**Game Management** 02/29/24

The ability to effectively and professionally communicate with game participants in order to prevent or resolve situations while umpiring a softball game. This definition describes what an umpire must accomplish through their words, actions, and skill sets to properly manage their game.

**Game Management Checklist:**

* **Pre-Game Meeting** – be positive, communicate, be professional, set a positive tone. Put the following into your pre game meeting.
* **Attitude & Disposition** affects all around you - Smile – be friendly, want to be there attitude. Be consistent & fair.
* **Professionalism** – How you look, represent yourself, and do your job.
* **Communication** – be a good listener to understand the issue FIRST, then be a good communicator. “In my judgement Coach” Rule 14 sec 8 pg. 62
* **Listen** to listen, do not listen to respond. Hear the other side first.
* **Integrity** - Strong Moral Principles, umpire for the game & the players.
* **Confident-Not Arrogant** - Believe in yourself and your training/ability.
* **Approachability** – approachable, listen, communicate, and work for resolution/explanation. “In my Judgement Coach”
* **Composure** - Stay Calm, always maintain self-control.
* **Rules Knowledge** - Study the rules and mechanics, know and understand them. Learn something every game.
* **Preventive Umpiring** – correct it before it happens, work together.
* **Keep game moving** – 1 minute between innings. (NFHS rule) Exceptions?
* **Time Outs** – be consistent/fair monitor time. 3/3 in 7 innings
* **Pitcher** – 20 seconds to release next pitch. Rule 6 Sec 1 (K) page 34
* **Batter** – 10 seconds to get in the box. Rule 7 Sec 8 page 39
* **Errors and mistakes** – admit them and move on. Coaches will respect you
* **Personal Fitness** - Can you get where you need to be to make the call? If you don’t like your personal fitness, do something about it
* **Field Presence** - Appearance – Mannerisms - Signals
* **Organized** - are you equipped to do your job, are you mentally organized.
* **Officials Code of Ethics** – review, learn, practice, and follow. NFHS Pg 94
* **Smile and enjoy the game**. we umpire for the game and the players.