

# THE FUTURE OF LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT



# WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

1. The need to structure a worldwide training and advancement program leading to selection for upper level tournaments
2. The necessity of not reinventing the wheel
3. How to harness the passion and commitment that already exists
4. Designing a clear path forward



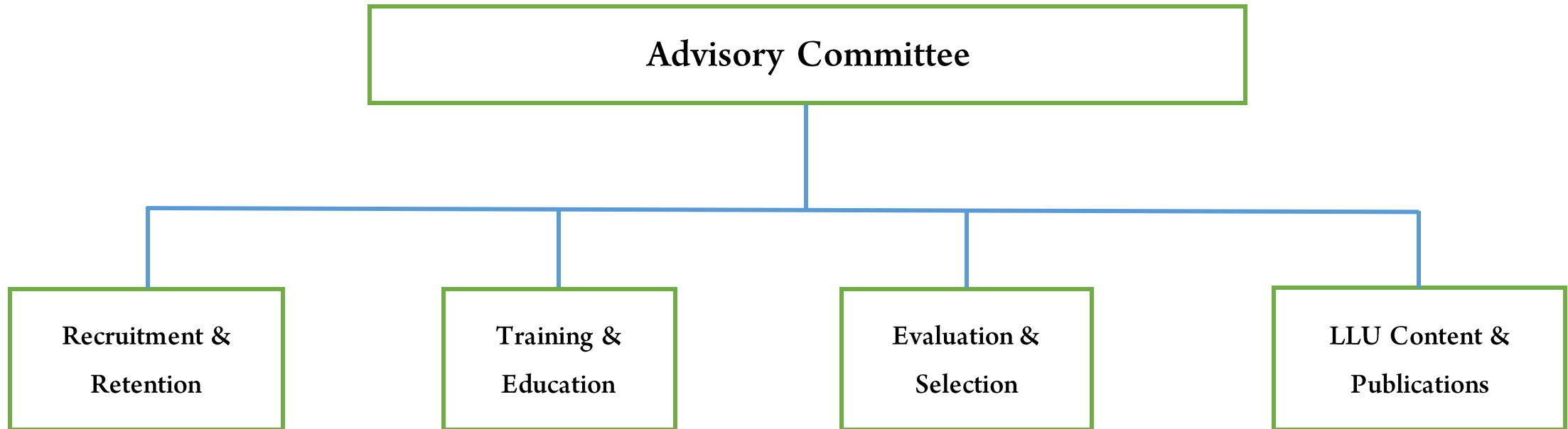
# WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

- Objectives:
  - To provide a comprehensive plan of training and support to all Little League Umpires
  - To utilize the knowledge and passion of current Little League umpires to continue to build the training curriculum while growing the volunteer umpire base at the local league and District level through recruiting and retention strategies
  - To provide higher level training and evaluation tools to identify umpires ready for the more visible umpire selections (Regional / World Series)



# WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

- THE MAJOR TASKINGS OF THE COMMITTEE:



# WHY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

## Members of the Committee:

- *Jason Kelley* - Central Region
- *Stu Hartenstein* - Central Region
- *Frank Policano* - East Region
- *Mike “Doc” Lantiere* - East Region
- *Brad Johnston* - Canada Region
- *Bruce Marburger* - Southwest Region
  - *Gerry Davis* – At-Large
- *Jim Smith* - At-Large
- *Mike Legge* - At-Large
- *Doug Perret* - West Region
- *Mark Bernstein* - West Region
- *Marshall Casey* - Southeast Region
- *Rich Ealy* - Southeast Region
- *Tom Rawlings* - Headquarters



# The umpire registry



# Moving Into the Digital age

1. Umpire Registry
2. Tournament Umpire Request Forms



# BENEFITS OF THE UMPIRE REGISTRY

1. NO Cost to join as a Member
2. Online registration
3. Tournament Application process/forms will be embedded in Registry
4. Live-time updates of education and experience
5. Access to Webinar Series
6. Publications, including Rule Updates and Interpretations
7. Access to training aids on Little League University





# Special discount for registry members

- Umpire Patch
- Bat Gauge
- All 3 Rulebooks
- Umpire Indicator
- **FREE SHIPPING**
- Total Cost of Package is \$15.00; a savings of \$10.00 from previous years.
- eBooks will be available



**PRESENTER:**  
**MARSHALL CASEY**  
**Southeast Region Umpire-In-Chief**

A Different Approach



# WELCOME TO THE UMPIRE REGISTRY

- **Why Join?**
  - Being a member of the Little League Umpire Registry provides Little League Umpires access to:
    - Current Baseball, Softball, Challenger Rulebooks
    - The latest information on rule updates/interpretations
    - Umpire mechanics training manuals
    - Umpire mechanics training videos
    - Information and registration for available training programs.
- **NOTE: Volunteer umpires seeking assignment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments will be required to become members of the Little League Umpire Registry.**



# Umpire Registry: what is Available?

## Umpire Resources:

- Rule Interpretations
- Fair Ball Newsletter
- Umpire Mechanics Manuals
- Umpire Training Videos

## Umpire Resources:

- Umpire Training Programs
- Tournament Umpire Request Form
- Little League Volunteer Application
- Other



# Welcome to the Umpire Registry

- Volunteer umpires seeking assignment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments **MUST** provide social security number prior to completing the Tournament Umpire Request form
- All personal information provided through this website is encrypted and is used only by Little League International. This information will not be distributed to any marketing resources



# Biographic/Personal Information

Please complete the following information:

- **Name**
- **Social Security #** (Must be provided for appointment to Regional and/or World Series tournaments)
- **Street Address**
- **City, State Postal/Zip Code**
- **Country**
- **Email**
- **Phone #**
- **Cell Phone #**



# Biographic/Personal Information

Please provide the following information regarding your current league affiliation for umpiring Little League Baseball/Softball programs.

- State
- District
- League Affiliation

Indicate the year in which you first started umpiring Little League Baseball/Softball programs.



# Umpire Profile Information

- All personal information can be updated as necessary.
- Additionally, on the Umpire Profile page you will be able to enter information pertinent your umpire training or umpire experience not directly connected to Little League.





# Little League Training Program History

## An Example:

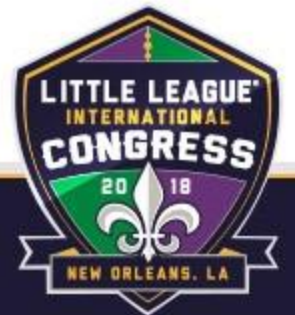
LLUR#	Name, Last	Name, First	Initial, Middle	League State	League District	Training Date	Training Program Title	Provided By:	Completed Program
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	1/5/2009	Rules Seminar	LL SE Region	Yes
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	2/24/2010	Umpire School	LL SE Region	Yes
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	10/12/2012	2-Umpire Mechanics Clinic	LL SE Region	Yes
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	5/30/2014	4-Umpire Mechanics Clinic	LL SE Region	Yes
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	2/12/2016	Umpire Instructor Workshop	LL SE Region	No
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	2/15/2017	Umpire Outreach Clinic	LL SE Region	Yes



# State/Regional/World SeRies Tournament History

## An Example:

LLUR#	Name, Last	Name, First	Initial, Middle	League State	League District	League Affiliation	Tournament Appointment	Tournament Year	Completed Assignment	Evaluator Recommendation	Evaluation
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	Southside LL	SE REG LLBB	2009	YES	Reg	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	Southside LL	SE REG LLSB	2011	YES	WS	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
UR123456	Umpire	1		SC	3	Southside LL	SE REG JRBB	2014	YES	WS	<a href="#">Click Here</a>



# Tournament Umpire Request Forms

- *Tournament Request forms MUST be submitted annually to keep names active for tournament selection!!*
- Tournament request forms will be accessed directly from the Umpire Registry MEMBERS ONLY Page.
- All personal information for the form will be automatically populated from the Umpire Profile information.
- Any required updates must be made in the Umpire Profile section.
- Your Social Security Number must be provided in the Umpire Profile section prior to completing a Tournament Request form.



# Tournament Umpire Request Forms

## REQUESTING REGIONAL TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENT:

(Check all divisions that are being requested)

**Baseball:** LI  IN  JR  SR

**Softball:**  LL  JR  SR

**Volunteer Status must be affirmed in order to continue the process.**



# Tournament Umpire Request Forms

## REQUESTING WORLD SERIES ASSIGNMENT:

(Check all divisions that are being requested)

**Baseball:** LI  IN  JR  SR

**Softball:**  LL  JR  SR

**Volunteer Status must be affirmed in order to continue the process.**



# Tournament Umpire Request Forms

- Electronically Attach the Volunteer Application Form
- Electronically Attach a Government Issued ID Form
- Electronically Attach a Recent Photograph (within last 12 months)
- Electronically Initial and Submit Form

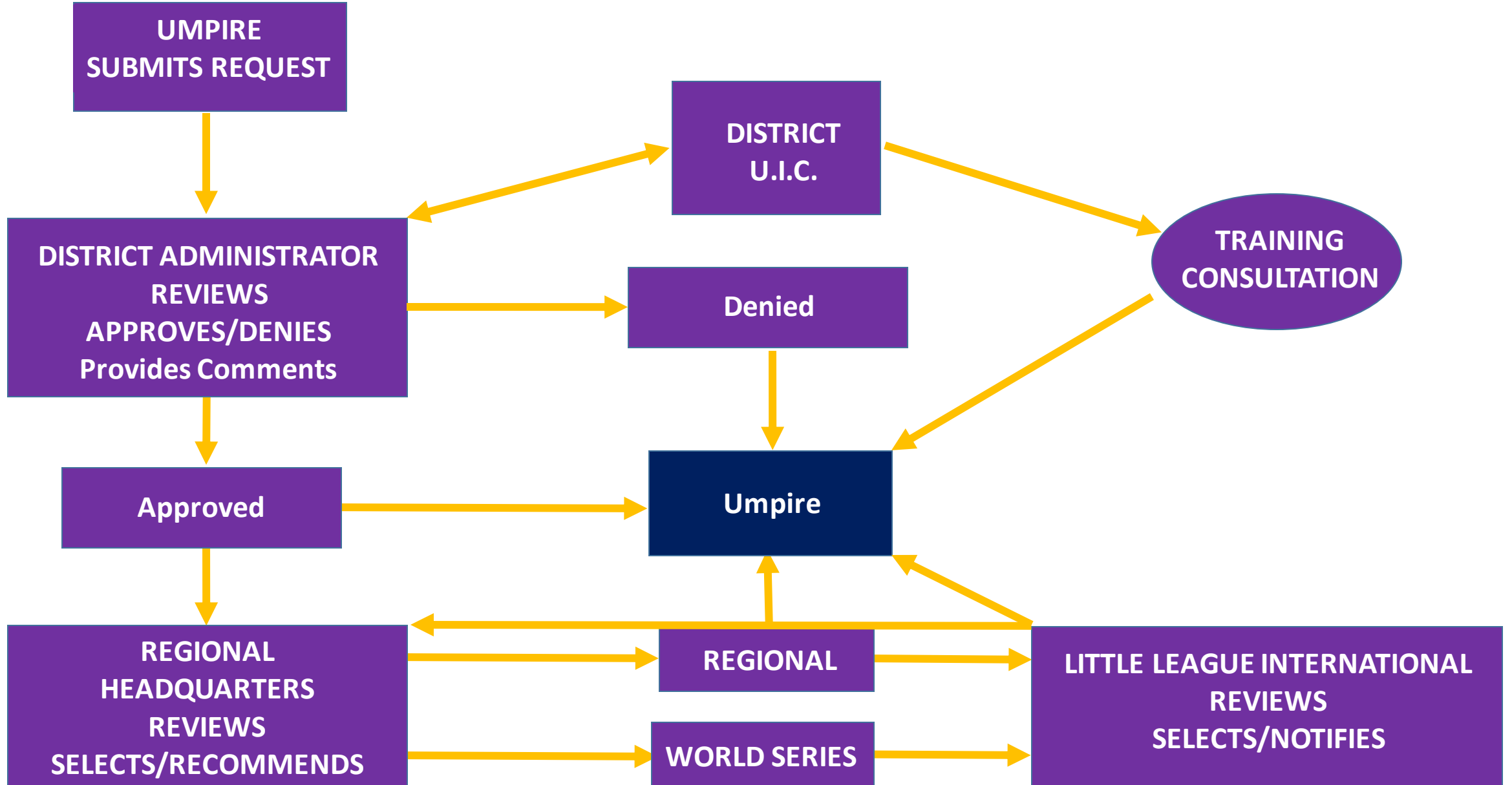


# Now What?

1. Requests are stored in database
2. Email is sent to DA indicating forms awaiting action



# The Process





PRESENTER:  
JASON KELLEY Central Region  
Umpire Advisory Committee

What's the Point?



# Design of an empirical and transparent system

## *QUESTIONS NEEDING ANSWERS*

- What are the touchstones of a “Qualified” Tournament Umpire?
- How should they be rated?
- What intangibles should be considered, if any?
- Does training have a shelf-life?
- Should longevity be a factor?



# Regional and World Series Umpire Applicants

- Individuals requesting appointment to umpire the various Regional and World Series Appointments in Little League Baseball and Softball *need to be the most highly qualified, trained, and dedicated volunteers within the program.*
- Our entire Program is judged by the product that is on the field during the tournament season.



# Assessing qualifications

- Formal Training
- Performance Evaluations
- Continuing Education
- Volunteer Commitment (Length of Service)



# Assessing qualifications

- **Formal Training**
  - Ideally, applicants will have attended Umpire School/Umpire Outreach Program 5 or more seasons within year of applying for Regional or World Series Tournament Appointment
    - The Umpire School is our system's most comprehensive training program, and, as many have proposed, *should* be a requirement for applying for Regional & WS Assignments
    - Of training resources, attendance at umpire school also indicates the commitment level of the individual as attending the school requires sacrifice and investment of time and resources far beyond any other endeavor.
    - The greater purpose is to develop umpires over the course of their career, this process will allow D.A.s, District U.I.C.s, and Regional Staff to communicate how much we value continued improvement and development of our umpires. Essentially, this serves as a model that rewards continuous improvement and development.



# Assessing qualifications

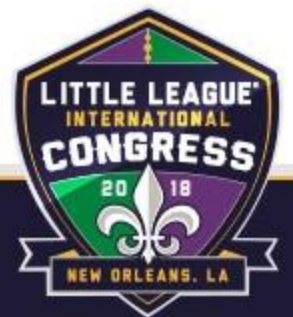
- Formal Training, Continued
  - Little League Umpire School Attendance at a Little League Region or in Williamsport (*in the capacity of an instructor*) within the previous 4 or more years.
  - Demonstrated history of instructing at the District or local league level.



# Assessing qualifications

- Performance Evaluations

- Has an umpire received a written evaluation and recommendation from the District and/or State to work a Regional Tournament?
- Has the umpire received a written evaluation and recommendation from most recent Regional Tournament to work a World Series?
- Has the umpire previously received an appointment to any World Series Tournament and received a written evaluation of their performance?



# Assessing qualifications

- Volunteer Commitment (Length of Service)
- Does the umpire have
  - More than 20 years of unbroken service as a Little League umpire?
  - 10 – 19 years of unbroken service as a Little League umpire?
  - Less than 9 years of unbroken service as a Little League umpire?





# Assessing qualifications

- Continuing Education
- Has the umpire attended:
  - Any Little League sponsored Rules or Mechanics Clinics at a Little League Regional or in Williamsport, Pa., including, but not limited to, Rules Clinics, Train the Trainer Clinics, Multi-Member Crew Clinics, or a Little League Road Show Umpire Clinic.
    - This may be in role of either a student or an instructor
    - Within the past two seasons.



# THE FUTURE OF LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Have any of your District/League umpires attended a formal Little League Training of any type within the last five years?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_



# STANDARDIZING The Curriculum



# STANDARDIZING The Curriculum

- Collection and Review of All Current Training Materials

Training Aids, Presentations, Lecture Topics, Field Drills, Video Instruction

- Standardization of Content NOT Presentation Styles
- Best Training Practices Will be Available on LLU
- Consistent Instructor Training
- Identifying Areas/Topics That Require More In-Depth Attention Based On Input From The Field What Do you Need?



# STANDARDIZING The Curriculum

- In depth review of all written training materials
- Re-write of manuals where necessary
- Provide updates to manuals
- Development/Refinement of other Training Courses

District U.I.C. Training

Tournament Evaluators Course

Instructor Course



# Training opportunities



# EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

## Central Region--Indianapolis, IN

- RULES CLINIC

February 2-3                  Hilton Indianapolis North

- UMPIRE CLINIC

February 24                  New Albany, OH

- UMPIRE CLINIC

March 3                      Downer's Grove, IL

- UMPIRE SCHOOL

April 17 - 22                  Grand Park Events Center,  
Westfield, IN

## Southeast Region--Warner Robbins, GA

- RULES SEMINAR

February 10-11

- 2-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC

February 23-25

- 4-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC

June 1-3

- UMPIRE SCHOOL

October 9-14

- UMPIRE OUTREACH TRAINING

AL - TBD



# EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

## East Region--Bristol, CT

- UMPIRE CLINIC

February 10

- SOFTBALL CLINIC

March 4

- UMPIRE SCHOOL

April 18-22

- UMPIRE SCHOOL

September 19-23

## Southwest Region--Waco, TX

- 4-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC

February 23-24

- 2-UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINIC

March 9-11





# EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

- West Region--San Bernardino, CA

- RULES CLINIC LEVEL 1

January 26-28

- RULES CLINIC LEVEL 2

February 9-11

- MECHANICS CLINIC

February 9-11

- UMPIRE ACADEMY

February 24-March 2

- 90-FT. BASE MECHANICS CLINIC

Feb 10-11 Danville, CA

- JR. UMPIRE OUTREACH CLINIC

Feb 16-18 Huntington Beach, CA

- MECHANICS CLINIC

Feb 17-18 Rosedale, CA

- MECHANICS CLINIC

Mar 10-11 Seattle/Tacoma WA

- MECHANICS CLINIC

Apr 13-15 Missoula, MT



# EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

- Headquarters--Williamsport, PA

- OUTREACH CLINIC

March 23-25                  Grand Island, NY

- RULES CLINIC

March 16-18

- MECHANICS CLINIC

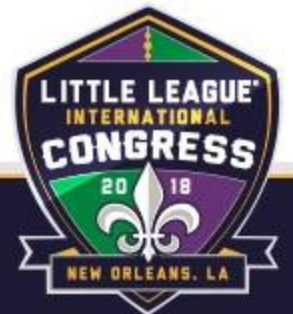
April 6-8

- UMPIRE SCHOOL

April 17-22

- 3- AND 4-UMPIRE MECHANICS & ADAVANCED TOPICS

TBD



# EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

- PROPOSED WEBINAR TOPICS FOR 2018
  - OBSTRUCTION Types A & B
  - INTERFERENCE Baserunner, Batter & Umpire
  - FORCE OUT vs. TIMING OUT
  - ILLEGAL PITCH Baseball & Softball
  - CIRCLE RULE Softball
  - TOURNAMENT RULES



# THE FUTURE OF LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

- Does your League/District Currently Have an Umpire Training Program?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_



# QUESTIONS?

[trawlings@littleleague.org](mailto:trawlings@littleleague.org)

(570) 326-1921 ext 2326

(570) 447-5282 Cell Phone

