

2026-2029 GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR UMPIRE LICENSING

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR LICENSING

Qualification / Approval Requirements:

Candidates wishing to become a WBSC Licensed Umpire shall meet the following criteria:

1. An individual who is interested in umpiring should contact their WBSC affiliated National Federation to become a registered official with the National Federation.
2. The applicant must be ranked at the highest level of umpiring within their National Federation when applying.
3. Open to both men and women.
4. Candidates must be at least 25 years old but not older than 65.
5. To attend a seminar, applicants must submit the application supported by their National Federation.
6. Candidates shall be currently, and for the immediate preceding three (3) years, a registered and active umpire being at the highest level championship organised by the National Federation and being an umpire recognised by their respective National Federation.
7. Pass the Pre-Seminar Qualification Exam with a score of 85%.
8. The applicant must be in good physical condition and able to perform the duties of an elite umpire at the highest level.
9. Pay the appropriate fee.

Application:

In order to attend a WBSC Umpire Licensing Course, candidates must complete an application form, which may be obtained from the WBSC Office or on the WBSC website: www.wbsc.org

1. Along with the application, the applicant must forward a digital head and shoulder photograph to development@wbsc.org
2. Applications that are not completed correctly or are submitted without the photo(s) and required signatures, or do not meet the qualifications as outlined in Section A above, will be returned to the respective National Federation.
3. Before attending the course the applicant is requested to pay a licensing fee of USD 100

Deadlines:

1. Applications will be received throughout the year.
2. Notification of when and where the next WBSC Baseball/Softball Certification Seminar will be held, closing dates, etc. will be e-mailed to applicants once it is announced.
3. All applicants and their National Federations will be advised, in writing, of their acceptance to attend the seminar. Acceptance is on a first come, first serve basis with applicants from the Host Federation getting preference.

Expenses:

If not differently specified, all expenses incurred by the applicant attending a WBSC Umpire Seminar (i.e. all travel, housing, and meals) are the responsibility of the applicant.

Requirements for WBSC Licensed Umpires:

Once the WBSC has accepted the application, the candidates will have to take the required interactive and evaluation courses for a WBSC license. Upon completion of a licensing course, Umpire Level is determined by the WBSC Umpire Director in consultation with the relevant Umpiring Commission.

Candidates wishing to become WBSC Licensed Umpire shall meet the following requirements:

1. Must complete all WBSC Umpire License Courses work successfully
2. Candidates must achieve a measurement equal to or better than the benchmarks set out in the physical fitness protocol.
3. WBSC Seminar consists of scoring on the following elements: leadership, case plays and mechanic plays.

4. Must attend a WBSC sanctioned course. This could be a National Federation camp that the WBSC acknowledges.
5. Must be evaluated in person by a WBSC representative from the WBSC Baseball or Softball Umpiring Commission or by Certified WBSC Instructors.
6. New candidates that are certified to be a WBSC International umpire must recertify in four years.
7. Upon successfully completing the course work, candidates will need to go through a live game on-field evaluation. Plate work as well bases.
8. The competition used for the purposes of the on-field evaluation portion of the WBSC Baseball/Softball Umpire Certification protocol shall be categorized as either an intermediate level competition or a high-level competition by the WBSC Baseball/Softball Umpire Director in consultation with the appropriate WBSC Regional Umpire Coordinator and the Host Federation.
9. 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 1 rating must be obtained for the purposes of Licensing.
10. Good knowledge of WBSC Official Rules of Baseball or Softball. A written rules test of 50 questions will be administered by WBSC. A passing grade is 85%.
11. Must know the WBSC four (4) and three (3) umpire mechanics. Mechanic questions will also be included in the test.
12. Written exam, Interview, Practical and Physical. The points from each section will be combined according to the following weight:
 - a. Written 20%
 - b. Interview 10%
 - c. Physical 10%
 - d. Practical 60%Notwithstanding the above, if one of the test scores is lower than 70%
The attendant will fail to achieve the International Certificate. A written notice on the final clinic results shall be sent to the National Federation within three weeks after the end of the seminar.
13. If candidates have worked a professional league for a minimum of two years this may satisfy, subject to approval by the Umpire Commission for Baseball or Softball.

2. UMPIRE LEVELS

Level 1 Umpire

Criteria to reach Level 1 Umpire:

1. Must have completed the official WBSC Baseball/Softball Umpire Licensing Course successfully.
2. WBSC Umpire Director will make licensing decisions in consultation with the Umpiring Commission.

Criteria of eligibility for WBSC World Cups:

1. Must have worked at least one National Tournament at the highest national level or equivalent.
2. Must have worked at least one Continental Tournament or equivalent.
3. Must have sufficient knowledge of English and/or Spanish.
4. Level 1 umpires shall be eligible to be appointed to any Level 1 WBSC tournaments:
 - a. Baseball: U-12 & U-15 Baseball World Cup;
 - b. Softball: U-15 Women's Softball World Cup.
5. If, after any WBSC tournament, an umpire in Level 1 obtains a poor evaluation (80 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 another evaluation process, that the umpire has improved umpire ability and skill.
6. Level 1 umpire appointments will be nominated by the WBSC Umpire Director with the consultation of the Umpire Commission.

Level 2 Umpire

Criteria to reach Level 2 Umpire:

1. Must have completed the official WBSC Baseball/Softball Umpire Licensing Course successfully.
2. Must have worked at least two years in Level 1.
3. WBSC Umpire Director will make licensing decisions in consultation with the Umpiring Commission.

Criteria of eligibility for WBSC World Cups:

1. Must have worked at least one National Tournament at the highest national level or equivalent.
2. Must have worked at least one Continental Tournament or equivalent.
3. Level 2 umpires shall be eligible to be appointed to any Level 1 and 2 WBSC tournaments:
 - a. Baseball: U-12, U-15, U-18, U-23 & Women's Baseball World Cup;
 - b. Softball: U-15 & U-18 Women's, U-18 & U-23 Men's Softball World Cup

4. If, after any WBSC tournament, an umpire in Level 2 obtains a poor evaluation (80 or below) from the Umpire Director at the tournament, it may be recommended that the umpire return to Level 1.
5. Level 2 umpire appointments will be nominated by the WBSC Umpire Director with the consultation of the Umpire Commission.

Level 3 Umpire

Criteria to reach Level 3 Umpire:

1. Must have completed the official WBSC Baseball/Softball Umpire Licensing Course successfully.
2. Must have worked at least one Continental Tournament.
3. Must have worked at least two years in Level 2.
4. Level 3 umpire appointments will be nominated by the WBSC Umpire Director with the consultation of the Umpire Commission.

Criteria of eligibility for WBSC World Cups:

1. Level 3 umpires shall be eligible to be appointed to any Level 1, 2 or 3 WBSC tournaments:
 - a. Baseball: all Men's & Women's Baseball World Cups including Premier12 and Olympic Games;
 - b. Softball: all Men's & Women's Softball World Cups including Olympic Games;
2. If, after any WBSC tournament, an umpire in Level 3 obtains a poor evaluation (80 or below) from the Umpire Director at the tournament, it may be recommended that the umpire return to Level 2.
3. Level 3 umpire appointments will be nominated by the Respective WBSC Umpire Director with the consultation of the Respective Umpire Commission.

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:

1. Complete and pass the Renewal of Eligibility for Selection to a World Cup online test with a score of 85%.
2. 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 National Federation Umpire Director advising that they are active.
3. Submit to the WBSC the results of the Physical Fitness Testing components, verified by their National Federation Umpire Director or WBSC Umpire Commission member.

Notes:

1. 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.
2. Unless certified in the current rule period, all certified umpires who wish to be considered for selection to a WBSC World Cup or Sanctioned Event must recertify every rule period.
3. Umpires may recertify beginning in 2026 by achieving 85% correct answers on an online rules exam consisting of 50 questions. If unable to take the rules exam online other arrangements may be made through the umpires National Federation.

APPENDIX I – PROGRAMME OF A WBSC UMPIRE LICENSING COURSE

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

APPENDIX II – HOSTING AN UMPIRING LICENSING COURSE

APPLICATIONS:

Applications to host an Umpiring Licensing Course may be obtained from the WBSC Development Department or may be downloaded from the WBSC website.

Applications once completed must be forwarded to the WBSC Office for the approval and to the WBSC Director of Umpires

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES: Umpire Licensing Course

1. WBSC will arrange and cover the cost of the instructor's travel and per diem.
2. Host to arrange for local travel and accommodations (single occupancy) and meals for instructors.
3. Host to provide airport pick up and drop off from designated airport for instructors and participants.
4. Host to arrange a block of rooms for the participants who have to cover the cost of rooms. Host to provide local transportation for participants to classroom and fields.
5. Host to arrange the requirements requested by the instructor, as for classrooms, fields, equipment including balls, bats, gloves, bases, white boards, markers, flip charts, projectors, pitching machine or live pitching, etc.
6. Host to arrange sufficient games for evaluation of umpires. The number of games to make the practical evaluation should be enough so that all the umpires participating in the clinic can be evaluated in all the positions of the field, in at least one game. The level of the practical evaluation games must be in accordance with the level of the certification clinic that is proposed to be organized. The application form for the organisation of the certification clinic must specify the level and characteristics of the competition in which the practical evaluation will take place, in order to be accepted from the WBSC umpire commission.
7. Host to allow two (2) full days for classroom work and testing.
8. The request must be sent at least 3 months before the scheduled start of the Course. A minimum number of candidates shall be established on a case by case before approval.