

Umpire Basics- These are things you need to know that are not in the rule book or umpire's manual

Appearance

1. **Appearance is Perception-**

Take Pride In Your Appearance

An official should always take pride in his or her appearance ! One's professionalism should begin the moment you arrive to the playing field and should remain consistent until you depart. Remember, your first appearance to the coaches, players, or fans could determine the respect you should receive during the game.

Your appearance is imperative. Umpires on the same field should discuss attire before getting dressed. It is important that you and your partner dress alike. Your uniform consists of a powder blue shirt, heather gray pants, navy blue cap and ball bags, navy blue jacket (optional), 1 ½" black leather belt(no patent leather), solid black shoes, and socks.

Every part of the uniform should be clean, neat and wrinkle free. Clean hats are necessary; those with sweat rings are unprofessional. Check your uniform during the game, you may need to tuck in your shirt or dust off your pants or hat. **Always keep your shoes and belts polished.**

Most of the time, a changing room is not provided. Before and after games, be cautious dressing and undressing in the parking lot. Remember, young ladies and parents will be walking past, so be discreet!

2. Buy your uniform shirt a size or 2 bigger than what you would normally wear to accommodate your chest protector when working the plate.
3. Always bring your uniform and plate gear even if you are not scheduled to work the plate or scheduled to work at all. You never know what may happen. Like a boy scout, "always be prepared".
4. Never stand between innings or during the game with your hands on your hips or crossing your arms over your chest. It looks unprofessional and sends the wrong message to coaches, players and parents. Keep your hands at your sides or behind the back.
5. You should carry extra shoe laces for both plate and base shoes and anything else you might need extra of like:
 - Indicator
 - Batteries for game clock
 - Sun Screen
 - Pencils/Pens

Mechanics

1. Hustle to get into position to make a call and then hustle to your next position. Plate umpire continues to watch the field until your partner gets to their next position. It is then the base umpire's responsibility to watch the field until your partner gets behind the plate. Somebody must always have their eyes on the field.
2. Angles vs. Distance-The correct angle is always more important than being close to the play.
3. Use your voice-Sell the call when necessary
4. Always come to a complete stop when making a call
5. Enter the field on the Home Team side together
6. Leave the field on the Winning Team's side together
7. Base umpire cleans the pitcher's mound after every half inning
8. Your butt is always facing the outfield when cleaning the mound, home plate or any base.

Game Management

1. Coaches, Players and Parents all expect the following from the Umpires:
 - Good Knowledge of the Rules
 - You are fair in the application of Judgment and Rules
 - You are Approachable
2. Always meet your partner in the parking lot 30 minutes before game time
3. It is the plate umpire's responsibility to call his/her partner before each game. As a base umpire, if you don't hear from your partner at least 24 hours before game time, then you call them
4. **DO NOT TOUCH THE PLAYERS** or talk excessively with players, coaches or parents.
5. 3 teams on the field-Visitors, Home and Umpire Crew. Act like a team and support each other.
6. Never throw your partner "under the bus". Even if you disagree with them, it is your responsibility to support them.

7. Always inspect bats and helmets together

Game Management-con't

8. Only one-on-one between coaches and umpires. If there is a dispute about a call, and more than one coach is headed for your partner, assume control of the other coaches, so that your partner isn't outnumbered and overwhelmed.
9. The Plate Umpire is responsible for bringing the pay sheet.
10. Be a sponge on the field. Soak up as much as you can when working with a veteran umpire. Ask questions and take in as much info as you can. Nothing is personal; we are trying to help you learn.
11. Veterans- please be sure to help your rookie partners grow. Give them a constructive evaluation after the game. As Steve says, "help them get to the next level." Remember what it was like for you when you were first learning. Be a MENTOR!!!
12. There is no such thing as a "Make-Up" call. If you blow a call, realize that you blew it, learn from it and move on. Do make try and even things up by giving the other team a call.