

Every year, a new group of players become eligible to be umpires. There are two reasons we employ youth umpires in the league. First, because of their availability it helps us cover all the games with umpires. It is a challenge to get adult umpire for every game. Secondly, youth umpiring is a great way for kids who love baseball to give back and earn some extra money. For many of these kids a youth umpiring gig is the first job they have ever had.

Now having said that, these are **still kids**. My own son gave me a great perspective on being a youth umpire. He said, “When you are a player and you make a mistake, no one really yells at you. You feel bad, but the coaches are supportive and the other players understand.

“But when you move behind the plate it is **completely** different. If you make a mistake there, everyone feels entitled to give you an earful.”

I had not thought of it that way. This is not to make excuses for mistakes, but the perspective is a valid one.

These umpires have a job to do. All we ask of them is that they do their best and continue to learn and grow with the game.

And all we request of you is that they are treated with the courtesy and respect they deserve.