

1. **Umpires Should Not Hesitate to Ask for Help.** As soon as reasonably possible, umpires should order their uniform items and get them ready to go for Opening Day. Do not hesitate to ask for help from your parents or to contact the ABR UIC or ABR Scheduler with any questions.
2. **Protective Equipment.** All umpires are required to wear the appropriate protective gear. This includes a mask (hockey or traditional face mask, both with a separate and attached throat guard); chest protector; shin guards; and a protective cup and cup holder when umpiring at home plate (as applicable). It is suggested that umpires wear a protective cup and cup holder when umpiring in the field (as applicable). All protective gear loaned to an umpire from ABR must be returned at the close of the spring season. By using borrowed equipment, the umpire agrees that their final paycheck may be held by ABR, and used to reimburse ABR, for any equipment that is not returned in a timely manner.
3. **Protective Equipment Must be Worn Properly.** Umpires are required to wear chest protectors (excluding blockers) inside their official umpire powder blue shirt. Umpires are also required to wear their shin guards under their official umpire pants. Umpire hats will be worn, forward facing, under traditional face masks.

**(UP FRONT – Returning umpires may continue to use the official umpire powder blue shirt that they already have if they are in good condition. Returning umpires are not required to buy new uniforms. However, if he/she are buying something new, such as an official umpire shirt or official umpire pants or an official umpire hat, it is highly encouraged that he/she buy uniforms as spelled out below.)**

4. **Uniform Standards.** All umpires are required to wear an approved uniform. This includes the approved navy-blue umpire hat (the first hat is provided by ABR; a replacement hat needs to be purchased by the umpire; such a hat is available at the following link – cut and paste and make sure to select “navy” for the color: [https://www.ump-attire.com/Baseball-Umpire-Equipment/Clothing-Apparel/Caps/535\\_Richardson-Surge-Adjustable-Combo-Plate-Base-Umpire-Cap](https://www.ump-attire.com/Baseball-Umpire-Equipment/Clothing-Apparel/Caps/535_Richardson-Surge-Adjustable-Combo-Plate-Base-Umpire-Cap)); an approved official umpire powder blue shirt (see below); a black belt (ideally leather with a silver buckle); approved dark charcoal grey official umpire pants (see below); and, appropriate black or dark colored athletic shoes.
5. **2019 Approved Official Umpire Powder Blue Umpire Shirt.** For 2019, the ABR Umpire in Chief (UIC) has approved an official umpire powder blue shirt with a powder blue collar, and white and navy-blue striping on the edge of the collar and the edge of the sleeves. Such a shirt is available at the following link – cut and paste and select shirt size: [https://www.ump-attire.com/Baseball-Umpire-Equipment/Clothing-Apparel/Shirts/U126-PB\\_Smitty-Pro-Knit-Umpire-Shirt-Powder-Blue](https://www.ump-attire.com/Baseball-Umpire-Equipment/Clothing-Apparel/Shirts/U126-PB_Smitty-Pro-Knit-Umpire-Shirt-Powder-Blue). This shirt is sized for the plate, meaning if you buy your normal size, it should be big enough to wear the chest protector underneath. If you are in between sizes, pick the larger size so it will fit you for the next couple of years. There is no need to add patches or numbers to the shirt. Make sure to **NOT** order the MLB style shirt (with a black trim side panel). Umpires are encouraged to shop at vendors of their choosing and may purchase these products or other brands elsewhere. Returning umpires may continue to use their official umpire powder blue shirts from previous years. In all cases, a plain light blue polo shirt, like one that might be purchased at Target or Walmart, is not considered an official umpire shirt. Initial purchases and any replacement purchases should match this ABR UIC approved

official umpire powder blue shirt with a powder (light) blue color and white and navy-blue striping on the edge of the collar and the edge of the sleeves. **\*\* This shirt will need to be ordered online, so plan-ahead and order early so you are equipped for Opening Day games.\*\***

6. **2019 Approved Dark Charcoal Grey Official Umpire Pants.** For 2019, the ABR UIC has approved dark charcoal grey official umpire pants with expander waistbands and pleats in the front. Umpires should buy “combo pants” size which can be worn both behind the plate and in the field and allow for the shin guards to be worn under the pants. Expander waistbands are good for growth. These pants are washable and can be put into the dryer. Such pants are available at the following link – cut and paste and select waist size: [https://www.ump-attire.com/Baseball-Umpire-Equipment/Clothing-Apparel/Pants/S375-CC\\_Smitty-Charcoal-Grey-Combo-Umpire-Pants-with-Expander-Waistband](https://www.ump-attire.com/Baseball-Umpire-Equipment/Clothing-Apparel/Pants/S375-CC_Smitty-Charcoal-Grey-Combo-Umpire-Pants-with-Expander-Waistband). Umpires are encouraged to shop at vendors of their choosing and may purchase these products or other brands elsewhere. Returning umpires may continue to use their dark charcoal grey official umpire pants from previous years. Initial purchases and any replacement purchases should match these ABR UIC approved charcoal grey (dark grey) official umpire pants. **\*\* These official umpire pants will need to be ordered online and will need to be hemmed at home or at your local dry cleaners, so plan-ahead and order early so you are equipped for Opening Day games.\*\***
7. **Other Umpire Uniform Guidance.** Umpires must wear black socks of any kind. Umpires must wear a black belt (ideally leather with a silver belt buckle) of any kind. Umpires must provide their own protective cup and holder of any kind. **Optional** – Umpires may want to have sunglasses of some kind with a dark frame; Umpires will want to wear sunscreen and have a water bottle when appropriate; in case of cold weather, Umpires may want to have a black or dark hoodie or sweatshirt of some kind to wear under their official umpire powder blue shirt, and black or dark gloves of some kind.
8. **Uniform Reimbursement for Rookie Umpires.** Rookie umpires are eligible for a one-time uniform stipend, totaling \$50, upon completion of their eighth game for ABR. Umpires must provide receipts totaling at least \$50 reflecting that they incurred such umpire uniform expenses.
9. **Uniform Weather Exceptions.** In the event of cold weather, umpires may wear umpire jackets, hoodies/sweatshirts (under official umpire powder blue shirts), black gloves, and plain black beanies. In the event of temperatures in excess of 90 degrees, base umpires (only) may wear dark colored shorts with their official umpire powder blue shirt tucked in and black belts.
10. **Uniform Standards.** All umpires are expected to look professional by keeping their gear and uniforms clean and official umpire powder blue shirts tucked in. They are not allowed to wear team insignia or inappropriate advertisements.

**Get on it! Look sharp! Be impressive! Plan! Check your email! Have the right equipment and uniforms, and wear them properly! Ask for help if needed! Be responsible! Excel at your job! Earn money providing a valuable service! Have fun!**

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