

Pregame Conference

Five minutes before your game starts, you should have your pregame conference with team captains and a coaching representative from each team. During this meeting you should go over:

1. The strike zone: letters to the knees, one ball off the inside of plate, two off the outside of the plate.
2. Slide on all close plays or you will be called out.
3. Uniforms tucked in at all times.
4. No jewelry!
5. No stealing until the ball reaches the catcher; penalty: runner is out.
6. Hustle in and out between innings.

Plate Umpire

- A. The plate umpire is the designated umpire in chief. He has the sole authority to forfeit a game. He is responsible for announcing "Play" to start and resume the game.
- B. The plate umpire is responsible for calling fair or foul on batted balls up to first base and up to third base **no matter the situation**.
- C. The plate umpire's number one job is plays involved at the plate. This doesn't mean he doesn't have other responsibilities. When he does have to cover other bases he is aware that the base umpire is going to cover home for him.
- D. Calling balls and strikes- You must protect yourself. Elbow leads to hands, so tuck elbow, hands loosely behind catcher **not on your knee**. Your hands should not touch catcher.
- E. Establish a good line of sight. If you're getting hit with foul balls too often, you're not working low enough or your popping out of your stance instead of observing the pitch. Visualize the strike zone using a dotted rectangle. Left leg inside, mask at top of zone, use reference points and use them every time.
- F. Use proper timing when calling balls and strikes. Use **voice and hand signals** calling balls and strikes and when showing the count. Be consistent when doing this; everyone appreciates it and it all helps in your timing.
- G. When you remove the mask do it with the **left hand**. This leaves the right hand to make the out call.
- H. On plays in the infield the home plate umpire should step out in front of home plate and travel 10 -15 feet toward the play to help the base umpire. On plays at first the home plate umpire has the responsibility of making sure the defense didn't pull his/her foot off the bag as well as ensuring the runner is not running out of the baseline. He still needs to be responsible for plays at home as well.
- I. Fair/Foul calls- Fair ball is **just a motion**; foul ball is a **motion and a voice** call "Foul ball"!