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): jimoer曼@mai.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](https://smittyapparel.com/pages/iowa-preferred-dealers)
- Iowa Official Supply- [https://www.iowaofficialssupplies.com/](https://www.iowaofficialssupplies.com/)
- Gerry Davis- [https://www.gerrydavis.com/](https://www.gerrydavis.com/)
- Purchase Officials- [https://purchaseofficials.com/collections/iowa](https://purchaseofficials.com/collections/iowa)
- Ebay? Others?
- [https://www.thegraphicedge.com/search?criteria=referee+zone](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)
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.
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.
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)
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.
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.
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
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
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.
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)
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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ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
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.
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 1\textsuperscript{st} 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.
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.
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.
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