

# How to Become a Fast-Pitch Softball Umpire

Fast-Pitch softball is an exciting fast-moving game played by some of the best female athletes in the area. It is one of the most popular American sports and has become one of the most widely played throughout the U.S.



## Things To Consider

### Physical Demands

Expect normal physical demands. You will be required to jog several times to properly position yourself. You will stand several hours on end, occasionally in high heat.

### Mental Demands

Softball umpires, regardless of level, understand the game. Visual observe many situations at once. are required to work with players,



### Training

Our association conducts ongoing exercises that will prepare you for what you'll face. NVSUA has an intensive introductory course for new umpires to get you ready for your first season. Our trainers apply a unique approach of "hands-on" training that will prepare you to make

proper calls, enforce the rules and look good doing it. We use players as often as we can during training to simulate the speed of the game. New umpires will participate in training scrimmages and new umpires will have a “mentor” on the sidelines or on the field for their first games.

## Equipment

Equipment and uniform requirements are listed in detail on the NVSUA website. Here are some of the requirements:

- Polished, black athletic shoes.
- Heather slacks.
- Powder blue shirt.
- A fitted cap.
- A mask with a throat protector.
- An inside chest protector.



Estimated cost: \$300. Often times we have veteran officials who are willing to give or sell you “hand-me-downs” to help you get geared up at a reduced cost.

## Game Fees

Game fees vary based on leagues and level. Pay for local leagues range from \$64-\$67 a game. Games may last 1:40-2:00 hours and you may have double-headers on most days. High School (JV and Varsity) games could be longer or shorter and pay ranges between \$82-\$90 a game. Based on the rates and the time worked, umpires make approximately \$33-\$43/hour. Weekend tournaments are also available where you can possibly work 4-6 shorter games a day at a rate of \$50 a game.



When assigned games. We use an officials’ software system, ArbiterSports.com which allows you to enter days, times and locations you would like to work. This gives you the flexibility to work as little or as much as you can. You will also work at a level that you are most comfortable and competent with. You will progress to the “higher” level games as soon as you are ready.