



Umpire Fundamentals – 1st Things 1st ABR is Using Normal Umpire Mechanics

- Arlington Weather 703-228-4715
 - Check 1 hour before game time (\$)
- Arlington Rover 571-238-0265
- UIC: Harry Devens; 703-609-0659; abrumpire@gmail.com
- Scheduler: Jen Thompson; 703-927-8741; abrumpirescheduler@gmail.com
- Your knowledge of the rules
 - 2022 Babe Ruth League Rules & Regulations Book
- ABR Rules on line (AAA & Majors)
 - <http://www.arlingtonbaberuth.com/site/ClientSite/article/324891>
- Use of email to communicate
 - Availability; cancellations; last minute opportunities; no shows
- Join Babe Ruth League, Inc. National Umpires Association (NUA)
 - Go to: <https://baberuthleague.org/national-umpire-association.aspx>, then register at the bottom of the page
 - Click on “Join or Renew NUA” & do it
 - First time, you’ll need to take the rules test
 - After paying, you’ll have online access for the 2022 Rules Book and the rules test
 - See ABR Blue Book 2022 document for important additional information
 - **CRITICAL** to do this!
 - ABR will reimburse you for the fee after working some (TBD) minimum number of games
- There are TONS of umpire training videos on line (YouTube)

“Professional Umpire Attitude”

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Umpire Fundamentals – Pre-Game

- Pre-Game with your partner
 - Be 10 to 15 minutes early
 - Charcoal (dark) gray pants; Powder (light) blue shirt; ABR hat; all your equipment; water; sunscreen
 - Chat with your partner; discuss roles & responsibilities; always be ready to take the plate
- Pre-Game Conference at the plate (keep it professional)
 - Begin 5 minutes before scheduled game start time
 - Both coaches & both umpires
 - Introduce & shake hands
 - Field's ground rules
 - Local rules for level of play
 - Balk; infield fly; steals; leads
 - Good sportsmanship & hustle
 - Confirm ALL players properly equipped AND ALL equipment conforms
 - **HOT – this is the coach's responsibility – each game you are simply confirming this!**

“Keep True to the Spirit of Baseball”

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Umpire Fundamentals – Basic Skills

- Know who makes which calls, then make the call
 - When to ask for help (“what did you see?”); we don't “overrule” each other's calls
 - Judgment call vs. rules interpretations
 - Umpires are a TEAM!
 - Handling coaches, players & spectators
- Hand signals & calls
 - Play ball; play; safe; out; infield fly; ball; ball 4; strike (called vs. swinging); strike 3 (called vs. swinging); foul ball; fair ball; balk; time; interference; obstruction
- Managing the game
 - Clock starts at SCHEDULED START TIME
 - Game over – finish the batter
 - Score stands vs. reverts
 - Get the kids to hustle on/off of the field; coaches assign positions before the 3rd out
 - Coaches “request” time out & umpires “call” time out
 - Never change safety rules; coaches may agree to change other rules
 - DO NOT allow coaches to argue with you (Code of Conduct)
 - “Rules clarifications” vs. judgment calls
 - Weather calls; 30 minutes when you see lightning/thunder

“Take Charge”

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Umpire Fundamentals – More Basic Skills

- Dealing with angry people
 - First, you can ignore it; second, you can say, “in my judgment” (& discussion is over); third, you can warn to warn, you can warn, you can restrict to the bench, & you can eject
 - Never “change the call”; stick with it; could consider a change only if a rules misinterpretation
 - Don’t embarrass the coach or players; speak respectfully; have a witness (other ump or coach); don’t engage the fans (tell the coach to deal with it; “these fans are your responsibility”; reference the Code of Conduct); can award bases, balls & strikes
- Rules reminders
 - Wood bats are ok
 - Feet on the ground outside the lines to be out of the batter box
 - Foul tip (live ball) vs. foul (dead ball)
 - “Ties go to the OUT”; runner has to “beat the ball” to the bag
 - Turn at 1st to 2nd base: key is whether there is “intent” to run
 - Home plate is fair territory
 - Hit balls that hit backstop are dead
- LOCAL ABR RULES
 - Varies by age & skill levels
 - Know which rules apply today

“Do the Right Thing”

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Umpire Fundamentals – HOT Rules

- Interference (usually by the offense which hinders a fielder making a play; could be by the umpire or the catcher)
 - Generally, immediate dead ball
 - Generally, interferer is out, & umpire may call other runners out if likely they would have been out too
 - Must slide at home if there is a play or potential play, or the runner is out
 - At 2nd & 3rd, must slide if there’s a play or be at risk for being called out if there’s interference
 - Batter could commit backswing or follow through interference
- Obstruction (by the defense which impedes the progress of a runner)
 - Generally, delayed dead ball
 - Generally, the play goes on & obstruction awards come into play if there was actual impact on the result of the play
- Malicious Contact – Ejection!

“Keep the Game Safe”

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Umpire Fundamentals – AAA vs. Majors

- Dropped 3rd Strike
- Bunts
- Infield Fly
- Steals
- Leads
- Pitch Counts
- Minimum Play
- Courtesy Runners
- Hit by Pitcher
- Walks
- Coach Pitch
- Malicious Contact
- Mask & Throat Protector – catcher’s equipment – for Pitcher Warmup
- Balks

“Keep the Game Safe and True to the Spirit of Baseball”

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Umpire Fundamentals - Positioning

- Plate Umpire (U1)
 - **In the slot**; head height; see the plate; keep head still; hide the hands; where to hustle to for hits, for fly balls, for plays at 1st, 2nd, 3rd and home; judging strikes & balls (the “strike zone”); timing of calls (think “that’s a strike/ball,” then make the call); signals to other umpire (# outs & positioning)
 - Responsibilities for calls
 - Touches; tags; fly balls
 - Group – practice the calls
- Base Umpire (U2)
 - Where you stand depends on no runners or which bases do have runners; timing of calls (make the call when the play is over)
 - How to stand between pitches, pre-pitch & pitch
 - Responsibilities for calls
 - Touches; tags; fly balls
 - Group – practice the calls
 - Following slides are for positions **A**, **B** & **C**

“Be the Authority”

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ASHAA Single Official Baseball Umpire Mechanics

If you are by yourself,
you will call the game
from home plate

You have to be
everywhere; you have to
make every call; you
have to show hustle all
game

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ASHAA 2 Official Baseball Umpire Mechanics

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