

# 2018 Kent Little League Umpire Training



Herm Lindsey



# Classroom Training



- **What we will cover**
  - **Why Train Umpires**
  - **Starting The Game**
  - **Get To The Field**
  - **Umpire Uniform & cold rainy weather**
  - **Plate Umpire & Base Umpire “Where to Stand”**
  - **How to Make Vocal Calls**
  - **Code of Conduct**
  - **How to handle difficult Managers/Arguments**
  - **Magic Words - Foul, Concussion, Protest**
  - **Baseball vs Fast Pitch**
  - **Making Mistakes**
  - **Additional Training**
  - **Books**



# Why Train Umpires?



- **Be successful**
- **Umpiring is “outside” Comfort Zone**
- **Umpiring is different than playing, or watching a game**
- **You are officiating the game, not a spectator or fan**
- **You are not dictator, you’re approachable, you’re impartial, you’re fair**

## How do we Train Umpires

- **Classroom, On Field, Live Games**
- **Umpire Mechanics (where to Stand, how to make calls, strike zone, etc.)**
- **Build Confidence / Walk on Field Prepared**
- **“When things go “Weird” .....and they will..... You will be better prepared**



# Starting The Game

# Entering the Field



- **How to enter the field**
  - After the teams have completed their infield/outfield
  - Enter the field together as a team
  - You Are Partners – Enter Together 10 Minutes Before Game
  - Smile, act pleasant
  - **No excessive talking to team Managers, coaches, players**
  - Everyone is now watching both of you
  - You need to project that you are impartial, not favoring either team
  - **ACT PROFESSIONALLY -- YOU ARE NOW “WORKING”**

# How To Conduct a Plate Meeting



- How to stand (Demonstrate)
- Plate meeting is the Plate Umpires Responsibility
  - Introduce yourselves (first name only)
  - Shake hands firmly and look them in the eyes (SMILE)
  - CCF Field
    - *Explain the Ground rules*
    - *Batted ball bounces over the outfield fence, Ground Rule Double*
    - *Ball becomes lodged in the fence, your player must raise their hands, then we call dead ball -- Ground Rule Double*
    - *TELL the Team Manager you are the only person authorized to approach the Umpire*
    - *Ask me for "Time" before you come on the field*
  - Point of emphasis pace of play & Sportsmanship
    - **Batters Stay in the Box**
    - Players hustle ON and OFF field
    - You can approach and talk to me.
    - We are not arguing Balls and Strikes
    - Ask your Base Umpire. "Do you have anything"
    - There is only ONE Answer.....NO
    - Shake Hands, Home Team, You may take the field

## Tip

Write Names on hand  
Team Manager & Catchers

Why Do This?

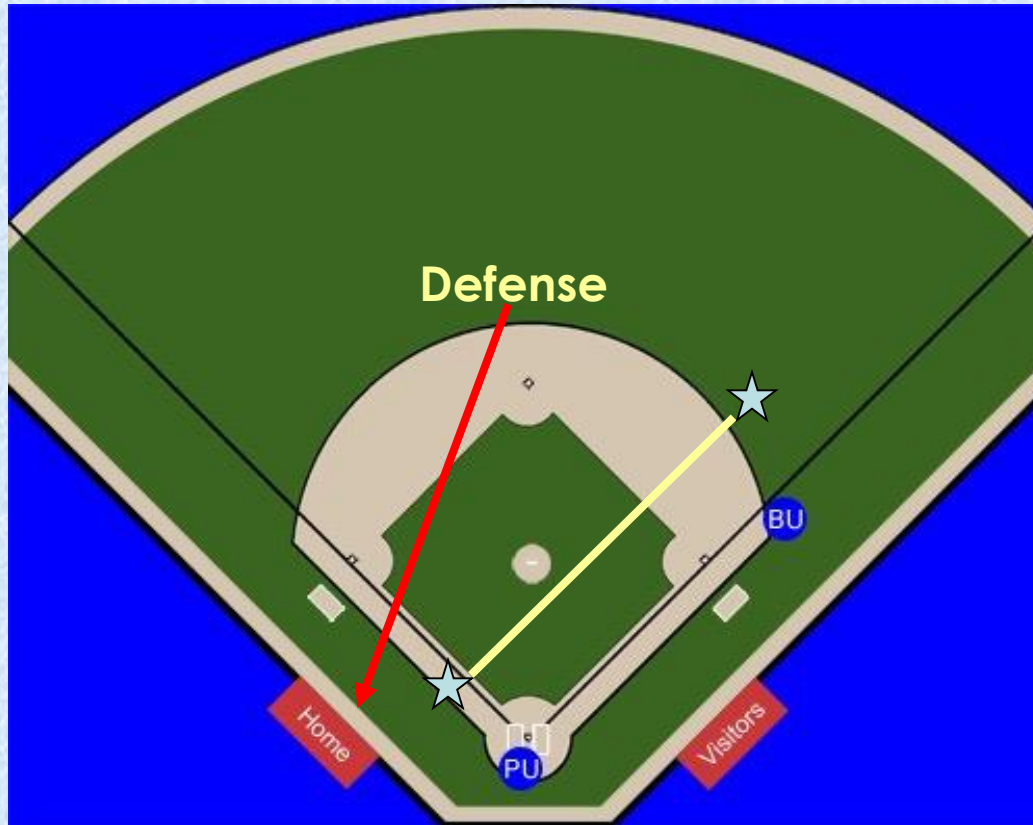
# Where to Stand Before Game



- PU Stands on the Foul Line of the Defensive Team Leaving the Field
- BU Lines up with PU
- Count 6 pitches
- On 6th Pitch Signal to the Catcher and Pitcher “Two More”



# Where to Stand Between Innings



- PU Stands on the Foul Line of the Defensive Team Leaving the Field
- BU Lines up with PU
- Count 8 pitches
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> Pitch Signal to the Catcher and Pitcher “Two More”
- Don't walk over to the fence and talk to fans, players, coaches
- Stay Focused



# Get To The Field

# Get To the Field



- Arrive 30 minutes prior to your game
- Find your partner – Two person crews
- Park away from the field (fans, managers, etc.)
- Get dressed and ready for the game
- Pre-game Meeting with your partner and adult
  - *Remember I have fair/foul on 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup>*
  - *Lets watch closely that runners touch the bases*
  - *If you need help you can come to me*
  - *Infield Fly Rule*

# What makes a good umpire



## The Keys to Umpiring

- Know the rules.
- Make good calls.
- Be decisive.
- *Be approachable for the coaches*

# Umpire Uniform

# Umpire Uniform



- How You Dress is very Important!
- Managers, Players and Fans expect YOU, as the umpire, to look a certain way
- IMPRESS THEM - Every time you walk on the field
- We want a consistent look
- It is considered in our Evaluation of You and moving Up or Down

# Umpire Uniform





# Umpire Uniform - Do's & Don'ts



## DO'S

## DON'TS

Hat (worn correctly) Field Umpires  
Clean KLL UMPIRE Shirt – Without Wrinkles  
Shirts tucked in! -- AT ALL TIMES  
Clean dark blue or gray pants  
Belts Preferred (Black) with Ball bag if Plate Umpire  
Black Shoes or Baseball rubber cleats are preferred  
Tennis Shoes are acceptable

No baseball pants  
No Sweat pants  
No Shorts  
ABSOLUTELY NO METAL SPIKES  
NO SAGGING Pants  
No cell phone calls or text messaging  
Keeps Hands out of your pockets  
No cell phone calls or text messaging  
No Crooked, half-on, Hats, Sagging Pants





## You HAVE to Stay Warm

- If you are COLD and WET – you are miserable!
- You will not Umpire Effectively
- Bring to the Field:
  - Jacket or Pullover
  - Long Sleeve Turtleneck undershirt
  - Gloves (Black or Blue)
  - Stocking Hat
  - Hand Warmers



# ***What you Need to Have: Shopping List***



## **Kent Little League will Provide**

## **You Provide (Wal-Mart, Target are good sources)**

**Blue Little League Short Sleeve Shirt**

**Dark Blue Long Pants “Dickies” or Blue Jeans (No holes) District 10 wants gray slacks**

**Umpire Hat**

**Black Belt**

**Indicator**

**Black Shoes or Tennis Shoes (Steel toes for plate)**

**Plate Brush**

**Dark Jacket or Pullover for Rain/Cold**

**Ball Bag**

**Long Sleeve Undershirt (Black or Dark Blue)**

**Gloves Black or Blue and/or Handwarmers**

**Bag or case to hold everything together**



# Umpire How To's

## In Pictures

# Putting the Ball in Play....."Play"



# Basic Plate Umpire Stance



# Giving the Count



# Communicating with his Base Umpire how many outs



# Foul, Time or Dead Ball





# Base Umpire Calling & Signaling FOUL Ball



# An OUT Call

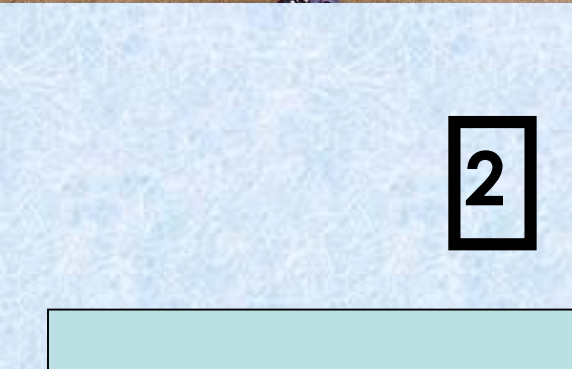


# Sequence Of A Call



**1**

Did the Fielder catch the Ball... "Firm and Secure"



**2**

SLOW DOWN... 



**3**

Vocalize "He's Out"



# Safe Call



# Sequence of SAFE Call



# Signaling to you Base Umpire that the Infield Fly is On



# Base Umpire & Field Umpire

## Who handles What?



# Umpire Responsibilities



Plate Umpire (PU)	Base Umpire (BU)
Calling Strikes & Balls	Calling Out and Safe at 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> bases
Fair / Foul Down Left & Right Field Line	Rundowns between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rundowns between 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Home	Rundowns between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Catch / No Catch on Fly Balls	Secondary Responsibility for Infield Fly Rule
Primary Responsibility for Infield Fly Rule	
<p><b>** Primary Responsibility for Base Touches at Home Plate</b></p> <p><b><u>Secondary Responsibility for Base Touches at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup></u></b></p> <p><b>Most important is the lead runner</b></p>	<p><b>** Primary Responsibility for Base Touches at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <p><b><u>Most important is the lead runner</u></b></p>

**\*\* Runners miss bases all the time, You have to watch this, It will get appealed!**

**If you do not know if a player missed a base, Check with your partner to see if they saw it, if they didn't see it.**

**DO NOT CALL THE PLAYER OUT (Don't guess just because someone yelled...."he missed 2<sup>nd</sup>"**

**EXPLAIN WHY WE MUST BE SURE – See Next Slide**



# Timing of Your Call

## **SLOW DOWN**

**Don't RUSH, You have time**

**Let the Play Begin and End**

**Replay it In your Head**

**Make the Call**

**Nothing Happens Until You Call It**



# Plate Umpire -- Fair and Foul Balls



- If you are ever uncertain if a ball is Fair or Foul
- **ALWAYS signal it a FAIR BALL**
  - A Foul Ball is FOREVER
  - An Incorrectly called FAIR ball can be Fixed
  - You can't fix an incorrectly called Foul Ball

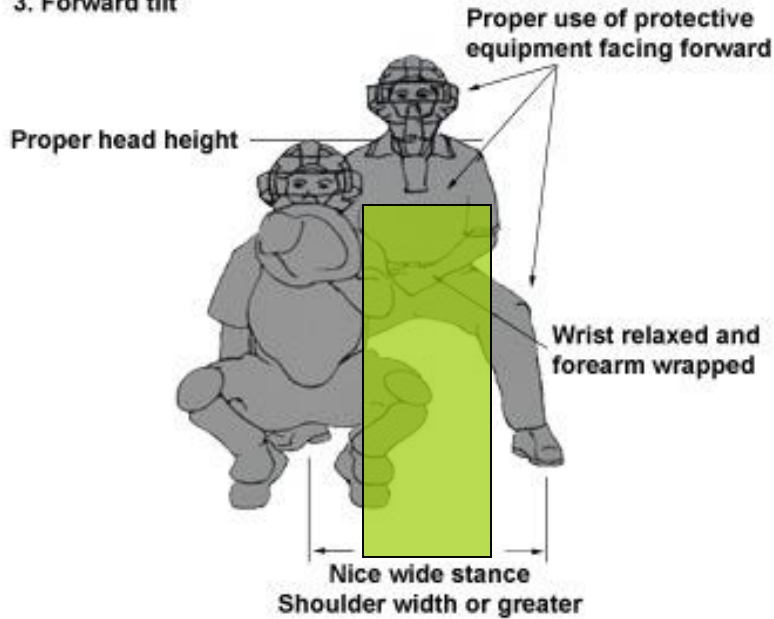
# Home Plate Umpire How To's (Mechanics)

# Plate Umpire Finding The Slot

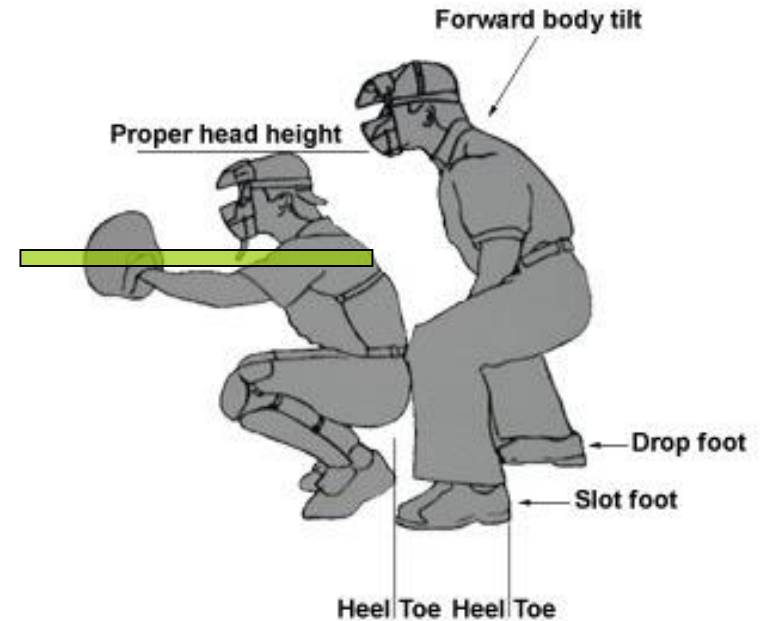


## The Slot (front view)

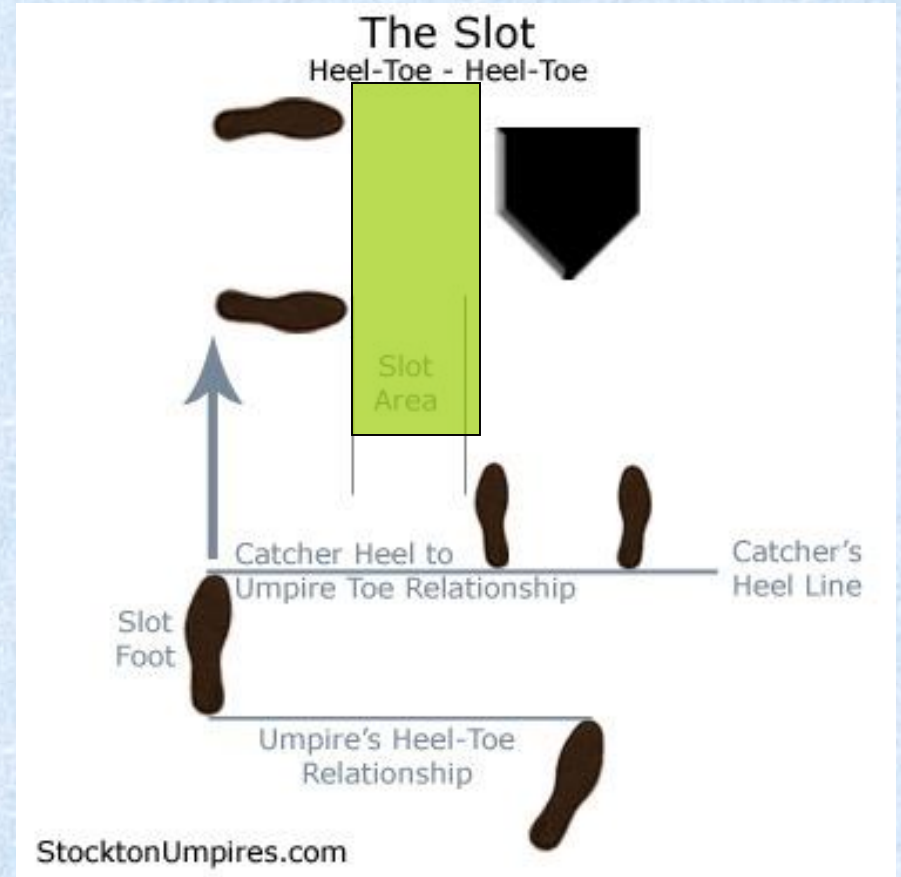
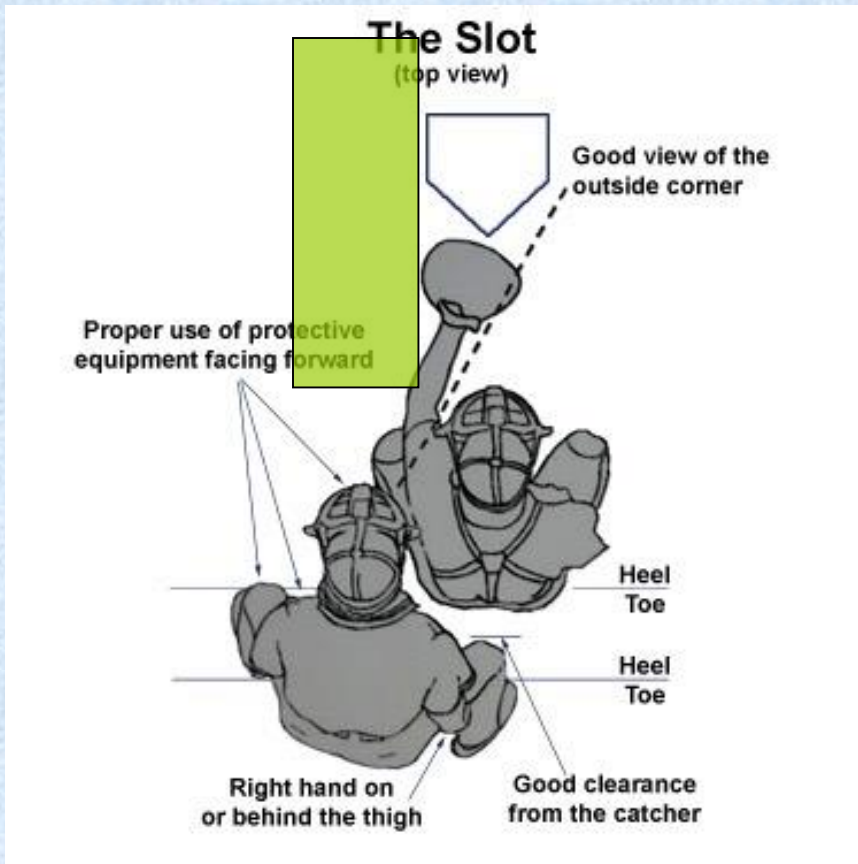
- Proper HEAD POSITION is controlled by:
1. Width of stance
  2. Amount of squat
  3. Forward tilt



## The Slot (side view)



# Plate Umpire Finding The Slot



# Plate Umpire (PU) Mechanics



- Indicator LEFT hand Only!
- **We will cover this in the LIVE Training**
- Set up correctly behind the catcher
  - Square to the Pitcher (Safety)
  - Put the ball in PLAY
  - HOW TO FIND :
    - The SLOT
    - NOSE just left of inside corner of plate
    - SIT DOWN with the Pitch
    - TRACKING the pitch with your EYES
    - TIMING of your Ball and Strike call
- Vocalize your calls (Balls & Strikes)
  - Strike Call – Rise Up – Hammer Right Hand and Vocalize “STRIKE”
  - Ball Call – Stay Down – No Arm Motion – Vocalize “BALL”
  - How Loud? -- Center Fielder Should Hear You

# STRIKE ZONE



## Little League Strike Zone



### **Reg. 2.00 – Strike Zone**

The Strike Zone is that space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance. The umpire shall determine the strike zone according to the batter's usual stance when that batter swings at a pitch.

**A Strike** is a legal pitch which meets any of the following conditions -

- (a) is struck at by the batter and missed;
- (b) is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone;
- (c) is fouled by the batter when there is less than two strikes;
- (d) is bunted foul (batter is out and ball is dead, if the batter bunts foul on the third strike);
- (e) touches the batter's person as the batter strikes at it (dead ball);
- (f) touches the batter in flight in the strike zone; or
- (g) becomes a foul tip (ball is live and in play).



# Giving The Count



- **BALLS with Left Hand                      STRIKES with Right Hand**
- **Give count every 2 pitches**
- **Give it Straight out to Pitcher**
- **Don't VOCALIZE a SWINGING STRIKE**
- **Hands at Face Height**
- **Count is 2 Balls 2 Strike**
  - **“Two – Two”**
  - **“Two Balls – Two Strikes”**
  - **Don't Wave it**

# If You Lose The Count



- This happens to every Plate Umpire
- **DON'T GUESS**
- **FIRST LOOK** for count from your Base Ump
- **Base Umpires – MUST HAVE AN INDICATOR!**
- **Call Time and Find the Home Team Scorekeeper and ask them “What is the count”**

# Base Umpire How To's (Mechanics)

# Base Umpire Mechanics

## Base Umpire

- Calling Out and Safe at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases
- Rundowns between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Rundowns between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Secondary Responsibility for Infield Fly Rule
  - \*\* Primary Responsibility for**
  - **Base Touches at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**
  - **Most important is the lead runner**

# Mechanics--Base Umpire



- **Where to Stand**
  - 3 positions: A, B, and C
  - *We Work Outside* the Infield
  - Boundary is the cut of the Grass
  
- **Positioning yourself to make a call**
  - Pause – Read – React
  - Distance vs. angle
  - The “Window”
  - **Making the Call (Demo Foot/Clap)**
    - **AT FIRST BASE: See the Feet – Listen for the Ball**
    - **Wait, don’t rush to call SLOW DOWN**
    - **If safe signal safe and Vocalize SAFE**
    - **If Out, Look Up to Glove...Is the Ball firm and secure? Yes?**
    - **Signal Out and Vocalize OUT**

**“Window”**

**The Front of the Base  
& Foot  
(1<sup>st</sup> Baseman and Runner)**

# Where does the Field Umpire Stand?



# Base Umpire Rotations

**“A” Position**  
**No Runners On Base**  
***On The Rail***



# Position A

# Base Umpire Rotations

**“B” Position  
Runner on 1<sup>st</sup> Base Only**



# Position B



# Base Umpire Rotations

**“C” Position**  
Runner On 2nd or 3rd



**Position C**

# Why Slow Down Your Calls



- **You Have Time**
- **Under Pressure the Body Speeds Up**
- **Avoid Dreaded Double Call**
- **No Play Is Routine in Little League**
  - **AA**
  - **AAA**
  - **Majors**
  - **Juniors**
  - **Seniors**

# Runner Misses the Base

## Plate Umpire (PU)

**\*\* Primary Responsibility for Base Touches at Home Plate**  
**Secondary Responsibility for Base Touches at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Most important Runner is the Lead Runner**

## Base Umpire (BU)

**\*\* Primary Responsibility for Base Touches at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Most important is the lead runner**



### Situation:


- Runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 2 outs
- Double to right center
- Both runners scored
- Batter/Runner might have missed first base
- There's Doubt?
- Fans yelling he missed 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Team Manager will appeal
- Who has Primary Responsibility?
- If you don't know, ask your PU for Help.
- You must be sure, or appeal is denied

**You and your Partner are a Team**

# How to make the vocal Calls

# How to Say your Calls



- Hammer Arm .....**LET ME IN THE HOUSE!!!!**
  
- PRACTICE
  - “Strike” Hammer Arm, Sounds like “Hriike”
  - “Ball” Sounds Like “Baah”
  - “Out” Hammer Arm
  - “Safe” Arms Straight out
  - “Foul” Arms Up and Out, Vocalize FOUL, Point to Foul Area
  - “Fair” **Silent**, just point to fair territory
  - “No he didn’t” Appeal to Base Ump On Check Swing
  - “Yes he did” Appeal to Base Ump On Check Swing
  - “Time” Arms Straight out, a little upward, vocalize “Time”
  
- You need to PRACTICE on your Own, get your own style.....

# Umpire “Mechanics”



- **How to Stand**
  - **No Folded Arms**
  - **Arms at Sides, Hips or Behind Back**
  
- **Vocalize your calls.....NO LIBRARY VOICES**
  
- **How LOUD?**
  - **Center Fielder should be able to hear your calls**



# Handling Team Managers

- **Team Managers are going to question your calls**
- **They must ask for “TIME” first**
- **2 Ears...1 Mouth**
- **Be Approachable**



# Typical conversation with a The Team Manager



- Let them talk first
  - Remember, you're not always certain why they are coming out?
  - You have 2 ears and 1 Mouth.....Listen
  - The less you say the better
  - He must ask for “TIME”
  - Grant Time
  - *That guy was safe, he clearly missed him, what did you see, bla bla bla*
  - DO NOT LET A TEAM Manager START DEMONSTRATING
  - How to stop this:
    - Coach (or by name is better, Larry, Bill, Sheila), don't demonstrate, talk to me
  - Once their done talking , Look them in the Eyes:
    - “Coach” (or by name is better, Larry, Bill, Sheila)
    - Your 5 golden words: “*This is what I saw*”
    - I had a good angle, the runner was out on the tag, I was in the best position to make the call
    - *(Coach) But I saw it, he was safe, he missed the tag*
    - That's not how I saw it
    - Fair enough, were going to disagree on that call, now lets play on
    - Use fewer words than the coach, they will twist your words



### Example

- **Base Umpire**
- **Close play at First**
- **Team Manger comes running out**
- **“That guy was clearly safe” ....You need to get Help**
- **What he/she means....**
  
- **You don't have to get help on simple out/safe calls**
- **If you have doubt, maybe he pulled his foot, dropped ball, etc..**
- **Then Get Help**
  
- **Go to your Plate Umpire and discuss privately**
- **Then make your call**



# Umpire Code of Conduct

# Umpire Code Of Conduct



## Things you NEVER do as an Umpire:

- You are a TEAM
- You enter and leave the field together
- You backup your fellow umpire
- You NEVER talk bad or question a call, after the fact, of your fellow umpires
- “Throwing your partner under the Bus”
- Never talk after the fact...*oh yea he missed that call*
- NEVER.....NEVER.....NEVER



# Magic Words



- **Foul**
  - **Once you call a foul, it's foul forever**
- **Concussion**
  - **If anyone has a suspected concussion, they must leave the game and get attention**
  - **This includes players, coaches, and umpires**



- **Protest**
  - **Must be made before the next pitch**
  - **Must not be for a judgement call**
  - **Talk to your partner**
  - **Save the game situation in the scorebook**
  - **Continue the game**
- **You**
  - **Time for the manager to return to the dugout**

# Baseball vs Fast Pitch



## The Pitcher

- Present The Ball
- Pivot foot on the plate, free foot on or behind the plate
- Once hands split, they must not come together again
- Once back past the hip, once or twice forward past the hip
- Pivot foot must stay in place or drag on the ground

## The Runners

- Pitcher has the ball in the 8 Foot Circle
  - must choose a direction unless a play is made
  - if a runner leaves early, it's an out
  - continuing to run through a base is legal

## Bunting

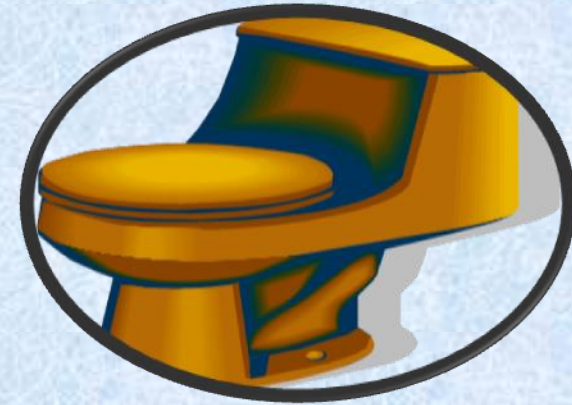
- If the batter does not pull the bat back, it is a strike

# Making Mistakes as an Umpire

# Mistakes are going to happen



- Out that's Safe ..... Safe that's Out.....You have to get over it
- *Flush It !*
- *Fans THINK the Plate Umpire can overrule----NO*
  
- *DON'T GO FOR HELP JUST ANYTIME!*
- *Don't be BULLIED*
- If you legitimately "need help"
  - Blocked out, Didn't see it
  - Go to your partner and say "What did you see?"
  - Whoever had the original call – delivers the final ruling
- Tip!
  - Before you go for help
  - Make a deal with the questioning team manager
    - Show example
    - Tell the team manager that you are going to get help
    - But he/she needs to go to the dugout now and
    - He/she will not come out to further discuss the ruling





# Handling hostile fans



- Do not look at them
- If it gets bad (too loud, too persistent, using profanity)
- Call time and with the adult walk down to the dugout of the Team Manager side it is coming from
- DO NOT GO INTO THE DUGOUT, CALL THE TEAM Manager OUT
- Explain what is happening Tell the Manager they need to get control of their fans or the person will need to leave the ball park (point the person out if its needed) “Blue Shirt, yelling at every pitch, call”
- Do not get into a shouting match with a fan
- Umpires stay within the confines of the field

# Infield Fly Rule



**When can the infield fly rule be called?**

- Less than 2 outs
- Runner on first and second, or first, second and third
- It's purpose is to prevent a double play.

**Plate Umpire Judgment is:**

**If the umpire determines that a player can make the catch with ordinary effort, then he/she can apply the rule.**

**After the ball is hit in the air, you should hear the umpire yell, "Infield fly, batter is out" And point your finger straight up.....Your Base Umpire should mimic you**

**No infield fly rule on a Bunt**



# More Training



**Field Training at BLE  
March 7th 5:45 - 6:45 P.M.**

**District 10 Training March 3th  
Surprise Lake Middle School in Milton  
7:30 A.M. Until 4:00 P.M.  
Lunch is Provided**



# Little League Rules



- **The Green Book - Baseball**
- **The Orange Book - Softball**

**Read the rules**

**If you have a question, ask your UIC**