

Umpire Credo & 10 Commandments of Umpiring

UMPIRE CREDO

- ✓ Umpires, while on the field, should not indulge in conversation with players. Keep out of the coaching box and do not talk to the coach on duty.
- ✓ Always be courteous to coaches, players, and fans; avoid visiting in either team's dugout.
- ✓ Dress appropriately and look professional. Be active and alert on the field.
- ✓ When you enter a ballpark, your sole duty is to umpire a ball game as the representative of baseball.
- ✓ Keep the game moving. A ball game is often helped by energetic and earnest work of the umpires.
- ✓ You are the only official representative of baseball on the ball field. It is often a trying position which requires the exercise of much patience and good judgment, but do not forget that the first essential in working out of a bad situation is to keep your own temper and self-control.
- ✓ You no doubt are going to make mistakes but never attempt to "even up" after having made one. Make all decisions as you see them. Forget which is the home or visiting team.
- ✓ Keep your eye everlastingly on the ball while it is in play. It is more vital to know just where a fly ball fell, or a thrown ball finished up, than whether a runner missed a base. Do not call the plays too quickly or turn away too fast when a fielder is throwing to complete a play. Watch out for dropped balls after you have called a runner out.
- ✓ Do not come running with your arm up or down, denoting "out" or "safe." Wait until the play is completed before making any arm motion.
- ✓ Have a conference with your partner so you can right a wrong call when you are convinced that you or your partner has made an glaring error. Do not carry conferences to extremes, but remember, the first requirement is to try to get the right call made. So, if in doubt, don't hesitate to call a conference. Umpire dignity is important but never as important as "making the right call."
- ✓ Most important rule for umpires is always "BE IN POSITION TO SEE EVERY PLAY." Even when your decision is 100% correct, others will still question it if they feel you were not in a spot to see the play clearly and definitely.
- ✓ Finally, be courteous, impartial and firm, and so compel respect from all.

The 10 Commandments of Umpiring, by Ford C. Frick (1949)

#	Commandment
1	Keep your eye on the ball.
2	Keep all your personalities out of your work. Forget and forgive.
3	Avoid sarcasm. Don't insist on the last word.
4	Never charge a player and, above all, no pointing your finger or yelling.
5	Hear only the things you should hear - be deaf to others.
6	Keep your temper. A decision made in anger is never sound.
7	Watch your language.
8	Take pride in your work at all times. Remember, respect for an umpire is created off the field as well as on.
9	Review your work. You will find, if you are honest, that 90% of the trouble is traceable to loafing.
10	No matter what your opinion of another umpire, never make an adverse comment regarding him. To do so is despicable and ungentlemanly.