

FOLLOWING BASEBALL PROTOCOLS THE RIGHT WAY

No matter what we do in life - there **are proper ways to do things**; and, we all should know there are **wrong ways to do things**. The decision is always yours – it is always advised to take the *high road* when making a conclusion or resolution pertaining to **protocols**.

Definition of protocol: *The strict adherence to the correct etiquette and following proper procedures; proper way to govern situations.* In today's umpire terms: It is the proper way to manage and control situations as prescribed by the **CCA Baseball Umpires Manual** and the **NCAA Baseball Committees**; and, finally, enforcing the rules as written.

Baseball has changed and is continuing to change in many ways. Every year of late, we are asking umpires to do more and more with their craft, such as: different mechanics, ever-changing rules and, ultimately, more and more decisions to be made. Let's take a minute and analyze **game management and umpiring protocols**—as they pertain to an umpire's *job* on the field.

GAME MANAGEMENT – It's an umpire who performs well enough to control games and keep the flow of the game moving. It's an umpire who communicates well with everyone involved in the game (**never showing arrogance or posturing**): displaying confidence, passion, energy, focus and, always has a plan when things get tense.

Here are a few examples of game management protocols that should be covered in your crews pre-game: 1. Proper handling of situations. 2. Taking care of all responsibilities for your position. 3. Positive attitude. 4. Issuing warnings when warranted. 5. Knowing when to get crew together or go to video review. 6. All forms of timing. 7. Knowing the rules as written. 8. Communication with your partners. 9. Have a plan when things go wrong. 10. Dealing with dugout situations, players and assistant coaches with respect and professionalism. 11. Communicating charged trips with coach and press box.

UMPIRING PROTOCOLS – There are many. The best way to remember them all is to think of all your responsibilities and what it will take to make you a complete umpire. If this is your goal you need to follow strong protocols. **Remember that baseball has changed in many ways - It's not ALL about balls and strikes or safes and outs" anymore. .. It's about being a team player and an above average communicator.**

Here are a few examples of the umpiring protocols: 1. Improve your field presence. 2. Umpire your position the right way. 3. Be a good communicator. 4. Proper mannerisms during confrontations. 5. Give answers to questions and don't stay too long. 6. Take care of your position's responsibilities. 7. Know the rules as written. 8. Always look the part. 9. Show high

focus. 10. Be professional even when you don't want to. 11. Find your **CALM**. 12. Know your mechanics. 13. Be a team umpire. 14. Have high focus and work hard for nine innings. 15. Being professional at all times. 16. Use proper timing between innings and with action pitch clock.

These are just a few. **EXERCISING PROPER PROTOCOLS WILL HELP YOU GAIN SUCCESS IN YOUR UMPIRING.** Know them and exercise them.

Good luck to you all in the upcoming season. It will be another challenging year for all involved. Be the best you can be at all times. Umpiring is not easy! You will be challenged and questioned. **HOW WILL YOU HANDLE IT? WILL YOU WORK AT IT? IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO YOU!**

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