



San Bruno Junior Giants Umpire Program

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During a board meeting in 2007, the Board was discussing the loss of older players from the league. Although, I have had older players assist me with coaching my teams for years, there was a push for more of a leadership role and continued participation. I developed the idea of starting an Umpire Program. The first year, I was able to recruit a few my players that had become assistance coaches and players who were playing their last year with the Junior Giants. The program became very popular and was supported throughout the league. By 2008 more players were interested and the Umpires became the third team on the field. More players wanted to participate and were allowed to umpire games. I was also able to arrange a meeting with a Major League Umpire at AT&T Park, with the help of Rob Dean and Cassandra Adams. Ms. Adams provided the kids and myself with tickets to a game; special passes to enter the ball the park early; and the opportunity to talk with Major League Umpire, Laz Diaz. Mr. Diaz was very impressive and the kids were thrilled to talk and learn from Mr. Diaz. As an added bonus, Mr. Diaz, throughout the entire game, waved to the kids in the stands. The meeting with Laz only lasted 30 minutes, but developed a new respect for the Umpires. In fact during the game, they were waiting for Laz to make calls on the field.



(The actual date 08-24-08)



Recruiting:

- **Advertise on local cable channel.**
- **Obtain list of players from last year.**
- **Recruit Scholarship winner for league.**
- **Get the interest of older kids in their last year playing.**
- **During sign ups, have a list for Umpires and promote Umpires.**
- **Recruit other young Umpires from other leagues to volunteer their time and work on their skills on a noncompetitive league.**
- **Promote receiving t-shirts, hats, and tickets to a Giants games.**
- **Community service looks good on job applications and college applications.**
- **Word of mouth, kids in the program recruiting friends to join.**

Training:

- **Meeting to review Junior Giants' philosophies and league rules.**
- **Enforce SAFETY RULES.**
- **Explain to umpires that they could also encourage and talk to players on the field.**
- **Field organization and positioning of umpires during a game.**
 - **One umpire stands behind pitching machine.**
 - **Two umpires; one on 1st base and one on 3rd. 1st base has responsibility for home plate. 3rd base umpire has 2nd base responsibility.**
 - **Three umpires; one umpire on each base and 1st base umpire has home plate responsibility.**
- **Basic Umpiring signs and signals.**
- **Explanation that coaches and players will not argue with an umpire's call.**
- **All umpires' calls are final and if there is a problem, coaches may discuss call with an umpire and use opportunity as a learning experience.**
- **Coaches can also call the League Commissioner or Umpire Coordinator.**
- **Provide information on all fields used by the league and the field rules.**
- **Umpires can go to practices and work on their skills.**

Game day:

- **Arrive at the field 15 minutes before game starts.**
- **Make sure field is setup and there are no hazards (family members seated too close to foul lines)**
- **Locate managers and five minutes before game, have managers and two team captains meet at home base. Umpire will do the following:**
 - **Introduce themselves and have the coaches and players do the same.**
 - **Umpire will review rules for the field.**
 - **Umpire will review SAFETY RULES.**
 - **Umpire will review Junior Giants' philosophies.**
 - **Umpire will tell the players that the final rule is to have fun.**
 - **Everyone will shake hands.**
 - **Umpire will call "balls in" to start game and innings.**
 - **Umpire will make sure all safety rules are followed and can stop game at any time for a safety violation.**
 - **Any other issues can be discussed with Coaches at the end of an inning.**
 - **At the end of the game, the Umpires will line up in front of pitching machine, so all the players can individual thank the Umpires.**