

EMPATHY and COLLEGE BASEBALL

The 2020 college baseball season ended abruptly with many individuals holding hopes that it would soon return with minimal changes. Those hopes were short-lived as the entire nation came under assault from the Covid -19 virus. It would be naïve to believe that every individual was not negatively affected by this pandemic in some way or another.

As we approach the upcoming 2021 college baseball season, one must be able to look past their own individual situation and attempt to understand that others they encounter are suffering similar or more difficult circumstances in their daily life. Illness, loss of income, inconveniences, lack of family interaction, socialization with peers, and possibly the death of a family member or friend can be life-changing in another one's life that you are not aware of or understand.

As you prepare to participate in the first college game of the season on your schedule, you need to remember that possibly every individual that you encounter has a "story" to tell. It is crucial that we understand this concept and react in a positive and professional manner. One very positive manner to deal with this knowledge is to show Empathy towards everyone.

"Empathy is the art of seeing the world as someone else sees it. When you have Empathy, it means you can understand what a person is feeling in a given moment and understand why other people's actions made sense to them". The ability to understand and respond to others using this tool can assist every umpire to successfully conduct a positive, productive college baseball game. It starts when you arrive at the game site and meet with your fellow crew members and continues to the field for the pre-game meeting with the coaches.

Your approach to the upcoming season is extremely important and it should be every umpire and coach's intent to conduct each game in a professional manner remembering that the world is still revolving and changing. Do everything in your arsenal to make sure that each game is operated and celebrated for 2 ½ - 3 hours and everyone can thoroughly enjoy the greatest game in America's history.

Have a great season and Good Luck.