

MGS Game Advocate

Game Advocate Description:

The Game Advocate is an adult, other than the Manager or Coaches, from the visiting team that is designated before the start of the game. The Game Advocate should be prepared to execute the following actions and activities.

Responsibilities of the Game Advocate:

- 1) To help promote the MGS Codes of Conduct with respect to both Coaches and Parents behavior and treatment of umpires during a game. The Coaches Code of Conduct and the Parents Code of Conduct can both be found on the main MGS website in the “Rules and Policies” area.**
- 2) The Game Advocate will observe the conduct of coaches, spectators, and players towards the umpires during the game, and has the ability to step in to stop any abusive behavior from coaches or spectators towards an umpire should the umpire not be able to handle the situation or need assistance with an abusive adult. The Game Advocate’s main role is to act as support for the umpires should a behavioral issue arise that the umpire is unable to resolve due to their age, inexperience, or aggressive behavior towards the umpire. The Game Advocate will only become involved if the umpire/s are clearly unable to handle a situation with an adult.**
- 3) The Game Advocate shall remain at the game at all times including in between half innings – in a position to see all actions on the field and in close proximity to the field with the ability to hear any discussions between coaches and umpires. The Game Advocate should preferably be situated somewhere behind the backstop area.**
- 4) The Game Advocate shall note the start time of the game and confirm with the Official Book Keeper from the home team.**
- 5) The Game Advocate shall provide an impartial report on Coach, Umpire, Spectator, or Player behavior as is necessary or requested by MGS.**
- 6) The Game Advocate does NOT need to be at home plate for the pregame conference but should be pointed out to the coaches during the meeting by the umpires. The Home Team scorekeeper (the official book) should note the name of the game advocate.**
- 7) Regardless of which team the Game Advocate comes from (should the Visiting team not be able to provide one) their role is to support the umpires when needed. The Game Advocate will not insert themselves into the game unless clearly needed.**

When Should A Game Advocate Step In:

- 1) The Game Advocate should become involved if an adult is becoming aggressive or abusive towards an umpire and that umpire is not able to deal with the situation. If an adult is approaching an umpire in a menacing or threatening manner or yelling abusive or obscene language at them and the umpire is young and/or clearly not able to deal with the situation the Game Advocate shall calmly step in and help diffuse the situation asking the coach to return to their dugout. Example: If an adult is intimidating an umpire it is the Game Advocate's responsibility to help them.
- 2) If you are monitoring the game and an adult is treating an umpire in a way that you would not tolerate if your child was the umpire then it is time to step in.

Game Advocate Limitations / CANNOT DO:

- 1) **The Game Advocate DOES NOT have the ability to over-rule any umpire's decision. Per MGS Local Rules the umpires call is FINAL and may not be changed. The Game Advocate shall not make any calls on the field or be asked to help the umpires interpret or change calls. The calls of the umpires SHALL BE FINAL and the Game Advocate shall have no say in rules or interpretations.**
- 2) **The Game Advocate shall NOT remove any umpire from the game.** Should an umpire behave inappropriately the Game Advocate has the ability to report them in the same way as they would report anyone else displaying inappropriate behavior. The Umpire Report link is located on the MGS Home Page if an umpire acts inappropriately and should be reported.