



# NCAA Umpire



WHAT QUALITIES SHOULD AN NCAA UMPIRE EXHIBIT?



# Areas of **Focus** for 2013



- Pre-pitch preparation
- Strike Zone
- Sportsmanship
- Presentation
  - (Uniform, being on time, professionalism)
- Communication with partners and coaches
- Illegal Pitches

# Rules and Mechanics Differences



- Strike zone
- Courtesy runner
- Hit by pitch
- Leaving early
- Obstruction/ Rounding and Returning
- Time between pitches
- Look-back rule
- Checking bats

# Sample Magic Phrases



- In my judgment...
  - ✦ The runner beat the throw
  - ✦ The throw beat the runner
  - ✦ The runner interfered with the fielder's ability to make the play
  - ✦ The fielder impeded the progress of the runner
  - ✦ The tag was applied before the runner touched the base
- I had a clear look at the play, coach. I don't need to ask my partner.
- I am missing a piece of the picture, so I will ask my partner.
- Coach, that's a warning for arguing balls and strikes.
- That's a warning on #23 for rounding and returning obstruction.
- The pitcher did not keep contact with the ground with her pivot foot.

# You Make the Call



- Pitcher gets on base.
- Coach comes out and asks for a courtesy runner.
- Talk to the coach.
  - What is the rule?
  - What do you say?



# You Make the Call



- Starting first baseman is removed from the game in the third inning. S1 takes her place.
- S1 is removed from the game and starting first baseman returns to the game in the fifth inning.
- In the seventh inning, the coach reports that she wants to reenter S1 for the starting first baseman.
- Talk to the coach.
  - What is the rule?
  - What do you say?

# You Make the Call



- B3 bats in the place of B4 and gets to first base on a bunt.
- Before the next pitch, the defensive coach tells you that B3 batted out of order.
- What happens now?
  - What is the rule?
  - What do you say?



# You Make the Call



- F3 is a slow runner. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, she is removed from the game while on offense.
- She joins the defense on the field during the next half inning.
- Tell us. What is the rule? What do you do, and when do you do it?





# You Make the Call



- What exactly is the time between pitches rule?
- When is it applied?
- How and when do you want to use it?
- Here's the situation. **In the bottom of the seventh inning with bases loaded, two outs, and a full count, the pitcher shakes off three pitches. Your count goes a little long. What do you do?**
- Use the rule as a guide, not a weapon – make your decision and don't over-explain it. If confronted just say, "Coach, in my judgment she is fine. Let's play ball."

# You Make the Call



- B1 hits the ball over the fence for an apparent four-base award.
- Rounding first base, she trips and injures herself.
- She is unable to continue running the bases.
- What is the rule? What do you do? Explain your decision to the coaches.



# You Make the Call



- The catcher is up the line in the base-path
- The ball is not in her glove
- The ball is between the catcher and the runner
- The runner swerves to avoid the catcher
- The catcher tags the runner out.
- Is this situation obstruction?
  - What is the rule?
  - Explain your choice to a coach



# You Make the Call



- A runner rounds first base and tries to come back to first. #31, the F3, is not holding the ball and blocks her as she returns to the base.
- What is the rule? What do you do? Explain your decision to the coach.



# You Make the Call



- On a base-on-balls, the runner goes past first base.
- The pitcher is holding the ball and making no movements.
- The runner starts walking back to first.
- Without touching first, she makes a break for second base.
- What do you do? Explain yourself to a coach.

# Final Thoughts



Be the best umpire you can be this year.  
Facilitate success for yourself and your partners.  
Make everyone around you better.

**What can you do this year to make this happen?**