

FAQ Sheet: SBMSA Softball Youth Umpire Program

We are delighted by your interest in the SBMSA Softball Youth Umpire Program. Being a SBMSA Softball Youth Umpire is a great honor: it allows students the chance to earn money while growing leadership skills, officiating a game they no doubt love, and gives them the opportunity to work for a league they likely played in or in which they currently participate.

There is more to being a SBMSA Softball Youth Umpire than the paycheck. The students take on responsibility outside the classroom, improve time management skills, and gain experience with adults, as an employee and as a decision-making game official. Many former umpires for SBMSA have drawn on these themes in their college applications. In recent years, some SBMSA youth umpires were accepted to The University of Texas, Texas A&M and The University of Virginia (to name but a few) after submitting applications that included an essay on life-lessons learned and experiences gained through umpiring within SBMSA. We are excited to allow this program to serve in the area of softball as well as baseball.

1) Who is eligible to submit an application for the SBMSA Softball Youth Umpire Program?
   Youth in grades 7 - 12 during the school year they are applying are eligible to submit an application.

2) What are the requirements to apply?
   Youth must be in grades 7 - 12. All questions must be answered in the application. The application must be received by the deadline stated in the application. Applicants must be willing to meet all requirements related to meeting attendance, dress code, direct deposit pay, etc. (see application).

3) How does the youth apply?
Youth and guardian must submit an application by the deadline stated in the application. The application is available on the SBMSA Softball website, under Resources.

4) What does the selection committee review?
Years of participation in softball, references submitted, availability, experience with softball, ability to meet all requirements.

5) Is this a paid program or are the students volunteering?
Students are paid per game. Students are not paid for attending training or meetings. Students may be required to make some purchases (t-shirt, SBMSA baseball cap, basic umpire kit)

6) How does the pay structure function?

The table below shows the pay rates for SBMSA Softball youth umpires starting in the 2026-2027 season. As you can see, the pay scale depends on two things: what grade the youth umpire started umpiring for SBMSA Softball and what grade the youth umpire is in now (the current school year). ***If the youth umpire is in middle school and it is their first-year umpiring, that youth umpire will earn $20 per game. If the umpire is in high school and it is their first year umpiring, that umpire will earn $50 per game. Each year returning umpires get a $5 per game bump in pay until they reach $40. After that, pay increases by $2 per year. Clearly, it pays to start early as an umpire and stick with it: as an example the high school senior who has been umpiring since 7th grade makes $42 per game. Pay rates are independent of what type of game (what age level) you are umpiring. Please note that the above rates apply for an entire calendar year based an umpire's current or just completed grade for that season. For example, if you were an 8th grader in March 2027 umpiring for the first time in June 2027, you would earn $20 for your Summer 2027 games. You must work at least two games in the season to move up to the next pay grade in the following year.***

	Per Game Pay Progression for Softball Umpires Whose First Year Was In...					
	Middle School		High School			
Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
7th	$20					
8th	$25	$20				
9th	$30	$25	$25			
10th	$35	$30	$30	$25		
11th	$40	$35	$35	$30	$25	
12th	$42	$40	$40	$35	$30	$25

7) What games will the students in the Youth Umpire Program be calling?
Students selected for the SBMSA Youth Umpire Program will officiate 6U Softball games in SBMSA and some experienced umpires will officiate older levels. Games will be located at Spring Branch Elementary along with several other locations in or near the Spring Branch/Memorial area such as Spring Woods Middle School.

8) What days and times will be games be played?
SBMSA 6U games can take place on any day of the week. During the week, games begin no sooner than 5:30PM and end no later than 9:00PM. On the weekend, games begin no sooner than 8:00AM and end no later than 9:00PM. Youth Umpires are permitted to indicate their availability.

9) Will there be training provided for the youth?
Students must attend the required training sessions if they are invited to attend. Being fully trained is a requirement to officiate. The dates of the training will be announced before the season begins.

10) Will there be an adult umpire present on the field?
At minimum, for the beginning of the season, there will be at least one adult umpire on the field at every game. This umpire is considered the head umpire and will be located behind or near home plate. The youth umpire will generally be located on the field. In the second half of the season, SBMSA softball will evaluate the performance of the youth umpires and decide the way adult and youth umpires will be assigned.

11) Do the students need to be available for every game or an average number of games?
Students indicate their availability in their application and in the app/website by the deadline.

12) Do the students need to have a direct deposit set up in order to get paid?
Yes, students must have a direct deposit set up in order to get paid. Instructions will be provided to the students selected on how to submit their information.

13) Do the students need to communicate their availability themselves, and if so, how? *Yes, all selected students for the program must have their own way to communicate to the SBMSA Softball Board members in charge. Students must have their own cell phone* with text services. Students must be able to access the app/website for the program. Students must check the app on a regular basis and accept or decline assignments within 48 hours of assignments being published.

14) Do the students need to purchase any supplies to serve as an umpire?
Students may need to purchase a t-shirt, a baseball cap, and a basic umpire kit. A dress code for each game will be shared with each student selected.

15) Can the students be exited from the program?
The program will work with students to support learning how to officiate games. However, if students fail to show progress, or fail to show up to games or communicate status for games, students can be excluded from the program. Students can also be

exited for failing to exhibit leadership skills such as respectful communication, timely completion of tasks, and collaboration with adults and the community at large.

16) Can the student self-elect to stop participating in the program?
If a student no longer desires to officiate games, students can email the SBMSA Board Member in charge and share their desire to no longer officiate. We kindly request two weeks' notice for any student choosing to self-elect to stop participating in the program.

17) To whom do I direct additional questions not answered in this FAQ?
Please send an email to sbmsasoftball.yup@gmail.com if there are questions not answered in this document