

THE PACE OF THE GAME

There have been increased concerns expressed by AD's and coaches about the length of high school baseball games. We, as umpires, control the flow of the game. We must use what the rule book gives us to make game management a success. Listed below are ideas for you to incorporate as a routine part of your game management.

1. Talk to your partner the night before your game and do much of your pre-game at that time.
2. Arrive at the game site 30 – 45 minutes before the start time. This will allow you extra time for discussion and assure the equipment inspection to begin at fifteen minutes before the start.
3. Check the equipment together. It should only take five minutes for both sides to be completes.
4. Conduct your pre-game conference at five minutes before the start. Make it professional and don't engage in small talk. Just take care of game business. This is your first and only chance to establish yourselves as professional in approach and demeanor.
5. UIC will start the game with three new balls and three serviceable ones from the home team's bag. Sooner or later these balls will be given to you. Stay ahead and have a supply at all times in your bag.
6. Do not let game personnel throw replacement or retrieved balls to you. Ask them before the game to hand them to you.
7. Call strikes and outs. They make the game move.
8. Between half inning, stay on the team's side that is coming to bat. Position yourself near the home plate circle and only talk to your partner if necessary.
9. The base umpire will stand in short right field during warm up throws and move to the A position on after the fourth throw. The BU should make eye contact with the UIC to signal that F1 is throwing his last warm up pitch. He will also count warm up pitches if the UIC is busy.
10. The UIC will enforce the one minute between half innings. Be ready to start play after the throw to second. Dust the plate and get the batter in the box.
11. Hustle and ask the same from the players.
12. Do not fraternize. This should be self explanatory. Do your job and a coach will notice your work.
13. Keep all time in your head and enforce the rule if you feel it is necessary.
14. Always remember, you are the sole authority of baseball while on the field. Take pride in your work and your appearance.

15. Look the part, act the part, and be the part.