

# So you are thinking of becoming an umpire

## What is in it for you?

The WUA offers the best baseball / softball umpire training in Wisconsin. You will get in-depth rules knowledge and solid umpiring skills. The training uses current National Federation High School (NFHS) rules and mechanics. We get you ready for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) baseball and /or softball test. When you meet the WIAA criteria and pass their test, you will be able to umpire high school baseball or softball games. We expose you to an array of assignors who manage over 3,000 games in Southeast Wisconsin. You will gain the skills and confidence you need to be a capable umpire. We provide the core of your umpire knowledge and enable you to grow from there. You can even get support as your season moves forward and questions arise.

## What will it cost you?

There is a cost for your training; and another cost for equipment. Training fees for Level 1 (new) umpires is \$175. Training fees for Level 2 are \$95. Both fees are due at time of registration. This includes all training material. There is also classroom and hands-on training from our skilled mentors. Both fees include your annual WUA membership.

The second cost is for the tools of the trade (also known as your equipment). You must have your equipment prior to the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) class. This requirement exists because you will start seeing pitches during the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) class. The cost of your equipment will vary based on where you source it from (and its quality). The average cost of a complete set of minimum equipment is about \$450. We will give you a Resource List at the first session. You do not have to buy all of it at one time, nor from only one source. You do have to have it in time for the sixth class. If you stage your purchases, it is likely that there will be more shipping charges.

Your total Level 1 investment will be about \$625. This is a significant commitment. It may seem daunting. You should know that most assignors offer games that pay \$45 - \$55 per game. As an independent contractor, you get the total game fee (no taxes are withheld). Given this, you can recoup your upfront costs after about 13 games. (You may need to report your umpire income to the IRS. We cannot give you tax advice).

## What is your commitment?

- Attend 90% of the weekly training sessions AND the one (1) field training session.
- Complete and turn in all weekly homework.
- Buy your core equipment prior to the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) class.
- Attend the graduation banquet.
- Complete and score 75%+ on the final training quiz (given at the start of the banquet).

## What is the WUA's commitment?

- Share in-depth knowledge on NFHS rules and interpretations, along with game cases.
- Give guided practice at both plate and base mechanics.

- Professional advice on avoiding or managing on-field conflict.
- Eighteen (18) trainers that share skills gained from over 400 years working:
  - High-level and post-season high school games.
  - D1, D2 or D3 college level games.
  - Minor (MiLB) and/or Major (MLB) league professional games.