

What is Umpiring?

Umpiring is preparation, reading and then reacting to a situation for each umpire causing the umpire to move to a position to cover their area of responsibility. Then be set to make a call on a situation. Coverage is based on the most likely play to happen next. Umpires should not react to unlikely second or third play developments.

Thus good umpires will do the following:

- Study the rules and mechanics especially the ones that are confusing to them.
- Comply with the policies and procedures of the association for whom they are working.
- Make sure their uniform looks good, clean and professional.
- Contact partner(s) day before to confirm time, location and uniform.
- Plan to arrive 45 minutes prior to scheduled start time.
- Check in with the coach(es)/site director making sure game will start on time. No BS'ing with them.
- While getting dressed for the game have a pregame with partner(s).
- Arrive on field 10 minutes before scheduled game time and check equipment for safety and legality if required by rules.
- Plate umpires keep the game moving by calling a realistic strike zone, keeping the game moving during dead times and between innings by enforcing the pitch and time rules.
- Base umpire(s) hustle to their next position.
- Umpires hustle and move accordingly to cover the plays they are responsible for.
- Use good timing prior to rendering a decision so that only one call is made on that one play.
- Deal with adversity from players, coaches and fans by hearing everything and re-acting to what needs to be re-acted to.
- When the game is finished they leave the field together with their chins up, not looking for complements from the team(s). *“If you believe them when they say you did a good job, you better believe them when they say ‘you suck’.”*
- Review the game and ask for feed back from their partner(s).
- Rinse, lather, and repeat.

Go look in the mirror and be honest with yourself – were you a “good umpire” for that game. What can you do better next game? We are only as good as our last call. Get noticed for the right reasons. If you end up on *YouTube* make sure you look good.

Source: Gary Frieders
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