

Oregon School Activities Association

Baseball SRI Bulletin – Preseason

February 24, 2014

OSAA Baseball Umpires:

DEVELOP PROFESSIONALISM

Heading into the 2014 baseball season I want to address something that's not talked about enough. Before the first pitch, let's talk about how do we develop and maintain an aura of officiating professionalism?

Two basics are attitude and education. If an official thinks of him or herself as a professional, and acts as one, he or she will be perceived as one. Professionalism is an attitude about yourself and your role in the game.

Project a professional image.

- Make sure your uniform is clean, looks good and fits properly.
- Arrive early enough to conduct a proper pre-game conference.
- Speak to coaches and players in a friendly, but authoritative, manner.
- Keep yourself physically fit.
- Avoid giving a negative perception, don't be discourteous or aloof, but avoid casual conversation.
- Make decisive calls and only using the proper signals.

The second and equally important factor contributing to your professionalism is education. Officials must realize this is an ongoing process as we continue gathering more information and experience through advanced and specialized training, camps, clinics, etc. Every game is an educational experience, for no two games are alike.

- Become a student of the game. With knowledge you have a better feel for the game and can better anticipate what will happen.
- Don't be closed minded; you can always learn something. Seek advice and input from your colleagues. Be a good listener.
- Subscribe to and read publications that address officiating issues.
- Use the training resources on Arbiter

Attitudes and education alone will not assure professionalism, but they will make an impact on how well you execute your assignments.

Tad's Tip....

Don't tell anyone that a runner must slide. Some well meaning umpires tell runners or their coaches that runners must slide when going into a base. The rule reads: "Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, they must be legal (8-4-2b).

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