

ASUA Webinar



PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME

August 2020

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

- Plate Umpire Responsibilities
- Tone of Meeting
- Pre-Game Topics
- Post-Game Discussion Suggestions
- Conclusion
- Question & Answer Period



Plate Umpire Responsibilities



- Flow and Tempo of the Game
- Setting the Crew up for Success
- Creating a “Team” Attitude
- Prepare, Prepare, Prepare!
- Expect the Unexpected

Tone of Meeting

- Conversational
- All crew members participate
- As PU, cover topics that you need to, in order to feel comfortable



Pre-Game Topics



- Do you know your partners or not?
- Protocols - Before the game and After
- Line Drives Infield (Caught or Not?)
- Check Swings
- Time Clock Responsibilities

Pre-Game Topics Continued



- Conferencing
- Dead Balls
- Going out - Communicating? How?
- Illegal Pitches
- My Routine....informs partner communication of outs etc....
- Obstruction/Interference

Pre-Game Topics Continued



- Pace of Game - Hustling Players
- Player Conferences
- Rotations (cover the odd scenarios where U2 and U3 backfill)
- Rundowns
- Teams and Tendencies

Pre-Game → Post-Game



Post Game discussions with your partner(s) are:

- 1) Essential for improvement
- 2) Continuation of the Pre-Game
 - a) Rapport built
 - b) Communication lines opened
 - c) Game plan developed

NOTE:

A Tough Game
must be
processed to
avoid a downward
spiral for umpires
involved.

*Without a Pre-Game, there is no guarantee
that crew was on same page to begin with.

Post-Game Discussion Strategies



1. Know What to Cover

- Have a routine
- Most important things/decisions
- Opportunities for growth
- Planning ahead will ensure everyone has opportunity to learn/grow

2. Prepare your message

- Focus on a couple of key important things after the game
- “2-3 things we did well and 2-3 things we can improve”
- Avoid “Yes/No” answers

Post-Game Discussion Strategies



3. Take a Positive Approach

- Goal = improvement
- Teachable Moments
- 2-3 Positive things to start
- Asking Open Ended Questions
 - Non-threatening dialogue

***Balance the Positive & the Challenge to Improve**

4. Exercise Sensitivity

- Goal is to help vs. ego/powertrip situation
- Avoid "Shoulds" → Attacking

5. Know your audience

- Young vs Experienced
- Officials who make no mistakes & resists criticism
- Insecurities of the "know-it-all"
- Don't debate!

No Opportunity for a Crew Debrief....



Sometimes venue or other circumstances prevent an onsite detailed debrief.... There are still some options to improve!

- 1) **Self Analysis/Critique** = Valuable to be your best
 - a) Honest with yourself
 - b) Identify 1-2 things you want to focus on & re-evaluate after
 - c) Write it down!
 - d) Support System
- 2) **Technology:**
 - a) Video recording of games → use of GoPros or have a friend/family member to record you.
→ watch the video after the fact. (2019 Sr. Men's FP Championship)

Post-Game Conclusion



COMMUNICATION

- Treat it similar to a presentation
 - Treat the Post-game with the respect it deserves
 - Be aware of your body language, tone of voice
 - **SITUATIONS REVEAL CHARACTER**
- Officials who take feedback/advice seriously = will get better
- Positive feedback/reinforcement when improvement is seen = goes a long way

Conclusion



While the Pre-Game and the Post-Game seems “trivial” or “minor”, their importance to the success of the officiating crew short-term (for the game) and the development of umpires long-term is a crucial and critical aspect of officiating.

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