using Arbiter for all assignments. Please check your calendars and the tournament schedule to determine what dates you need to block. It is incumbent on you to block dates. If you do nothing you show as available. If you need help with Arbiter, Al Palmer and John Calamari have agree to be of assistance.

There are some other documents you may wish to browse on-line. The Softball Umpires of Maryland Site is at [www.mdumps.com](http://www.mdumps.com). The following Umpire support documents are posted there.

- 2018 NEW Mechanics Manual
- 2018 NEW Mechanics Diagrams
- 2018 Youth Fastpitch Summer Schedule
- Park Information for USSSA Maryland & Delaware sites
- 2016 SUM Arbiter Guide
- 2016 Casebook updated 2018
- 2018 Clarifications & Interpretations
- 2018 Maryland Working Aid for USSSA Fast Pitch Rule Differences (USSSA, ASA, NCAA, NFHS)

## **2018 USSSA Fastpitch Softball Umpires of Maryland**

### **Tournament Site UICs**

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### **Umpire Uniform Companies**

#### **Boombah**

For all licensed USSSA Umpire Uniform items please contact Boombah, the official USSSA Umpire uniform supplier. 1-815-941-1431;  
<http://www.boombah.com/>

#### **New Era**

For licensed USSSA Umpire Caps (Flex Fit or Fitted)  
Total Maryland Order must be 6+.  
Order Form at <http://www.mdumps.com/NewEraCapsOrder.pdf>  
Contact John Dye to order

#### **Richardson**

For USSSA System 5 Umpire Caps (Mesh)  
Contact John Rimmell to order

#### **Comfort In Action**

Officials Supplies; operated by SUM Umpire Leon Cardiff  
115 S. Third St., Oakland MD 21550  
301-334-9333  
[www.comfortinaction.net](http://www.comfortinaction.net)  
[info@comfortinaction.net](mailto:info@comfortinaction.net)

**Softball Umpires of Maryland Fast Pitch State Clinic Agenda – March 3, 2018 –  
Gary Arthur Community Center, Cooksville, MD**

**John Dye, Maryland State UIC**

**John Remmell, Maryland State Scheduler**

**Tony DeFazio, Delaware State UIC**

**Jake Jacobs, Maryland State Senior UIC**

**Jim Carberry, Maryland State Senior UIC**

**Bill Dowell, Maryland & Delaware State Fastpitch Director**

**Andy Wisk, Assistant State Director**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 8:30  | Registration / Uniform Sales               |
| 9:00  | Welcome<br>Administration                  |
| 9:15  | 2017 Numbers                               |
| 9:25  | Introductions                              |
| 9:35  | Arbiter                                    |
| 9:40  | Rule Changes                               |
| 9:55  | Review 2017 Test – Most Missed             |
| 10:05 | Umpire Uniform                             |
| 10:15 | BREAK / Uniform Sales / Video              |
| 10:30 | National Staff Changes                     |
| 10:35 | 2018 Mechanic Changes                      |
| 10:55 | Umpire Advisory Team Points of Emphasis    |
| 11:15 | Elite Select / Nationals                   |
| 11:25 | USSSA State Director                       |
| 11:35 | Umpire Awards                              |
| 11:50 | 2018 Schedule                              |
| 12:00 | 50-50 to benefit Tommy Thompson<br>Closing |

# USSSA ANSWER SHEET FOR 2018 FAST PITCH UMPIRES TEST

{Softball Umpires of Maryland Edition}

NAME OF APPLICANT STATE DATE

**Maryland Umpires return to: John Dye, 6887 Garland Lane, Columbia MD 21045**

- |     |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|
| 1.  | A | B | C | D | 32. | T | F |
| 2.  | A | B | C | D | 33. | T | F |
| 3.  | A | B | C | D | 34. | T | F |
| 4.  | A | B | C | D | 35. | T | F |
| 5.  | A | B | C | D | 36. | T | F |
| 6.  | A | B | C | D | 37. | T | F |
| 7.  | A | B | C | D | 38. | T | F |
| 8.  | A | B | C | D | 39. | T | F |
| 9.  | A | B | C | D | 40. | T | F |
| 10. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 11. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 12. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 13. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 14. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 15. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 16. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 17. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 18. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 19. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 20. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 21. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 22. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 23. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 24. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 25. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 26. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 27. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 28. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 29. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 30. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |
| 31. | A | B | C | D |     |   |   |

2018 Test Session

Saturday March 10th 9:00 am

North Laurel Community Center, Chesapeake Room

9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel, MD. 20723

## Summary of rule changes for USSSA Fast Pitch 2018

NOTE: Maryland does not have an Elite Select Program

### **Jewelry Rule—**

Rule Change “Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.”

No change to medical alert jewelry.

Coaches wristbands (play indicators) are legal but must be worn as designed.

SUM Policy:

Covered jewelry will be permitted.

Small studs are permitted and do not have to be covered.

Dangling hoops, necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc. are prohibited.

Nothing on the wrist/arm to include watches, bracelets, rubber/string wrist bands, fit bits, hair ties.

**Confines of the playing field—**Clarifies that warm-up catchers outside of live ball territory must wear a catcher's helmet/mask by including those areas in the definition of the confines of the field. This includes the field, dugouts, and any warm-up area in view of the umpire(s).

**Roster Batting Option** (Not applicable to the Elite Select Program) -- Allows a team the option to bat its entire roster (all player's physically present) in lieu of a traditional line-up. Teams choosing to roster bat may disperse additional players (AP's) starters who aren't listed as defensive players, anywhere in their batting order so as to bat everyone present. If a player leaves the game for any reason, it creates an absent player and an automatic out situation.

**Last completed at bat courtesy runner option** (Not applicable to the Elite Select Program) -- Team's may now use the last completed at bat (LCAB) player if no unused substitute is available. Under this change, a team will always have a courtesy runner (CR) option, even if roster batting.

The LCAB courtesy runner is determined at the time the courtesy runner is requested, skipping batters

i)currently on base

ii)who are the pitcher or catcher of record

iii)who have already courtesy run for the other position in the same inning ...

In the first inning, if there is no CR available using the above method, the LCAB CR shall be the player furthest away in the batting order. i.e., the LCAB CR for the leadoff batter is the last batter listed last in the lineup.

**Short-handed rule modification—**Clarifies that multiple absent players (automatic outs) are allowed.

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## 2018 USSSA Fast Pitch Rules

This is intended as quick summary of areas of significant differences in USSSA Fast Pitch rules.

Pitching Distance 35 ft (10U); 40 ft (12U); 43 ft (14U and above) USSSA 1.1

Players shall not use other teams on deck circle. USSSA 1.2.A

Metal Cleats prohibited (12U and younger) USSSA 2.4



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Bat must have 2013 USSSA 1.20 BPF Thumbprint Mark USSSA 2.10

The Mercy Rule is 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings. USSSA 4.4

Team may bat 9, 10, 11 **or all players present**. By using No, One, Two **or more** Additional Player(s). USSSA 5.3 {9 defensive fielders}

The Designated Player (DP) / FLEX is optional but must be declared before the game starts. USSSA 5.4

A player may be removed as a pitcher and returned as a pitcher only once per inning. USSSA 5.5.B

All Starters & Substitutes may re-enter USSSA 5.6. This includes the DP and FLEX.

A team may use 3 defensive conferences per game; 1 per extra inning; pitcher removed as a pitcher for game. USSSA 4.8.A

The pitcher must start with both feet on the rubber. USSSA 6.1

A team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher. It must be a player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). The player may not be used for both positions in same inning. **If there is no eligible player, the Last Completed At Bat (LCAB) may be used as a courtesy runner**

A courtesy runner may not be used for the DP unless they are the pitcher or catcher of record. USSSA 8.3

If the courtesy runner is injured, another courtesy runner or the pitcher or catcher may run for her. USSSA 8.3.E

After reaching First, may use either white or orange portion of the double first base. 8.17.K.3

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## 10&Under C

1. Can not steal Home 15. (8.1)
2. No uncaught third strike rule 15 (8.4.B)
3. 5 runs per inning for first two (2) innings; unlimited after 2<sup>nd</sup> inning.
4. Can steal more than one base at a time on pitch and/or base on balls (subject to 1. Above)
5. Infield fly rule is in effect 15 (8.17.)

## THREE PART PRE-GAME

### *PART 1—Pre planning*

- Insure all equipment and uniforms are ready for the next day / weekend.
- Make sure you have good directions to the park you are assigned to.
- Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to game time

### *PART 2—Arrival at Park*

When you arrive at park, Find the Umpire Camp Parking and Contact the UIC

- Schedule Changes
- Need a winner?
- Time limits?
- Age groups.....10C Rules

Find your partners are and discuss how you are going to “work the game”

- Fair/Foul Coverage
- Tag-Up/Touches
- Fly Ball to the outfield
- Coverage of Third Base
- Uncaught Third Strike
- Batted Balls that hit batter while in box.
- Umpire to Umpire Communication

Find game balls and be on field at home plate at least 5 minutes before game time.

Leave jewelry and cell phones in your vehicle.

### *PART 3—Pre game conference*

The home plate Umpire conducts the pre-game conference and both umpires should be at the conference.

Base umpire stands at the front of plate / Plate umpire stands at the back of plate

Have coaches and team captains (if they have them) introduce themselves.

Home plate Umpire introduce base umpire then himself

Accept the lineup cards from the coaches. Check to see the following:

- Are the proper number of players are listed?
- Are both the first and last names are listed?
- Are there are no duplicate numbers?
- Are substitutes are listed below the starters?
- Are there additional player/players (AP) and/or DP/FLEX are being used and they are listed in the correct spot? The Designated Player (DP) is listed in the lineup where they are batting. The FLEX is listed last on the lineup.
- Are they using roster batting? If so, ALL players present must be in the batting order. Any late arriving players must be added to the end of the batting order.

If there are any problems, get them resolved now

Once the lineup card is checked, hand it back to the coach and let him review it one more time, when you get it back then the lineup becomes official.

Ask if all players and equipment are legal and in compliance with USSSA rules. You must get a verbal reply of “yes”.

#### **Briefly cover the following:**

Ground Rules for that field

- Any unique rules for that field
- Identify all openings in the field area where the ball may leave the field of play.
- Cover the rule for a trapped ball/ past a temporary fence, etc.

Cover the Run Rule/Time limit

Cover Jewelry

Determine Home and Away team USSSA points / Coin Flip (make sure you have a coin for flip)

Higher seed on Sunday

All of this should take no more than 2 minutes

**No Warnings may be issued at the pre-game**

**START YOUR TIMER**

## 2018 USSSA East Summer Schedule

2018 Date	Event Name	Location	2018 Divisions	2017 Fields
March 17-18	Surf N Turf Challenge	Salisbury, MD	10-14	
March 24-25	Kickoff Classic	Central Maryland	10-14, 10C-14C	10
March 24-25	Crush Spring Tournament	Wilmington, DE	10-14	
April 7-8	Spring Slam	Central Maryland	10-14, 10C-14C	6
April 7-8	Ultimate Fastpitch Experience	Salisbury, MD	10-18, 10C-14C	
April 7-8	Spring Thaw	Frederick, MD	10-14	5
April 14-15	Ocean City Surfin' Softball Slam	Ocean City, MD	10-14	
April 14-15	Hearbreakers' Memorial Tournament	Frederick, MD	10-12	0
April 14-15	I-95 Windmill Wars	Laurel, Ellicott City MD	14-18, 10C-14C	
April 21-22	Diamonds R 4Ever	Central Maryland	10-18, 10C-14C	12, 15
April 21-22	Diamonds R 4Ever	Milford, DE	10-18, 10C-14C	
April 28-29	Crabtown Crackdown	Central Maryland	10-18, 10C-18C	19, 22
April 28-29	Chesapeake Challenge	Salisbury, MD	10-14	
May 5-6	18th Annual May Madness	Central Maryland	10-18, 10C-14C	15, 21
May 5-6	Heat at the Beach I	Rehoboth DE	10-14, 10C-14C	
May 12	Momma Drama	Laurel, Ellicott City MD	10-12, 10C-14C	15, 0
May 12-13	Heat at the Beach II	Rehoboth, DE	10-14, 10C-14C	
May 19-20	Black Eyed Susan	Central Maryland	10-18, 10C-18C	24
May 19-20	First State Frenzy	Milford, DE	10-14, 10C-14C	
May 20	Frederick Invitational	Frederick, MD	18O	0, 2
May 26-28	Wins for Warriors	Central Maryland	10-18, 10C-18C	24, 24, 14
June 2-3	Ace of Diamonds	Central Maryland	10-14, 10C-18C	27
June 2-3	Rock 'n' Rumble	Laurel, Columbia MD	16-18	
June 2-3	Ace of Diamonds	Milford, DE	10-14	
June 2-3	Crush Almost Summer	Wilmington, DE	10-12	
June 2-3	USA Elite Select - Mid Atlantic Qualifier	Wilmington, DE	14U	
June 9-10	Queen of Diamonds	Laurel, Colum, Frederick	10-18, 10C-18C	28
June 9-10	19th Annual Eastern Shore Invitational	Centreville, Easton	10-18	
June 9-10	Crush Nearly Summer	Wilmington, DE	14	
June 16-17	Charm City Challenge	Columbia, MD	12-14	11
June 15-17	Ocean City Blast at the Beach	OC & Salisbury	10-18	30, 30, 14
June 16-17	Freedom USSSA Invitational	Eldersburg, MD	10C-18C	
June 23-24	Crush Summer Showcase		16-18	
June 22-24	Maryland State "A" / "B" Championships	Central Maryland	10-18	10, 27, 18
June 23-24	Summer "C"lash	Central Maryland	10C-18C	
June 22-24	Delaware State Championships	Roxana, DE	10-18	
June 23-24	USA Elite Select - Mid Atlantic Showcae	Wilmington, DE	16U-18U	
June 30-July 1	Blue-Gray Summer Shootout	Central Maryland	10-18, 10AS-14AS	31, 28
June 30-July 1	MD & DE State "C" Championships	Central Maryland	10C-18C	
June 30-July 1	Midway Stars & Strikes	Wilmington, DE	16-18	
July 7-8	Summer Spectacular	Laurel, Ellicott City MD	10C-18C	39
July 7-8	Fun in the Sun	Olney & Laurel	10-14	
July 7-8	"Be the Best" College Showcase	Elkridge, Glen Burnie	16-18	
July 7-8	Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships	Laurel, Ellicott City	10AS-14AS	.
July 11-15	Eastern Nationals	Salisbury MD	10U-12U	
July 14-15	USSSA Mid Summer Challenge	Central Maryland	14-18, 10C-18C, 10AS-14AS	24
July 14-15	Forest Hill Frenzy	Forest Hill, MD	10C-14C	
July 17-22	Eastern Nationals	Salisbury MD	14U	
July 21-22	Howard County Summer Sizzler	Howard County, MD	10-18, 10C-18C, 10AS-14AS	20
July 21-22	Midway Summer Slam	Wilmington, DE	16-18	
July 23-28	Eastern Nationals	Salisbury MD	16U-18U	
July 25-29	Eastern Nationals	Loudon VA	10C-18C	
July 28-29	Swing for the Ring	Elkridge, MD	10AS-14AS	6
Aug 4-5	Name and Parks TBD	Central Maryland	10C-18C, 10AS-14AS	
Aug 11	Tri State Games	Bachman		6



SUM Comments/Policy on 2018 USSSA Official Umpire’s Manual

The intent of these charts is to identify statements in the 2018 USSSA Official Umpire’s Manual and the USSSA diagrams 2-man which differ from previous SUM Policy. These statements are in black. If SUM Policy will be different from the Manual or Diagrams, the difference is in red.

4	Base Position	the “inside-outside” theory is no longer feasible SUM – Combination of RIM and inside-outside depending on situation.
5	Base Position 1	We will try to stay out of the diamond SUM – Combination of RIM and inside-outside depending on situation.
5	The importance of the chase	Many times in 2 man we do not chase fly balls. In “B” and “C” it is often difficult to want to leave the plate umpire as we may have multiple runners. These chases, if needed, must be taken. However, we need to be more judicious in these positions. SUM – In general going out from B and especially C, is not recommended.
5	Umpire Demeanor 2	The preferred undershirt is black SUM – Short Sleeve undershirt – white or match primary shirt color. Long Sleeve undershirt – match primary shirt color.
7	First Day of tournament	Be at field 45 minutes prior to first game SUM – Report & Ready NLT 30 minutes before game; 45 minutes if second slot.
7	Plate Meeting with coaches	Plate meeting will NOT start until all player’s are in dugouts
10	Reports - Submitting reports	A report must be submitted... ejection SUM – Not Applicable
10	Reports	The form is located on the national website SUM – Not Applicable
11	Mechanics – Positioning	Start distance ... is 25 feet away from first base. SUM – 20-25 feet
14	Priorities – Pitcher	25 second count ERROR 20 seconds
14	Priorities – Pitcher	Pitch within 25 seconds ERROR 20 seconds
16	Base Mechanics – Walking the line	End no closer than 90 feet from Home. ERROR
16	Base Mechanics – Set Position (B,C)	No longer will be standing up. The Base umpire will be down with both hands either on your thighs or above the knees, with your body squared up to home plate. SUM - Ready position either Up or Down; Engaged; Ready to move
16	Base Mechanics – Set Position (B,C)	A step behind and a step to either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to * First base side of 2 <sup>nd</sup> baseman (Runner on First only); * Second base side of shortstop (Runner on Second & No Runner on Third); * Third base side of shortstop (Runner on Third)

Manual Diagrams - Suggestion Title and Page Numbers

Page	Pos	Runners	
2	A		20-25 feet from first base
4	A		Ball left of 2 <sup>nd</sup> baseman – allow her to push you into foul territory
8	A		RF coming in / towards foul line - chase

10	A		Single to outfield – stay outside SUM – LF/CF Rim; RF Inside
12	A		BR to 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Move inside as BR approaches 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
13,15, 17,19, 21,23	B	1st	Mid point between 1B & 2B; one step behind 2 <sup>nd</sup> baseman, 1.5 steps either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to first base side of 2 <sup>nd</sup> baseman
14,16	B	1st	Set Position SUM - Ready position either Up or Down
16	B	1st	Steal - Take any play at second base and third base. SUM - P covers 3 <sup>rd</sup> with U1 moving toward home if needed.
22	B	1st	hit to outfield – stay outside the diamond SUM – LF; CF/RF Inside
24	B	1st	Extra base hit to outfield – move inside diamond or stay outside depending on location of ball.
26,28	C	2nd	Set Position SUM - Ready position either Up or Down
25,27, 29,31, 33	C	2nd	Mid point between 2B & 3B; one step behind SS, 1.5 steps either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to second base side of shortstop
28	C	2nd	Initial throw to 1B – Stay outside
30	C	2nd	Ball caught in outfield – P make any call on R2 at 3b and home. SUM – U1 takes R2 (last runner) into 3rd
30,32	C	2nd	Ball caught in outfield – U1 move inside
35, 37,39, 41,43	C	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mid point between 2B & 3B; one step behind SS, 1.5 steps either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to third base side of shortstop.
36	C	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Set Position SUM - Ready position either Up or Down
38	C	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Initial throw to 1B – Stay outside
38	C	3 <sup>rd</sup>	BR safe – commit toward BR (come inside?)
40	C	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Outfield catch – come inside
42,44	C	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hit to outfield – come inside
45, 47,49	C	1,2	Mid point between 2B & 3B; one step behind SS, 1.5 steps either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to second base side of shortstop
46	C	1,2	Set Position SUM - Ready position either Up or Down
48	C	1,2	P Make call at 3 <sup>rd</sup> after initial play; U1 Initial call at 3 <sup>rd</sup>
50	C	1,2	U1 has both tag ups. SUM Note – P has tag responsibility only at third base.
53,55, 57,59	C	1,3	Mid point between 2B & 3B; one step behind SS, 1.5 steps either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to third base side of shortstop.
58,60	C	1,3	Fly Ball – Move inside
61,63, 65,67, 69	C	2,3	Mid point between 2B & 3B; one step behind SS, 1.5 steps either side SUM - 3 paces behind and to third base side of shortstop.
64	C	2,3	Infield hit – Stay outside
68,70	C	2,3	Ball hit to Outfield– Move inside
78, 80	C	1,2,3	Ball hit to Outfield – Move inside

# USSSA Insurance

## 2013 Frequently Asked Questions

### Jenkins Insurance Group

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**Jenkins Insurance Group**  
**1765 Challenge Way, Suite 200**  
**Sacramento, CA 95815**  
**TELEPHONE: (888) 880-3602**  
**FAX :(925) 521-8504**

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS A BRIEF OUTLINE OF COVERAGES AND EXCLUSIONS. THIS IS NOT A POLICY INTERPRETATION AND ONLY THE CONTRACT CAN SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

##### **WHAT DOES THE USSSA LIABILITY POLICY COVER?**

The General Liability Policy protects you from lawsuits arising out of bodily injury or property damage to others during the practice or play of the insured sport.

##### **WHAT DOES THE USSSA ACCIDENT POLICY COVER?**

The Participant Accident Policy pays for covered medical expenses incurred within one year after an accident, to a maximum of \$100,000 per accident for each insured person. Treatment must begin within 30 days of an accident. Coverage is provided on a secondary basis. If other collectible insurance is in force, it must be used as primary. If no other coverage is in force, this coverage becomes primary.

##### **WHAT IS THE POLICY LIMIT ON THE USSSA GENERAL LIABILITY POLICY?**

\$2,000,000 Per Occurrence (this is the maximum limit that will be paid in any one occurrence) No Aggregate Limit (this is the maximum limit payable in any one policy term)

##### **DO THE USSSA GENERAL LIABILITY POLICIES COVER LAWSUITS FROM ATHLETIC PARTICIPANTS?**

Yes. This is crucial coverage which is often excluded on other general liability policies.

**ARE WAIVER FORMS REQUIRED IN THE USSSA GENERAL LIABILITY PROGRAM?** Generally, NO. We strongly urge all participants to sign a waiver, but failure to do so will not jeopardize coverage. Waivers are included in the USSSA roster forms.

NOTE: Adult Slow Pitch Softball is required to use Waivers

##### **ARE THE USSSA GENERAL LIABILITY POLICIES WRITTEN ON AN OCCURRENCE OR ON A CLAIMS MADE FORM?**

An occurrence form. With an "occurrence" based policy, even though the policy may have expired as of the time the insured received notice of the claim, the policy will afford coverage for a covered loss

## **OFFICIALS INSURANCE (FOR USSSA ACTIVITIES)**

### **WHEN OFFICIATING A USSSA ACTIVITY, WHAT INSURANCE IS PROVIDED FOR ME?**

For USSSA registered officials only, the following coverages are provided: Secondary accident medical insurance with a \$20,000 limit with a \$500 deductible.

General liability insurance with a \$2,000,000 per occurrence, no aggregate limit.

Coverage is provided for USSSA registered officials only.

### **AM I COVERED WHILE OFFICIATING A PRESEASON OR PRACTICE GAME?**

Yes, but only for an activity involving USSSA registered teams.

### **MOST OF MY OFFICIATING IS FOR USSSA, BUT SOMETIMES I CALL AN UNSANCTIONED TOURNAMENT. DOES MY INSURANCE COVER THESE UNSANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS?**

No. USSSA Officials insurance covers USSSA sanctioned activities only. (See next section – Officials Insurance for Non-USSSA activities.)

### **I HAVE MY OWN MEDICAL INSURANCE AND AM INJURED WHILE OFFICIATING. DO I HAVE TO FILE THE CLAIM WITH MY INSURANCE CARRIER?**

Yes. The officials accident medical coverage is secondary to any other insurance in force.

### **I WAS INJURED OFFICIATING A USSSA EVENT. WHAT PROCEDURE SHOULD I FOLLOW?**

First, turn your claim in to your primary insurer, if you have primary insurance. Second, call Jenkins Insurance Group, at 888-880-3602 for a claim form. Claim forms will be sent out only to the injured official after verifying registration at National Headquarters. Do not hold your claim form! File it immediately and forward all bills to the claims administrator upon receipt.

### **IF I AM SUED FOR MY ACTIONS DURING A USSSA ACTIVITY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

If you are sued or threatened to be sued in writing, immediately send the information to Jenkins Insurance Group, 1765 Challenge Way, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95815. Include your full name, address, daytime telephone number, and names and addresses of any witnesses.

### **AM I COVERED IF INJURED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT GOING TO OR FROM AN OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENT?**

No. Travel coverage is not included.

### **ARE MY EYEGASSES OR CONTACT LENSES COVERED?**

No. Personal property is not covered.

### **IS CHIROPRACTIC CARE COVERED FOR OFFICIAL INJURIES?**

Yes. Subject to the policy limits.

### **I WAS INJURED WHILE OFFICIATING A USSSA GAME. I WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEASON FOR TREATMENT. IS THIS COVERED?**

No. Treatment must begin within 30 days of the date of the injury, and be concluded within 52 weeks of the injury date.

### **I SUFFERED A HEAT STROKE WHILE OFFICIATING A USSSA TOURNAMENT. DOES OUR OFFICIALS MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER THIS?**

No. Heat stroke, heart attack, dehydration, etc. are illnesses. The officials policy covers accident medical injuries only, not illness or disease.

## **OFFICIALS INSURANCE (FOR NON-USSSA ACTIVITIES)**

### **CAN I PURCHASE INSURANCE TO COVER NON-USSSA OFFICIATING?**

Yes. Available only to USSSA registered officials, coverage can be purchased to cover non-USSSA officiating, only in the sports that USSSA sanctions.

### **WHAT IS THE COST?**

Based on age of the Official. \$25 (adults) or \$12 (youth), in addition to the USSSA officials registration fee.

### **WHAT COVERAGE IS PROVIDED FOR ME?**

The same coverage provided to all USSSA officials (see preceding section).

### **HOW CAN I PURCHASE THIS COVERAGE?**

Through your state umpire-in-chief, state director, or the area director who registered you as a USSSA official.

### **WHAT IS THE POLICY PERIOD?**

January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2014.

2018 USSSA UMPIRE TEST (Maryland Edition)

1. Which of the following is a rules difference between USSSA and USA Elite Select?
  - A. Roster Batting is legal in USSSA play, not USA Elite Select.
  - B. The Last Completed At Bat may Courtesy Run (if there is no eligible substitute) in USSSA, not USA Elite Select.
  - C. Multiple Absent Players (automatic outs) are legal in USSSA, but by USA Elite Select rules, only one absent player is allowed.
  - D. All of the above.
  
2. With respect to roster batting, which of the following is FALSE?
  - A. Must be declared at the pre-game conference.
  - B. Batting order must include every rostered player physically present.
  - C. The DP/FLEX option is available with roster batting.
  - D. Late arrivals are added to the end of the lineup card unless an absent player (automatic out) position is available.
  
3. Which of the following is TRUE?
  - A. Jewelry is permissible unless judged by the umpire to be dangerous.
  - B. Verbal intentional walks are allowed.
  - C. The penalty for an illegal pitch is now only a ball on the batter.
  - D. All of the above.
  
4. Which of the following is TRUE?
  - A. On-deck batters may use the opponent's on-deck circle if it puts them behind the batter.
  - B. Bullpen catchers must wear an approved catcher's mask with throat protector.
  - C. Bats with a "USSSA 1.20 BPF" cert on the barrel are legal.
  - D. Batters may wear play indicators (coach's wristband) on their belt.
  
5. Regarding dead ball awards, which IS TRUE?
  - A. Awards on a batted ball which rolls past a temporary fence are based on runner position at the time the ball becomes dead.
  - B. Under the general rule for baserunner interference with a batted ball, the batter is awarded first base.
  - C. Direction of the runner (advancing vs returning) is a factor to be considered on overthrow awards.
  - D. Baserunners may not be put out for actions resulting from dead ball awards.
  
6. Which of the following may be APPEALED?
  - A. Making an attempt to advance to second after overrunning first base.
  - B. Leaving a base too early on a pitch.
  - C. A checked swing.
  - D. Disagreement with an umpire's call.
  
7. Which of the following is FALSE regarding the pitcher?
  - A. It is illegal for the pitcher to take a signal before stepping on the pitching plate.
  - B. The pitcher must take (or simulate taking) a signal while standing on the pitching plate with hands separated.
  - C. The pitch begins when the hands separate or the windup begins, whichever comes first.
  - D. Part of the pivot foot must be on TOP of the pitcher's plate, and the non-pivot foot must be IN CONTACT with it.
  
8. Regarding the pitcher vs batter, which of the following is FALSE?
  - A. The pitcher has 20 seconds to deliver the pitch after the ball is returned to her.
  - B. The batter has 10 seconds to take her position after the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle.
  - C. The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches.
  - D. If the pitcher stops her delivery because the batter steps out or requests time, "no pitch" is declared.

9. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. The pivot foot may remain in contact with the pitching plate, or the pitcher may push off and drag away as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground.
- B. If the ball slips out of the pitcher's hand during a pitch, a ball is called and the ball remains live.
- C. A quick pitch while the batter is off-balance is a "no pitch".
- D. While taking the signal, the pitcher must present the ball so it is visible to the batter and umpire.

10. Regarding obstruction/interference, which is FALSE?

- A. In general, only one defender has an absolute right to the initial play on a batted ball, and all other defensive players must yield to the baserunner.
- B. The runner has the right-of-way unless the fielder has possession of the ball, or is in the act of making an initial play on a batted ball.
- C. There must be contact to have an infraction.
- D. Interference is an immediate dead ball, while obstruction is a delayed dead ball.

11. Regarding obstruction, which is TRUE?

- A. The umpire should hold his/her left arm out as long as the runner is protected - then drop it when the runner is no longer protected.
- B. Obstruction is an automatic one base award, but the runner may continue at her own risk.
- C. The general rule is an obstructed runner may not be put out between the two bases where the infraction occurred.
- D. An obstructed runner may deliberately run over a fielder who is in her way to clear a path.

12. Which is FALSE regarding interference?

- A. As long as it is not malicious, a baserunner may remain on her feet and make body to body contact in an attempt to dislodge the ball on an attempted tag.
- B. Physical contact is not required to have interference.
- C. A fielder is still considered to be making an initial play on a batted ball if it is within a "step and a reach".
- D. When interference is called: the ball is dead, the interferer is out, and runners are returned to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

13. Which is FALSE regarding the Lookback Rule?

- A. The Lookback Rule applies when the ball is live, the batter-runner has reached first base (or been put out), and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle.
- B. When the rule is in effect, a runner standing on third base is not restricted if the batter-runner continues to second base on a walk.
- C. When the rule is in effect, runner in motion may continue in motion or stop once, but then must immediately go forward or go back.
- D. Once the Lookback Rule is in effect, runners must comply until the pitcher makes a play, the ball leaves the circle, or the ball becomes dead.

14. Regarding batters, which is FALSE?

- A. A batter is entitled to maintain her position in the box if the catcher is throwing to a base, but she may not RE-POSITION after the ball reaches the catcher so as to interfere with the play.
- B. In order to take a pitch after "showing" a bunt, the batter must pull the bat back away from the ball.
- C. The batter's hands are a part of the bat.
- D. Whenever a pitch touches a batter, the ball is dead.

15. Which of the following is TRUE regarding an uncaught third strike?

- A. A batter is out on an uncaught third strike any time first base is occupied.
- B. The catcher must throw the ball to first base to retire the batter-runner advancing on the uncaught third strike rule.
- C. A retired batter who runs to first base anyway and draws a throw is guilty of interference.
- D. A batter-runner entitled to run on an uncaught third strike remains a batter-runner until she safely reaches first base, is put out, or she enters the dugout/bench area.

16. Which is FALSE regarding a foul tip?

- A. A foul tip is a sharply hit ball which goes directly to the catcher's hand or glove, and then is caught by her.
- B. Baserunners do not have to "tag up" on a foul tip.
- C. A foul tip is a live ball.
- D. The foul tip signal should be given on any ball which nicks the bat (whether caught or not) to indicate that the bat touched the ball.

17. Regarding courtesy runners, which is FALSE?

- A. To qualify for a courtesy runner, the pitcher or catcher must have attained her base by any means other than substitution.
- B. The same player may not serve as a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher in the same half-inning.
- C. In non-ELITE SELECT play, if an eligible substitute is unavailable, the last batted out may serve as the courtesy runner.
- D. The courtesy runner may not be an offensive substitute later in the same half-inning, unless an injury occurs.

18. Which is FALSE regarding conferences?

- A. In a regulation game, the offense is allowed 1 charged conference per inning, and the defense is allowed 3 per game without penalty.
- B. The charged conference rule starts when the ball becomes live to begin the half-inning.
- C. When one team is having a charged conference, the other team may meet without being charged, provided they are ready to play when the charged conference ends.
- D. For excessive defensive conferences, the pitcher is restricted to the dugout.

19. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. A batter entering the batter's box with an illegal bat is called out and ejected.
- B. When an ineligible courtesy runner is used, the courtesy runner is called out and a team warning is issued.
- C. When an incorrect tiebreaker runner is used, there is no penalty - the correct runner is inserted and all action stands.
- D. A runner who deliberately removes a helmet is NOT out - it is a delayed dead ball and at the end of the play a warning is issued.

20. Which is FALSE regarding a delayed dead ball?

- A. Obstruction and most illegal pitches are enforced as a delayed dead ball.
- B. At the end of the play, the ball is declared dead, and in some cases, a penalty or award is enforced.
- C. Catcher's obstruction and illegal pitches may result in an option play where the offensive coach may choose either the result of the play, or a prescribed award.
- D. Malicious contact on the play is ignored if the coach chooses the penalty instead of the result of play.

21. Regarding game administration, which is FALSE?

- A. The clock starts when the plate meeting concludes.
- B. Eligible roster members may not be added as substitutes after the plate meeting concludes.
- C. Pitchers are allowed 5 pitches or 1 minute, whichever is less, between innings.
- D. Any pitcher (starter or reliever) must pitch the entire At Bat of the first batter they face until that batter advances to first base, is put out, or the inning ends.

22. Which is FALSE regarding traditional (non-roster batting) lineups?

- A. A team may bat 9, 10 or 11 batters with 0, 1 or 2 Additional Players (APs), respectively.
- B. A team may also use the DP/FLEX, if declared at the plate meeting.
- C. Only starters have re-entry rights - substitutes who leave the lineup are ineligible to re-enter.
- D. As long as an 8-batter minimum is maintained, a team may drop a position in the batting order for any reason (including ejection), and create an Absent Player (automatic out) position - IF no substitutes are available.

23. Regarding Tiebreakers, which is FALSE?
- The Tiebreaker Runner is the person whose name preceded the leadoff batter in the Tiebreaker inning.
  - If the Tiebreaker Runner is an Absent Player (automatic out) position, she is declared out and the team is not allowed a runner on second base.
  - It is the umpire's responsibility to notify the offense who the Tiebreaker Runner should be.
  - If the Tiebreaker Runner is the pitcher or catcher of record, a Courtesy Runner is allowed.
24. Which is FALSE regarding batter contact with a ball?
- The batter is out when a dropped bat which is moving contacts a fair batted ball.
  - There is no violation when a batted ball rolls into a dropped bat which is not moving.
  - The batter is out when any part of her foot is outside the batter's box when she hits the ball.
  - Part of the batter's box is in fair territory, so it is possible for a batter to legally hit a ball while standing in fair territory.
25. Regarding the DP/FLEX, which is FALSE?
- The DP is listed somewhere in the batting order, and the FLEX is listed after the batting order as the last player in the lineup.
  - The DP can never play only defense, and the FLEX can never play only offense.
  - The DP and FLEX may both play defense at the same time.
  - The DP and FLEX may never both play offense at the same time.
26. Which of the following is NOT the correct Starting Position for Base Umpire in Two Umpire System
- No Runners on, 20-25 feet from first base just off the line in foul territory
  - Runner on 1<sup>st</sup> Only, 3 paces behind and to second base side of second baseman
  - Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> Only, 3 paces behind and to second base side of shortstop
  - Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 paces behind and to third base side of shortstop.
27. Which of the following is NOT the correct Tag Coverage at 2<sup>nd</sup> in Two Umpire System
- With runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> only, BU has tag responsibility.
  - With runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, P has tag responsibility at 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - With runners on 3<sup>rd</sup> only, BU has tag responsibility
  - With bases loaded, BU has tag responsibility at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, P has tag responsibility at 3<sup>rd</sup>
28. In Two Umpire System which is TRUE about Going Out
- NEVER do it
  - Make call in outfield and Come back in as soon as possible
  - Make call in outfield and keep back to infield
  - Make call in outfield, turn and observe, assist partner only if partner requests assistance.
29. Which of the following is FALSE regarding Base Umpire RIMing in a Two Umpire System
- No runners on, hit to LF, BU should stay outside diamond
  - Runner on 1<sup>st</sup> only, hit to LF, BU should stay outside diamond
  - Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> only, hit to RF, BU should stay outside diamond
  - Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> only, hit to LF, BU should stay outside diamond
30. Which of the following is ACCEPTABLE by SUM Policy on undershirts with a Red Shirt.
- White or Red short sleeve undershirt
  - White long sleeve undershirt
  - Black short sleeve undershirt
  - All are acceptable.
31. What should NOT be covered at Plate Meeting with coaches
- Check line ups. First and Last names, numbers and positions.
  - Explain Ground rules, Time limits
  - Clarify Rules such as Infield Fly, DP/Flex
  - Ask coach if all players and equipment are legal and in compliance with USSSA rules.



TRUE or FALSE

32. P has worked with U1 for a few years, so there is no need to discuss coverage, signs, tag ups, etc.
33. An Umpire should be no closer than 15 feet on a tag play.
34. P and U1 should meet every inning to discuss previous plays.
35. Any Umpire has the authority to call leaving a base early.
36. Two (2) Umpire System; No Runners on base; Ball hit to left of 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman; BU should allow her to push them into foul territory and P should be ready to take any advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
37. Two (2) Umpire System Runners on 1st and 3rd. Bunt to Pitcher, throw to 1st for out; throw then goes to 3rd for a close play. U1 moves into diamond near circle and makes call at 1st; pivots and makes the call at 3rd.
38. Two (2) Umpire System Runner on 2nd base. Fly ball to left field. U1 does not go out to cover the catch. P has tag up at 2nd base and play at 3rd base.
39. Two (2) Umpire System Bases loaded. Fly ball to outfield, P stays behind home plate and lines up the runner at third and watches the tag up and any subsequent play at home.
40. Three (3) Umpire System No runners. Line drive in the gap. P observes all runners touching home. U1 observes batter-runner touching 1st, 2nd, and U3 observes the batter runner touching 3rd base.



## 2018 USSSA Fast Pitch RULES CHANGES

NOTE: Maryland does not have an Elite Select Program

Revised Rule 2.5 **JEWELRY** (Youth only - 18 & Under and younger)

“Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.

Coaches wristbands (play indicators) are legal but must be worn as designed.”

New definition in Rule 3 **CONFINES OF THE PLAYING FIELD**

“The confines of the playing field includes the field of play, the designated dugout/bench area, and any enclosed or clearly marked area that is designated as a warmup area that is adjacent to the field and within the view of the umpire(s).”

Rationale for new definition: to define WHERE Rules 2.2 and 14.6 apply.

Addition to Rule 8.3.B: **LAST COMPLETED AT BAT** (LCAB) COURTESY RUNNER OPTION (Non-ELITE SELECT DIVISIONS ONLY)

ADD “if and only if a team has no available unused substitutes, then and only then they may use the Last Completed at Bat (LCAB) as a courtesy runner, subject to all other applicable restrictions (cannot run for both positions in the same inning, etc). The LCAB courtesy runner is determined at the time the courtesy runner is requested, skipping batters

- i) currently on base,
- ii) who are the pitcher or catcher of record, or
- iii) who have already courtesy run for the other position in the same inning..

In the first inning, if there is no CR available using the above method, the LCAB CR shall be the person furthest away in the batting order (i.e., the LCAB CR for the lead off batter is the last batter listed in the lineup)”

Revised Rule 5.2 **SHORT-HANDED RULE**

ADD “(Non-ELITE SELECT divisions):

A team may drop more than 1 batting position (i.e., may have multiple absent players), provided the lineup is maintained with at least 8 batters physically present. All other restrictions above apply.

If a team has multiple absent players and an eligible substitute arrives, she must enter the game immediately in the first available absent player position due up in the batting order.”

Addition to Rule 5.3: **ROSTER BATTING** (Non-ELITE SELECT DIV ONLY)

ADD “ROSTER BATTING OPTION – (non-ELITE SELECT divisions) Teams may use additional APs to bat their entire roster (i.e., ALL players present), subject to the restrictions of Rule 5.2 and 5.3”

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