



Umpiring Fundamentals
**IOWA HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

How Do I Get Some Games?

- Contact Local Schools
- Find an assignor for local schools
 - Larry Jacobus: piratespens@msn.com
 - Randy Heimerman: heimermanofficials@gmail.com
 - Julie Foglesong: strike3.ia@gmail.com
 - John Parsons: coachparsons04@gmail.com
 - Ken Robbins (NC): k.robbins@mchsi.com
 - Jim Obermann (NE): jimobermann@gmail.com
 - Randy Krejci (MVC): RdKrejci@cr.k12.ia.us
 - Mike Botts (MAC): mgbotts@aol.com
 - Jim Cottrell (SE): bjcottrell@aol.com
 - John Mathias (SE): john.r.mathias@gmail.com
 - Chris Girres (SW): chrisgirres@gmail.com
 - Ray Wood (SW): midwestumps.wood@gmail.com
 - Dave Schipper (NW): dschipper15@gmail.com
 - Fred Perkins (NW): fredbp0022@gmail.com
 - Tim Mousel (NW): tlmousel@midlands.net
 - Mark Gunderson (NW): mgunderson@mocfv.org

Where Do I Get My Gear?

- <https://smittyapparel.com/pages/iowa-preferred-dealers>
- Iowa Official Supply- <https://www.iowaofficialssupplies.com/>
- Honigs- <https://honigs.com/sport/baseball-softball.html>
- Gerry Davis- <https://www.gerrydavis.com/>
- Purchase Officials- <https://purchaseofficials.com/collections/iowa>
- Ebay? Others?
- <https://www.thegraphicedge.com/search?criteria=referee+zone>
- Need: Charcoal Grey pants, navy blue shirt, lt. blue shirt, undershirt (should match the trim of the shirt), tights, cup, hat (IHSAA logo), mask, chest protector, shin guards, plate shoes/base shoes (all black)

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Equipment

- Buy the best equipment you can afford- buying substandard will only cost you in the long run.
- Make sure equipment is fitted and worn properly.
- Have a good assortment of shirt colors and sizes. One for the plate and one for bases.
- Plate and base pants are preferred to combination pants.
- Wear plate shoes when working the plate. They may appear to be expensive, but less costly than a trip to the emergency room with a broken foot.

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General Professionalism

- Keep your schedule up-to-date, use a spreadsheet. If you have an assignor, block out dates that you cannot or do not want to work.
- Don't ever turn back a game for a "better game."
- If you accept a game, then work the game with few exceptions.
- If the position (plate or bases) is assigned, stay with the assignment.
- Don't be a plate-dodger or plate-hog. Do your share of plates and bases.

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When a Game is Contracted (Assigned)

- Contact the School/AD by email to confirm time and format (JV/V) – GET A CELL NUMBER FOR AD/CONTACT PERSON
- Quickly communicate with your partner when you receive a game.
- Pre-arrange with your partner:
 - Who is working the plate
 - What are you wearing
 - When to arrive (at least 45 minutes before)
- Where to park and car you are driving.
- Shirt color to wear (or bring multiple)

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When You Arrive at the Game Site

- Save a parking spot for your partner.
- Don't show up already dressed- driving wrinkles your uniform.
- Go to the field together in street clothes to let the AD/coach know you have arrived.
- Have your gear packed in case you have a dressing room.
- If no dressing area, do so without exposing yourself for views on social media.

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When You Arrive at the Game Site cont.

- **Professional Appearance.**
 - Clean and shined shoes
 - Pressed pants and shirt(s)
 - Black socks
 - Belt
 - Clean hat (no sweat marks)
- **Pregame! See future slides.**
- **Be at the plate at least 10 minutes before game time.**

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Pregame

- Pregame Conference

Positioning

Ground rules by home team

Check swing responsibilities

Swipe tag and pulled foot mechanics

Fair/foul responsibilities

Appeal: base touches and tag ups

Outfield coverage

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Pregame cont.

- Pregame Conference

- Non-verbal signals

- Infield Fly

- Umpire going out

- Appeal

- Time play

- Trap/catch by catcher on third strike

- Outs and count

- Minute between innings- who is keeping track

- Pitch count for new pitcher

- Eye contact

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Pregame cont.

- Pregame Conference

- Handling Dugouts

- Arguing balls and strikes

- Restriction to dugout

- Arguments

- One on one

- When to step in and when to leave them alone

- Ejections- turn and walk away and have partner share ejection with dugout.

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Pregame cont.

- Pregame Conference

Hustle all the time

Communicate

Good Eye Contact

Good Timing

Get the play right

Have fun and enjoy what you are doing

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Meeting with the Coaches

- Conduct a professional plate meeting. Keep it brief and cover the necessary elements
 - No sunglasses/gum at the plate meeting.
 - Have the plate conference at the plate. Players will need to wait to warm-up.
 - Introduce/Shake Hands
 - U1 should run the plate conference. Keep it Simple Stupid (KISS)

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Meeting with the Coaches

- Review lineups. Take the Home Team card first. Check for duplicate numbers, the designated hitter, are substitutes listed?
- Are the players properly equipped?
- Sportsmanship statement
- All equipment is legal
- Special ground rules – Home Coach

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Game Time!!!

- When the home team takes the field, the base umpire should jog to position in short right field.
- Plate umpire should introduce himself to the catcher and shake hands.
- Take a position behind the catcher to get comfortable with his positioning.
- Keep conversations brief and professional. Do not be too chummy, but do not be standoffish as well.

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Game Time!!!

- Between innings, base umpire should be in short right field. This keeps you away from the fans, players and coaches. U2 count pitches – go to 1st base line extended once pitcher has 7 warm-ups completed.
- Do not bring your cell phone onto the field.
- Keep between-inning conversations with your partner to a minimum.
- U2 time the minute between innings.
- **DON'T TALK TO FANS!!!**
- Don't conference immediately after an ejection, restriction, or a disputed call.

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When the Game is Over

- Leave immediately - Do not wait to shake hands.
- Don't entertain arguments- give a brief explanation on a game-ending call/play, if warranted.
- Leave together as a crew, on the winner's side, if possible.
- Don't discuss anything with your partner about the game until you are out of earshot of any players, fans, or coaches.
- Get dressed without exposing yourself.
- Seek feedback from your partner. Listen and do not argue. Incorporate what you feel will improve your umpiring.

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Additional Comments

- Networking is important in officiating. You do not want to be the best umpire that no one has heard of.
- Find and attend reputable clinics in your area each year.
- Find a qualified mentor that will work with you.
- Make sure you are ready for the level of games you are taking – below varsity the first couple of years – 1a, 2a then move to 3a and finally 4a.

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How Ya' Lookin'?

- Uniform
- Confidence walking onto the field
- Know where the administrator is located
- Exiting the field
 - Know the proper exits

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7 Plays You Gotta Get Right

- Balks – Call them, but don't go looking for them. Below varsity, talk them through it so they know what they are doing.
- Infield Fly – signal your partner.
- Interference on a double play
- Appeals: Missed Bases or Leaving Early – KNOW!!!
- Rundowns – U1 needs to help.
- Squeeze Play
- Running Lane

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