
Code of Ethics

as presented in Level 1 Umpire Certification Manual (January 1997)

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Introduction

Softball officiating is a responsibility that demands professional performance. Umpires must be people of sincere integrity; fair and impartial. Feelings must be kept under control at all times with a sincere desire to help and assist those participating.

Attitude and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the umpire to have the game won on its merits.

Be calm and use good judgement at all times.

Arrive promptly at all games, at least thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. All officials must wear a clean, neat regulation uniform as specified. Beards are not allowed. Hair length should be no longer than to the shirt collar. Neatly trimmed mustaches are permissible. Umpires should be clean shaven prior to all games.

Be in good physical shape -- be fit -- display speed and alertness at all times. Convey confidence. Hustle!

The umpire should conduct a game on an impartial plane. An umpire is called upon to render decisions immediately without lengthy reflection. Therefore, the study of techniques with the correct interpretation and application of the rules is of major importance.

Decisions will be questioned. If appropriate, admit error with dignity and without alibi.

Do not let yourself be influenced on matters of judgement. If in doubt, by all means consult with the other umpire, weigh carefully what is said to assist you and then render your decision promptly, firmly and finally. If it is a matter of interpretation which is questioned, listen to what the protesting manager has to say. In your answer, never be sarcastic or desire the last word.

Never carry a grudge. Even when you are compelled to remove a player from a game, do it in a firm and polite manner, and then forget it. Matters can be made worse by not seeing that orders are carried out promptly and by the use of too many or improper words.

Try to avoid "Even-up Decisions": This policy is detrimental to all concerned. Be a master of your decisions.

Build a feeling of confidence with other umpires. Be ready to assist your fellow umpire on all plays.

Conduct

Display absolute integrity and unbiased performance with all concerned.

Promote and support softball at all times. You are a part of it. Be professional.

Conduct must always be such that it is not detrimental to softball.

Abstain from criticizing the public, the decisions and the work of fellow umpires. You are a team on and off the field.

Refrain from fraternizing with players, coaches, managers or spectators during the game. Answer in a polite manner any questions directed to you from participants on the field.