

Pregame Umpire Meeting/Conference

The pre-game meeting, where the umpire crew meets with team managers, is required five minutes before the game's scheduled start time. The chief umpire calls the team managers and/or team captains out to home plate for the pre-game conference.

The plate meeting should be short and to the point. You should cover the following:

- Review each manager's line-up, confirm there are no final changes. If there are changes, ensure the change gets onto both managers' copies and also that the changes goes to the scorekeeper. Then, ensure that lineups are exchanged. At this point the lineups are official.
- Ask coaches to confirm that their players are properly equipped, and that all equipment is regulation.
- Go over ground rules for the field. If your field is not fully enclosed, be sure to clarify boundaries for the field of play and any rules that ensue.
- Cover special rules, if any (For example will there be balk warnings, dropped 3rd strike, time limit, etc.)
- Insist that both teams play with the highest regard for sportsmanship. Remind managers that they, and only they, can call on the umpire to discuss a call, and that they should wait for action to stop and then ask for time before doing so. Remind coaches/players to have fun while keeping the game competitive.
- Answer questions, if any. Keep this brief but ensure questions are answered and understood with no dispute.
- Start the game clock at the conclusion of your meeting. Announce to both teams the official start time.