

Baseball Umpire TidBits #2

MEETING AT HOME PLATE

Attempt to start on time. Proceed to the plate, together as a crew, 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. Plate umpire(UIC) will stand directly behind home plate and base umpire will stand in front of the plate in fair territory. Base umpire remains in this position until the home team takes the field or the National Anthem is played.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Stand at attention, Home Plate Umpire with toes on back of batters box (left of the umpire), and base umpire on back lines of opposite batters box. Left arm extended down the side of the left leg, and right hand over the heart. Plate umpire place mask under the left upper arm.

POSITIONS PRIOR TO START OF GAME

After the playing of the National Anthem, the base umpire will jog to a position between first and second base, a few feet onto the outfield grass. At this time, check for obvious infractions and correct(gates open, equipment out of the dugout, coaches on buckets in live ball territory/out of dugout, etc). When catcher throws last warmup pitch to second, jog to starting position at first. Plate umpire observes the pitcher and catcher for possible infractions and takes warmup pitches 3, 4, 5, 6, from behind the catcher. Advise the catcher, and pitcher when two warmup pitches remain and advise the batter when 1 warmup pitch remains.

Upon batter taking his position in the batters box and pitcher toes the rubber, the plate umpire shall point at the pitcher and verbalize "PLAY".

POSITIONS BETWEEN INNINGS

Base umpires jog to position between first and second, onto the outfield grass(initial starting position). During trips to the mound, base umpire will go to the edge of the outfield that they are located on(between first and second if in B, Between Second and Third if in C) Remain in this position until the coach crosses the foul line to conclude the conference.

The Plate Umpire obtains a position between home and first or home and third, one-fourth up the line. Plate umpires choice. I usually go to the line of the team coming in, after the pitcher crosses the foul line. Use common sense to determine between inning position. Don't go to trouble areas. During a pitching change, the plate umpire should go to the opposite foul line of the dugout the coach came from.

AFTER THE GAME

Plate umpire will give the baseballs to an attendant, coach, or game personnel on the way out the gate. Do not drop baseballs on the plate, throw them to the dugout, or go to a dugout to return. If no one is around to retrieve the baseballs, take them to your changing area and return at a later time. Game over, leave the field.