

# SBU Umpire Observation/Evaluation Form: Criteria, Rubrics & Performance Rating Key

## Basic Game Information

Umpire's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Umpire's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Game Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location/Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather/Field Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Visiting Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Position(s) Observed: (e.g., Plate, Bases, Solo-plate, Solo-mound)

Level of Competition: (e.g., Youth, JH/MS, Sub-Varsity, Varsity, Senior Men's, College)

Rule Set: (e.g., NFHS, OBR, SIYB, SENIOR MEN'S, NCAA.)

## ***What are evaluators looking for when doing an evaluation?***

### Plate Rubrics:

**PLATE: Stability of head and body positioning (slot):** Does the umpire position themselves in the slot, assume the crouched position at the proper time and at the appropriate head height, and track the incoming pitch with their eyes while maintaining a stable head and body?

**PLATE: Strike zone judgement, consistency and accuracy:** Is the strike zone appropriate for the level of competition? Is the strike zone accurate and consistent?

**PLATE: Timing and volume of calling balls & strikes:** Does the umpire demonstrate "proper use of eyes" in the timing of calls, and with a mechanic and volume that clearly indicates a ball or strike?

**PLATE: Pre-pitch communications with partner:** Does the umpire give the count (as appropriate for the situation), number of outs, rotations, infield fly/double tag, or timing play for each new batter or situation?

**PLATE: Putting the ball in play:** Does the umpire consistently put the ball back in play after every dead ball/time out (foul, hit by pitch, balks, etc.)?

**PLATE: Proper positioning for plays/rotations:** Does the umpire open the gate on passed balls, clear the catcher, move to the line for fouls or plays at first, rotate correctly when situation indicates, and in the correct position for plays at the plate?

**PLATE: Situational communications with partner:** Examples: "I've got 3<sup>rd</sup> if he goes." "I've got the line." (On potential fouls/trouble balls to right field.) "I'm going home."

**PLATE: Touch, tag-up and fly ball coverage responsibilities:** Does the umpire position him/herself properly to see touches, tag-ups? Does the umpire understand fly-ball coverages and when there is a relinquishment of coverage?

### **Bases Rubrics:**

**BASES: Proper positioning A/B/C:** Does the base umpire position themselves correctly based on the bases occupied?

**BASES: Pre-pitch communications with partner:** Does the umpire mirror all pre-pitch communications from the plate umpire?

**BASES: Positioning for plays/Coming set/Rotations:** Does the umpire move to the appropriate position (prioritizing angle over distance) while maintaining awareness of the status of the ball and then coming set prior to calling a play?

**BASES: Timing and accuracy of calls (Proper use of eyes):** Does the umpire come set and wait for the play to be completely over (catch, tag, touch, etc.) before making an out call?

**BASES: Call mechanics and style:** Are the umpire's calls visually and verbally clear using crisp mechanics? Are the calls appropriate for the closeness of the play?

**BASES: Touch, tag-up and fly ball coverage responsibilities:** Does the umpire position him/herself properly to see touches, tag-ups? Does the umpire understand fly-ball coverages and when there is a relinquishment of coverage?

**BASES: Reaction to secondary plays:** Does the umpire anticipate and react appropriately to secondary plays?

**BASES: Situational communications with partner:** Examples: "I'm going out." "I've got third."

### **Game Management & Rules Rubrics:**

**GAME MANAGEMENT: Plate Conference: ICLEGS** – **I**ntroductions; **C**oncussion health professional on-site (NFHS only); **L**ineup confirmation; **E**quipment "Is your team legally and properly equipped?" **G**round rules – "take us around coach"; **S**portsmanship/**S**ite Administrator on site.

**GAME MANAGEMENT: Pace of play (warm-ups, mound visits, ball management, etc.):** Does the umpire keep the game moving?

**GAME MANAGEMENT: Awareness of safety issues:** Does the umpire demonstrate awareness and pre-pitch correction of safety issues (balls on the field, equipment left out of the dugout, players unprotected in the bullpen area, etc.)?

**RULES: Knowledge and application of rules:** Does the umpire demonstrate rules knowledge and the correct application of penalties for rule violations? Does the umpire know the rule set differences?

**Plays You Gotta Get Right:** Hit by Pitch, Infield Fly, Double Play Slide Rule Interference, Running Lane Interference, Batting Out of Order, Rundowns (Out of basepath), Batter's Interference, Catcher's Interference, Appeals/missed bases-leaving early, Scoring Runs on Timing Plays, Squeeze play.

**RULES: Base Awards:** Does the umpire give base awards correctly?

**Professionalism Rubrics:**

**PROFESSIONALISM: Uniform and demeanor:** Does the umpire enter the field professionally attired and with confidence?

**PROFESSIONALISM: Pre and post-game participation:** Does the umpire communicate with partners prior to the game to determine uniform, responsibility, time and parking? Does the umpire review a pre-game checklist with their partner? Does the umpire participate in a post-game debriefing to better understand rule applications, umpiring mechanics, and/or unusual or challenging plays?

**PROFESSIONALISM: Interactions with players, coaches & spectators:** Does the umpire demonstrate approachability and confidence when interacting with players and coaches? Does the umpire remain calm when faced with criticism from players, coaches or spectators? Does the umpire utilize appropriate warnings to players or coaches before issuing an ejection? Does the umpire refrain from excessive fraternization with spectators, players, or coaches?

**PROFESSIONALISM: Focus:** Does the umpire appear engaged and focused throughout the game, even during time-outs and between innings?

**PROFESSIONALISM: Hustle:** Does the umpire move with purpose, fluidity and at an appropriate speed when moving around the field, i.e., not appearing lazy or lackadaisical.

**PROFESSIONALISM: Openness to critique:** Is the umpire open to feedback from partners, trainers, and/or evaluators?

## Performance Rating Key:

1. **Needs Immediate Correction:** This rating should be used when the umpire is consistently ignoring a safety issue, is engaging in actions that significantly impede game flow, or repeatedly responds to plays/situations in ways that result in inaccurate calls and/or rulings.
2. **Needs Improvement:** This rating is generally used with new umpires who are just learning the rudiments of umpiring, and/or with veteran umpires who have not kept up with recent rule changes, and/or are using improper or outdated mechanics that would be confusing to newer umpires.
3. **Performs to Standards:** This rating indicates that the umpire consistently uses correct mechanics, proper use of eyes in calling plays, accurate rules knowledge, effective game management, and presents themselves in a way that demonstrates maturity and professionalism. They would be regarded as good partners for newer umpires.
4. **Exceeds Standards:** This rating indicates that the umpire is functioning at an elite level. They are always in the right spot at the right time. They anticipate situations and react accordingly with an economy of effort. Their communications with their partner(s) are always clear and appropriate. They demonstrate approachability and calm maturity when dealing with players and coaches. They consistently apply rules & penalties correctly. There is no question that they are in control of the game. They would be possible candidates for the training team, evaluation team, or mentoring program.

## Steps in the Observation/Evaluation Process:

1. Assignors will assign games to Observers/Evaluators.
2. Observers/Evaluators will communicate with the umpire(s) prior to the game to confirm pre-game meeting time and place.
3. Observers/Evaluators will observe the pre-game meeting.
4. Observers/Evaluators will observe the game(s) noting significant umpire actions and ideally taking some video during the game.
5. Post-game the Observer/Evaluator will share with umpire(s) relevant comments regarding what was observed, including positive feedback as well as possible suggestions for improvement.
6. Within 72 hours after the game, Observers/Evaluators will complete and submit the evaluation form to the SBU Board Secretary.
7. The Board secretary will then forward the evaluation to:
  - a. The umpire that was evaluated.
  - b. The lead evaluator.
  - c. The assignors.
  - d. The post-season playoff selection committee (if requested).
  - e. The pool ranking committee (if requested).
8. The Board Secretary will also:
  - a. Maintain a copy of the evaluation in both electronic and hard copy formats.
  - b. Enter the evaluation data into a database that will provide compiled data to the training team on areas that might need more attention during training sessions.