



PRE-GAME CHECKLIST

It is strongly recommended that you get together with your partner not less than 30 minutes before each game to discuss these items. Meeting 1 hour before game time is ideal if possible.

Signals and Verbal Commands, Eye Contact: Discuss your methods of communication. Discuss the signals you will use for rotation situation, infield fly situation, repeat count and outs, request for meeting between innings. (This is done when it is necessary to fix a communication problem. Umpires should not meet during the game otherwise.)

Fair / Foul: Discuss plate umpire responsibilities and base umpire responsibilities with bases empty. (Plate umpire always has when runners are on.)

Foul Balls Off the Batter: The base umpire should assist the plate umpire when this happens. It is commonly taught the base umpire only calls 'time' when he realizes the plate umpire did not see, however, if the crew agrees, the base umpire may call as soon as he sees it. The habit of calling 'time' should be done vs calling 'foul'. In a situation when the batter is out of the box when a batted ball hits him, he would be called 'out'. Calling 'foul' in this situation will give a coach cause to argue.

Foul Tip Third Strikes, Catch or No Catch: Discuss whether the base umpire will be assisting the plate umpire in determining whether a foul tip third strike was caught cleanly by the catcher.

Balls in the Dirt, Swinging Third Strike: Discuss whether the base umpire will be assisting the plate umpire in determining whether a swinging third strike was caught cleanly by the catcher. Discuss signal to be used.

Checked Swings: When the plate umpire checks with his partner on a checked swing, the base umpire should respond "Yes, he did!" (with a closed fist like an 'out' signal), or "No!" (with a 'safe' signal). A good plate umpire should expect his partner to rule as he sees it and not be concerned if the call is overturned.

Overthrows, Dead Balls, and Base Awards: Plate umpire primarily has overthrows and ruling if ball goes into dead ball territory. Plate umpire makes award, base umpire may echo. With multiple runners, award bases starting with the lead runner then the runner behind him, etc.

Swipe Tags and Pulled Foot Plays at FIRST BASE: Base umpire makes a call. If coach comes out questioning, base umpire makes decision whether to go to partner for help because of possible pulled foot or swipe tag made or missed.

Interference; 45-Foot Running Lane: This is primarily the plate umpire's responsibility.

Line Drive and Fly Ball Coverage: Discuss plate umpire responsibilities and base umpire responsibilities with bases empty and runners on.

Rotation on Batted Balls Through the Infield: The plate umpire should advise the base umpire when he will rotate to 3rd and whether a verbal signal will be given. The base ump must do a visual check. If plate umpire does not come to 3rd when he normally would, the responsibility is on the base umpire.

Interference at Second or 3rd and Force Play Slide Rule: Plate umpire has primary responsibility but the base umpire may see and call.

Tag-Ups: Discuss plate umpire and base umpire responsibilities.

Touches: Discuss plate umpire and base umpire responsibilities.

Infield Fly: If near the line, plate umpire should initiate, base umpire echo. IMPORTANT to not call too soon. Wait until the ball reaches its apex before determining. An infielder must be able to catch with 'ordinary effort'. (rule does not preclude outfielders from being allowed to attempt to make the catch)

Balks: Discuss primary and secondary responsibilities for calling balks. Identify who will have primary coverage of the pitcher's feet and who will have primary coverage of the pitcher's hands/shoulders.

Warnings, Bench Jockeying: Bench jockeying should not be tolerated. Discuss the proper procedure for issuing warnings.

Appeals: Discuss how you will communicate to each other that you are taking responsibility for ruling on a defensive appeal; i.e. when it is clearly your partner's call but you know he did not see and you did.

Arguments and Ejections: Discuss each officials' responsibility if one is involved in an argument or if there is an ejection. 2010 Rule Change - 3.3.1g6...any member of the coaching staff who was not the head coach (or designee) leaves the vicinity of the dugout or coaching box to dispute a judgment call by an umpire...is considered an unsportsmanlike act. Both the head coach and the offending coach shall receive a written warning and be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game unless the offense is so severe the umpire may eject the offender and restrict or eject the head coach.

Rain Delays, Lightning, and Darkness: Consider the possibility of the game not reaching its natural conclusion due to weather or other factors. Discuss the factors used to determine the stoppage of play.

Rundown coverage: Discuss when the plate umpire will get involved if between 1st & 2nd or 2nd & 3rd and verbal communication that will be used. Plate umpire should let partner know when he is at 1st or 3rd to help. Discuss who makes call when tag, obstruction or interference happens. Plate umpire usually does if from cutout to the base (1st & 3rd).

Rundowns between 3rd and home: 1) Umpires should split the difference of responsibility 2) With a runner at 1st, discuss if the base ump will help or if he will stay in working area for any play on the back runner. Some crews agree for the base ump to stay in working area behind pitcher's mound until the runner from 1st advances to 2nd. Then the base ump will move over to help with rundown. It is acceptable for the base umpire to help before R1 advances to 2nd.

NEVER react to fans verbally or with body language. Unruly fans should be controlled by Game Administrator. Confirm at the plate meeting with the home team's head coach as to whom the Game Administrator is. **Read 505 in the Officials Guidebook. HOME SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION IS RESPONSIBLE.**

1) Pre-game responsibilities.

- a. Plate umpire should contact his partner 2 days before the game. Base umpire should call if not heard from partner by day before.
 1. Confirm time each will arrive. One hour before game time is ideal but not always practical due to work, etc.
 2. Parking. Where you plan to meet.
 3. Have your partner's cell number.
- b. Pre-game with partner.

2) Arrive on the field together at least 10 minutes before game time. NEW 2012-Coaches are responsible for the legality of **equipment; umpires do not have to check bats and helmets. However, that does not exclude knowing what makes a bat or helmet illegal. Coaches can still ask umpires at the pregame conference to confirm that equipment is compliant. At plate meeting ask Head Coaches if players are properly equipped and if their equipment is legal. Receive a verbal 'yes'.**

- 1) **Batting and Catcher's helmets must:**
 - a. Have NOCSAE marking, usually embossed into helmet; if missing, **may not** be reproduce,
 - b. Double ear flaps.
 - c. NO missing padding.
 - d. NO cracks
- 2) **Batting helmets must also have EXTERIOR warning label.** If it is missing it cannot be used. A player is **ALLOWED** to make a new **warning label** and place on the exterior of the helmet for future use.
- 3) **Catcher's helmet may be 'hockey style'.** All helmets for catchers must have throat protector. The hockey style mask's throat protector is usually an extension of the mask, not a dangling one. **A batting helmet (double ear flaps) and mask with throat protector is also acceptable.**
- 4) **Bats- AS OF 2012, BESR BATS ARE NO LONGER LEGAL ONLY BBCOR* or wooden BATS.** Be sure there are no dents, cracks or handle is taped so that it is flush with the knob, etc. Rule 1-3-2,3,4,5 (Illegal bat list on PBBUA web site. Some BBCOR bats are ILLEGAL.)

LEAVE THE FIELD TOGETHER, preferably out the winning team's side of the field and go directly to your cars; i.e. not stopping to talk to fans, news media, etc.

POST GAME! Once in the parking lot, discuss the good things that happened and things that could have been handled differently. **Discussion of a coach, player or fan should never be done with the possibility of being overheard by others.**