

2026



UMPIRE MANUAL

negoa.org

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INTRODUCTION

Fellow Officials,

We would like to take this time to welcome you to the Northeast Georgia Officials Association (NEGOA)-Baseball division. We hope this season will be rewarding for each umpire and we look forward to a productive season. We thank you for your commitment to NEGOA, and the umpiring profession.

This manual is being provided as a source of information and resources that you will need throughout the season. Please refer to it for answers to questions regarding: Policies, Procedures, Contacts, Meeting Dates, Mechanics, etc.

Our professionalism, attitude and work ethic will set the tone and direction for this association not only this year, but for years to come. Let's work together and continue to make NEGOA the best baseball association in the state!

Respectfully,

NEGOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Armstrong | *Executive Secretary*

Chris Barnes

Jeff Christie | *Training Officer*

Alex Perry

Dustin Chitwood

Justin Shorter



2023 NEGOA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

BOARD:

Jeff Christie . . . *Board Member*
1320 Hickory Hill Drive
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677
Cell: 706.340.9597
Home: 706.769.4644
Email: jchristie512@gmail.com

Mike Armstrong . . . *Executive Secretary*
525 Ashbrook Court
Athens, Georgia 30605
Cell: 434.579.7084
Email: army54@charter.net

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Athens, Georgia 30606
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Dustin Chitwood . . . *Board Member*
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Alex Perry . . . *Board Member*
4281 Moons Grove Church Road
Danielsville, Georgia 30533
Cell: 706.870.8321
Email: alexperry59@gmail.com

Justin Shorter . . . *Board Member*
Clubhouse Road
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
Cell: 678.873.0452
Email: shorterjuston3@gmail.com

If you have a question about Mechanics contact . . . Alex Perry

If you have a question about Rules contact . . . Mike Armstrong

If you have a question about Uniforms/Apparel contact . . . Chris Barnes.

If you have a question about Equipment contact . . . Mike Armstrong

If you have a question about Background Checks contact . . . Mike Armstrong

If you have a question about Meeting Attendance contact . . . Alex Perry

If you have a question about NEGOA or GHSA contact . . . Jeff Christie

If you have questions about our Website contact . . . Mike Armstrong

If you have a question or problem with Game Assignments contact . . . Mike Armstrong

IMPORTANT DATES - 2024

Sunday... January 4... 5:00pm

The Yard (all meetings)
111 South Barnet Shoals Road
Watkinsville 30677

Sunday... January 11... 5:30pm

Rules review

Monday... January 18.. 5:30pm

Rules review

Monday... January 19 - February 9

Online Rules Clinic
(Mandatory for ALL umpires)

Sunday... January 25... 5:30pm

Rules Review

Monday... January 26 - February 9

Online Exam
(Mandatory for ALL umpires)

Sunday... February 1... 5:30pm

Rules Review

Sunday... February 8...5:30

Rules Review

CALL YOUR PARTNER!

HELPFUL WEBSITES

negoa.org	NEGOA Website.
reftown.com	NEGOA Assigning Website
ghsabb.com	GHSA Baseball Training
ghsa.net	Georgia High School Association
hudson51wear.com	Equipment/Uniforms
honigs.com	Equipment/Uniforms
gerrydavis.com	Equipment/Uniforms
purchaseofficials.com	Equipment/Uniforms
mapquest.com	Field/Clinic Directions
weather.com	Game Day Forecast

NEGOA VENUES

GHSA

Alcovy
Apalachee
Athens Academy
Athens Christian
Barrow AAS
Cedar Shoals
Clarke Central
Commerce
Eastside
East Jackson
Elbert County
Heritage
Greene County
Hart County
Jackson County
Jefferson

Lake Oconee
Lincoln County
Madison County
Monroe Area
Morgan County
Newton County
North Oconee
Oconee County
Oglethorpe County
Prince Avenue
Putnam County
Rockdale County
Salem
Social Circle
Walnut Grove

Washington-Wilkes
Winder-Barrow

GISA/GICAA

Bethlehem Christian
Loganville Christian
George Walton Academy
Westminster

PAY SCALE/ GAME FEES

- Varsity Single Game: \$100.00 per umpire (\$80.00 game fee + \$20 travel)
- Varsity Double Header: \$172.80 per umpire (\$152.80 game fee + \$20 travel)
- Non-Varsity Single Game: \$81.60 per umpire (\$61.60 game fee + \$20 travel)
- Non-Varsity Double Header: \$144.00 per umpire (\$124.00 game fee + \$20 travel)

State Playoffs: \$135.00 per umpire, per game (\$25 additional paid travel)
\$150.00 per umpire per game, Semi finals and finals

NEGOA FIELD DIRECTIONS (from Athens)

Athens Academy . . . 1281 Spartan Lane, Athens, GA 30604

Highway 441 south, school approximately one mile south of loop on left. Field just inside main gate.

Athens Christian School . . . 1270 Highway 29, North, Athens, GA 30610

Highway 29 north past Athens Tech. School on right across from gas station. Field around back.

Alcovy High School . . . 14567 highway 36, Covington, GA, 30014

☛ *Barrow Academy of Arts and Sciences . . . games are played at Victor Lord Park Field 6.
206 2nd St. Winder, GA*

Cedar Shoals HS . . . 1300 Cedar Shoals Drive, Athens, GA 30605

Cedar Shoals drive, ½ mile from Gaines School Road on right. Field adjacent football stadium.

Clarke Central HS . . . 350 South Milledge Avenue Athens, GA 30605

Enter school at Baxter Street entrance, between Milledge Ave. and Rocksprings St.

☛ *Commerce High School Games . . . played at Tiger Field, 204 Carson St., Commerce, GA*

Criswell Park: 1190 Criswell Rd, Monroe, GA, 30655 (Youth MS – some games; & Prince Ave. MS – all games) From Athens: Take Highway 78 West to Hwy 11. Turn left on Hwy 11 South. Go approx. 4.2 miles through downtown Monroe, across RR tracks, and then turn right onto Criswell Road. Park is approx. 0.2 miles on right.

Criswell Park: 1190 Criswell Road, Monroe, GA 30655 (Youth Middle School - some games and Prince Avenue Middle School games) From Athens: take Highway 78 West. Turn left on Highway 11 South. Proceed approximately 4.2 miles through downtown Monroe, cross railroad tracks and then right onto Criswell Road. Park is approximately 0.2 miles on right,

Elbert County HS . . . 600 Abernathy Circle, Elberton, GA 30635

Hwy 29 north to right onto Highway 72 just past Athens Tech. Stay on Highway 72 into Elberton. Turn right onto Jones Street. Field around back of school.

☛ *Elbert Co. Middle School* (plays some games at McWilliams Rec Park)

From Athens Take Highway 72 east into Elberton. Stay on Highway 72 through Elberton. Highway and Highway 17 split just past Walmart and hwy 72 turns left. Turn left staying on Highway 72 and go 1/2 mile. Turn right on Mobley Hill Road and the entrance to the park is on the right.

East Jackson . . . 1435 Hoods Mill Road, Commerce, GA 30529

Take 441 North to left on Hoods Mill Road. School is on the left about 1/4 of mile.

Take second entrance (by the sign). Take first right. Field will be right in front of you.

Eastside . . . 140 Highway 142, Covington, GA 30014

Franklin Middle . . . 485 Turkey Creek Road – Carnesville, GA 30521.

Road is off of Highway 59 - traveling toward Lavonia, it is 2 miles from the I-85 Highway 106 exit - Wilco Truck stop, Echo Restaurant, etc. here. Turn right onto Turkey Creek Road and the school is located on the left, just a small distance down the road.

George Walton Academy . . . 1 Bulldog Drive Monroe, GA 30655

Highway 78 west to exit Highway 138 south. Left at 1st stop light; left at 2nd stop light (next to Wal-Mart), right into school.

Greene County . . . 1002 South Main St. Greensboro, GA 30642

Highway 441 south past Athens Academy, left onto Highway 15 south (through Watkinsville). Into Greensboro, left (still Highway. 15). Right at traffic light in center of town (Highway 44). School approximately 1 mile on left, field behind school.

Hart County . . . 59 5th Street, Hartwell, GA 30643

Highway 29 North into Hartwell. Right at first light (in front of Bell's shopping center). Continue on 29 through town past McDonalds. Turn right on Campbell St. (just past Huddle House) then turn left on Powell Rd, field is on the right.

Jackson County . . . 152 Jaxco Junction, Hoschton, GA 30548

Jasper County MS . . . 1289 College St., Monticello, GA 31064

Highway 441 South to Madison. Stay on 441-S By-Pass until it ends at light. Straight through light, go approximately 1 mile on Lions Club Road to end. Turn left on Highway 83 South to Monticello. In Monticello, turn right at 1st light. Go 1 mile on Highway 229 North. School and field are on left.

*Jefferson . . . 575 Washington Street, Jefferson, GA 30549*****

Highway 129 north to Jefferson Bypass. Right on Old Pendergrass Road (across from Beef O'Brady's). Field on left.

Jefferson Middle School will play at the rec fields . . .

Directions from Athens: Go north on the 129 bypass. Take a left on Old Pendergrass Rd. The rec fields will be on your left.

Directions from Jefferson High School: Go out Old Pendergrass Rd. Go past the baseball field, cross over the bypass. The rec fields will be on your left.

Lake Oconee Academy . . . 1021 Titan Circle, Greensboro, GA 30642

From Watkinsville, take Highway 15 South to Greensboro. At first light, turn left on Highway 278. Go into town, turn right on Highway 44 West. Go approx. 8 miles towards Eatonton. Turn right on Cary Station Road. School and field are approx. ½ mile on your right.

Lincoln County . . . 78 East to 78E/GA10/GA17 to US378/GA47 to left on Lincoln Ave to right on Metasville Road. Last intersection. Field is in back of the school.

Loganville Field

From Monroe: Take Highway 78 towards Gwinnett about 8 miles. Turn right at the Traffic Light at Highway 81. (The Maxie Price Chevrolet is on the left). Then first right. Left at football stadium. Field is down on the left.

Loganville Christian . . . 2575 Highway 81, Loganville, GA

From Athens take Highway 78 west toward Monroe. From 78 w take 138 toward Conyers. In Walnut Grove, turn right onto Highway 81 toward Loganville. Loganville Christian is on hwy 81.

Madison County . . . 600 Madison Street, Danielsville, GA 30633

Highway 29 north into Danielsville, right onto Madison Street (at courthouse circle in center of town). Field ¾ mile on left, across from school.

Madison County MS . . . Highway 172, Danielsville, GA 30633

Highway 29 north to Athens Tech, right onto Hwy 72. Go through Hull, then Colbert. Approx. 1.5 miles past Colbert, turn left onto Highway 172 towards Hartwell. School is approx. 2.5 miles on your left.

Monroe Area . . . 300 Double Springs Church Rd, Monroe, GA 30656

Highway 78 west to exit Highway 11, turn left. Approximately 1 mile north, left on Double Springs Church Road. School on right, field around back.

Monsignor Donovan . . . 590 Lavender Road, Athens, GA 30606

Prince Avenue/Highway 129 approx. 4 miles to left on Lavender Road. School approx. 1 mile on right.

Morgan County: 1231 College Drive, Madison, GA 30650 ****

Hwy 441 south to Madison Bypass. Right on East Avenue. Bear right at fork. Field on right, parking across street from field.

Nathanael Greene . . . 4731 Highway 15, Greensboro, GA 30642

Highway 441 south to left onto Highway 15. Highway 15 into Greensboro, follow through Greensboro to Siloam. School is in Siloam on right on Highway 15.

Newton County . . . 1 Ram Way, Covington, GA, 30014

North Oconee . . . 1081 Rocky Branch Road, Bogart, GA 30622

Highway 441 south to right on Hog Mountain Road. Hog Mountain becomes Highway 53. School is on right at intersection of Highway 53 and Rocky Branch Rd. Enter off Highway 53, using entrance for Rocky Branch Elem.

Oconee County . . . 2721 Hog Mountain Rd, Watkinsville, GA 30677
Hwy. 441 south to right on Hog Mountain Road. Hog Mountain becomes Hwy. 53.
School is on left, follow dirt road beyond outfield and park at batting cages.

Oglethorpe County . . . 749 Athens Road, Lexington, GA 30648
Hwy 78 east into Lexington. School is on right, field is next to football stadium.

Prince Avenue . . . 2201 Ruth Jackson Rd, Bogart, GA 30622
Hwy 78 west to left on Ruth Jackson Rd. in Oconee County. School is on right.

Putnam County . . . 300 War Eagle Dr., Eatonton, GA (GPS:1200 Madison Road, Eatonton, Ga 31024)
Hwy. 441 south towards Eatonton. Approx. 10 miles south of I-20, school is on left just past the entrance for the Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Rockdale County . . . 1174 Bulldog Cir NE, Conyers, GA 30012
Take 78 West to 138 West. From Monroe to Conyers is about miles to the turn. After passing Sigman Road look for a right turn at Pine Log Road. Go about 1 mile, the baseball field in on the right at the corner of Pine Log and Bulldog Circle

Salem . . . 3551 Underwood Rd, Conyers, GA 30013
Hwy. 78 west to exit Hwy 138 south. Go into Conyers, left at Waffle House onto Salem Rd.
Right onto Old Salem Rd. Left onto Underwood Rd. School 1/10 mile on Underwood.

Social Circle . . . 154 Alcova Drive, Social Circle, GA 30025
Hwy. 78 west to exit Hwy. 11, turn left. Go through Monroe into Social Circle, right at traffic light on to W. Hightower Trail. Turn left on Alcova Drive. School and field are down on the left.

Walnut Grove . . . 4863 Gutherie Cemetary Road, Loganville, GA 30052
From Athens take Hwy 78 west toward Monroe. From 78 w take 138 toward Conyers. In Walnut Grove, turn right onto Hwy 81 toward Loganville. Take Gutherie Cemetary Road off of Hwy 81 to school.

Washington-Wilkes . . . 1182 Tignall Road Washington, GA 30673
Hwy. 78 east to Washington, left on Hwy. 17 North. School is 1.8 miles on the right.

Washington-Wilkes MS . . . 📍 (MS plays at the “old HS field” next to National Guard Armory)
Hwy. 78 east to Washington, right on Hwy. 44 into town. Right on Grove Street. Left on Water St.
Field next to football stadium. (GPS field: 222 Ashley Drive, Washington Ga 30673)

West Jackson MS . . . 400 Gum Springs Church Road Jefferson, GA 30549

West Walton Park (Loganville Legion Field . . . 925 Twin Lakes Rd., Loganville, GA 30052 - Highway 78
west through Monroe into Loganville, left on Tom Brewer Rd. (at intersection across from Loganville High School). Immediate right onto Twin Lakes Rd. Park entrance ¼ mile on left. (behind Loganville Ford)

Westminster Christian Academy . . . 1640 New High Shoals Rd., Watkinsville, GA 30677

Take 441 South toward Watkinsville. Stay on 441 Bypass and turn right on New High Shoals Road. School is approx. ½ mile on right.

Winder-Barrow . . . 272 North Fifth Ave, Winder, GA 30680

Highway 316 west to right on Hwy. 11. Go approximately 1 mile, Chimneys Golf Course on right. Into entrance of Chimneys, fields are on right before golf course.

☛ These teams do not play “at the school” so the GPS address to the school will not take you to where they play. Follow the written instructions.

NEGOA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Appearance & Conduct: NEG OA umpires must keep in mind they are in the public eye. Each umpire should understand they are an official representative of NEG OA both on and off the field. Umpires should dress in a manner becoming his/her profession. NEG OA umpires should not wear any cap, shirt, jacket, or pants that have school logos of any NEG OA school going to or coming from any official duty. An umpire's behavior should always be legal, moral and in conformity with all rules of NEG OA. If an umpire is a spectator at any given game, umpires should not wear any portion of their uniform (hat, jacket, etc.) or identify themselves as an umpire to spectators. Public criticism of other umpires will not be tolerated, and is grounds for removal of NEG OA membership.

Dress Code: NEG OA umpires are required to dress in gray pants and Navy blue polo style shirt for travel to and from the game. For travel to playoffs, umpires will be required to wear the NEG OA monogrammed navy blue polo shirt and khaki pants. Umpires are also required to have all the uniforms necessary to work varsity games. The umpire crew must wear identical uniforms during the game (same color shirt and pants). [The NEG OA Navy Blue polo shirt will be made available to all umpires, but only required for those working the playoffs.] The following list is the official uniform adopted by the GHSA, and ratified by the NEG OA Board, and is not to be altered by any umpire.

- Navy hat with GHSA logo
- Black Belt
- Navy undershirt
- Navy Blue or Light Blue shirt w/ GHSA logo, embroidered or sublimated, on the left chest (again, both umpires MUST wear same)
- Navy Blue Pullover (Honig's K17-N is preferred)
- Gray slacks (plate and base)
- Navy Blue ball bags
- Navy Plate Coat (optional)
- Black or Navy gloves
- Black Protective Plate shoes
- Black Base Shoes (New Balance model 950 MLB is preferred)

Equipment: Umpires should ensure that they carry all of their equipment and uniforms to every game, including plate gear. Due to unforeseen circumstances, crews may need to reverse positions or change planned shirt and/or hat style. Bring all your gear – every game!

Partner Communication: NEG OA umpires are required to have MUTUAL CONTACT with their partners 48 hours prior to the game. You must have direct response (phone, text, or return email). Leaving a message is not sufficient.



The above gear is meant to be for the **Plate Umpire**. All of the items can be purchased from the approved NEGOA vendors.

A) Navy Plate Hat with the GHSA logo. **B)** Protective Face Mask. Buy a good one. * Great idea to attach a throat guard to the mask for extra protection. **C)** Optional Hockey Style Mask **D)** Navy Umpire Shirt with the GHSA logo above the pocket (NO NUMBERS). **E)** Chest Protector. Buy a good one that protects your chest and your ribs (DO NOT buy a softball chest protector). **F)** Navy Blue Undershirt (dress warm with a long sleeve turtle neck as well) **G)** Heavy Navy Jacket with red on the shoulders...*don't forget some black gloves. (there is a lightweight jacket available as well). **H)** Navy Ball Bags (always use two) **I)** 2" Patent Leather Belt **J)** Charcoal Plate Pants (no cuffs) **K)** Under Armor Leggings (works great under shin guards and extra warmth) **L)** Athletic Supporter and Cup (protect Bob and the Twins) **M)** Plate Brush (keep in your right back pocket) **N)** Indicator (get one like the one shown) **O)** Line-up Card Book **P)** Black Socks **Q)** Red Pen (you'll thank me) **R)** Black Plate Shoes. Get them with steel toes. They don't have to be shiny but, shiny ones make you look very professional.

Keep in mind, you're going to spend some money for this stuff so, keep it clean, pants and shirt ironed, and shoes clean.



The above gear is meant to be for the **Field Umpire**. All of the items can be purchased from the approved NEGQA vendors.

A) Navy Plate Hat with the GHSA logo. **B)** Navy Umpire Shirt with the GHSA logo above the pocket (NO NUMBERS). **C)** 2" Patent Leather Belt. **D)** Charcoal Field (or combo) Pants (no cuffs) **E)** Navy Blue Undershirt (dress warm with a long sleeve turtle neck as well) **F)** Heavy Navy Jacket with red on the shoulders...*don't forget some black gloves. (there is a lightweight jacket available as well). **G)** Warm Gloves (black). **H)** Black Field Shoes. Buy some arch supports. They really help for those long games. **I)** Black Socks

Keep in mind, you're going to spend some money for this stuff so, keep it clean, pants and shirt ironed, and shoes clean.

Availability: Umpires are to keep availability calendar on the RefTown web site current at all times. If an umpire has an open date and then declines an assignment(s) you must immediately notify the Assigning Secretary of the reason for declining the assignment. We play baseball six days a week (never on Sunday)! While there are relatively few games on Saturdays, it is still important to mark your calendar for every day you are not available. If the availability calendar says you can work, we expect you to be available to work. **PLEASE! Accept all assignments as soon as possible after being posted.** You will receive an email notifying of your assignments as soon as they are posted. Please be prompt in accepting them. If you have an emergency or situation beyond your control and must decline an assignment contact the Assigning Secretary as soon as possible! As of January 1, 2016, a progressive discipline system has been implemented by the Board of Directors for refused assignments, as follows:

- 1st declined assignment – WARNING from Assigning Secretary
- 2nd declined assignment - \$75.00 Fine, assessed by Assigning Secretary
- 3rd declined assignment - \$150.00 Fine, assessed by Assigning Secretary
- 4th and/or subsequent violations – Immediate suspension and mandatory appearance with NEGOA Board of Directors

THE CARDINAL SIN OF UMPIRING: NOT SHOWING UP FOR AN ASSIGNMENT!

The second sin of umpiring is showing up LATE!

Failure to Show: Any umpire who fails to show for a properly assigned game without an immediate emergency will be fined 1 full game fee, and indefinitely suspended. The NEGOA Board will conduct an investigation and the umpire's remaining schedule will be suspended until the investigation is completed.

Traveling to School: Umpires must arrive at the school no later than 30 minutes (1 hour for playoffs) prior to the scheduled start time. Once the crew is present, one member should report to the Head Coach of the home school that all umpires are present and confirm the start time. Any travel emergency or issue which would prevent the umpire from arriving at the school on time must be reported to the following immediately:

- (1) Assigning Secretary
- (2) the Head Coach of home school by cell phone.

Weather Policy: The Assigning Secretary or his designee will contact by email, text or phone when notified about games canceled or delayed due to weather. On days when the conditions are marginal or on days after a wet period, if you are unsure about whether or not a game is to be played, you are to contact the Assigning Secretary or the school directly to find out if the game is being played. Relay this information to your partner so that both of you will not have to do this. When games are rained out or otherwise canceled, the Assigning Secretary will cancel the game on the RefTown website as soon as possible.

Canceled or Forfeited Games: Coaches are supposed to inform the Assigning Secretary by 1:00 p.m. of a game day cancellation. This is not always adhered to, as some teams will work on the field as long as they can before making a decision. Regardless, if a game is canceled prior to the crew departing for the game site, there is no pay authorized. If a game is canceled after the crew departs to the site, 1/2 game fee plus travel will be paid to the crew. If a game is started and not completed, the crew is to be paid in full, including travel. If a crew arrives at a game site and the game is forfeited for any reason, the crew is to receive full pay.

Re-assignment: No umpire shall individually re-assign any of his/her games to any other umpire! If you have an emergency or situation which requires you to decline a previously accepted game, you must contact the Assigning Secretary.

Payment: Payment for games worked by NEGEOA umpires, unless otherwise noted, will be by direct deposit into a bank account designated by the umpire. This policy will be waived only in temporary and/or unusual circumstances. Travel will be divided evenly between the two umpires (if you ride with your partner it is your responsibility to properly compensate him/her for driving). IRS 1099-MISC tax forms will be issued to anyone earning \$600.00 or more in funds that pass through the NEGEOA account.

Registration, State, and Assigning Fees: All registration fees are non-refundable. Any fees paid to the GHSA, GISA, and/or GICAA from NEGEOA are non-refundable. Assigning fees are refundable on appeal, and on a case-by-case basis only.

Direct Contact with GHSA Office: Umpires are PROHIBITED from directly contacting the GHSA office. Any issues concerning NEGEOA or the schools should be brought to the attention of the Executive Assigning Secretary and/or the NEGEOA Board of Directors for resolution.

Direct Contact with NEGEOA Schools: Umpires may not solicit work or provide information about the association, or provide any personal or private information about any other umpire in NEGEOA to any school or school representative.

Non-competition: Members of NEGEOA baseball are not to solicit, accept or assign other officials to games involving schools, leagues, or teams that regularly use NEGEOA for their varsity and non-varsity games. This also includes middle school games in the counties we cover, as well as non-varsity tournaments or other such games. This also includes GISA contests from schools that we regularly have, or have had in the past, in our working area. This policy is primarily for schools that have declined the services of NEGEOA. Umpires who violate this policy will be suspended indefinitely and must appear before the NEGEOA Board for reinstatement. If there is any question about a potential competitive conflict, contact the Executive Assigning Secretary for clarification.

Media and Statements: Umpires are prohibited from discussing any aspect of any game with any form of media. All media requests and questions should be referred to the Executive Assigning Secretary. Umpires are also not to discuss any game or situation with any school personnel or administrators. Please refer the question to the NEGEOA Executive Assigning Secretary.

NEGEOA Grievance: If an umpire has a problem regarding pay, game conduct, personnel, NEGEOA policy, etc., he/she should first contact the Executive Assigning Secretary to seek resolution. If this does not provide a satisfactory solution, the umpire may call any board member and request a board meeting. If a full board meeting does not provide a solution, umpire may request permission from the board to contact the GHSA/ GISA/GICAA. Board permission must be given for this action.

Independent Contractor: Umpires are independent contractors and are NOT employees of NEGOA, GISA, GHSA, GICAA, or any school district. Umpires are responsible for their own insurance and are not entitled to employee benefits of any kind. Each umpire is responsible for filing tax returns on the earnings from NEGOA. The GHSA requires, and NEGOA provides, an IRS Form 1099-MISC Non-Employee Compensation report to the umpire and to the IRS for annual amounts of \$600.00 or more. These forms reflect only funds passing through the financial records of NEGOA.

Middle School: All middle schools that use NEGOA umpires will adhere to the GHSA safety standards. Other differences such as, but not limited to, curfews, league rules, etc., must also be enforced. Every umpire is expected to enforce these rules and regulations uniformly. NEGOA will attempt to secure written rules from the Middle School leagues prior to the season starting.

Meeting Attendance: NEGOA by-laws requires meeting attendance. All meetings are considered mandatory. A record of meeting attendance will be factor in consideration of playoff assignments. Excused absences may be approved in advance by the Executive Assigning Secretary (emergencies may be approved after the fact). Valid reasons such as health issues, family requirements, job conflicts, working games in other sports for NEGOA, etc., will be considered.

Testing/State Rules Clinic: NEGOA Clinic attendance is mandatory annually, and GHSA Camp attendance is mandatory at least every other year. Tests are required by the GHSA. The GHSA requires all umpires to take an on-line rules exam during a specific time period prior to the season. Failure to complete this clinic will cause the umpire not to receive credit for the year of service and eliminate them from playoff consideration.

Bereavement Fund: NEGOA maintains a bereavement fund, funded by Association dues. The purpose of this fund is to provide sympathy cards and memorials to members and their families on the occasions that require acknowledgement. Memorials and flowers, etc., are reserved for members and their immediate families. Cards and other expressions of sympathy or support are utilized for extended family or friends of the association. If you know of circumstances that warrant a benevolent response from the association, please let the Executive Assigning Secretary know.

Game Reports: Game reports for ejections, field conditions, and malicious contact must be filed with the Executive Assigning Secretary within 24 hours of the game in which the incident occurred. Game reports for game management, security problems, restrictions to the dugout, and any other issues that did not result in an ejection must be filed to the NEGOA Executive Assigning Secretary within 24 hours.

Election of Board and Executive Secretary: NEGOA by-laws call for the election of members of the Board of Directors and Executive Assigning Secretary every two years on even-numbered school years. (Example: School Year 2023-24 election year is 2024). NEGOA uses a 6-person board and the election of said board is governed by the NEGOA by-laws.

National Anthem: During the national anthem, all umpires are to stand at attention, heels together, head steady, facing the flag with hat in right hand placed over the heart, and left arm extended downward along the left pants leg. There is to be NO talking during the national anthem. The crew shall stand across the back line of the batter's box facing the flag. It is permissible for the catcher to stand in line with the umpires. After the anthem, the umpires are to jog to their positions to begin the game.

Proper Positions between Innings: The proper position for base umpires between innings is a few steps onto the outfield grass, approximately midway between 1st and 2nd base, or 2nd and 3rd base (3-man crew). Umpires should not stand in a position between innings which prompts conversation with players, managers or coaches. The proper position for the plate umpire between innings is on the 1st or 3rd base foul line (to coincide with the team playing defense in that particular half-inning), $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the way up the line from home plate. The concept for this is for the umpire to be in a “neutral” position between innings which does not encourage conversation or confrontations with players, coaches or managers. If the plate umpire is having trouble during a particular inning, he/ she may go to the opposite foul line from that team’s dugout between innings. The same holds true for base umpires. That is, if trouble can be expected from a player coming onto the field to take his position between innings, the base umpire should position themselves in an area which minimizes a confrontation with that player. As a general rule, crew discussions between innings are not considered professional. Post-game briefings are a more proper way to discuss mechanics and rules issues. There are times when some minor issues can be addressed and a brief conversation with the BaseUmpire coming to the Plate Umpire’s between-inning position is acceptable (but NEVER immediately after a controversial call). An exception to this general rule is mentoring, especially in non-varsity contests. Sometimes it is best to go over a mechanic or rule situation when it is fresh. Varsity expectations are higher in the area of professionalism, so conversations between innings by the crew are not normally appropriate.

Fraternization: Umpires are not to carry on idle conversation with managers, coaches, players, fans, etc., during the progress of a game, or with other umpires of the crew unless proper officiating of the game requires it.

Official Time Piece: When a game is to be played under curfew or time limit, or when inclement weather is forecasted, the base umpire should carry a watch, and his watch shall be considered official. (Do not wear the watch on your wrist, and do not look at it every inning unless needed for official purposes.) **CELLULAR PHONES MAY NOT BE TAKEN ONTO THE FIELD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND CANNOT BE USED AS THE OFFICIAL TIME PIECE.**

Profanity: Any profanity of any kind, audible to the stands, players or coaches will not be tolerated. Umpires should not use profanity on the field. Umpires should never use any language to a player or coach which would result in disciplinary action if used to the umpire.

Tobacco: NEGOA has a zero tolerance policy for tobacco on the field when umpiring any contest. It would be hypocritical for us to do that which the players and coaches are not allowed to do. Coaches and players should be told (before the game) to remove tobacco if they have it. If it is discovered during the game, the offender is to be ejected from the contest.

After the Baseball Game: The plate umpire shall return the unused supply of baseballs to a responsible member of the home team or place them in the dugout (Do not toss/role/throw them across the field to the attendant, coach, player or near the game bag). At the conclusion of the game, the umpire crew shall quickly exit the field and should refrain from excessive conversation with coaches, players, and fellow umpires while still on the field.

Playoff Selection and Ranking: Recommendations for the playoff umpires will be advanced from the NEGOA Board of Directors to appropriate GHSA District and State Staff. Playoff assignments will be made and communicated by GHSA District and State Staff. Recommendations by NEGOA will be based, in part, on the numerical ranking system described on pp. 18-21 of the current NEGOA Umpire Manual. This system will serve as a guide, in addition to other criteria set forth by GHSA and the NEGOA Board of Directors.

Before an NEGOA umpire can even be considered for GHSA playoffs, he/she must be ELIGIBLE for playoffs by meeting the following GHSA criteria:

- Recorded completion of the GHSA on-line Rules Clinic for the current season
- Recorded completion and passing grade on the GHSA on-line Rules Exam for the current season
- Recorded attendance at a GHSA Baseball Playoff Camp during the current season
- Only umpires designated as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 by GHSA standards, will be assigned to GHSA playoffs

EVALUATION SCALE

EVALUATIONS : NEGOA evaluation and or GHSA evaluation = 40%

Meeting and NEGOA clinic attendance = 40%

Assignability and attitude = 20%

NEGOA EVALUATION STANDARDS

Plate

- Stability of Head and Body Position during the pitch
- Establishes “lock in” position, does not drift side to side/ up or down with pitch
- Does not flinch on swings or foul tips
- Feet remain stable throughout, providing a solid base
- Maintains proper spacing from the catcher, so as not to become entangled if the catcher moves unexpectedly
- Works in the “slot” and does not drift with the catcher, and does not work straight over the catcher’s head or to the outside
- Head and eyes are level and at the top of the catchers helmet and does not dip as the game progresses

Timing

- Does not anticipate the pitch
- Allows everything to happen that can happen before making a decision
- Gives every pitch the same opportunity to become a strike, does not give up on pitches

Style / Mechanics of Call

- Gives clear/crisp authoritative signals
- Possesses smooth and relaxed styles that projects confidence
- Coordinates voice and signals to give a professional appearance
- Mechanics are consistent and crisp throughout the course of the game
- Voice is loud enough to be heard, but does not draw undue attention

Consistency of Strike Zone

- Maintains the same zone throughout the course of the game
- Does not adjust the strike zone during a one-sided game

Bases

- Proper Angles/ Stable Position as Plays Occurs
- Establishes good angles and distance on all plays
- Hustles into the proper position and is prepared to move for other plays at other bases
- Stopped and set to view all plays; not running when plays happens

Timing

- Does not anticipate the play; allows everything to happen
- Does not give up on plays and keeps focus at a high level over the course of the game
- Follows the ball well and lets the ball take the umpire to the play

Judgment Calls

- Is correct on the majority of calls and does not show any signs or poor body language when a call is missed

Crew Mechanics

- Has a good working knowledge of the proper mechanics
- Rotates in the proper situations and is alert by adjusting if partner misses or fails to cover their assignment
- Read partners well on outfield coverage and goes out on fly balls as needed
- Is alert and aware of situations throughout the course of the game

Crew Communications

- Proper use of verbal and non-verbal communications and eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays

GENERAL

Appearance/ Presence

- Proper wearing of uniform and all equipment
- Uniform is cleaned and pressed, shoes are cleaned and shined
- Has good posture and professional in mannerisms, and body language
- Has a confident and in-control look

Hustle

- Gets into position quickly and with a purpose to make calls
- Has good agility, coordination, and fluidity of movement
- Does not over hustle to draw undue attention to the umpire
- Moves back into position and with purpose after plays

Game Control/ Demeanor

- Is in control of the game while being calm, firm and assertive
- Not overly aggressive during arguments but knows when and how to keep control of the situation
- Is not eager to eject players or coaches but will do so when necessary
- Before/ during/ after ejections is able to remain in control of him/her self and keep control of the game

Game Administrators/ Personnel

- Maintains a courteous and authoritative manner in dealing with all people involved in the contest
- Does not try to impress others with his position of power
- Does not try to take advantage of this position by asking for favors or special treatment by teams or schools

Focus/ Alertness/ Intensity

- Concentrates on the action and is able to anticipate where plays or problems may arise
- Do not talk or converse with fans during the course of the game

Off- Field Conduct

- Always maintains proper decorum and professional manner while in any public situation
- Is a good reflection on NEG OA before/ during/ after the baseball game
- Possesses a willingness to learn and improve

NEGOA 2-MAN MECHANICS

NO RUNNERS ON BASE

Positioning:

- A. Base umpire 10-12 feet behind first baseman
- B. Never any closer than 8 feet from first base

Fly Ball Responsibility – Fair/ Foul:

- A. Up to the front edge of the base – Plate Umpire
- B. Over and beyond the base - Base Umpire
- C. Entire left field line – Plate umpire

Catch/ No Catch:

Remember: Plate umpire will take all routine fly balls

(Pause, Read, React) if base umpire goes out Plate Umpire has batter all the way to home if the Base Umpire cannot get back to cover the plate

Principles for going out: (trouble ball)

- 1. Fair/ Foul Decision
- 2. Ball may be caught below the fielders waist
- 3. Fielder is runner hard with his back to you
- 4. Fielders converging on the baseball

-CF straight in/ back or towards the line – Base Umpire

-CF towards LF line – Plate Umpire

-Routine Fly ball – Base Umpire come in to pivot with runner

Line Drives:

- A. Line drives to 1st basemen in front of base- Plate Umpire
- B. Line drives to 2nd Basemen towards second base- Plate Umpire
- C. All line drives to 3rd basemen- Plate Umpire
- D. Line drives to SS towards 3rd base- Plate Umpire
- E. Line drives to SS towards 1st base- Base Umpire
- F. Line drives to 2nd Basemen towards first base- Base Umpire
- G. Line drives pass 1st basemen beyond base- Base Umpire

Ground Balls:

- A. Base umpire- set up for play
- B. Plate Umpire- move up the 45ft line for
 - Overthrow, 3ft Running lane Interference, Swipe tag
 - Batter/ Runner tag before 45ft line – Plate Umpire
 - Batter/ Runner tag after 45ft line – Base Umpire

Base Hit/ pop-up to Infield:

- A. Base Umpire – Pivot, stay ahead of runner
- B. Plate Umpire – Fair/ Foul, Catch/ No Catch

RUNNER ON 1ST

Positioning:

- A. Base Umpire – 1st base side of infield in working area; not too deep

Fair/ Foul Catch/ No Catch – Line Drives to Infield

- A. Plate Umpire - Left fielder towards line / Right fielder towards line
 - B. Plate Umpire - 1st / 3rd basemen towards line, pitcher
 - C. Base Umpire - Left fielder straight-in / Right fielder straight-in and everything else in the “V”
 - D. Base Umpire - Line drives directly at 1st/3rd baseman
- Remember:* Base umpire never leaves the infield to cover fly balls

Ground Balls/ Base Hits:

- A. Plate Umpire - moves in the direction of 3rd base for possible 1st to 3rd rotation if ball goes into the out field
- C. Plate Umpire – must have Ball and runner at 3rd to cover the play
- B. Base Umpire – has all plays and at 1st, 2nd and 3rd if ball stays on the infield

Pick off at 1st/ Steal of 2nd

- A. Pick off - Step toward the 45ft line to improve angle
- B. Steal - Drop back, turn with the ball coming over left shoulder. Be stopped

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND BASE

Positioning:

- A. Base Umpire – on 3rd base side of infield in working area not too deep

Fair/ Foul Catch/ No Catch

- A. Same as with runner on 1st base only

Line Drives in Infield:

- A. Same as with Runner on 1st

Ground Ball:

- B. Base Umpire – all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, split difference in working area keeping ball in front of you at all times.
- C. Plate Umpire – will stay home line up any overthrows, watch the touch of 3rd if ball goes through the infield for base hit
- D. Plate umpire will never go to 3rd base with a runner on 2nd and a base hit

Fly Ball to outfield:

- A. Tag up with less than 2 outs Plate umpire will take runner on 2nd into 3rd

Steal Play at 3rd:

- A. Step to imaginary 45ft line to improve angle

Timing Play:

- A. Plate Umpire – with 2 out, line up any possible time plays with the runner coming home and the base of any potential 3rd out.

RUNNERS ON 2ND ONLY – 3RD ONLY OR BASES LOADED

- A. Positioning is the same as with runners on 1st and 2nd
- B. Fair/ Foul Catch/ No Catch coverage is same anytime runners are on base
- C. Tag up at 3rd – Plate Umpire
- D. Play back into 3rd – Base Umpire
- E. All touches of 3rd belong to the plate umpire except batter-runner
- F. All touches of 1st, 2nd and batter-runner touches of 3rd – base umpire
- G. Base Umpire – will take 1st plays on the infield

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD

- A. Positioning is same with runner on 1st base only
- B. Base hit to outfield: Plate Umpire – has runner going from 1st to 3rd if ball and runner take him into cutout
- C. Check over shoulder for the touch of home by the runner on 3rd

RUNDOWNS

- A. Plate Umpire – will move into position while play is going away, then communicate to his partner when he is in the cutout.
- B. Base Umpire – will have all tags until plate umpire is in position