



2018 CHSBUA BULLETIN

Volume 1 / Issue 1

UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITY AND MECHANICS

One of the incorrect theories about officiating is that a good official is never noticed. DO the JOB CORRECTLY and YOU WILL BE NOTICED. There are many actions, beginning with the umpire arrival on the field and extending to their performance during the game, that result in favorable impressions.

UMPIRES THAT RECEIVE HIGH RATINGS:

- Wear the proper uniform and present themselves to be neat and professional in appearance. Shoes are shined.
- Arrive on time and walk the fence to inspect a field they have not worked on before.
- Take the proper position, with good posture, during the conference at home plate, the National Anthem, and the time between innings and pitches.
- Present their calls with a clear voice in a crisp manner with proper emphasis for the situation.
- Use clear and proper signals, with proper emphasis, as illustrated in the umpire's manual.
- Keep the game moving by avoiding unnecessary delays, hustling the players, and controlling the conferences.
- Communicate with their partner(s) and mirror signals given by the plate umpire.
- Cover the bases properly by hustling from the correct starting position to a good set position to view the play from the proper angle and avoid being straight-lined.
- Cover the outfield properly by moving away from the plate or, as the base umpire, going out after pausing, reading and reacting.
- Handle fair/foul calls properly. Dead ball signal only on a foul ball. Point with no voice on a fair ball.
- Use proper timing when making a call. Not too quick with the voice or the signal.

Contact your partner and arrange for a place to meet, arrive early to pre-game.

UMPIRES THAT RECEIVE HIGH RATINGS (CONT'D):

- Watch the pitcher and call the obvious balks.
- Have knowledge of the rules and how to apply them with correct and consistent rulings.
- Have knowledge of the game and do not look for trouble.
- Handle situations and warnings properly with brief and courteous actions.
- Display proper judgement by calling plays and pitches correctly and asking for help when necessary.
- Keep control of the game with limited polite conversations, and by expecting proper bench decorum.
- Make the call before asking for help.
- Are not eager to eject players or coaches, but will do so when necessary.



Position is everything

IN ADDITION THE PLATE UMPIRE SHOULD:

- Not flinch on swings, foul tips or balls in the dirt.
- Call the strike zone to its written limits.
- Have a consistent strike zone.
- Call the curve ball properly by making sure part of the ball hits the front and back of the strike zone.
- Make the strike three call with proper emphasis, without embarrassing the hitter
- Initiate all crew communication signals.
- Use proper ball rotation techniques.

THE MECHANICS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE ITEMS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN WORKING A GAME OR WHEN EVALUATING A CREW OF UMPIRES.