

Oregon School Activities Association

Baseball SRI Bulletin – #2

Tad's Tips (2017 edition)

1. PREPARATION

A pre-game removes doubt about who is doing what and when.
A thorough pre-game prepares you mentally to work the game.
A pre-game conference is required before every game.

2. BE PROFESSIONAL

You are there to do a job; comport yourself accordingly.
Shake hands, speak respectfully and clearly, and smile without being casual.
Know your boundaries regarding familiarity and do not cross them.

3. STUDENT ATHLETE SAFETY

This includes weather and field conditions.
Proper use of protective equipment is required.
If ever in doubt, **always** error on the side of safety.

4. APPEARANCE

Looks count when seeking the respect of players, coaches and your partners.
A clean and properly worn uniform will help you look the part.
Always try to "out dress" your partner.

5. RULE INTENT

Knowing the basis of a rule will help you enforce it.
Understand the "intent" of the rules- not just the wording of the rule.
Learn to umpire effectively in the "grey," not in the black or white.

6. MENTAL TOUGHNESS

Expect criticism and learn how to handle it.
You should desire to have the toughest calls in the most intense situations.
Mentally rehearse your game and solicit constructive criticism from veteran umpires.

7. CONTINUED TRAINING

You must **want** to improve before you **can** improve.
Never be satisfied with your own abilities. Complacency can be your worst enemy.
Continued study is a requirement. Good umpires read the rulebook and the manual often.

8. LISTEN!

Be quiet and listen. Listen to coaches, colleagues, administrators and assignors.
Do not get defensive when you are given constructive criticism from a fellow official.
Choose wisely what to hear, and how and when to respond.

9. PROPER USE OF YOUR VOICE

Be loud enough to be heard; not challenging but firm.
Strike calls should be loud and quick, not long and drawn out.
Establish your competence by using a strong and assertive voice.

10. COURTESY AND DEMEANOR

"Please" and "Thank you" are of great value.
Remember to keep your head while everyone around you is losing theirs.
Common courtesy should not extend to accepting inappropriate and/or personal criticism.

LET'S PLAY BALL!