

## Expectations of Coaches for Umpires

### B4 Game

- Ideally be on location AT LEAST 30 minutes before game.
- Umpires will be signed up on the online tool and can be verified for all levels MINORS up. (Coaches – confirm.)
- Trained appropriate to the level.
- Neatly attired.
- Displays professional decorum.

### During Game

- Manage to 1 minute(ish) between innings ('Rah'Rah' meetings are parts of your inning breaks and there are NO guaranteed warm-up pitches on inning breaks.)
- Records defensive and offensive conferences, balls, subs, strikes and outs. Does not maintain pitch counts, score. (but may be aware)
- Controls pace of game .

## Expectations of Umpires for Coaches

### B4 Game

- Instructional Levels - Before season has provided 2 parents for training.
- Instructional Levels - Before games HOME has arranged 'trained' PLATE BLUE and VISITORS a 'trained' FIELD BLUE.
- Notify umpires of cancelations, schedule changes, changes in start time, etc....
- Understand and apply safety standards in warm up. (Helmets, Helmets, Helmets!)
- Prepare equipment for inspection outside dugout (bats, helmets, catcher gear). Usually 30 minutes pregame.
- Run infield warm-up at appropriate times. (25-15 MINs pregame for Visitors, 15-5 MINs for Home)
- Ready with 4 complete identical line-up real cards (not computer print outs)
- Provide TRAINED scorekeepers outside the dugout and adjacent to the umpire.
- Teams in dugouts for a plate meeting immediately after home team clears infield practice.
- Home team on field ready to play at start time. Lead- off batter ready to hit.

### During Game

- One coach ALWAYS in dugout **and in control of dugout**.
- Base Coaches to positions **during throw down**.
- Players attentive to game (and batting order).
- Bats NOT in hand.
- Changes determined before inning breaks and **immediately** brought to umpire at beginning of break.
- Get recognized for time (**you** can't call time).
- If you disagree tell the umpire you disagree with what you saw or how a rule should have applied and he/she can then ask for help, not ask for help or even reverse their decision. (rarely) Judgment calls **'cannot'** be challenged, only rules **but...**
- The 'protest' – Majors and above before next pitch and must be over a RULE interpretation. Recorded with umpire and scorekeepers. AVOID
- Ejections - 1 Game suspension minimum and automatic. Meeting needed with League President and UIC before any reinstatement. AVOID

#### After the Game

- Respectfully may discuss rules with umpire but don't ignore kids or make spectacle in front of kids.
- Email works and so do phone calls if emotions are hot.
- 'Read the rule book' b4 you make a call and site actual rule number.

#### What can help a coach's relationship with umpires?

- Insisting that parents, players and other coaches are respectful of umpires. Manage your fans.
- Understanding that an umpire will make somewhere around 50 – 100 judgment/decision calls in a game and just like players and coaches there's a chance some may be in error.
- Volunteer to umpire at least two lower division game.
- Know and understand the rules. (Never say things not in the rules like 'tie goes to the runner' or 'hand is part of the bat'.) Attend an umpire clinic.
- Consider context before creating an issue. (Ahead or behind by 10 runs is not necessarily a good time to argue a call.)

#### Questions?

