

ASUA Webinar



CONFERENCING

Meet Your Education Co-Chairs

Frankie Billingsley and Kris Hartley



- Edmonton, AB
- Softball Canada Level V (2011)
- WBSC Certified (2013)
- Assigned to Tokyo 2020 Olympics



- Calgary, AB
- Softball Canada Level V (2019)

Agenda

- Context and Rationale
- Being Prepared (Pre-Game)
- A Guide to Conferencing
- When To & When Not To Conference (Video examples)
- How to Avoid Conferencing
- Food For Thought
- Conclusion
- Question & Answer Period



Context



- Observed tendency to conference too often or at wrong times.
- Issue affects all umpires from beginners to our International level umpires.

*Special Thanks to the umpires from the 2020 U-18 Men's NZ

Rationale



- Game Management
- Presence on the Diamond
- Believability, Credibility, Integrity
- Bottom Line ⇒ “Get the Right Call”
- All Things Enhance or Diminish

Pre-Game Preparation



- Discuss how we are going to handle situations
 - Possible Situations:
 - Batted ball hitting batter in Batter's box.
 - Appeals for Tag ups and Missed bases
 - Catch/ No Catch situations
 - Fly Ball / Line drive Coverage (Rotations)

A Guide to Conferencing

- Move to an area away from participants
- Cover your mouths with your hands. Do not use Gestures.
- Who Runs the Conference?
 - Initiating umpsire.
- Use clear concise Questions.
- Who makes the call/ruling when we come out of the conference?



When to Conference



Scenario #1



- Situation where we had a dropped ball and crew gets together to correct obvious error.
- Quick, concise communication

Scenario #2



- To apply or enforce a rule correctly

Scenario #3



- 2 Calls on the Same Play

Examples of When to Conference



- Fixing an obvious error.
- Applying/Enforcing a rule correctly.
- 2 different calls on same play by 2 umpires.

When NOT to Conference



Examples of When NOT to Conference



- Catcher's Obstruction
- Teams giving you “HEAT” after a close play
- Base Awards after an Obstruction
- Batted Ball hitting the Batter
- Affirmation or Appeasement

Scenario #1



- Catcher's Obstruction

Scenario #2



- Getting “Heat”
After a
Close Play

Scenario #3



- Base Award after Obstruction

How to Avoid a Conference

- Have a really strong pre-game.
 - there are items you can cover in a pre-game that avoid conversations on the diamond.
- Call accuracy
 - - you will have less conferences if you have high call accuracy as a crew.
- Focus and Concentration
- Confidence
 - Fake it until you make it



Food For Thought



Conclusion

- Pre-Game Recap
 - Two Rules of Engagement
 - *Additional Information*
 - *Willingness to Change*
- Post-Provincial Aspirations
 - Language Barriers
- “Expect the Unexpected” / “Pre-Pitch Preparation”
 - If you employ these tactics you will be better able to incorporate the items that we just reviewed



Questions?



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING !!

If you have any comments, questions or ideas for future webinars, please reach out to us by email at education@asua.ca