

District 9 Policy #9 – Umpire Assignments for District Tournament Games

April 18, 2019

In the “Tournament” section of the Rule Book, under “UMPIRES” it states: The Tournament Director shall have full responsibility for providing volunteer Little League umpires for Tournament play. Umpires from leagues involved in the game should not be assigned to that game. The District Administrator shall not umpire. There should be at least two umpires in each game, but more are recommended when available.

Washington State District 9’s policy to implement this is as follows:

1. District 9 Umpire Consultant (Baseball or Softball) shall assign individual umpires or umpire crews to each and every game in the District tournaments. This is usually done far in advance of the actual tournament
2. When an umpire crew is assigned to a Tournament, it is the Crew Chief’s responsibility to assign individual umpires in his crew to each game. He/She should try to assign umpires that are not associated with the teams playing in that game. When a Crew Chief assigns a group of umpires to do a game, the assigned individuals should recognize that they may be moved to different games at that site or to different positions on the field for that game by the District Umpire Consultant (see 3 and 4 below) at that site to accomplish the intent of this Policy.
3. Prior to the start of each game the assigned District Umpire Consultant at that Tournament Game site has the responsibility and may at his/her discretion move umpires around at that site to assure that they comply with the rule book and this Policy. An umpire that is associated with, has been associated with, lives in, or is commonly known to be an umpire from a specific League, or Leagues, should not be assigned to umpire a game in which that League, or Leagues, is playing. If need be, the Consultant shall ask each umpire what his affiliation is before assigning game/positions on a given game/games.
4. If this is a single game site, the District Umpire Consultant assigned to that site shall assure that the umpire assigned to do the plate meets the criteria outlined in #3 above, if at all possible, even to the point of asking one of the other umpires to do the plate instead of the assigned one. The remaining umpires shall be assigned a position on the field so that the most active site goes to the umpires that are not associated with the teams playing.
5. In the absence of a District Umpire Consultant, the assigned Assistant District Administrator shall step in and accomplish the steps outlined above in #3 and #4.

This policy is intended to accomplish two things. First, it is to comply with the rule book. Second, it is to protect the umpires of being accused of being biased by the unknowing fans from both Leagues involved in the game. I know that each and every one of our Umpires are as

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honest as possible in every call made, but by following this policy, umpires will not be put in the position of even being unjustly accused of being biased. I also know that each umpire considers themselves as a District Umpire, but since the fans are not aware, following this policy helps reduce the possibility of being accused of being biased.

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