

## **CREW CONFERENCE**

In order to eliminate further delay by a coach after a crew conference, the following will be in effect beginning with the 2008 season:

Umpires are not required to hold a conference if the calling umpire is sure he got the play right.

However if, at the request of a **defensive** coach, the crew gathers to discuss a call, the coach must return to the dugout before the crew discusses the call. The coach must also remain in the dugout if the decision has been upheld .

If the conference is made at the request of the **offensive** coach, he must return either to the coaching box or the dugout as provided above.

A requesting coach returning to the field to continue the discussion after a decision has been upheld is subject to being remanded to the dugout for delaying the game.

If the call is changed, the opposing coach is permitted on the field only for the purpose of getting an explanation of the reversed call.

Whenever a conference is necessary, the entire crew should get together. The one person left out may be the only umpire with the right answer. When the crew gathers, the best procedure is for the plate umpire, or crew chief to poll each umpire as to what he saw or would rule. If a call is changed, the umpire making the original call will be the one to signal the change.

**IF A PLAY OR RULING IS PROTESTED, THE ENTIRE CREW MUST GET TOGETHER.**

Following the conference, the plate umpire or crew chief should get both coaches together and explain the final ruling.