

# GOOD PARTNERS

By Harry Greer

As umpires, when we show up for a game we look like a unified group. We walk out on the field together wearing the same uniform and having the same understanding of the rules to officiate the game. Just like the players on a team, it looks as if we are on one accord. We look like partners. By definition a partner is a person who shares or is associated with another by some action or endeavor. When we are out there working together, it is important that we are more than just partners; it is important to me that we are good partners.

In my opinion, being a good partner means to join together in support of one another to fulfill the mission. It means having an open mind. It means being an example for less experienced umpires to follow and offering our assistance to develop their skills. A good partner gives positive feedback and encouragement. He is respectful and always willing to go the extra mile for the other umpires on his crew. Whether the crew chief or just one of the crew, it takes being accountable for yourself and accepting personal responsibility for your actions to be a good partner.

Good partnership is reflected when you show respect for others by being on time, and following the rules. Don't be the partner who we always have to wait for, or wonder if and when you will show up. Good partnership is shown when you are an active contributor to the mission. You are there to make sure that everyone is prepared well in advance of the start of the game. A good partner is uplifting and does things to make his partner stronger. He does not point out the mistakes of his fellow umpires. Instead he shares constructive criticism and helps him to understand an error and teaches how he might do it differently the next time. On the receiving end, a good partner is able to put his ego aside and receive the advice being offered so that he is always developing to become the best at his craft.

When you are accountable for your actions, and consistently support your fellow umpires, by avoiding put downs and gossip, uplifting one another despite shortcomings, and putting aside dislikes and negative feelings, then you exemplify what it means to be a good partner. Good partners are **Punctual, Accountable, Respectful, Teachers, Nurturing, Exemplary, Responsible and Supportive.**

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