

2022-2025 GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR SOFTBALL UMPIRE LICENSING

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR LICENSING:

- Candidates wishing to become WBSC Softball Licensed Umpires shall meet the following criteria:
 1. Pass the Pre-Seminar Qualification Exam with a mark of 85%
 2. Shall be currently, and for the immediate preceding five (5) years, a registered and active umpire.
 3. Shall be in good standing with their National Federation.
 4. Submit an application supported by their Federation.
 5. Be at the highest level of umpiring recognised by their Federation.
 6. Must complete all WBSC Softball Umpire License Course work successfully.
 7. Pay the appropriate fee.
- Candidates must achieve a measurement equal to or better than the benchmarks set out in the physical fitness protocol.
- WBSC Seminar consists of scoring on the following elements: leadership, case plays and mechanic plays

- Upon successfully completing the course work, candidates will need to go through a live game on-field evaluation.
- The competition used for the purposes of the on-field evaluation portion of the WBSC Softball Umpire Certification protocol shall be categorised as either an intermediate level competition or a high-level competition by the WBSC Umpire Director in consultation with the appropriate WBSC Regional Umpire Coordinator and the Host Federation.
- Initial Levels will be based on a candidate's on-field performance at the competition as determined by the Seminar Evaluators. At least a Level I rating must be obtained for the purposes of Licensing.
- To be considered an acceptable performance, a candidate must receive a score between 85 and 94 on their on-field evaluation.
- To be considered a strong performance, a candidate must receive a score of 95 or better on their on-field evaluation.
- To obtain a Level 1 or 2 License, a candidate must complete Level 1 of the WBSC Softball Academy Umpires Learning Course. Candidates for a Level 3 License must complete both Level 1 and Level 2 of the WBSC Softball Academy Umpires Learning Course.

2. LICENSING LEVELS:

Level I Umpire - USD 80.00

Criteria to reach Level I Umpire:

- Must have completed the official WBSC Softball Umpire Licensing Course successfully.
- Must score a strong performance rating at an intermediate level competition or an acceptable performance at a high-level competition

- WBSC Umpire Director will make licensing decisions in consultation with the Umpiring Commission. The WBSC Executive Director shall ratify the final decision.

Criteria of eligibility for WBSC Softball World Cups:

- Level I umpires shall be eligible to be appointed to any Level I WBSC softball tournaments: U15 Women's and U12 Mixed.
- If, after any WBSC tournament, an umpire in Level I obtains a poor evaluation (84 or below) from the Umpire Director at the tournament, said umpire shall be removed from eligibility for the World Cups list until such time as they are able to prove through their federation that they have improved their umpire ability and skill.
- Level I umpires appointments shall be nominated by the National Federation, reviewed by the Regional Umpire Directors based on previous evaluations for a recommendation, appointed by WBSC Umpire Director and confirmed by the WBSC Softball Chairman.

Level II Umpire - USD 100.00

Criteria to reach Level II Umpire:

- Must have completed the official WBSC Softball Umpire Licensing Course successfully.
- Must score a strong performance rating at a high-level licensing competition, at a U12 Mixed World Cup or a U15 Women's World Cup
- WBSC Umpire Director will make licensing decisions in consultation with the Umpiring Commission. The WBSC Executive Director shall ratify the final decision.

Criteria of eligibility for WBSC Softball World Cups:

- Level II umpires shall be eligible to be appointed to any Level II WBSC softball tournaments: U23 Men's, U18 Men's, U18 Women's, U15 Women's and U12 Mixed

- If, after any WBSC tournament, an umpire in Level II obtains a poor evaluation (84 or below) from the Umpire Director at the tournament, it may be recommended that the umpire return to Level I.
- Level II umpire appointments shall be nominated by the National Federation, reviewed by the Regional Umpire Directors based on previous evaluations for a recommendation, and appointed by WBSC Umpire Director.

Level III Umpire - USD 120.00

Criteria to reach Level III Umpire:

- Must have completed the official WBSC Softball Umpire Licensing Course successfully.
- Must score a strong performance rating at a Women's, U18 Men's, U18 Women's, U23 Men's
- WBSC Umpire Director will make licensing decisions in consultation with the Umpiring Commission. The WBSC Executive Director shall ratify the final decision.

Criteria of eligibility for WBSC Softball World Cups:

- Level III umpires shall be eligible to be appointed to any WBSC Softball tournaments: Open Women's, Open Men's, Open Women's, U23 Men's, U18 Men's, U18 Women's, U15 Women's and U12 Mixed.
- Level III umpires may also assist the Umpiring Commission, depending on their individual merit, in any camps or clinics organised by the WBSC.
- If, after any WBSC tournament, an umpire in Level III obtains a poor evaluation (84 or below) from the Umpire Director at the tournament, it may be recommended that the umpire return to Level II.
- Level III umpire appointments shall be nominated by the National Federation, reviewed by the Regional Umpire Directors based on previous evaluations for a recommendation, appointed by WBSC Umpire Director and confirmed by the WBSC Softball Chairman.

3. RENEWAL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION TO A WORLD

CUP:

Licensed umpires seeking to renew their eligibility to be selected to a World Cup are required to:

- Complete and pass the Renewal of Eligibility for Selection to a World Cup online test with a mark of 85%.
- Submit to the WBSC either a positive on-field evaluation from a World Cup held in the four years prior or a letter from their Federation's President or UIC advising that they are active and still able to umpire at a World Cup.
- Submit to the WBSC the results of the Physical Fitness Testing components, verified by their Federation UIC.
- Must complete Level 1 and Level 2 of the WBSC Softball Academy Softball Umpire Learning Course.
- Upon successful renewal of eligibility, current WBSC Rankings will be converted to the new WBSC Umpire Levels so that the following conversion will happen.
 - Ranking of 1 – Level I
 - Ranking of 2 – Level II
 - Ranking of 3 or 4 - Level III

NOTE: UMPIRES MUST RENEW THEIR ELIGIBILITY TO BE SELECTED TO A WORLD CUP IN EVERY 4-YEAR RULE PERIOD BY FOLLOWING THE ABOVE PROTOCOL. CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RENEWAL OF ELIGIBILITY, BUT ONE MAY BE IMPOSED IN THE FUTURE.

4. WBSC SOFTBALL UMPIRE LICENSING

LICENSING SEMINAR:

1) Interactive Session:

- Leadership Measurement
- Umpiring the WBSC way
- Recognising Obstruction and Interference on the field
- Proper Application of the Rules
- Case Plays Measurement
- Mechanic Play Measurement

2) On-field Evaluation:

- Physical Fitness Confirmation
- Plate Mechanics Measurement
- Game Evaluation at each position