



Burlington Organized Minor Baseball Association  
Uniform & Equipment Policy

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## Burlington Organized Minor Baseball Association Uniform & Equipment Policy

### Overview

BOMBA has established a Uniform & Equipment policy to support the administration and development of umpiring within the organization. The policy's purpose is to ensure umpires meet the minimum requirements of the dress code while managing the costs over the first six years of their development.

### Objectives

1. To provide minimum standards for uniforms for umpires at all levels in the Organization.
2. To manage the costs associated with the purchase of new equipment and uniforms.
3. To ensure compliance with OBA standards for uniforms and equipment.
4. To ensure the safety of umpires with minimum standards of protection.

### Terminology

Organization	Refers to Burlington Organized Minor Baseball Association (BOMBA).
Umpire	Refers to any umpire who umpires baseball for BOMBA.
Umpire-In-Chief	Refers to the individual assigned by BOMBA to act as the Supervisor of Umpires for the Organization.
Mentors	Refers to the members of the Umpire Mentorship Committee.
Minimum Requirements	Refers to the minimum items required for the umpire at the identified level.
Inside Equipment	Refers to the piece of equipment being worn inside of the specified article of clothing.
Exemption	Is an exception approved by the Umpire-In-Chief

### Umpire Level

Umpires shall be classified by their OBA certification level. For this section, the following levels shall apply:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1	Any new umpire working in their first season
1.2	An umpire working in their second season
2.1	An umpire working in their third season.
2.2	An umpire working in their fourth season.
2.3	An umpire working in their fifth season.
3	Any umpire working in their sixth or later season.
3*	Level 3 umpires who are working provincial tournaments, selected for National qualifiers or working elite levels as outlined by the Umpire-In-Chief.

NOTE: Umpires that have advanced through outside qualifications or through the Accelerated program shall be ranked at their OBA level if a conflict exists with the description in this section.



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### Program Basics

Each umpire level lists a minimum set of requirements to comply with. Umpires are free to go above the minimum requirements at any point. The policy presented from BOMBA mirrors the policy set by OBA but provides umpires with a longer time frame to comply with the full uniform requirement.

The primary shirt colour worn by umpires in BOMBA is Black. Umpires may elect to have a second or third colour shirt when advancing to higher levels but both umpires must wear the same colour shirt. If a conflict exists, black is the primary colour. At any time, shirts may have an OBA logo or may be plain. Note that Navy is not a permitted colour in BOMBA any longer. Umpires should avoid purchasing Baseball Canada logo clothing.

There are 4 variations on pants and their requirements. The primary pant colour in BOMBA is grey. Younger levels are permitted to wear any shade of grey and equipment may be strapped to the outside of their pants. As umpires advance, the expected colour will be Charcoal grey. Umpires will also be expected to own pants which support the wearing of their shin guards inside the pants. Options include a full plate pant which contains wider legs or a combo pant which splits the difference between a base pant and a plate pant. The highest levels require both base and plate pants.

Umpire hats are one of the first core requirements. The umpire hat contains a smaller brim than normal hats which allows the hat to be worn under a standard umpire mask. The hat must be plain black or contain the OBA logo on it. If an umpire wears a goalie style mask, no hat is worn.

Plate umpires are required to wear a black ball bag, carry a plate brush and an indicator. These are core items required from the beginning.

### Appearance

All uniforms and equipment are to be kept clean and neat. Plate umpires are to wear their ball bag on either side. The ball bag should loop through several belt loops such that the bag is tight and worn on the hip of the umpire.

Umpires who own proper plate or base shoes will need to ensure that they are kept clean prior to the start of each new game.

Umpire shirts are to be worn always tucked in. Umpire hats are to only be worn facing forwards.

If an undershirt is worn, it shall be black. Socks are also to be black.



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## Umpire Requirements – By Umpire Level

This format lists the core items required for each umpire, by their certification level.

- Level 1.1      OBA or plain black hat  
                  Black ball bag, Indicator & plate brush  
                  Plain black shirt with collar  
                  Grey pants  
                  Black standard belt  
                  Timing device (not a cell phone)  
                  Plate gear (Shin Guards, Mask, Chest Protector) when on plate
- Level 1.2      All Level 1.1 items except:  
                  - Shirt must be upgrade to black OBA or plain standard umpire shirt
- Level 2.1      All Level 1.2 items except:  
                  - Shirt must fit over top of chest protector when on plate  
                  - Shirt must fit properly when working bases if using same shirt
- Level 2.2      All Level 2.1 items except:  
                  - Base pants must be charcoal in colour  
                  - Optional: Umpire Belt & Combo Pants
- Level 2.3      All Level 2.2 items except:  
                  - Shin guards must be worn inside pants (Combo or Plate Pants)  
                  - Proper umpire belt  
                  - Optional black base shoes
- Level 3              All Level 2.3 items plus:  
                  - Steel toe or plate shoe (Black) required  
                  - Base shoes must be black (Near Black)
- Level 3\*        Second shirt in powder blue  
                  Charcoal Plate Pants  
                  Full Plate shoes (Black)



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## Uniform Requirements – Itemized List

R – Requirement Item    O – Optional Item    Grey Space – Standard Upgrade

Uniform Component	LEVEL							NOTES
	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	3	3*	
<b>Hat</b>								
Black Umpire Hat - OBA Logo or Plain	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
<b>Shirt</b>								
Plain Black Collared Shirt	R							
OBA Logo Shirt or Official Umpire Shirt (Black)		R						
OBA Logo Shirt or Official Umpire Shirt (Black)			R	R	R	R	R	Worn over Equipment
Power Blue Shirt (Secondary)						O	R	
<b>Pants</b>								
Grey Pants	R	R	R					
Charcoal Grey Base Pants				R	R	R	R	
Charcoal Grey Plate Pants				O	O	O	R	Worn over Equipment
Combination Plate/Base Pants				O	R	R		Worn over Equipment

<b>Accessories</b>								
Black Ball Bag	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Plate Brush	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Indicator	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Black Belt - Standard	R	R	R	R				
Black Belt - Umpire	O	O	O	O	R	R	R	
Timing Device -Not a Phone	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	

<b>Equipment</b>								
Plate Mask (Goalie or Standard)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Chest Protector	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Shin Guards	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Plate Shoes (Black)			O	O	O	R	R	
Base Shoes (Black)			O	O	O	R	R	



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### Plate Umpire Equipment

Umpires are free to provide their own equipment, share equipment or rent their equipment from BOMBA. Equipment must conform to minimum standards which do not endanger the umpire or others on the diamond. Masks must be proper baseball rated masks including neck protection. Softball masks are not permitted. All equipment must be worn as outlined by the manufacturer. Umpire mentors may discuss equipment as part of their observation visits. Any questions regarding equipment should be addressed to the Umpire-In-Chief. All plate umpires are required to wear/carry the following equipment: Mask, hat, chest protector, shin guards, jock or jill, 1 ball bag, plate brush, indicator, timing device and pen or pencil.

### Base Umpire Equipment

Base umpires are only required to wear their uniform. There is no equipment required for a base umpire. The crew may decide that the official time will be held by the base umpire instead of at home plate. Base umpires are not responsible for balls/strikes and therefore are not required to carry an indicator officially.

### Suppliers

Umpire uniforms and equipment can be difficult to source. The availability of inventory is higher in the spring but diminishes quickly as summer arrives and the demand goes up. Many suppliers are based in the USA. Caution should be given to online ordering as delivery costs may be higher along with duties and additional taxes not planned for.

BOMBA provides basic umpire supplies for sale through our online store "The Batter's Box". Orders may be placed at any time online. Basic supplies include:

- Ball bags
- Indicators
- Plate Brushes

OBA logo hats and shirts are also available through the store. Sample sizes are available during office hours. Shirts and hats are available for pre-order through the store. Delivery is 1-3 weeks depending on the time of year and subject to supplier availability.

The official supplier for OBA and BOMBA umpires is Home Run Sports in Mississauga. Additional umpire suppliers are available online include











More information is provided in Appendix II.



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## APPENDIX 1

### Uniform Examples (Images)

 <p>Plate Umpire Accessories</p>	 <p>Full Plate Gear</p>	 <p>Full Plate Shoe</p>
 <p>OBA Hat - Front</p>	 <p>OBA Hat - Back</p>	 <p>Plain Hat - Black</p>
 <p>Belt</p>	 <p>Charcoal Pant</p>	
 <p>OBA Umpire Shirt</p>	 <p>Plain Umpire Shirt</p>	



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### APPENDIX 2 Umpire Suppliers

The only official sources for Umpire gear endorsed by BOMBA is The Batter's Box and Home Run Sports. Umpire apparel and equipment can be found in other locations including many sporting goods stores. Ensure you are purchasing the correct items as outside locations may not be aware of the requirements within BOMBA.

Burlington Organized Minor Baseball Association – The Batter's Box

<https://battersboxburlington.myshopify.com>

1370 Artisans Court

Burlington, ON

905.631.0211

Home Run Sports – Mississauga

<http://www.homerunsports.com>

Gerrie Davis Sports – United States

<http://www.gerriedavis.ca>

Ump Attire – United States

<http://ump-attire.com>





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Appendix 3  
Abbreviated Policy

This copy shall provide a brief synopsis of the full Uniform and Equipment Policy. It is designed to be a quick reference but not to replace the entire policy.

Basic Information

- Umpires are required to have different amounts of uniform and equipment based on their OBA certification level.
- The base uniform colour for BOMBA is a Black collared shirt and (charcoal) grey pants.
- The full uniform and equipment requirements amount to nearly \$1,000 bill. The BOMBA policy looks to limit the expense over a period of time.
- Any questions or issues should be addressed to the Umpire In Chief
- The BOMBA Equipment rental program is outlined separately.
- Acquiring equipment and uniforms from BOMBA is not mandatory. Umpires are free to purchase or acquire items elsewhere if they comply with the policy.

Required Items

Plate umpires – Ball bag, Brush, Indicator, mask, chest protector, shin guards, pen/pencil.

Both umpires – Black undershirt, black socks, black belt, umpire hat & shirt in black.

Any one umpire – Timing device which is not a phone. Recommend stock watch.

Level Specific Requirements

BOMBA has introduced a progressive approach to avoid the large up-front costs associated with umpiring.

**Level 1.1**

OBA or plain black hat

- Black ball bag, Indicator & plate brush
- Plain black shirt with collar
- Grey pants
- Black standard belt
- Timing device (not a cell phone)
- Shin Guards, Mask, Chest Protector

**Level 2.2**

All Level 2.1 items except:

- Base pants must be charcoal in colour

**Level 3**

Steel toe or plate shoe (Black) required  
Base shoes must be black (Near Black)

**Level 1.2**

All Level 1.1 items except:

- Shirt must be upgrade to black OBA or plain standard umpire shirt

**Level 2.1**

All Level 1.2 items except:

- Shirt must fit over top of chest protector when on plate

**Level 2.3**

All Level 2.2 items except:\

- Shin guards must be worn inside pants
- Proper umpire belt

**Level 3\***

Second shirt in powder blue  
Full OBA Uniform