

## HIGH SCHOOL PRE-GAME CHECKLIST for TWO UMPIRES MECHANICS

- A. Crew Notification of Arrival Time(30 minutes before game time) by no later than the day before game day.
- B. **PRELIMINARIES:** notify the coach of your arrival; then discuss how you enter the field (preferably on home side), checking bats and helmets, exiting the field, and your post game review.
- C. **PLATE CONFERENCE with the COACHES:** courteous but brief and to the point; introductions; required comments (sportsmanship and legal/proper players and equipment); lineups; ground rules; run rules; questions.
- D. **FLY BALL COVERAGE:** which umpire has catch/no catch responsibility; which umpire has tag-up responsibility; when might an umpire chase.
- E. **FAIR/FOUL COVERAGE:** plate umpire calls ALL bounding balls; when no runners on “bracket” all fair/foul fly balls between plate and base umpires.
- F. **GOING for HELP:** while not required by the Rule Book, consider going for help on check swing, pick off attempts, when missing a “piece of information”(i.e. pulled foot).
- G. **RUNNERS LEAVING BASE TOO SOON:** base umpire is responsible.
- H. **CONCLUSION OF PLAY:** umpires hold position until runners are on base, pitcher has the ball in the circle; base umpire moves to next position, then plate umpire moves.
- I. **UMPIRE to UMPIRE SIGNALS:** infield fly, on or off; timing play; who gives signals and when; response; caught/dropped third strike.
- J. **INTERFERENCE or OBSTRUCTION:** closest umpire to the play has first responsibility; if no call and clearly obvious other umpire makes a “big” assertive call.
- K. **CONFRONTATIONS:** discuss only the play in question; don’t debate; listen for a question and give clear brief answer; other umpire moves in close to listen, observe and keep all others away.
- L. **LAST BUT NOT LEAST:** focus, concentrate, and prepare for each and every pitch; CALL in your area, Try to see all areas; hustle, work hard, and enjoy the game.

### ADDITIONAL POINTS for THREE UMPIRE MECHANICS

- i. **FLY BALL COVERAGE:** when should an umpire chase; areas of chase responsibility; tag up responsibility when an umpire chases or when no umpire chases.
- ii. **FAIR/FOUL COVERAGE:** when “bracketing” the remaining base umpire is responsible for all tag ups.
- iii. **GOING for HELP:** CHECK SWINGS – umpire facing batter/umpire on the line.
- iv. **RUNNERS LEAVING BASE TOO SOON:** Bases loaded, 3BU has runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; Runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3BU has runner on 1<sup>st</sup>. Runner on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1BU. Runner on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3BU.

### LIGHTNING POICY OF THE AOA and NFHS

Storms occur quickly and with little warning during the Spring season in Arkansas – BE WATCHFUL AND ON GUARD.