



LET'S TALK UMPIRES

How to Interact with Umpires:

We know it can get heated in the moment — but here's how to keep things respectful and productive:

BEFORE the Game:

- Be ready for the plate conference: bring up any field issues, clarify rules (line drive, courtesy runners, etc.)
- Have your bats ready. If one gets rejected, don't argue — safety calls are judgment-based. We all follow the same rules regarding stamps, but things like damage or grips are judgment calls.

IF You need to talk to the Ump:

- Wait until the play is dead. Some calls (like Delayed Dead Balls) happen after the play ends.
- Know that if the ump didn't see it, they can't call it. They're one person covering every pitch, base, and runner.
- Know the rule before you challenge it. For example:
- No infield fly without runners on 1st and 2nd (or bases loaded).
- Obstruction is not the same as interference.
- It's okay to ask, but do so politely and with curiosity, not criticism. And once you get your answer move on, do not argue. This is not only respecting the Umpires but also your team and the opposing team as this chews into everyone's game time. Calls will not be overturned.

Tone Matters:

Yelling from the field helps no one. What looks like a strike from 40-100 feet away may look very different from 10 inches.

Ask questions respectfully. Some umps are fine explaining to whoever's closest (like the catcher); others may want the team captain to approach. Respect their preference.

Bottom Line:

Umpires are an integral part of this league.

Let's continue treating them with the respect they deserve, even when we don't agree.

Cheer loud, play hard, and if you're unsure — ask, don't chirp. Let's keep the game fun, fair, and full of good vibes.

SHOW YOUR UMPIRES SOME LOVE! Now... LET'S PLAY BALL!