

WELCOME!

**Spring 2021
PSA Softball
Umpire Training**



"Rec to Select"

Softball League Coordinators

LEAGUE	COORDINATOR	EMAIL
1ST & 2ND GRADE	KATIE MACHAJ	kmachaj@psaplano.org
3RD GRADE	JOE WESTRICH	joedwest1@icloud.com
4TH GRADE	CHRIS BENKOWITZ	chrisbenkowitz@gmail.com
5TH/6TH GRADE	KATIE MACHAJ	kmachaj@psaplano.org
7TH/8TH GRADE	KATIE MACHAJ	kmachaj@psaplano.org
HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)	JORGE GARCIA	jalbertog74@yahoo.com
BOARD PRESIDENT	KEVAN BENKOWITZ	kevan@kiblawn.com
PSA STAFF	KATIE MACHAJ	kmachaj@psaplano.org



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SPRING 2021 Goals

- ❖ **COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE** between PSA, Coaches, Assignor, and Umpires
- ❖ **Recruit and train new umpires**
- ❖ **Provide PSA-specific training each season (Fall & Spring) for both new and returning umpires**
- ❖ **Update umpires with rule changes as they are approved and confirmed by the Board**
- ❖ **Provide Rules Matrix to all umpires which highlight changes based on grade levels**



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PSA Umpire Information

- ❖ Anthony Lewis is the Umpire in Charge and Assignor for PSA's Spring 2021 Softball season. He will be providing umpire training on PSA-specific softball rules for those interested in officiating PSA Softball games
- ❖ Please be sure your contact information is updated in the PSA umpire database (www.assignr.com)
- ❖ Please be sure to accept or decline games in Assignr
- ❖ If you cannot work a game, find a replacement and let Anthony know ASAP!
- ❖ Anthony can be reached at 972-658-1451 or via email at alew190661@yahoo.com
- ❖ Communication will be done through Anthony via email/text



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Spring Softball Timeline

- ❖ **Umpire Training Dates:** Wed 3/18 on PSA1 turf field
- ❖ **Schedules Posted in DASH:** Already posted for 5th-12th
- ❖ **Season Dates:** 3/20 through 6/13
- ❖ **Fields Available Until:** June 27th
- ❖ **Post-Season Tournament:** EST. June 4th



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All dates subject to change due to weather

Field & Equipment Info 5th-12th

- ❖ Weeknight Games: 6:10pm & 7:50pm (Mon – Fri)
- ❖ Saturday Games: First game at 9am
- ❖ Sunday Games: As early as 12pm (mostly 1pm)
- ❖ Fields: High Point 7, 8, 9, 10
- ❖ Timers, rakes, flip score charts will be at fields
- ❖ Also hanging flip score charts for umpires
- ❖ NO scoreboards – home team keeps official book



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Umpire Uniform & Equipment

- ❖ PSA light blue golf shirt
- ❖ Navy cap
- ❖ Grey slacks
- ❖ Black sport shoes
- ❖ Plate brush, clicker, stop watch, current rules
- ❖ PSA Rules Matrix
- ❖ **KNOW THE PSA RULES!**



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Playing Format By Age Level

Grade	League	Base Dist.	Pitching Dist.	Game Length	Ball Size	# of Games	Post Season Tourn.	All-Star Tourn.
Kinder	Mod T-ball	50	30	60	10" safety ball	8	No	No
1st & 2nd	Coach Pitch	60	30	70	11" safety ball	10	Yes	N/A
3rd	Mod Kid Pitch	60	30	70	11" softball	10	Yes	Yes
4th	Mod Kid Pitch	60	35	80	11" softball	10	Yes	Yes
5th & 6th	Kid Pitch	60	40	80	12" softball	10	Yes	Yes
7th – 12th	Kid Pitch	60	43	80	12" softball	10	Yes	Yes



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PSA Weather Policy

- ❖ **Cancellations will be updated on the PSA Website under the Cancellations Tab at the TOP of the website**
- ❖ For WEEKDAY games, the City of Plano will make a decision if fields are playable by 3pm
- ❖ For WEEKEND games, PSA staff and/or League Coordinators will determine if the fields are playable about 1 hour prior to the first game of the day
- ❖ If the City of Plano OR PSA keeps fields open for play, PSA umpires have final say AT THE FIELD on whether the conditions are safe for continued play
- ❖ PSA staff, officials, coaches, and parents are to use the My Lightning Tracker App (6 mile radius)
- ❖ PSA tries to reschedule games within 7-12 days from the date of cancellation



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<http://www.psaplano.org/Cancellations.aspx>

Umpire Evaluations

- ❖ PSA umpires are evaluated via Coaches Tools
- ❖ Please remind coaches to complete these evaluations after their game - we can only improve our training if we receive feedback from the coaches!
- ❖ This information will be provided to the Umpire in Charge (Assignor) to help determine where our umpires are successful and areas in need of improvement.

Please tell us about your experience.

Game Date: 06/25/15 7:45:00 PM
Between: Eagles - Harrod - MU - Murphy Magic-Conner (*)

Please evaluate the game officials.

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Game Control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge of Rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clarity of Signals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall Performance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments

Softball Reminders

- ❖ Home team responsibilities
 - ❖ Resides in the 3rd Base Dugout
 - ❖ Game Ball
 - ❖ Back-up Ball
 - ❖ Official Book/Scorekeeper
- ❖ Away team will reside in the 1st base dugout
- ❖ Time Between innings – 3 pitch max or one minute
- ❖ Defensive conference – 3 per game (1 minute)
- ❖ Offensive conference – 1 per inning – any time a coach leaves the box to talk to the batter



PSA-Specific Softball Rules

- ❖ PSA coaches and teams have the expectation the PSA-specific rules will be followed and executed by the umpires during PSA league play
- ❖ The PSA website will always have most current version of rules or list any new updates

<http://www.psaplano.org/Home/Sports/Softball/RulesandBylawsSoftball.aspx>



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Game Warnings & Ejections (Rule 1.3)

- ❖ PSA umpires are empowered to provide up to two warnings (not required!) before ejecting a coach/player or parent from a game. If two warnings have been issued (2nd warning should indicate it will be the LAST warning), an ejection can be directed using the following guidelines:
 - ❖ Any action or misconduct in which his/her judgement is not in the best interest of the program
 - ❖ Is not following the intent or guidelines of PSA Policies and Procedures
 - ❖ Is not following the Coaches Code of Conduct
 - ❖ Is not abiding by the PSA Softball General Rules or league rules for the age level in which they are playing
 - ❖ Umpires must, immediately after the game or as soon as possible, notify the Umpire in Charge/Assignor and PSA staff of an ejection. Information must also include the coach/player/parent name, team name, and reason for ejection.
 - ❖ Any coach, player, parent or spectator ejected from a game by an umpire shall be suspended for a minimum of 1 game and may be required to appear before the Softball Board for a review of the matter. This suspension will occur at their team's next game, regardless if it is a regular season game or a tournament game.



Rule Updates Spring 2021

- ❖ Borrowing of players (Rule 2.3)
- ❖ Illegal players (Rule 2.3)
- ❖ Base obstruction (Rule 7.5)
- ❖ Off the Ball Base Obstruction

<http://www.psaplano.org/Home/Sports/Softball/RulesandBylawsSoftball.aspx>



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Pre-Game Plate Meetings

- ❖ **UMPIRES ARE TO ARRIVE 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO GAME!**
- ❖ **PSA umpires are to meet with the head coach from each team prior to the start of the game**
- ❖ **Coaches are required to submit two (2) copies of the batting lineup at the pre-game plate meeting. One for the umpire and one for the scorekeeper. The roster must include the first name, last initial, and jersey number of each player**
- ❖ **Borrowed players must be declared at the pre-game plate meeting and must also be placed at the bottom of the batting order. (see rules matrix for other grade-specific rules)**
- ❖ **Game clock begins at the end of the plate meeting. If there is no electronic scoreboard, the umpire will begin the game with his timer and signal the scorekeeper to begin their clock as well.**

- ❖ **Umpires are to remind the coaches of good sportsmanship**
- ❖ **Most coaches have agreed to use their own game balls rather than share. This will need to be determined at the plate meeting**



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Coach Responsibility to Officials

- ❖ Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. **Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players, parents, and spectators.**
- ❖ On game day, **officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game.** Officials should be addressed as “Umpire” or “Mr. /Ms. Umpire” and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
- ❖ Coaches shall **refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment** of others, whether verbal, physical, or emotional, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels.
- ❖ Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate Sports Director



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<http://www.psaplano.org/files/softball/PSACoachCodeOfConduct.pdf>

Sportsmanship

- ❖ Coaches Code of Conduct – please read this to understand PSA's expectations of its coaches
- ❖ Coaches are to never yell at or touch an umpire before, during, or after a game
- ❖ Remind the coaches they set the tone for their team parents and players
- ❖ Remind parents they are role models for their children

<http://www.psaplano.org/files/softball/PSACoachCodeOfConduct.pdf>



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Post-Game

- ❖ Remind coaches to input the game score through Coaches Tools and to also complete the Officials Evaluation so we have feedback on areas we are doing well and areas where we need to improve
- ❖ If you are umpiring the last game of the day on a field, please be sure all equipment has been picked up by the teams and check that rakes, scoreboards (if applicable) and other PSA equipment is locked up and secure



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PSA OUTDOOR SPORTS PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS (Click [HERE](#) for full document)

Face Masks Must be worn at all times on Paved Surface areas the Parks and Fields by Everyone. Social Distance in these areas is not a substitute for masks

- ❖ Face Masks are not required if an attendee has a medical condition or is less than 10 years of age.
- ❖ Face Masks are not required by Players, Coaches, and Game Officials when on the grass such as the field of play, warm-up areas, and benches.

Social Distance of 6 feet must be observed at all times except on the field of play.

- ❖ Paved Areas Include: bleachers for spectators, parking lots, walkways, restrooms, concession areas, entry/exits, and plazas.
- ❖ This Protocol applies to all Players, Coaches, Parents, Spectators, Game Officials, and Park Attendees and applies to all PSA Youth Outdoor Sports programs. Facilities include City of Plano Venues, City of Murphy Venues, and PSA McKinney.



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PSA OUTDOOR SPORTS PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS (Click [HERE](#) for full document)

- ❖ **Programing and Activities will be monitored.** Non-compliance could result in a series of penalties and sanctions. Your cooperation is essential to promote safety to all participants involved with PSA programs. If anyone is uncomfortable or unable to comply with the Safety Protocol requirements, then we request for you to not attend the programs or events.
- ❖ **Penalties for failure to wear face masks** as defined or practice social distancing are as follows:
 - ❖ Step one: Warning to the Team Coach
 - ❖ Step two: Second warning to the team coach and possible removal from the game in progress or the next game.
 - ❖ Step three: Suspension of the Team Coach
 - ❖ Step four: Suspension of the Team
- ❖ **Penalties for person not affiliated with the teams** such as game officials, administrators, general park attendees as follows:
 - ❖ Step one: Warning
 - ❖ Step two: Issuance of criminal trespass warning
 - ❖ Step three: Criminal trespass / ejection from the park



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PSA Umpire Rates – Spring 2021

Grade Level	# of Umpires	Umpire Pay Rate
1st Grade	2	\$28 each per game
2nd Grade	2	\$28 each per game
3rd Grade	2	\$35 each per game
4th Grade	2	\$35 each per game
5/6 Grade	2	\$35 each per game
7/8 Grade	2	\$35 each per game
High School	2	\$35 each per game



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Thank You!

PSA appreciates you attending this training class and for being an umpire for our softball leagues!

Enjoy your time on the field with these girls and coaches and let's make sure we all have FUN and play FAIR!



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Q & A

**What
questions do
you have for
us?**



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