

Please make sure you are on time (arrive 30 minutes before the game starts), confident and have all of your equipment for the game. **All male umpires must wear a cap, whether you are behind the plate or in the field.** Please take some time to read thru the Local Rules for the division you are working. Each one has slightly different rules.

Make sure you introduce yourself to both coaches confidently and before you walk the field, ask them to have their teams lay their bats and helmets on the fence so you can inspect them. Do this 15-20 minutes before the game starts.

At the pre-game coaches meeting, please again be confident and have a plan. The items you should mention include the following:

Introduce yourself and have your fellow umpire introduce themselves.

Ask the coaches if their players are properly and legally equipped.

Go over the local rules so you and both coaches are on the same page. This will limit issues as the game goes on when stress levels increase. **All games can start with 8 players, but the team takes an out when the 9th spot comes to bat, and no new inning can start after 2 hours, plus at 2 hours and 30 minutes the game ends.**

Here are some, but not all of the others. Please go the ones specific to your game and read them BEFORE you go to the field:

Single A run limit is 3 during coach pitch innings and 2 during kid pitch innings (plus unlimited runs in the 6th and beyond). Kids get 6 pitches maximum during coach pitch, but call balls and strikes. If they strike out before 6 pitches they are out. **NO EXTRA PITCHES AFTER 6, unless there is a foul ball. They can get additional pitches if they keep fouling balls off.** Courtesy runners for the Pitcher and Catcher are allowed with 2 outs or when the team at bat is within 1 run of their maximum that inning.

Double A run limit is 3 runs (plus unlimited in the 6th and beyond), Intentional Walks are allowed and so are courtesy runners for the Pitcher and Catcher with 2 outs or when the team at bat is within 1 run of their maximum that inning.

Triple A run limit is 5 runs (plus unlimited in the 6th and beyond), Intentional Walks are allowed and so are courtesy runners for the Pitcher and Catcher with 2 outs or when the team at bat is within 1 run of their maximum that inning plus Infield Fly Rule is in effect.

Majors has no run limit per inning, but after 4 innings, or 3 and a half if the home team is winning, there is a 10 run mercy rule. Infield Fly and Dropped Third Strike are both in effect. Intentional Walks are allowed and so are courtesy runners for the Pitcher and Catcher with 2 outs.

Please emphasize that the coaches should use a courtesy runner for the catcher when there are two outs or if the team at bat is within one run of the maximum that inning. They should have the catcher dressed and ready to go when the third out is made.

Please make sure the coaches give you two official game balls each before the game starts.

Identify the Adult Game Coordinator at your pre-game meeting with the coaches just in case you need help.

End the meeting with something about good sportsmanship. Here is an example
“Sportsmanship starts with us and goes to the Players and Fans. If you have an issue during the game, please come talk to me. If I have an issue with your players or fans, I will talk to you about it and ask for your help resolving it.”

Ask your umpire partners if you missed anything or if they have anything to add.

Ask the coaches if they have any questions.

Tell them Good Luck and the Home Team can take the field when they are ready.