

## **REMINDERS**

- TESTS
  - Tests not yet mailed are past due.
  - Mail them immediately to avoid a sanction.
- LIABILITY ALERT FORMS
  - Umpire must use the new Liability Alert Form.
  - Umpires are improperly submitting the old form.
  - One was even mailed to Jiggs Vetter.
- POST SEASON
  - Post-season games will start shortly.
  - Please review the attached document to help ensure a positive post-season.
  - Though the focus is on 3-umpire mechanics, many items pertain to 2-umpire games as well.
- NYSSO UMPIRE SCHOOL
  - If you haven't provided the information regarding the NYSSO Umpire School yet, please do so.
  - Allow umpires enough time to make the necessary accommodations to attend the school.
  - Applications are due to Jim Berkery by June 15.

## **SAY WHAT?!?!**

- Crazy things umpires have said this year:
  - "If your player wears jewelry, she's removed for the game and the coach is removed for the game too."
  - "If you wanna report changes to me, fine. If you don't, that's fine too."
  - "There's no penalty for unreported subs, so don't waste time reporting them."
  - "Catcher's interference! Dead ball!"
  - Plate Umpire: "I'll take all fair/foul down both lines."
  - Base Umpire in "C" Slot: "I can't make that call from here," when asked about a checked swing.
  - "It's okay for the Flex to bat for someone other than the DP. That other player becomes the temporary DP." As a reminder, the Flex may only bat in the DP spot. The DP may play defense even with the Flex in the game. The player for whom the DP is playing defense is considered a "Temporary Offensive Player."

## **MECHANICS CONCERNS**

- COVERING 3<sup>RD</sup> BASE
  - With R3 on 3rd and R1 on 1st base, B4 hits a gapper to the outfield. The call on R1 going into 3rd base is the plate umpire's responsibility.
  - "I had to stay home for the lead runner" is not accurate nor an excuse for the plate umpire not covering 3rd base.
  - The proper mechanic is for the plate umpire to drift up the 3rd base line in foul territory, watch the ball, glance back to make sure R3 touches home and move into the Holding Zone to read R1.
- AFTER PLAY MECHANICS
  - After the play, the base umpire does not move to his/her starting position until all runners are on base and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the circle.
  - Once those elements are met, the base umpire shall hustle back to position (move with purpose, but don't sprint).
  - This is not the time to stare at your indicator. It's not a GPS.

- Once back in position, then, and only then, does the plate umpire move back behind the plate.
- UMPIRE-TO-UMPIRE COMMUNICATION
  - The plate umpire initiates umpire-to-umpire signals.
  - Let the plate umpire control the tempo of the game.
  - Base umpires: DO NOT signal first (unless the plate umpire has completely forgotten the situation).
- 9 IRON . . .
  - Track the pitch all the way into the glove.
  - Umpires are reading the pitch and making up their minds before fully tracking the ball into the catcher's glove.
  - Pitches that may look good initially, are dying at the plate and crossing at the shins, not the knees.
  - If you call shin-high pitches strikes, then the "low" strike you miss will be at the batter's ankles.
- GIVING THE COUNT
  - When giving the count, your hands have to be at least head high and shoulder with apart.
  - Your fingers are pointed vertically to the sky, not horizontally like you're giving a gang sign.
  - Wait until the pitcher is facing you before giving the count.
- WATCH THE BALL!
  - If there is a shoe-string catch/no catch, ball hitting the fence, defenders colliding, etc., and you don't see it, you're not prioritizing responsibilities correctly.
  - Remember, watch the ball, glance at the runners and recognize your partner(s).
- LINE-UP CARD MANAGEMENT
  - All substitutions must be reported.
    - The fact that there is no player penalty doesn't mean it's a free-for-all.
  - The following must be recorded
    - All substitutions
    - DP/Flex changes
    - Pitcher & Catcher changes
      - How else will you know who's eligible for a courtesy runner?
    - Courtesy Runners
  - The plate umpire will then report the change to the opposing team.
    - It's not the scorekeeper's job to tell the opposing team.
      - Avoid a possible inaccurate reporting
- GROUNDS RULES
  - At the high school level, the coach ought to go through the grounds rules pertaining to the field.
  - If you feel the coach lacks such ability, then the plate umpire can do so.
    - When giving them, face forward and speak loudly
      - Do no physically turn around at stare at the backstop
        - Aside from being rude, no one can hear you anyway