

# THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSION

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How much have you *invested* in being the very best you can be at all times?

You pay your dues, you buy equipment, you take the test, you study the rules and mechanics, you meet the coordinator's demands, you make travel plans and the list goes on and on: all extrinsic. Now, for the intrinsic: How many of you have real **passion** for the game? **Just showing up is not good enough anymore!**

Many played the game as a *kid*, started umpiring as a hobby, then a part time job, a devoted avocation - chasing the elusive the next level. You become hooked on college baseball. You set new goals and you work hard to try to achieve these important, yet, elusive, goals. The question has been answered: *you have developed a **passion** for umpiring.* Passion develops the energy for all umpires to succeed at the game and reach their goals. **Passion** has always been there, in your heart and in the back of your mind. You can't switch **passion** off or tone it down. **Passion** has become a part of your life.

There are people in college baseball who think and believe that **passion** is not that important in umpiring. They believe that "balls", "strikes" and "safes", "outs" and getting the call right is the only thing that matters. This couldn't be further from the truth. Without **passion**, your game will suffer. **Passion** does improve judgment, effort, presence and it will create higher energy levels within you. **Passion** will help you meet the many demands of the game.

One thing that everyone could agree on is that **passion** is closely associated with drive, enthusiasm, limitless energy, motivation, the push, etc... **Passion** can be transformed into raw energy - which is then processed into that internal (intrinsic) drive that makes you the very best you can be at all times. **Passion** increases your **focus**. All this means is your judgment will improve your reaction, anticipation (pre-pitch) and appearance- all follow. **Your entire game will become better.** **Passion** is a strong emotion of desire – it forces you to be brave, have the courage to make the tough call and, ultimately - **to reach your goals!**

You are working in the greatest game in the world. Finally, time to ask yourself, *do you have the **passion** to work at the highest level?* Give the game what it deserves: by being your very best at all times. To be the best - you need to find the most important part of umpiring and that is **passion**; and as stated earlier: **just showing up is not good enough anymore...**