

FPUSA Umpire Regulations

General

- The National Sport Director shall submit, to the board, at the beginning of each year the current list of umpires.
- The umpire roster requires the approval, by a simple majority, of the board.
- The umpire roster shall be approved and posted no later than January 31st of each year.
- All candidates must complete an application for each level.

Requirements

All candidates begin as Club Umpires and must possess effective interpersonal skills, a sense of fairness and an aptitude for applying the rules of the game. Candidates must also have the ability to measure points accurately on one knee, no exceptions.* Any FPUSA member in good standing may become a Club Umpire upon meeting the following requirements:

- Be a member of the FPUSA for at least 12 months.
- Be nominated by their club president, a Regional or National Umpire or by an elected FPUSA official.
- Receive approval from the National Sport Director.
- Possess a tape measure with metric intervals, folding rule (with extension) and calipers.
- Pass the practical and written tests.

* Any current umpires unable to position themselves on one knee are restricted from further advancement.

For promotion to Regional Umpire a candidate must:

- Have held a Club Umpire's license for three consecutive years.
- Have maintained an excellent record of officiating as a Club Umpire.
- Officiated a minimum of six tournaments during the prior two years.
- Be recommended by a Sport Committee member or an elected FPUSA official.
- Receive approval from the National Sport Director.
- Pass the Regional Umpire test.

For promotion to National Umpire a candidate must:

- Have held their Regional Umpire's license for three consecutive years.
- Have maintained an excellent record of officiating as a Regional Umpire.
- Officiated in six tournaments, including three regionals, during the prior two years and/or assisted at a National Tournament.
- Receive approval from the National Sport Director.
- Be recommended to the Board of Directors by the National Sport Director.

- Pass the National Umpire test.

Once a candidate has met all applicable requirements, they will receive an official Study Guide which includes the following:

- a copy of the official rules
- photos and descriptions of the measuring requirements
- additional information the Sports Committee representative may deem to be helpful

Testing

1. Testing may be conducted immediately upon approval of a candidate's application by the National Sport Director, Sport Committee or Board of Directors.
2. The practical and written tests must be taken on the same day with the practical portion of the test being administered prior to the written. If the candidate does not pass the practical portion, then the written will not be administered.
3. Testing for Club Umpires must be conducted by a minimum of two FPUSA members, one of whom must be a Regional or National Umpire, who will be the administrator, and the other an elected official or Sport Committee rep, who will be the witness. In the event a National and/or Regional Umpire is unavailable to administer the Club Umpire test, after reasonable efforts have been made to secure one, a Club Umpire may do so if the Club Umpire has: (a) maintained an excellent record of officiating as a Club Umpire, (b) held a license for three consecutive years or officiated a minimum of six tournaments, and (c) received the approval of the National Sport Director.
4. Testing for Regional Umpires must be conducted by a minimum of two FPUSA members, one of whom must be a Regional or National Umpire, who will be the administrator, and the other an elected official or Sport Committee rep, who will be the witness.
5. Testing for National Umpire level must be conducted by a minimum of two FPUSA members, one of whom must be a National Umpire, who will be the administrator, and the other an elected official or Sport Committee rep, who will be the witness.
6. Open-book tests are not allowed.
7. Testing includes the practical measurement of boules to jack at all levels: Club, Regional and National.
8. The written test for Club Umpires consists of 25 questions. A passing grade is 75%.
9. The written test for Regional Umpire consists of 35 questions. A passing grade is 80%.
10. The written test for National Umpire will consist of 50 questions. A passing grade is 85%.
11. Incorrect answers must be reviewed with the candidate by the administrator.

12. Any candidate who fails the first test may retake it no less than 24 hours from the initial test, *provided* that all parties involved are available. Any candidate who fails to pass the test on the second attempt must wait 6 months before testing again. After a failed third attempt, should the candidate wish to test again, the entire testing process will begin anew, starting with submitting an application and securing all necessary approvals.

Certification and Re-Certification

1. Once all procedures described above have been completed the candidate will receive a FPUSA lanyard with a badge holder containing an official Umpire's License and a set of penalty cards.
2. Every umpire must keep a current FPUSA license. If an umpire allows their membership in the FPUSA to lapse for one year, their license will expire and will not be renewed without re-application and re-certification. They would be allowed to re-apply to the same level or lower that they held at the time the license lapsed.
3. The license must be carried and displayed whenever an umpire is officiating in a tournament.
4. Re-certification may be required for any and all umpires.

Conduct and Discipline

1. Umpires must conduct themselves in a diplomatic and professional manner that reflects positively on the FPUSA when officiating.
2. Umpires must never argue with players or with other umpires.
3. Umpires should exercise their authority respectfully, firmly and fairly.
4. Complaints regarding umpire conduct or proficiency may be filed with any elected FPUSA official or Sport Committee member. All complaints must be forwarded to the National Sport Director.
5. For a complaint to be considered by the National Sport Director, it must be filed by any of the following:
 - Two FPUSA members who witnessed an alleged incident
 - An elected FPUSA official who witnessed an alleged incident
 - A Sport Committee member who witnessed an alleged incident
 - An FPUSA Umpire who was on duty and witnessed an alleged incident
 - A Tournament Director from the event where the alleged incident took place
6. The Sport Committee will make a determination on the complaint. If there is a penalty or remedy to be applied, it must be approved by the President. If the matter is judged to be grounds for revocation of an umpire's license, the case will be referred to the Discipline Committee.

7. In all matters referred to the Discipline Committee, standard disciplinary procedure outlined in FPUSA Bylaw Article XII must be used.
8. If the complaint is brought against a member of the Sport Committee, that member will recuse themselves from the proceedings. In a case where the complaint was brought against the National Sport Director, the President or a designee of the President will preside over the proceedings.

Officiating

Unlike most other federations FPUSA Umpires are permitted to play in competitions in which they are officiating. Umpires must respond immediately to calls to officiate outside of the game in which they are playing and are forbidden in making reference to their position as an umpire in those games in which they are playing.

The role of an Umpire is that of a teacher and not a punisher. In situations that provide the opportunity to improve the knowledge of players by explaining rules, it is the Umpires responsibility to do so. This may need to occur off the court or after a match. At all times there should be respect for the rules and a team should not be allowed to benefit from non-adherence to the rules.

1. Umpires must be present before the start of the competition for assignment and to assist the organizing committee.
2. Umpires must have the FPUSA issued Umpire's license in a visible position.
3. Umpires must have all the necessary instruments to carry out their duties: 10 meter tape, tape measure with metric intervals, folding rule (with extension) and calipers.
4. Umpires must, before the start of the competition, describe the limits of the terrain and the rules being enforced in the competition.
5. Umpires must make decisions expeditiously and move off without discussion. The decision of the ruling umpire is final and may not be appealed.
6. Umpires must inspect boules that appear irregular and judge their conformity to the official rules.
7. Where situations arise that are not covered in the official rules, the umpire must call for the jury appointed for the competition.
8. Umpires must never criticize decisions of another umpire publicly.
9. Umpires must dress appropriately.
10. Complete a report if requested by the Tournament Director or the National Sport Director.
11. Only National Umpires may serve as head umpire at national tournaments. Regional umpires may be used for assistance, at the discretion of the Head Umpire.

12. Only Regional Umpires should serve as head umpire at regional tournaments. Club and National Umpires may be used for assistance. Absent of a Regional Umpire, a National Umpire may serve as the head umpire and be assisted by Club Umpires.
13. Club Umpires may officiate at any club tournament at the request of a tournament director.
14. The National Sport Director has the right to request or deny staffing selections in advance of any qualifier, national or regional tournament.
15. Head Umpires may not leave a tournament until all games are completed.
16. Playing Umpires cannot officiate in their own game.

Umpire Emeritus

The Board of Directors may upon a recommendation by the Sport Committee, and by majority, bestow upon a retired umpire the honorary title of “Umpire Emeritus” in recognition of their service to the organization. Each Umpire Emeritus shall be issued an official license on an annual basis. Upon request, an Umpire Emeritus may serve on FPUSA tournament juries, assist and advise the umpire staff at FPUSA events and assist in the administration of umpire exams.