

Baseball Umpire Equipment

- **Pants**
 - Heather or Charcoal Gray (no cuffs)
 - One pair for bases
 - One pair for plate (They need to be large enough in the legs to accommodate your shin guards, UNDER your pants!)
 - You can also purchase “combo” pants from the sports officials supply companies that are suitable for both plate and field.....maybe. It depends on how large your legs, particularly your calves, are.
- **Belt**
 - Black belt (1 ½ to 2 inch wide – depending on pants)
 - Belts should have plain silver buckles
- **Shirts**
 - Navy with red/white/blue stripes or other approved shirt (see Uniform Policy). If you only get one set, get NAVY.
 - You need two shirts. One that fits for the bases and one that is a size larger for the plate to accommodate your chest protector UNDER the shirt, or in case of a problem (torn / dirty).
 - Get a “Hidden Tailor” belt from a sports official supplier or a local retailer. This is a stretchable belt specially designed to be worn over your shirt, but under your pants to keep your shirt tucked in during the game.
 - You may also want to purchase a long sleeve umpire shirt for cool weather.
 - Umpire NUMBERS are not allowed on Shirts (or Jackets). American Flags are optional, but if worn they must be on the left sleeve.
- **Jackets**
 - An approved pullover may be worn (see Uniform Policy). Several types are available from sports official suppliers. The default is the navy pullover with red/white trim at the shoulders.
 - Get one that will fit over your chest protector and not be too snug. If necessary, this one can also be worn on the bases, although some umpires have one for the bases and one for the plate.
 - If you can only get one, then get a lined jacket. Cold weather is no fun. You may want to get unlined jackets later for cool, but not cold, weather.
- **Cap**
 - Fitted caps with TASO logo for High School season
 - Fitted caps that are blank or with CCBUA or AABC logo for Summer season
 - “Combo” caps are available for both bases and plate, although most umpires have two.
 - It is recommended that you get a “cap keeper” to store your caps between games. There are several types available and they will keep your caps shaped and clean between games.
- **Shoes**
 - Bases
 - Predominately black. If the logo is white, that’s OK as long as the shoe is predominately black. You can get these just about anywhere. “Cross training” shoes work fine.
 - Plate
 - Get a pair from a sports official supplier. They should have a steel guard over the instep of the foot and toe. Plain steel-toed work shoes are not sufficient, as they do not provide protection for the instep of the foot.
 - “Convertible” shoes are available that are designed to be used for both plate and bases. The steel protective plate is removable when you work the bases.
 - Keep your shoes in shoe bags – sometimes they come with a bag or you can purchase one at most department stores—it keeps them in better shape between games.

- **Socks**
 - Black, Navy, or Blue
 - No “designs” – Just plain socks
 - For Plate Work (if you don’t wear ankle length compression pants), get long socks that reach to your knees to reduce chafing from your shin guards.

- **Groin/Pelvic protection**
 - Males need an athletic protector. The “Banana” cup is strongly recommended. It goes farther underneath the crotch area to provide protection from those pesky foul balls that bounce straight up underneath you. It is also padded around the edge so it is less irritating.
 - Females can get a pelvic protector from the sports official suppliers, which are designed, specifically for use by female officials.

- **Mask**
 - DON’T SKIMP HERE...GET A GOOD ONE. The \$19.95 masks are OK for kids (and even some adults) who are catchers. They have gloves---you don’t. Expect to pay \$60+ for a mask. Get a lightweight mask, as the heavy ones get *really* heavy by day’s end, especially if you have to do two plate jobs or work a 12-inning game.

- **Chest protector**
 - Get the best you can afford. DON’T get a catcher’s chest protector. It is not thick enough to protect you from a foul ball or missed pitch and does not provide should or clavicle protection.

- **Shin guards**
 - Get ones that FIT. Shin guards that are too long are uncomfortable, and you won’t know why---- just that they rub and “don’t feel right”. The reps from the sports official supplier companies can help you with these, or contact some of the instructors for assistance in determining your size.

- **Ball Bag**
 - Either one or two cloth ball bags that are navy, black, or gray in color. Do NOT get the “softball” bag with thin loops to hang from the belt and an elastic band at the top of the bag.
 - If you wear two bags, they must be the same color (See Uniform Policy for acceptable color combinations).

- **Undergarments**
 - T-shirts should be red, black, white, or navy blue. Most wear red with the navy pullover shirt and navy with the light blue shirt, although some wear red with both shirts. (See Uniform Policy for acceptable color combinations.)
 - Turtleneck or mock turtleneck shirts – use these instead of T-shirts in cold weather. If you wear a long sleeve turtleneck or other shirt, it is preferable that you wear either a jacket or a long sleeve shirt.
 - Under Armor® and similar products – although somewhat pricey, these are great additions to your gear bag. They make products for cold weather (keeps you warm), and hot weather (wicks away moisture and keeps you cooler).
 - Compression pants (optional, but highly recommended).
 - There are two types, short and full-length. The short ones come down to about mid-thigh and can have a protective cup pouch or can be purchased without the pouch
 - Ideally, grey or black. That way if you “rip your britches”, it won’t be quite so obvious.
 - The long compression pants provide support for your legs during a game and virtually eliminate the chafing from your shin guards.

- **Other equipment**
 - Plate brush
 - Lineup card/note holder
 - Pen/Pencils
 - Indicators
 - Have at least two ---Murphy lives here, if you only have one it will break. If you have two, the one you use will last forever.
 - There are several types. Find one that works for you.

- **Other useful things to have in your bag/car**
 - Spray bottle with water – for cleaning shoes, caps before a game.
 - 2-3 shop towels/rags – for cleaning shoes and wiping down your chest protector and shin guards after a game.
 - Band-aids, sunscreen, insect repellent
 - Folding chair – for use when changing clothes
 - Small piece of carpet or doormat – for use when changing clothes
 - Slip-on sandals, flip-flops – for use when changing clothes
 - Cold-weather gear
 - Gloves – black batting gloves, cloth “skiers” gloves, etc. Something thin enough to allow you to use your indicator that will also help keep your hand warm.
 - Ear protection - Sports official suppliers have a variety of ear protection devices that can be worn with your cap.
 - Spare parts
 - Shoelaces
 - Extra straps for your shin guards
 - Extra strap for you mask
 - Shoe polish and shoe brush
 - Small clothes brush to clean your hat, pants, shirts, etc.
 - Glasses cleaner and wipes (if you wear glasses or sunglasses)
 - Small plastic scraper (for cleaning the plate on muddy fields)
 - Elastic ankle support—for when you have a slight sprain during a game