

ENLL Umpires Frequently Asked Questions

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RAIN OUTS

- When should I stop a game due to weather?

If thunder is heard OR lightning is seen, you MUST stop the game immediately, get both teams off the field, and begin a 30-minute timer. This timer resets each and every time you hear thunder or see lightning. The game should be called once there is no reasonable expectation the game will be able to continue before darkness, field conditions, or the 2hr time limit, make the game unplayable.

- What should I tell the coaches/players to do once I've stopped the game?

If the game is called solely due to rain, teams may wait in the dugout until conditions improve. If the game is stopped due to thunder/lightning, teams must evacuate the metal dugouts. Teams are encouraged to wait in their cars until the thunder/lightning has stopped.

PAYMENT

- How do we get paid?

You will get paid by cheque, in which you will need to pick up. Details on when and where to pick up your cheque will be provided in an email to you once your cheque is ready for pickup.

- Do I need to do anything in order to get paid?

No. All the games you've worked are in the system, and are processed automatically. The previous "voucher system" was removed prior to the 2025 season.

- When can I expect my cheque to be ready?

Cheques are typically available approximately 2 weeks after the end of the month.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- I had to eject a coach/player. What should I do now?

File a detailed game report on Assignr. Be sure to include the coach's/player's name and jersey number, when it happened (inning, situation), any important context leading up to the ejection, and the aftermath. Ejected individuals are not allowed to remain at the diamond, and must vacate the dugout.

- Can I eject a fan?

No. Issues with fans should be taken care of with a game coordinator if both umpires are below 18. If an adult umpire is having an issue with an unruly spectator, they are instructed to stop the game and pull both teams off the field. Inform the coach the game will not resume until the fan is no longer being problematic.

- I didn't eject someone, but I think I should have. What should I do?

File a game report on Assignr. You may also contact the UIC directly. Situations that did not seem right should be reported, even if no ejections were made.

- How do I report another umpire?

Contact the UIC directly. Umpires are encouraged to speak up when dealing with issues surrounding others, especially other umpires.

- A coach or player was being rude, but not to the level of an ejection. Should we report that?

Report it through Assignr. The more communication the better, and that information could be valuable if separate incidents occur in future games.

GAME COORDINATORS

- ***Me and my partner are both under 18. Do we need to have a game coordinator?***

Yes. By rule, youth umpires are not allowed to start the game without a game coordinator.

- ***What is a game coordinator responsible for?***

Making decisions on weather, and field conditions. It is also their job to deal with any person, whether that be a player or coach, who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct/language, and/or objects to final decisions made by the umpire. Game coordinators will be reminded of their role in the plate meeting.

- ***My game coordinator isn't sure what their responsibilities are. What should I tell them?***

Bring them to the plate meeting, and ask them to confirm they understand they are responsible for weather/field conditions decisions, and for handling unsportsmanlike situations.

ASSIGNR GAME REPORTS

- ***Do I have to file a game report for every single game I work?***

No. You should only file a game report when you have something you'd like to report.

- ***What kinds of things must I report?***

Ejections, rainouts, umpire abuse, safety concerns, and when plate/base roles have been switched at the field.

- ***What kinds of things should I report?***

Situations that made you uncomfortable, situations where a player/coach/or fan was ruining the experience for you or others. Any sort of harassment towards an umpire. Also, situations where a coach tells you to play with certain rules, contradictory to what is stated in the rulebook. If you're hesitating on whether to report something or not, file a report. The more communication we receive, the better.

ISSUES AT THE FIELD

- ***My partner hasn't shown up and the game starts in 5 minutes. Who should I contact?***

Contact the assigner first. You may also try contacting your partner directly, or the umpire-in-chief. You are allowed to umpire the game by yourself if you have attempted to contact the assigner. If no replacement is found, you will receive extra compensation for working alone.

- ***A team only has 7 players, but they still want to play. Is the game allowed to continue?***

If this is a spring house league game between 2 East Nepean teams, the game shall be marked as a forfeit loss for the team without 8+ players. They may then borrow an extra player from the other team and continue the game as a "practice". Umpires in this specific scenario are encouraged to stay and officiate the game.

If the game is being played under INTERLOCK rules (summer season for all teams, spring for Junior and up), umpires are **not allowed to stay** and officiate the game, even if this is between two ENLL teams. This is for insurance reasons. Umpires shall declare a forfeit loss for the team without 8+ players, and leave the field.

- ***A coach is asking me if we can play without certain rules at the plate meeting, or that they don't play with those rules in their local league. What should I tell them?***

Tell the coach you **must** follow the rules (as per the LL book, interlock rules, or ENLL house league rules). If this becomes a problem, advise them to contact the UIC. This is a situation we would like to hear about via a Game Report on Assignr.

- ***A team is down by 10 after 4, but the coach still wants to play, saying their team can still come back. What should I do?***

The mercy rule and per-inning run rule are often confused together, but should be viewed as separate rules. The 5 runs per inning is a local rule to prevent long innings. The 10-run mercy rule is an official LL rule. If a team is down by 10 and the mercy rule applies, the game is over, regardless of if a team can still catch up. For insurance reasons, umpires **must** leave the field once a game is over due to mercy rule conditions.

PLATE/BASE ASSIGNMENTS

- What are plate/base assignments?

Plate/Base assignments are new to ENLL in 2026. Instead of deciding at the field who will do the plate/bases, it will be assigned to you directly in Assignr.

- Am I allowed to switch positions with my partner before the game?

Yes, as long as advance notice is given (minimum 1 hour before game time), and both partners are willing to switch. These changes do not need to be reported on Assignr. Note that certain situations may require a switch (Injury, No equipment in bin etc.). Switches are not allowed at the diamond – and any umpire forced to make a switch at the field is asked to fill out a Game Report after the game.

- My partner was assigned plate but didn't bring their gear. What happens now?

If the field has a bin, the assigned plate umpire shall wear the gear from the bin. If the field does not have a bin, and you have plate gear, put it on. If neither partner has gear, the assigned plate umpire shall call the strike zone from behind the mound. You should always bring plate gear to the field, even when assigned as a base umpire.

- My partner was assigned plate, but has not shown up within 5 minutes of game start time. Should I put my gear on?

Yes. Contact the assigner and put your plate gear on. After the game is finished, you **MUST** file a Game Report indicating you had to switch positions.

- I am unable to do the plate for my game tonight, or know I will be running late. What next steps should I take?

Message your partner, or the assigner, as soon as possible. The more advance notice the better. Note that umpires who consistently force their partner to switch positions, without advance notice, may be subject to receive fewer games.

INCENTIVES

- When do I get a pay raise?

You will receive two pay raises as you progress as an ENLL umpire. The first is as you enter your third season (\$10 increase per game), and your second will be once you turn 18 (flat rate for every game). Specifics on pay rates can be requested by contacting the umpire-in-chief.

- What other incentives do I receive to stay with ENLL?

All umpires entering their third season will receive an ENLL Umpire Jacket. Umpires who worked 16 games or more (avg. 1 game per week for spring and summer) will receive a complimentary chest protector. We also have an ENLL Umpires Night at an Ottawa Titans game, which all umpires will be invited to attend at no cost.

DISTRICTS

- What are District Tournaments?

Districts are the first step in a team's journey to play in the Little League World Series. Each year, ENLL nominates umpires to participate in these tournaments. Games all use 4-umpire crews, and umpires are not paid for these games.

- Why umpire a district game?

District games, though some of the most challenging games to work, are also some of the most rewarding. For All-Star teams, the entire season builds up to preparing for districts, and as a district umpire, you too get to be a part of that. Expectations are higher, but as such, your amount of training will be much greater. Umpires can expect to significantly improve through working district games, and be a part of the camaraderie of our team. For aspiring umpires hoping to one day work a Little League World Series, your journey starts as a district umpire.

- How do I get selected to become a district umpire?

Each year, the Umpire in Chief will be looking out for umpires who are improving at a higher rate compared to their peers. These umpires typically ask questions, listen to feedback, and show a desire to get better every game they work. These umpires tend to be eager and umpire games for reasons other than the money. Very few umpires will be selected to work these games, so we are looking for those passionate for the game and who consistently seek to learn and improve. If you have interest in working district games, and want to receive feedback and training to get you to a District-level, contact the Umpire in Chief.

CONTINUING VS ENDING GAMES

- ***A team has reached the mercy rule but wants to keep playing. Should I stay and continue to umpire?***

No. Once a game has reached mercy rule conditions, the game is over from that point, and you must leave the diamond. A reminder of those conditions – Major and below: A team is winning by 10 or more after 4 complete innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead), Junior and above: A team is winning by 10 or more after 5 complete innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead). There is no 15-run mercy rule.

- ***The home team has already won and we've reached the 6th inning (7th inning in Junior and above). Are the teams allowed to keep playing as a "practice"?***

Umpires must leave the diamond as this game has officially ended. Teams can still play as a "practice" without umpires, but no scoring should take place except for pitch counts.

- ***If I know it will be dark early, can I implement a "hard stop" time at the plate meeting?***

No. Remind the coaches what the no new inning time is at the plate meeting, and mention you'll be monitoring the weather and will adjudge if you have a reasonable expectation to complete a new inning later in the game.

- ***A team is down by 6 heading into the last inning, and there's a 5 run limit per inning. Therefore, they can't catch up. Can I just call the game now because they have no chance of winning?***

No, you cannot. Umpires can only end games due to score when the game has been played to its' completion, or due to the 10-run mercy rule. If both coaches agree they are done playing, now you can call the game.

- ***There is a game on our diamond afterwards. At what point should we stop the game?***

When another game follows yours, you should implement a hard stop 5 minutes before the scheduled start time of that next game. On a diamond with lights, this gets pushed back to 10 minutes prior.

- ***Can I cite the “no reasonable expectation rule” to not play the bottom half of this inning when I know we won’t be able to play another full inning, and the home team is winning?***

Before the no new inning time, no. If you start a full inning, and it is not the 6th inning (7th inning in Junior and up), you are expected to play that full inning. After the no new inning time, there is no reason to start the bottom half as the home team has already won, therefore the game will be declared over.

TEAM EQUIPMENT

- ***A team does not have left-handed catcher’s gloves, but would like to put a left-handed player in to catch. What should I tell the coach?***

The catcher MUST wear a catcher’s mitt as per LL Rule 1.12. For safety reasons, this is non-negotiable. Check to see if the opposing team has a left-handed mitt they are willing to lend for the game. Otherwise, without a catcher’s mitt that player is not eligible to play.

- ***Does the catcher’s mask require a “dangler” (throat protector)?***

As per LL Rule 1.17, the dangling throat protector is a requirement on the catcher’s mask. Any mask without it is not eligible for use until one is attached.

- ***Is there a rule on throwing bats?***

A common misconception is that batters should be called out or even ejected for throwing their bat. However, LL has no such rule. If a player throws the bat and hits the catcher, umpire, or throws it in any manner which threatens safety, the player and coach should be immediately warned. Failure to stop throwing bats after the warning has been put in place may result in the player being ejected. When several players have been throwing bats, this may result in the coach being ejected.

- ***Is the pitcher allowed to wear any white?***

Not on any sort of sleeve, and not on the glove. This is covered under LL Rules 1.11 (a) (3) and 1.15 (a), and white (or light gray) gloves or sleeves will be asked to be removed by the umpire.

- ***Can a pitcher wear sunglasses while pitching, or on their hat?***

Yes, provided they are not distracting to their hitter. Glasses where the lenses are multi-coloured and emit glare are typically not allowed, but regular sunglasses are fine.

MINIMUM GAME POLICY

- ***What is the minimum game policy for ENLL Umpires?***

All umpires are expected to work at least 5 games throughout the course of the season in East Nepean, in order to be eligible for re-registration in the following season.

- ***Which games count towards the 5-game minimum?***

Regular season games, playoff games, exhibition games, tournament games, district games, and OBA Cardinals games all count towards the 5 games.

- ***Are there any exceptions to this rule?***

Yes, and you can contact the UIC if you feel you fall under an exception. Being unable to work due to injury or health conditions would be an exception, living out of town for an extended period would also be an exception. Being busy throughout the course of the summer is not an exception to the rule.

- ***It's August and I fear I may not get to 5 games, but I want to stick around next season. What should I do?***

Contact the UIC and Assigner as soon as possible so we can try and accommodate you based on your schedule. Note that accommodations will not be made during playoffs, so it is important you ask as soon as possible.