

CAROLINA'S UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

UMPIRE PROTOCOL

All members of the Carolina's Umpire Association (CUA) shall abide by the procedures of the protocol as a qualification of membership in CUA.

Umpires shall put forth their best effort to always represent the Supervisor of Officials and the CUA in a professional manner.

CUA umpires shall adhere to the Code of Ethics adopted by the [NFHS](#), [NCHSAA](#), and the CUA.

CUA umpires shall adhere to the mechanics adopted by the NFHS and the NCHSAA.

All officiating business shall be conducted using the DragonFly website and associated mobile app. It is the responsibility of each umpire to maintain their profile on this site current and accurate as it relates to; closed dates/blocks, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, photos or other items.

Any conflict of interest (COI) regarding a potential assignment shall be discussed with the Supervisor of Officials in advance for determination. If a COI exists, it shall be entered on DragonFly by the Umpire prior to the start of the season. Any future assignment that presents a potential COI shall be reported to the Supervisor of Officials immediately. COI's include, but are not limited to, present or past employment at a school, dependents who attend or attended an assigned school, close friends and relatives who are employed by an assigned school, etc.

Umpires shall pay all fees and fines as assessed by the Supervisor of Officials in accordance with NCHSAA regulations. Failure to pay fees will result in the loss of assignments.

Schedule of Fees

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| ▪ Booking fee | \$80.00 |
| ▪ Fee for turning in game after acceptance | \$25.00 |
| ▪ Failure to appear for an assigned game | \$25.00+ 2-week suspension |
| ▪ Failure to appear for Scheduled Game (2nd time) | Termination |
| ▪ Failure to notify the Supervisor of an EJ/DQ | \$25.00 |
| ▪ Failure to notify the Supervisor of partner no-show | \$10.00 |

Uniforms and Appearance

The black shirt w/gray side panel (2023 MLB Version) is the required/default shirt for all CUA assigned games. The undershirts shall be black. Undershirt sleeves shall not be visible under the uniform shirt.

Approved alternate shirts include:

- Sky Blue w/black side panel (2023 MLB version)
- Black w/white stripes on the collar
- Polo Blue w/black collar
- Black w/light blue placket (2024 MLB version)
- Sky Blue w/black Placket (2024 MLB version)

If an alternate shirt is worn, both partners must wear the same colors. If the crew wears two different shirts each crew member will be held accountable to the Supervisor of Officials.

The pants shall be charcoal (dark) gray. Heather gray pants are not permitted.

The approved pullover/jackets are solid black, black with gray trim or black with white stripes on the shoulders. Plate coats (black) and long sleeve shirts are permitted for the plate umpire only.

Ball bags shall be black. Two ball bags shall be worn to maintain pace of play.

The plate umpire is required to wear plate shoes and a personal protector. The plate umpire shall have an indicator in their possession.

Base umpires are required to have a stopwatch in their possession. Wristwatches and cell phones are not an acceptable alternative.

For all CUA assigned contests, the current NCHSAA sanctioned black hat with the NCHSAA logo shall be worn on the plate and the bases. If the plate umpire wears a hard helmet, the NCHSAA logo need not be on the helmet.

Facial Hair for the regular season is allowed. For conference tournament and state play-off games, the state protocol will be followed.

Umpires shall abide by the tobacco, alcohol, and drug policy in the NFHS rule book, the Umpire Code of Conduct, NCHSAA guidelines, and the policy in place for the locality of the assigned activity. Umpires shall not be impaired from the use of alcohol, prescribed or nonprescribed medication and/or substances while in an official capacity. Violation of this may result in suspension or termination.

Umpires shall abide by the firearm and weapons policy for the jurisdiction of the assigned activity. Possession of firearms or weapons, by an official, on the field of play, is strictly prohibited, at any time, for any reason.

Game acceptance and turn back

Umpires shall show due diligence in closing out (blocking) dates they will not be available. Failure to close dates resulting in not accepting games will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Supervisor of Officials.

Assigned games shall be accepted within 72 hours of the assignment being published. Failure to accept an assignment within the stated timeframe may result in the loss of the assignment. Umpires are expected to check DragonFly daily for updates and changes.

If a game is assigned and cannot be accepted or accepted and cannot be fulfilled, it is the responsibility of the assigned umpire to contact the Supervisor of Officials by phone (text message is not acceptable) before declining the assignment.

Pre-game Procedures

Partners need to communicate at least 48 hours before the scheduled game and determine the uniform/shirt color the crew will wear and where the crew will meet/park.

All Umpires should arrive at the game site 1 hour prior to the scheduled start time. Umpires should arrive at the game site in business casual attire. If any umpire is delayed for any reason, they should call their crew members and/or the game management staff, as shown on DragonFly, to inform them of their delay and inform them of their expected arrival time. If a member of your crew has not arrived, or contacted you, at your game site within 30 minutes of the scheduled game time you must contact the Supervisor of Officials. It is understood that games that start early (Middle School and Junior Varsity) arrive 1 hour prior to start may not be possible. The minimum time should be 30 minutes prior to game time. Please be in contact with your partner and keep them informed of your planned arrival time if this is the case.

CUA umpires shall complete and have in their possession the [CUA Emergency Healthcare Information Form](#) at every assigned contest. The location of this document for each umpire shall be a topic covered in the pre-game conversation.

Umpires will not change assigned positions (plate and bases) unless prior authorization is received from the Supervisor of Officials.

Umpires are required to have at the game site a current rule and case book. NCHSAA does not honor protests. These references will be used to resolve field issues shall the need arise. These items should be available but not brought onto the field.

On game days, umpires need to be able to be contacted by the Supervisor of Officials office or the game management staff. It is imperative that you can be reached to inform you of any changes in a timely manner. Baseball is a sport that is weather dependent, and last-minute decisions concerning cancellations or delays often occur. Game changes and cancellations will be communicated through DragonFly, other electronic communication tools (i.e., TeamReach), or a call from the Supervisor of Officials office. Do not call the schools directly or anyone associated with the Supervisor of Officials office to check on game status.

Game Cancellation Payment Policy

- Notified after arrival at the game site (no earlier than 1 hr.) \$ ½ fee
- Game suspended/cancelled after play has started \$ full fee

The plate umpire will be the crew chief on all assignments unless otherwise specified by the Supervisor of Officials. The assigned crew chief shall be responsible for contacting all members of the crew on the Sunday prior to the scheduled assignment date, or 48 hours prior to the scheduled assignment, whichever is earlier. This contact may be by phone, text, or email, but must be confirmed with a response! If you are unable to contact your crew members or do not receive a response after contact within 36 hours of the scheduled assignment you must contact the Supervisor of Officials office. Any crew member who has not been contacted by his crew chief within 36 hours of the assignment date must contact the Supervisor of Officials. If you receive an assignment within 48 hours of the scheduled date you must contact your crew members immediately

Post-Game Procedures

Umpires shall refer all inquiries from media (internet, radio, television, or newspaper) or any other type media to the Supervisor of Officials. No Umpire may alter this policy without prior authorization from the Supervisor of Officials. Umpires shall not post anything regarding any assignment on any social media website. This includes the teams, coaches, players, fans, game management or anyone or any details involved with the assignment. Violation may result in disciplinary action, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Officials, up to suspension or termination.

If any player or coach is restricted, disqualified, or ejected the umpire responsible for the disciplinary action MUST contact the Supervisor of Officials by phone (text messages are NOT acceptable) immediately following the game. A draft report for all disqualifications and ejections describing the situation must be submitted to the Supervisor of Officials via [email](#) within 8 hours. The draft report shall be submitted using the [CUA Ejection/Disqualification Form](#). Once approved, the final report will be submitted to the NCHSAA within 12 hours of the event (public HS only) via DragonFly Center for Officials Services (COS). For private schools and middle schools, the CUA form will be the only submission.

Grievance Procedure

If an official is disciplined for any action, CUA maintains a process for an official to have a grievance heard. The official shall submit details of the event and the redress the official desires to the Chairman of Grievance committee. This submission shall be done in writing and submitted within one week of the action. If the Chairman determines the grievance to be

valid, the Chairman will convene a meeting of the CUA Board of Directors review the submission and make a final determination.

Conference and State Playoff Eligibility

To be eligible to be assigned to playoffs contests, the following requirements must be met:

1. Umpire is in good standing with NCHSAA and CUA
2. State meeting attendance (mandatory)
3. NFHS test score- >80 percent (mandatory)
4. Local and annual business meeting attendance*
5. Scrimmage attendance-minimum of 3 scrimmages*

* Alternative requirements may be substituted per the discretion of the Supervisor of Officials.

State Play-off Assignments

For the State Playoff any crew having to travel more than 100 miles (as calculated by the office of the Supervisor of Officials) to umpire a contest will receive a check for \$65 from the CUA to cover travel expenses. The check will be given to the Supervisor of Officials to be disbursed to the crew as he deems equitable.

For any crew umpiring a State Playoff Final Series the CUA shall provide 2 rooms for one night's lodging (calculation based on a 4-person crew) at the game location (or nearby area) hosting the Final Series. Rooms shall be booked by the President of the CUA after consultation with the crew chief of the crew. The President and Treasurer of the CUA will determine, in coordination with the crew chief, the best method of room payment or crew reimbursement.