

## Oregon School Activities Association

Softball SRI Bulletin / March 30, 2015

### UMPIRE DO'S AND DON'TS

#### DO'S

- Do find out the name of each team's head coach at every pregame meeting (**plate-talk**) at home plate. If you do not know the coach, write their name on your lineup card. (**A pair of cunning coaches at some time will inform you they are co-coaches. Simply ask which one will be the speaking coach.**)
- Do check the lineup cards for accuracy. (**DP/FLEX**)
- Do secure enough alternate balls for the game.
- Do monitor injury conferences with the pitcher. (**Stand nearby to see that the dugout personnel is checking on the injury and not discussing strategy.**)
- Do step up and support your partner when an argument occurs. If your partner ejects someone from the game, it's your duty to escort the ejected person off the field.
- Do use preventive officiating.
- Do allow the players to play the game. (**Do not inflict yourself in the game.**)

#### DON'TS

- Don't warn a pitcher about illegal pitching during her warm-up pitches.
- Don't be a "**nitpicker**."
- Don't interrupt the flow of the game to brush a few grains of sand from the plate. (**No one is going to eat off of home plate.**)
- Don't threaten a manager, coach or player. (**Don't bait**)
- Don't permit a manager or coach to order an unsporting or malicious act. (**Anyone who orders an unsporting or malicious act must be ejected.**)
- Don't allow a manager or coach to incite spectators with words or demonstrations over umpiring decisions or verbally count the number or calls they believe the umpires have missed.
- Don't permit team members to **taunt, berate, intimidate** or **ridicule** opposing players.

### FACE the CALL

Umpires should understand that immediately turning away after a significant play is a dangerous habit. A strike out, for example, can represent an emotional moment for players of both teams and the possibility of misconduct between those players is often matched by the possibility of disputes within the team that just made the out.

Other flash points can occur in different situations on the field, such as safe/out call on a pickoff attempt or while ejecting a coach or player. Taking your focus off of the situation immediately in front of you may cause you to miss any misconduct, interference or obstruction.

## QUICK TIPS

Consider your position on the field when pre-pitch planning. If you are working the plate, think about your responsibilities from the plate to the infield and outfield, in that order. If you are a base umpire, start with knowing where the outfielders are lined up and consider your responsibilities from those players through the infield to the plate.

When conferencing with your partner to discuss a play or situation. Keep the language **concise** and be as brief as possible. ("***Yes, she pulled her foot off the bag***"). A conference that lasts **20** seconds or less is ideal.

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