

GIRLS' LACROSSE NEW UMPIRE ORIENTATION

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HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual is for use in orienting persons interested in becoming Girls' Lacrosse Umpires. It is the first phase of the training for new Umpires required by US Lacrosse. This manual covers the initial two to three hours of training for beginning or apprentice Umpires.

This manual will present to the prospective Umpires basic information about officiating sports in general and being a Girls' Lacrosse Umpire in particular.

By necessity this manual is focused on being an Umpire in a local association – in this case the Kentucky Lacrosse Umpires Board. Other local associations may use this manual as a guide for their own orientation.

Orientation should be considered a part of the recruiting process as well as the training process. Orientation and recruitment should be encouraging. Girls Lacrosse is a complex game and to confront the prospective Umpire with the details of working a game would be counterproductive.

John W. Slider

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Photographs by William Slider

THE NEED AND REQUIREMENT FOR CONSISTENT TRAINING

Women's Lacrosse is a complex game with many rules that often require quick judgments by Umpires. The rule book and Umpire's manual are instruments for associations for keeping the application of the rules of the game consistent wherever the game is played.

If coaches were to be asked what the most important characteristic of an Umpire, they would more than likely say "consistency." Coaches, players, and fans depend upon consistent "calls" during a game. They not only need for an Umpire to be consistent; they also need for the members of a umpiring crew for a particular game to be consistent among themselves. Finally, they need for all Umpires of an association to consistent with their "calls" through an entire season. In order for coaches to teach the game, players to play the game, and fans to appreciate the game, consistent "calls" – interpretations and applications of the rules – must be provided by the Umpires. Coaching, playing, and watching the game begins with consistent umpiring.

Consistency on the field begins with training. A particular umpiring association must train individual Umpires. New Umpires especially need to be introduced to the concept of consistency and how training shapes it. Consistent training is needed and required.

For training to be consistent it must be so no matter what the setting or who the instructor is. Training of New Umpires should not be shaped by the interests, strengths, or even bad habits of the instructor. Consistent instruction, therefore, requires an established curriculum that covers all of the points that the association deems important for the Umpire-in-Training. The entire scope of the requirements for a New Umpire must be presented, allowing for the personalization of the curriculum by the instructor.

The Umpire-in-Training should not imagine that mastery of the curriculum in this Manual is the end of the process. Every step up the ladder requires a deeper knowledge of the rules and a broader ability to apply those rules.

In a sense every Umpire is an Umpire-in-Training. Whether an Umpire is attending a formal clinic or self-teaching, the process of training never stops.

It is recommended that every year an Umpire make a list of three or four parts of the game that he or she wishes to improve over the season. Often times it is helpful to inform one's partner about these personal points-of-emphasis, and to ask for feedback after a game.

This self-challenge is an excellent way to continue to improve as an Umpire.



WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Why are you here? The question is appropriate and will help you assess your motivations.

First, why are you here – in the sense of either reading this Manual on your own, or going through it with a group of people guided by a leader who is a US Lacrosse certified Umpire?

You are here because you have expressed an interest in becoming a Girls Lacrosse Umpire, and you want to investigate the next steps and the opportunities.

Second, why are you here – in the sense of your motivations? Again, you have expressed an interest in being a Girls Lacrosse Umpire. Maybe you are a former player or coach, and you want to continue your involvement. Maybe you are a parent of a player or former player, and you want to help the sport grow and develop. Maybe you enjoy sports in general, and you find that there are opportunities to officiate in this sport; or maybe you have watched umpires, and you believe you can do it better. Maybe officiating Girls Lacrosse is an expression of your desire to provide young persons with

safe and healthy environments for their development. Maybe you enjoy learning and applying a new skill that will call upon all of who you are – mentally, emotionally, relationally, physically, and even spiritually. Finally, you may be here because you want to supplement your income.

All of these motivations are valid. We will start where you are. We do suggest, however, that the most successful Umpires will grow to have all of these motivations!

Third, why are you here – in the sense of process? This is the first step in the process of becoming a Girls Lacrosse Umpire and having what we hope will be a long career.

WE NEED YOU! We hope you will continue in the process.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

You are at the beginning of the process and are considered an Umpire-in-Training, or an apprentice.¹ Let us first present this process as a flow chart and then discuss the steps.

The flow chart may look confusing at first. It should be understood and seen as a complete process. Let us take a look on the next page:²

1 Please notice that the term “apprentice” is not used in the sense of what used to be a “rating” by US Lacrosse. It is used here simply as a term to suggest a person at the beginning of the process of becoming an Umpire.

2 Please notice that the images in the graphic are intended for entertainment only – not in order to characterize the level of maturity or activity at a specific step.



Umpire-in-Training

- Orientation
- Training Clinic
- Association Membership
- US LAX Membership
- NFHS Test
- USL Youth Test
- Rating
 - Junior Umpire
 - Level 1 Umpire



Active Umpire

- Training Clinic
- Association Membership
- US LAX Membership
- NFHS Test
- USL Youth Test
- Rating
 - Junior Umpire
 - Level 1
 - Level 2
 - Level 3
- "Senior Umpire" for games



Umpire Leadership

- Certified Trainer
- Certified Observer/Rater
- Certified Assignor
- Association Leadership
- US Lacrosse Convention
- College Certification



Right now, you are an Umpire-in-Training. With this session you are completing “Orientation.”

The next step as an Umpire-in-Training is to attend the annual training clinic given by the local association. This Training Clinic is often times held in part with the “veteran” Umpires in the association and will be a good time for you to start networking and building relationships within the association. You will be working with many of the experienced Umpires that you meet at this clinic.

This clinic is an appropriate time for you to join the association and pay your annual dues. Some associations offer a discount of dues to first year umpires. US Lacrosse membership,³ which is required, is something that you will need to do online. Association and US Lacrosse membership will allow you to move forward as an Umpire-in-Training.

US Lacrosse will provide you with a membership number, an NFHS⁴ rules book, and access to the “Officials” section of the US Lacrosse website. On this website you may view the current rules videos.

3 <http://www.uslacrosse.org>

4 National Federation of State High School Associations

On this website you may download a free copy of the current Officials Training Manual. It may be helpful to have this reference book on your tablet or telephone at the training clinic, though it is not necessary. You may also print it, but it is a long document.

After the clinic you will need to take the NFHS test that may be accessed through the US Lacrosse site. This annual test is required of all Umpires, even those who do not intend to officiate high school games. This test may be taken any number of times until a passing grade of 80% or higher is attained. This test is not designed to keep you out, but to get you reading through the rules book. Ask an experienced Umpire on strategies for taking the test.

You will also need to take the US Lacrosse Youth test. This is the qualifier for umpiring Middle School level games. There is also a downloadable Youth rules book from US Lacrosse. The same passing grade and opportunities to pass for the NFHS test apply to the Youth test as well. Please notice that the Youth test is given in the context of US Lacrosse Youth Game divisions and not for middle school games that are governed by local league and NFHS rules.

Finally, you will go to a rating day. You will probably be assigned to a rating event for Middle School games. The Kentucky Lacrosse Umpires Board will normally assign first year Umpires-in-Training to be rated at a Middle School game on "Rating Day." The format is usually

for the Umpire-in-Training to watch a game with other Umpires-in-Training and discuss the on field play with an experienced Umpire.

Next, an Umpire-in-Training will shadow an experienced Umpire on the field for a half-game. The experienced Umpire may at some point allow the Umpire-in-Training to take over the call of the game, and the experienced Umpire will shadow. During this shadowing the experienced Umpire will be giving feedback and answering questions.

Finally, on “Rating Day” the experienced Umpire will back away and may become the “Rater” for a half-game. At the completion of the half-game, the Rater” will give some verbal feedback and then in about two weeks a written document will be sent to the Umpire-in-Training.

High school students will always be rated as a “Junior Umpire.” Persons over the age of eighteen years will usually be given a Level 1 (Apprentice) rating. Neither of these ratings will exclude any Umpire from high school games, but assignments will primarily be for Middle School games.

Initial ratings for Junior Umpires and Level 1 (Apprentice) Umpires are good for one year. Junior Umpires are re-rated every year. Level 1 Umpires after the first year, may receive a higher rating or a Level 1 rating to be re-rated after one or two years.

When all of these requirements are met the Umpire-in-Training will be “invited” by the Assignor to join the association’s *Arbiter*

account. *Arbiter* is the means by which assignments are given and accepted.

At this point you are ready to go as a first year Umpire. In Kentucky your rating and certification will allow you to officiate high school, middle school, and other games assigned throughout the year through the Kentucky Lacrosse Umpires Board. When Girls Lacrosse comes under the jurisdiction and control of the Kentucky State High School Athletics Association this situation may change.

The next steps are a part of what is called here an “Active Umpire.” An “Active Umpire” is simply an Umpire who is entering his or her second year.

To be “active” an Umpire must attend the annual Training Clinic, maintain his or her association membership, and be a current member of US Lacrosse. The annual NFHS and US Lacrosse Youth tests must also be passed.

“Active” Umpires will go through the rating process as needed. Everyone entering their second year as an Umpire will be re-rated. At this point, Level 1 Umpires will have either a one or two year re-rating requirement. Level 2 Umpires may be re-rated every one, two, or three years. Level 2 umpires are the “backbone” of any local

association. They are the experienced Umpires that may mentor others, or be the “Senior” Umpire in games.

Junior Umpires are of value to our association and are not limited in their assignments. US Lacrosse rules do not allow persons under eighteen years of age to be rated any higher. Junior Umpires must be re-rated every year.

A Level 2 Umpire need not seek a Level 3 rating. A Level 3 rating recognizes an Umpire’s high level of expertise. Rating is done in a game with a three-person officiating crew.

As an “Active Umpire” you will have opportunities to provide leadership for the sport and your association if you desire to do so. US Lacrosse has online courses to certify experienced Umpires as an Umpire Trainer, an Umpire Observer/Rater, and an Assignor. You also may be asked to fill a position of leadership within the association.

Any Umpire is encourage to attend the annual US Lacrosse Convention. There are many benefits and opportunities to training for Umpires at this convention.

Finally, you may seek certification as a college Women’s Lacrosse Umpire. This should be considered as an add-on that will require some extra travel and training. There are several differences in the rules. The College Women’s Lacrosse Officials Association is

responsible for certifying college Umpires. If you wish to develop your career along this path, speak with a college Umpire. We have several in our association.

There are also opportunities to umpire beyond high school in the WCLA – Women’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association. Teams in this association are clubs at universities and colleges. WCLA rules are a bit different from both college and high school, but not too different for anyone to master.

There are many opportunities for you as a Girls’ and Women’s Lacrosse Umpire. You may determine your own path.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

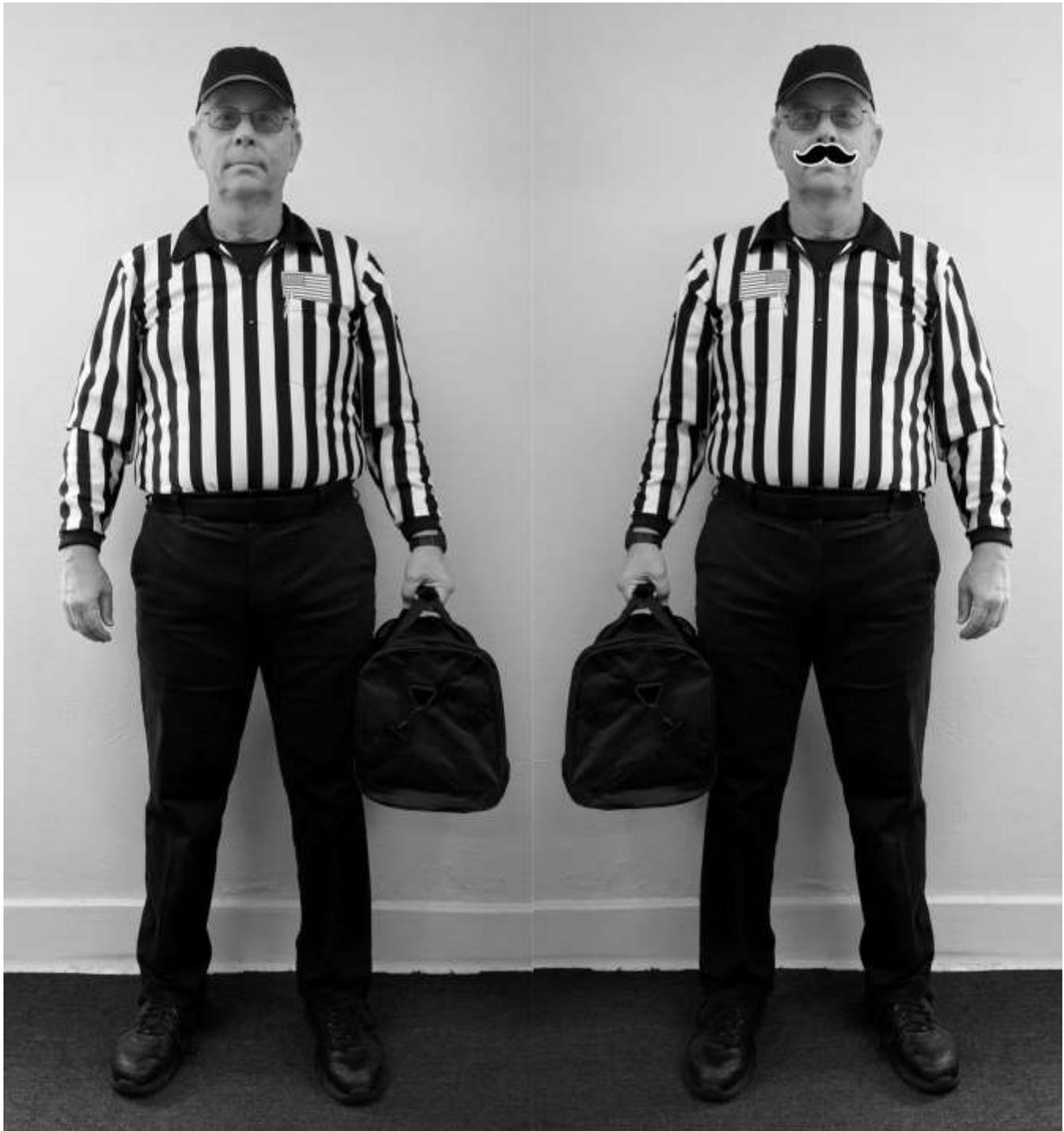
You may think that you are on your own, but you are not. You have horizontal and vertical connections and support.

You may think of your horizontal connections and support as your peers – those who are starting with you as an Umpire. We encourage you to develop solid relationships with your peers. Talk about the game with one another. Your peers will share with you many of the same challenges and questions. Maybe they have worked through a problem recently that you are facing.

Your vertical connections are important, too. You may be assigned a mentor by the association. If you are not, find one. Have at least one experienced Umpire of whom you may ask questions and get advice on all aspects of the game.

During your first year and beyond you will always be assigned to games with an experienced Umpire – not always the same one, of course. These experience Umpires will give support as needed. You

are encouraged to ask questions and develop a positive relationship with the different Umpires with whom you work.



UMPIRING IS A HOBBY THAT PAYS WELL

Umpiring may be described as a hobby that pays well – an avocation. The typical Umpire cannot depend solely on sports officiating for income, but it is a nice supplement.

With that in mind, we must consider ourselves “professionals,” and conduct ourselves as such. If you show up just for the paycheck, you will soon find that you have no assignments. If you stop learning, you will not be an Umpire for long.

Schools, players, coaches, and parents work hard to field teams and to pay us. We owe them the best product we can bring to the game. Look professional; act professional; be professional.

Your income from officiating will grow as you grow in the sport. Income is driven by the number and level of assignments you receive. All Umpires regardless of experience or rating are paid the same for

equivalent games. Here is a chart that shows the current fees for games in Kentucky:

Assignment	#Umpires	Playing Time	Clock	Pay
1 MS Game	2 Umpires	50 Minutes	Running	\$50.00
2 MS Games	2 Umpires	100 minutes	Running	\$100.00
1 Fr/JV Game	2 Umpires	50 Minutes	Running	\$50.00
2 Fr/JV Games	2 Umpires	100 Minutes	Running	\$95.00
1 Varsity Game	2 Umpires	50 Minutes	Stop	\$65.00
1 Varsity Game	3 Umpires	50 Minutes	Stop	\$60.00
JV/V Double	2 Umpires	100 Minutes	Both	\$110.0
JV/V Double	3 Umpires	100 Minutes	Both	\$105.00
Stickhead⁵	2 Umpires	44 Minutes	Running	\$40.00
King Louie⁶	2 Umpires	40 Minutes	Running	\$25.00
OCYMCA⁷	2 Umpires	44 Minutes	Running	\$25.00

5 The Stickhead Outdoor Fall League is paid per game. Multiple games are assigned. Games are JV and Varsity.

6 King Louie's Sports Complex Leagues are paid per game. Multiple indoor games are assigned. Games are MS, JV, and Varsity. KLSC also has some outdoor games that are paid at a higher rate.

7 Oldham County YMCA League is paid per game. Multiple games are assigned. Games are JV and Varsity.

The Umpire-in-Training can recover all first year expenditures and more if he or she is reasonably available for assignment. Uniform expenses are not repeated in the second and third years.



ONE UMPIRE'S CAREER TRACK

At this point it may be helpful for you to read one Umpire's experience. No Umpire's career track is a template for all Umpires; but mine (the author's) may provide some helpful context.

I began working as a Girls Lacrosse Umpire in 2011 at the age of 57. I had been a high school volleyball referee in Kentucky since 1998. I retired from Volleyball in 2016 after having officiated 750 middle school, high school club, and college matches. I came to the point where I felt burned-out with Volleyball and felt that I had progressed about as far as I could in the sport.

A part of retiring from volleyball was my addition of Field Hockey in 2015. 2018 will be my eighth year of Lacrosse and fourth year of Field Hockey umpiring.

Let us look at the chart of my progress as both a Lacrosse and Field Hockey Umpire:

Year	LAX Games	LAX Pay	FH Games	FH Pay
1st Year	20 in 2011	\$810.00	22 in 2015	\$858.00
2nd Year	29 in 2012	\$1,070.00	51 in 2016	\$1,298.00
3rd Year	23 in 2013	\$1,095.00	84 in 2017	\$2,492.00
4th Year	81 in 2014	\$3,290.00		
5th Year	126 in 2015	\$4,115.00		
6th Year	127 in 2016	\$4,430.00		
7th Year	155 in 2017	\$5,830.00		
Total	561 Games	\$20,640.00	157 Games	\$4,648.00
Average	80 Games	\$2,948.57	52 Games	\$1,549.33

The development of my career as an Umpire has many variables. Looking at my first year in both Lacrosse and Field Hockey we can see a similar starting point – twenty to twenty-two games with about \$825.00 in earnings.

It was not until my third year of Lacrosse when I was assigned to a small number of JV games at the end of the year. In my fourth year of Lacrosse I “got the message” and was proactive in seeking off season indoor and outdoor assignments. Also, in my fourth year I

received my first Varsity post-season assignment. In 2016 I began assigning the Stickhead League; and in 2017 I was elected as Vice Chairman of our association (KLUB) and I was certified as a trainer and observer/rater by US Lacrosse.

My development in Field Hockey shows that I learned the lessons of Lacrosse. I started at the same point, but quickly began to make myself as available as possible. In 2017 I began assigning two indoor Field Hockey leagues.

The important thing is not for you to know more about me, but to learn my lessons:

- Make yourself as available as you can for assignments. I tell my assignors that I will go any place, at any time, with anyone.
- Take every assignment you can regardless of the level. Every assignment will be an opportunity for you to work on your game and will show the assignor that you are a team player.
- Be patient and develop your career over several years. Have a long-term plan.
- Learn from your partners and mentors.

WHAT LEVELS OF PLAY WILL YOU UMPIRE?

As a revealed before, my first three years of Lacrosse were spent officiating middle school games. Only in the post-season JV tournament at the end of my third season did I get a couple of high school games – and with the appropriate “adult supervision” (that is, with an experienced Umpire).

What I noticed immediately in simply moving from 7/8 grade games to a JV high school game was the big jump in skill and speed. Do not be too anxious to “move up.” Work on your game and get comfortable with your work at the middle school levels.

You may believe that you are prepared to be assigned high school games immediately. If that is so, be patient. Your time will come. Lacrosse is expanding in our area, and you will have plenty of opportunities. At each level you will have opportunities to practice something and improve your game.

The typical first year Umpire will be limited to 5/6 grade and 7/8 grade games. You will be assigned with an experienced Umpire, so ask questions and learn.

The best ways to break into high school level games will be in off-season assignments. I have assigned Junior Umpires to high school level games for games in the Stickhead Outdoor Fall League. I have worked with Junior Umpires at indoor games. These are good ways to get high school experience in less stressful situations.



WHERE AND WHEN WILL YOU UMPIRE?

There are middle school and high school programs located throughout Kentucky – primarily in areas around Lexington and Louisville, but also in Northern Kentucky, Bowling Green, and Elizabethtown. The sport is growing primarily in the Louisville area – Jefferson, Oldham, and Shelby counties.

Usually Umpires located in Lexington work games there and in surrounding areas. Umpires in Louisville work games in the Louisville area and Elizabethtown. There is an attempt to get Louisville and Lexington Umpires to work outside their areas as needed.

Bowling Green receives umpires from Nashville, Tennessee; and Northern Kentucky receives umpires from Cincinnati, Ohio. Games during the season are located at sites that are usually on school campuses. Most, if not all, off-season opportunities are located at King Louie's Sports Complex in eastern Jefferson County (Louisville) and

the YMCA in Oldham County. The Stickhead League plays at Sawyer State Park in eastern Jefferson County.

Games during the regular season begin around 5pm. A double header will take about three to four hours depending on the level and including driving. Off season assignments vary – Sunday afternoons, Saturday mornings, and weekday evenings.

The Kentucky Girls Lacrosse Umpires Association lists the following high school teams:

Kentucky Scholastic Lacrosse League

- Assumption High School
- Atherton High School
- Ballard High School
- Louisville Christian Academy
- Louisville Collegiate School
- Collins High School
- Eastern High School
- Fern Creek High School
- Kentucky Country Day School
- Louisville Male High School
- Louisville DuPont Manual High School
- Mercy Academy

- North Oldham High School
- Notre Dame Academy
- Oldham County High School
- Presentation Academy
- Sacred Heart Academy
- South Oldham High School

Commonwealth League and Independent

- Anderson County High School
- Bowling Green High School
- Lexington Bryan Station High School
- Elizabethtown High School
- Lexington Frederick Douglass High School
- Lexington Henry Clay High School
- Lexington Catholic High School
- Lexington Lafayette High School
- Lexington Tates Creek High School
- Madison County High School
- The Sayre School
- Scott County High School
- Woodford County High School
- Covington Holy Cross

Putting all of these opportunities together, if you are available you may have games through most of the year. The regular season is March, April, and May. Stickhead has games in September and October. Indoor games are in November, December, January, and February. There have been years when Lacrosse tournaments or clinics have needed Umpires in June and July.

As an add-on, Lacrosse and Field Hockey umpiring work well together. Not only are there similar officiating skills required, but the seasons complement each other.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
LAX	INDOOR		REGULAR SEASON						STICKHEAD		INDOOR	
FH		INDOOR				CSAA SEASON			REGULAR SEASON			INDOOR

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF UMPIRING?

There are some initial costs during the first year of umpiring and there are recurring costs. The initial costs of umpiring are for uniforms and equipment needed for umpiring. Basic uniform and equipment requirements will cost less than \$150, but many times an Umpire already has some of the uniform or equipment items.

The recurring or annual costs for umpiring are US Lacrosse membership (\$55.00) and membership in the Kentucky Lacrosse Umpires Board. KLUB annual dues are \$55.00, but first-time Umpires pay only \$35.00.

The first year for an umpire could, therefore, cost about \$240.00. This amount is balanced by a predicted income of \$800.00. The first year umpire needs to decide if this is a fair initial return.

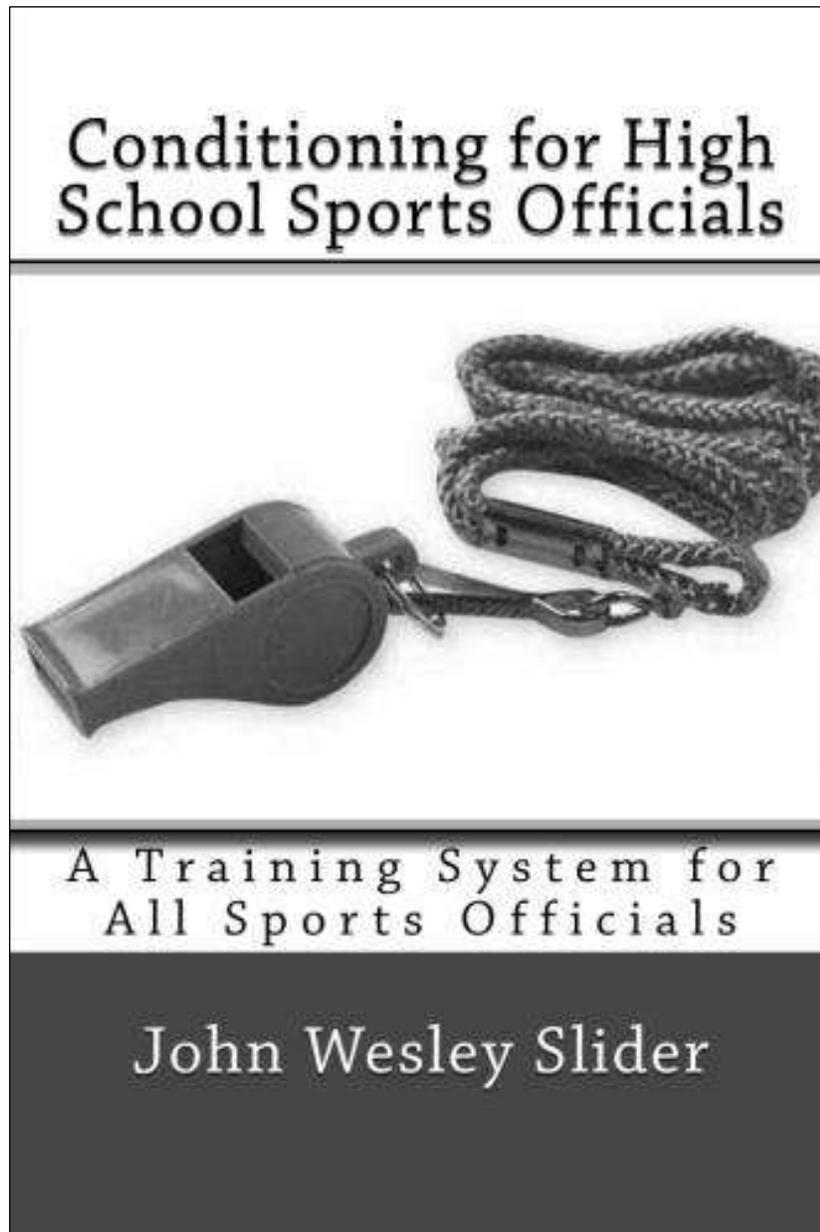
WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL DEMANDS?

Lacrosse is a physically demanding sport for Umpires. At the high school level an Umpire will need to keep about a fifteen minute per mile pace for 100 minutes of playing time in a JV/Varsity doubleheader. This may not seem like much at first, but the distance covered is more than a 10K run (6.67 miles, to be exact); and those miles are jogging, sprinting, running backwards and sideways, and yes, even standing.

Other levels have lesser demands, but there is still a lot of anaerobic and aerobic activity required of the Umpire. You need to be in good condition. A good reminder for Umpires is: "You do not umpire to stay in shape; you stay in shape to umpire.

Training for Umpires cannot take place during the season. A good training program before the regular season will allow an Umpire to look professional and be able to function at a high level for two or three games.

A good resource for constructing a conditioning program is ***Conditioning for High School Sports Officials***. This book is available through Amazon.com.



WHAT ARE THE UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS?

Uniform and equipment requirements are found on page 120 of the *2018 Women's Game Officials Training Manual*. Below is a modification of this chart in the Manual.⁸

Item		
Short Sleeved Shirt	R	One inch black and white stripe
Long Sleeved Shirt	O	One inch black and white stripe
Black Shorts/Skorts	R	Professional length, black
Black Slacks/Pants	O	No sweat/running/yoga pants
Undershirt	O	Full length, black
Socks	R	Crew, ankle, or calf length, black
Jacket	O	Striped or all black
Hat	O	Baseball or knit ski cap, black

⁸ R = Required; O - Optional

Gloves	O	Black
Shoes	R	Predominately black w/black laces
Cards	R	Green, Yellow, Red
Whistle	R	
Watch	R	Wrist watch for timing
Pencil/pen and card	R	For recording penalty cards/times
Yellow Flag	R	
Coin	R	
Equipment Bag	O	Should be black

It is important that all clothing be black. Manufacturer's logos are hard to avoid, but these should be minimal. School or other organizational logos should be avoided. Pockets are helpful.

WHAT ARE ARBITERSPORTS AND ARBITERPAY?

Arbiter – or more properly, *ArbiterSports* – is the sports officiating software company of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. It was created in 1984 by Advanced Business Technology at the request of the Utah High School Activities Association, and was purchased by the NCAA in 2008. The NCAA's stated purpose in the purchase was to improve the quality and consistency of officiating at all levels of play.

Our Umpires' association uses *Arbiter* for assigning games to Umpires. It is an internet platform through which the assignor makes assignments and the Umpire communicates availability and accepts assignments. Most, if not all, sports in Kentucky use *Arbiter* for assigning.

Arbiter also has a wealth of information for Umpires. The NFHS posts resources. A most helpful tool is an NFHS rules book that allows the Umpire to a word search of the current NFHS rules book.

ArbiterPay is a system being used by more and more schools to pay Umpires. Payment comes more quickly through *ArbiterPay*. If you receive payment by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) there is no charge to you.

Your access to all of *Arbiter's* services is covered by your dues to KLUB. The assignor invites you to enter *Arbiter*.



IMPORTANT DATES AND CONTACTS

US Lacrossewww.uslacrosse.org

Arbiterwww.arbitersports.com

ArbiterPaywww.arbiterpay.com

National Association of Sports Officialswww.naso.org

IRS W-9 Formwww.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf

KLUB President _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

KLUB Vice-President _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

KLUB Treasurer _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

KLUB Assignor _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

New Umpires Orientation _____

All Umpires Rules Clinic _____

Coaches Rules Clinic _____

First Date of Competition _____

Tournament _____

Tournament _____

Tournament _____

Tournament _____

Tournament _____

Middle School Post Season _____

JV Post Season _____

Varsity Regional Tournaments _____

Varsity State Tournament _____

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. John Wesley Slider is a US Lacrosse certified Umpire. He is a member of the Kentucky Lacrosse Umpires Board; and is US Lacrosse certified as Trainer and an Observer/Rater for Women's Lacrosse.

John has earned a B.A. in history, and a masters and doctorate in theology. He has been coaching, teaching, and mentoring at various levels and in different venues for over four decades. He has taught academic subjects in middle school and high school classrooms. He taught theology as a member of the adjunct faculty of Lindsey Wilson College.



John played football and ran track in high school. He also played club soccer. At Hanover College he was a receiver on the football team, and a sprinter on the track team. He set three school records on the track.

John spent twenty-four years in the US Marine Corps, retiring in 1996 as a Lt. Colonel. His specialties were armor, infantry, and legal services. He has completed graduate level courses at Marine Corps, Navy, Army, and joint command schools. One of Lt. Colonel Slider's roles in the Marine Corps was as a course and curriculum developer and instructor in the Marine Corps University system. He has commanded platoons and companies, and been a staff officer at the battalion and division levels.

In civilian life, John has served as a Methodist pastor for four decades. He has taught classes and led groups for adults and youth. He has served as senior pastor for small churches and large multi-staff, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural appointments. He has written and published Sunday School curriculum for all ages.

John has coached many sports at various levels. He has coached individuals and teams to state tournaments and national competitions. He has three books on coaching that are currently available.

John is beginning his eighth year as a girls' Lacrosse Umpire. At the end of seven years he had officiated 561 girls' Lacrosse games. John spent nineteen years as a high school, club, and college Volleyball Referee. He is also a high school Field Hockey Umpire. With 1,468 matches or games as a sports official and a life-time of teaching, coaching, and mentoring, John brings a wealth of experience to this effort to prepare new Lacrosse Umpires for a long career.

John is married to Lillian. Their daughter is Heather. Their son and daughter-in-law are William and Tina.