

HEY BLUE...



Excellence in Umpiring

May 28, 2009



WEARING BLUE IS AN HONOR *BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY*

RESPECT THE UMPIRE

We love to hate umpires; love to blame them for our team's misfortunes. But, truth be told, there is no other group of men or women in baseball/softball more deserving for their dedication to the purity of the game. Umpires get little respect from fans or players, they don't get paid a lot, and it is certainly no fun being in their particular spotlight.



You should never kick dirt on their shoes, call them something unprintable, or offer to pay for new glasses. If you do, you are asking to get tossed.

Umpires can be the most powerful people on the diamond, and they certainly deserve our respect.

The role of the umpire must be recognized and respected by the coaches, the players, the scorekeepers and the parents. The umpire has complete authority over players and coaches from the moment he/she walks onto the field until the game is over.

Good umpires like good coaches, can also take constructive criticism and realize that their craft can stand improvement. But no matter how justified a coach may be, there's a right way and a wrong way to approach an on-field official.

Coaches, players, parents and spectators should never argue the decision of an umpire, make negative or derogatory remarks or gestures towards an umpire, or otherwise behave improperly to disturb the normal course of play in a game. Not only is this behavior setting a bad example for young players, it distracts the umpire, makes the coach's job harder, and takes away from the enjoyment of the players, other parents, spectators and fans. Remember, umpires are not the enemy. They do not have a stake in who wins. They are just there to officiate the ballgame.



The bottom line is we should approach all umpires with respect and courtesy. As coaches, parents, and responsible adults, we are important role models and mentors in the lives of young ballplayers. Just as an umpire keeps his/her eyes on the game, we must keep our eyes on our own behavior. Kids are constantly watching adult's behavior. They learn from us. We must make sure our behavior or the behavior of any of the players is not disrespectful to the umpire. In doing so, we teach the true meaning of sportsmanship and the spirit of competition.

W

An umpire is an unbiased person.

h

An umpire controls the game fairly.

a

An umpire is not the center of attention.

t

An umpire only makes calls he/she needs to make.

An umpire's responsibility is to move the game along in a timely manner.

i

An umpire always shows respect for the players, managers, coaches, and parents.

s

An umpire's manner and appearance are always beyond reproach.

An umpire knows the rules of the game and the division.

An umpire is consistent with his/her calls.

a

An umpire is assertive.

n

An umpire should always be approachable.

An umpire should be loud and clear.

An umpire does not socialize with spectators.

U

An umpire will always look out for the safety of the players, coaches, and spectators.

m

An umpire should note the start time of each game.

p

An umpire should try to make the experience enjoyable for all.

An umpire should be having fun, too.

i

An umpire doesn't wait for thanks at the end of the game.

r

An umpire leaves through the winning team dugout, and leaves the area immediately.

e

An umpire deserves respect.

An umpire is important and necessary.



The Umpire-Coach Relationship

- ① Umpires are an integral part of any baseball or softball program. In order to enjoy the game, umpires, ballplayers and coaches must have an understanding of the rules. Coaches must accept and respect the role of an umpire as the interpreter and enforcer of these rules.
- ① Umpires should be treated with respect and an awareness of the coach's and umpire's duties and responsibilities relating to game procedures and situations should be established.
- ① The umpire's function is to conduct and control all games in a competent and confident manner. They should always officiate to the best of their ability and along with coaches maintain emotional poise at all times.
- ① It is the coach's responsibility to have control of the players and to prevent unsportsmanlike conduct. Young players often follow the example of their coach; therefore, they should not yell, shout at or berate umpires.
- ① Coaches should be aware of the code of ethics which govern the umpire's behavior. Likewise, the umpiring staff should be aware of the coach's code of ethics.
- ① Coaches, players and umpires are involved in the game because they enjoy it. We must accept the fact that all of us are going to make mistakes and we must be strong enough to admit that we have done so. This can often serve to eliminate confrontation.
- ① As an umpire, you must remember that coaches do have a right to request interpretation of a call for they represent their players. Give them a moment of your time.
- ① Coaches must accept the fact that not every call by an umpire is going to be in their favor. The umpire may sometimes be wrong, but their decision is final. If you wish to discuss some aspect of the game with the umpires, then be sure to respect them.



Team Spirit



At one point during a game, the coach said to one of his young players, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?"

The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"Do you understand that what matters is whether we win together as team?"

The little boy nodded yes.

"So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you're out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand that?"

Again the little boy nodded.

"Good", said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

Ha Ha!

Ha Ha!

Ha Ha!

