

## Core Values

Several years ago I left a career in law enforcement to pursue a second career in private industry as a safety supervisor with a trucking company. As I look back, I notice that most businesses, even law enforcement, operate under a slogan or message to their clients or the public they serve. As with most law enforcement agencies, the slogan is "To Serve and Protect." In my current climate our slogan is "Safety First" as we deliver gasoline products to various stores.

The thing I realize is that the slogan is more than just words - it is a culture that the business is attempting to achieve. In an effort to create the "Safety First" culture in my current business, we operate under four (4) core values: Safety, Quality, Integrity and Teamwork.

As I reflect on these core values, I realize that in our business of officiating baseball, we could attempt to operate under these values, as well in an effort to better ourselves as officials and persons during the 2021 season. **Let me address each one:**

**Safety** - We all realize that the 2021 season will be much different than in previous years. There will be different protocols in place, and we must keep an open-mind and make every effort to follow the guidelines set in place by the different institutions and/or conferences. Practicing the guidelines will help reduce the potential spread of the virus and hopefully return us to normal; sooner than later.

**Quality** - As officials we make every effort to bring a quality product to the great game of baseball. By reviewing rules and mechanics with peers and your local associations, there will be a better chance of the game being officiated in a consistent manner across the country. Continual education and discussion increases this quality and gives the student athlete a better experience of the game we love.

**Integrity** – We all know the meaning of integrity. "Doing the right thing - when no one is watching." We should approach every game the same way. 100% effort 100% of the time. This type of reputation is built over time but can be destroyed in one moment of indiscretion. Most of the time this occurs off the field either through comments made verbally or on social media. *If an official does not have integrity, he or she will not be successful.* **We should strive to be good people as well as good officials.**

**Teamwork** – Strive to be the best team on the field. Work as a crew to get the call right. Have each other's back. Work hard on the field and have good pre-game and post-game discussions: reviewing specific plays that have taken place. Relay these specific plays to your coordinator so he can use the plays to help guide other officials to get better through your experience.

If you can apply these core values: you will grow not only as a person but as an official as well. I wish you all a safe and successful 2021 season. Travel safe and enjoy the great game we all love.