

POLICIES and PROCEDURES

HCUA, LLC

Annual dues to the association shall equal one game fee as agreed upon between HCUA and Hillsborough County Schools and are non-refundable.

All umpires shall wear the official HCUA LLC uniform when on the field for any FHSAA sanctioned game or event. Failure to comply with the HCUA LLC Uniform Policy may result in a fine or reduction of assignments.

The uniform consists of the following, directly from 2020 FHSAA Officials Guidebook, 701.07 Softball.

* HCUA LLC additional comments are listed under each item

(1.) Major League style (Smitty BBS-300) powder blue or navy pullover with the FHSAA shield embroidered or dye sublimated above the left chest pocket and the letters FHSAA in blue embroidered or dye sublimated on the right sleeve. Long-sleeved powder blue or navy shirts are optional.

(2.) Non-pleated light gray (Heather) pants or navy-blue slacks. Black leather belt. Patent leather belts are not authorized.

* Docker style pants are not acceptable. Slacks should fit comfortably over leg guards.

(3.) Solid black shoes. Plate shoes will have a hard shell or steel reinforced toe and a steel or reinforced tongue. Patent leather shoes are not authorized.

* Shoes will be cleaned and shined before every game. Soles should provide good traction.

(4.) Navy blue or black socks.

(5.) White or navy-blue undershirts. Long-sleeved undershirt sleeves shall NOT be exposed. The crew must be dressed the same.

(6.) Navy blue cap with FHSAA acronym embroidered in FHSAA silver and blue on the front and vertical shield logo embroidered on the back. (Smitty or Richardson brands are approved).

(7.) Navy blue jacket, with light blue and white stripes. Any or all umpires may wear a jacket/pullover. However, if more than one umpire wears a jacket/pullover, they must match.

(8.) Home plate umpires must wear all necessary protective equipment. (Mask with throat protector, chest protector, shin guards, cup (for male umpires)).

* Sunglasses may be worn if they are in good taste. Please remove sunglasses when speaking with a manager.

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(9.) Ball bags will be unadorned navy blue.

(10.) During the FHSAA State Series (District - State Finals) umpires must wear the official “State Series” uniform shirts available through the FHSAA Approved uniform vendors, in addition to all other required uniform items listed above.

- Jewelry, except for wedding bands and medical-alert bracelets and necklaces shall not be worn.
- Ball/strike indicator, brush shall be carried by both plate umpire and base umpire (s).

All official suppliers for FHSAA softball gear are listed on FHSAA.org website.

Meetings

There are two types of meetings held as follows;

1. General Membership Meetings
2. Training Sessions

It is mandatory that members attend 2 General Membership meetings and a minimum of 6 Training Sessions. Failure to meet the number of meetings may affect future assignments and training sessions.

Game Assignments

A. Any umpire canceling a game less than seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled game may be fined \$10.00 per cancellation.

B. Any umpire canceling a game less than 24 hours in advance of the scheduled game may be fined \$15.00 per cancellation.

NOTE: Any potential fine resulting from a violation of A and /or B may be waived at the discretion of the HCUA LLC President.

1. Umpires are not permitted to “switch” games among themselves. If an umpire is unable to work a scheduled assignment, he/she must notify the booking commissioner and turn back the game. Any umpire involved in a “switch” of games that is not approved by the booking commissioner will each be fined \$25.00.

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2. Any umpire that “gives away a game” to another umpire without turning the game back in to the booking commissioner (re; canceling) will be fined \$25.00.
3. All game assignments and meetings will be made using Arbiter. All umpires must accept or decline the assigned games/meetings by the deadline indicated. Each umpire is responsible to keep their information up to date through Arbiter.
4. No umpire will be assigned to any games involving schools with which they have any direct involvement. This includes the umpire having a child attending stated school, the umpire working at the stated school and/or any other situation which creates an appearance of impropriety in the judgment of the Executive Board.
5. Prior to being posted, all assignments will be reviewed by the Assignment Committee. After review, the Committee will forward all recommended changes to the President and the Booking Commissioner if needed.

Tardy Policy

By contract, umpires are to arrive at the game site no later than 45 minutes prior to the scheduled beginning of the contest. The following applies to tardy umpires;

- A. “Late” is defined as arriving less than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Penalty: \$ 10.00 fine per occurrence.
- B. “Extremely late” is defined as arriving less than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Penalty: \$ 25.00 fine per occurrence.
- C. “No Show” is defined as arriving after the game time or not arriving at all. Penalty: Full Game Fee fine per occurrence and/or additional sanctions as determined by the Executive Board.

Fine Payment Policy

All fines must be paid prior to the next scheduled booking or the delinquent umpire will not receive any booking assignments. If the last regular season booking assignments have already been made, delinquent umpires must pay all fines or he/she will receive neither district assignments nor recommendation to the FHSAA State Series play. All umpires are allowed to approach the Grievance Committee in regards to fines.

Recommendation Committee

The Recommendation Committee will consist of the first crew (#1 crew selected) from the previous year, who will adhere to the following criteria.

1. No committee member will be assigned to the first crew unless approved by membership.

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2. The committee will be provided with a report from the Training and Evaluation Committee.
3. The Recommendation Committee will ensure that those umpires assigned to the first four crews have demonstrated the best rules, knowledge, mechanics, and field presence during the regular season and that each umpire is available for all Regional and State Final games.

Training Committee

The Training Committee will work directly with the Training Director if needed in training of new umpires, aid other umpires with refining their skills, be assigned to at least one training session and aid the Training Director in preparing training materials.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee will meet during the last month of the season to provide the membership with candidates for the positions opening for election. Members will be provided a deadline for nominations. Members must be nominated by their peers and the candidates will be discussed with the Executive Board and must be in good standings. Nominations may be accomplished electronically via email.

Post Season Requirements

Post season contests are considered as any contest assignment after the regular season games. (i.e., District, Regional and State).

To work in district tournament play, an umpire should have worked at least two games where there were three umpires and attended the required meetings (2 general and six training sessions).

Additional Games

In conjunction with our FHSAA commitments, additional games will be assigned on an availability only basis. This will include the Fall Instructional League and the Spring Developmental Leagues. Due to the nature of these games the required uniform will consist of powder blue, heather grey slacks, navy hat ensure no FHSAA markings are utilized. The Pre-Season Classic and the annual Spring Fling tournaments are FHSAA sanctioned events and will count toward your training promotional points.

Dated July 26, 2021, approved by General Membership on July 26, 2021.