

# 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

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

**NOTE:**

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

# 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](mailto:education@asua.ca)