

WHAT IS BEST FOR ALL OF COLLEGE BASEBALL?

It is time to get back to the **reality and business** of college baseball. Recollecting, 2020 - I was extremely proud of the fact that baseball umpiring was off to its best start in recent years; and I encourage the continuance of this excellence in 2021.

The work world is filled with competition and advancement...

...the umpiring world is no different: Be honest with yourself and ask, as you look in the mirror: *Where do I fit, when it comes to post season; is the post season within my reach?* As I mentioned above, a good example of this was watching umpires this past abbreviated season. The majority looked like they were competing for one of the selected spots for the NCAA post season. Most were very sound in judgment, proper mechanics and professionalism; strong in field timing, showing the ability to get to the proper spots to make the tough calls, and finally-their freedom of movement was impeccable around the diamond. My **reports** indicated that these umpires have *definitely done their homework and were ready to excel.*

2021 starts with a business model and proper attitude...

Remember, **attitude is free:** *you just have to apply it to your body of work.* *Staying ahead of the game in all aspects. *Know what to do when situations out-of-the-ordinary happen. *How to apply rules that come along with the different situations. *Mechanic adjustments, action clock-putting the ball into play at the proper time. *Staying physically fit to stay up with the game. *A fit body is a smart body. *Stay connected at all times. *Look the part and show interest. *Stay away from distractions. *Manage your position and communicate with your partners. *Always stay involved. Please remember this: you are competing to be one of the top 96 umpires in the country. Being the best in the game is what you are working for. Ask yourself, *where do I fit in this equation?*

Are you ready?

Know what it takes to be a Tournament umpire-as you will be the biggest part of an intense NCAA Baseball National Championship. The Baseball Committee's directive is to put the best umpires on the field, period. Show your pride, strive for excellence: accepting the challenge takes a lot of dedication - work to be the best umpire in college baseball.

The answer is OVERALL UMPIRE PERFORMANCE – Accept the Challenge!

Mark Ditsworth

NCAA Division I Baseball Umpire Advisor