

Umpire's Pre-Game Conference

General Outline

- I. Notify home institution** that the crew has arrived
 - A. Ensure that coaches are also notified of the crews arrival
- II. Confirm start time for game and determine pre-game ceremonies**, if any
- III. Locate and identify school administrator(s)**
- IV. Discussion topics**
 - A. Uniforms
 - B. Pre-game check of bats and helmets
- V. On-Field Pre-Game Conference procedure**
 - A. Positioning of umpires
 - B. Ground rules by home coach or home institution
 - C. U1 does all the talking unless otherwise directed
 - D. Positions for National Anthem and pre-game ceremonies
 - E. Run to positions
- VI. Check swing responsibilities and mechanics**
- VII. Swipe tag and pulled foot mechanics**
- VIII. Fair/Foul responsibilities**
- IX. Outfield Coverage**
- X. Unusual aspects of this field**
- XI. Known issues with teams/fans, etc.**
- XII. Non-Verbal Communication**
 - A. Infield fly
 - B. Standard rotation
 - C. Reverse rotation
 - D. Umpire going out
 - E. Appeal
 - F. Timing Play
 - G. Trap/Catch by catcher on third strike
 - H. Outs and count
 - I. Eye contact
- XIII. Verbal Communication**
 - A. On rotations
 - B. Umpire going out
- XIV. Crew conferences during game**
 - A. Unusual plays/situations – make sure everyone knows what happened and what the result is
 - B. Questions concerning rules/interpretations
- XV. Review play/rotation situations**
 - A. 2, 3 or 4 Umpire mechanics
- XVI. Appeals (know WHO is going to make the call)**
 - A. Missed bases
 - B. Tag-ups
- XVII. Arguments (coaches)**
 - A. One on One (Head coach ONLY)
 - B. When to step in and when to leave alone
 - C. Ejections/Restrictions to Bench
 1. Hopefully, there will not be any, but if there are.....
 2. After ejection or benching, umpire should turn and walk away
 3. Who is going to help who once the ejection/restriction is made
 - a) If U1 (may depend on which coach/bench it is), but generally,
 - (1) First base umpire if on first base side of the field
 - (2) Third base umpire if on the third base side
 - b) If at 1st or 3rd base
 - (1) U1 is the most preferable
 - c) If in the infield
 - (1) First or Third base umpire (or U1 if 3-man crew) depending on which coach/bench it is
- XVIII. Fights**
 - A. Try to stop players BEFORE fight starts
 - B. If you can't stop them, step back and take numbers of participants for ejections and reports. Let the coaches handle the players!!
- XIX. Weather related issues**
 - A. Lightning/Rain
 1. Know the lighting policy and procedures (30/30 Rule)
 - B. NFHS/UIIL rules for delayed/suspended game
- XX. Closing**
 - A. Rules or mechanics questions
 - B. Hustle at all times
 - C. Communicate with each other --- we are a TEAM
 - D. Good eye contact
 - E. Good timing
 - F. Get play RIGHT
 - G. Have fun and enjoy what you are doing