

I suspect that we will have somewhere around 900 regular and post season recreational games; plus another 1400 or so Tournament games. I may be off, but I bet that number isn't low. **We need our umpires to work games.** It may sound crazy, but every year there are some guys that are reluctant to take games or that only will work games at a certain level and above. We are willing to work with your schedule and work around High School/College games. We need experienced umpires to work with our newer umpires and give them on the job training!

Umpires that work the recreational season are going to be at the front of the line when we do tournament assignments. Let me repeat that as it causes confusion every year: **Umpires that work the recreational season are going to be at the front of the line when we do tournament assignments.** We encourage you to fill in your schedule after ours comes out but if you are taking recreational games from other assigners when we have games that need to be covered or you think that you will only work during the summer; keep in mind that you will only work **if needed** and, in the case of the smaller tournaments, may not even need to be invited. **We do have 3-4 tournaments a year that we need everybody we can get to come.**

We try to assign you games that are close to you and at a level we feel you are comfortable to work, but we like to move you around so the leagues/tournament teams see different faces. We will also have veteran umpires work at lower levels to help train newer umpires or when we have a shortage of bodies on certain days. We also want to challenge newer umpires to move to higher levels when they demonstrate that they are ready.

Where you can expect to work-The following can go out the window if we are short handed but typically you can expect to work single games during the week during the recreational seasons close to your home town and possibly travel for 2 or more games on the weekends to the following areas based on where you live:

- Santa Maria/Orcutt will work in SM/Orcutt to Nipomo
- Nipomo will work SM/Orcutt to Nipomo to AG/Pismo
- AG/Pismo will work AG/Pismo to Nipomo
- SLO will work Los Osos to AG/Pismo
- Los Osos/North will work Los Osos to AG/Pismo
- Paso Robles will work Paso/Cambria

Tournaments: Tournaments play where the Tournament Director decides. Some will be in the Santa Maria/Orcutt area, some in the AG area, and some in the Paso Area. Many will play in multiple areas at the same time. Tournaments vary quite a bit as some will be big and some may just be a couple of fields-that is up to the success of the tournament director in attracting teams. How many games you get will depend on how many umpires sign up for a tournament. Priority will be given to those that were available, reliable, had professional gear/uniforms, and showed solid skills during the Rec season. We'll try to get as many guys involved as we can. Our priority is providing quality, consistent umpiring, so you generally will not work more than 2 games in a

row and 4 games in a day. On a typical day on a field playing 6 games we would use a 3 man rotation (1 umpire always on a break) and an umpire's schedule may look like: plate, plate, break, base, base.

What Level will you work-We have set a level for every one of our umpires to start. We base this ranking on personal observation as well as input from veteran umpires. For returning umpires, expect to start working at the level you have been working. For guys we haven't seen yet, expect to start at a level below where you have been working and move up on evaluation. Everyone will advance at a different rate and there are things you can do to help yourself that I will discuss in another message.

Communicate: Let me know if you have restrictions on where/when you can work so I can schedule more efficiently. Set your BLOCK in Arbiter so I don't schedule you when you are not available. I can see your HS schedule if you Share your schedule with me. If you work somewhere other than your home town I can schedule you there instead. Some guys like to travel and work new parks/leagues-that is good to know as well. Some umpires just want to work as many games as possible-we can help with that if we know that is what you desire.

COMMUNICATE!