

GAME MANAGEMENT

To survive a game, a good strike zone is essential as are good mechanics and rule knowledge. Good game management and winning the acceptance of coaches and players is just as important.

Avoid Game Interrupters:

- Secure enough softballs so there will not be a delay of game after several foul balls.
- During warm-up pitches always have an alternate ball ready for the catcher in case of a wild pitch.
- Don't hold up the game to dust a few particles of dirt off the plate. *Try to save your brushing for normal breaks in the game.*
- It is okay after a play to hand the catcher her mask as a courtesy and to speed up the game. Developing a good relationship with the catcher helps quiet a coach who is questioning balls and strikes.
- Prepare lineup cards to simplify substitutions. (Use an off color pen)

Gain Confidence:

- Gain the confidence of the coaches by being professional and business like.
- Don't be overbearing, dictatorial or overly friendly.
- During each pitcher's warm-ups before the game, set up behind the catcher to watch a few practice pitches. *Coaches like to see that and it will help you dial in.*
- Be sure run rules and time limits are known by all interested parties before the game.

Tips:

- Never store your water, soda or other drinks in a team's cooler or hang around a dugout socializing.
- As a base umpire, move to a neutral area in the outfield between innings.
- Refrain from constantly checking your indicator or holding it in front of your eyes as you adjust it.
- Do not allow two coaches to come out to question a play at the same time.
- Do not allow the third-base coach to argue a play at first base and vice-versa.
- **Move other players and coaches away if there is an argument between your partner and the head coach.**
- Don't explain where your strike zone is to the pitcher's father or anyone else.