

# Qualities of a Good Umpire

1. Should be physically fit, keeping their bodies agile and strong.
2. Decisions should be made positively and with good timing, but an umpire must not be too hasty in calling a play. Try not to make a decision in motion. After only a momentary hesitation for the purpose of coming to a decision, the call should be made forcefully. Being timid or hesitating too long indicates a lack of confidence. Good umpires cultivate their voices to increase the authority implied by the spoken word. A strong voice is a valuable asset. **All calls should be loud enough so that players, coaches, and fans from both teams can hear them.**
3. Good umpiring is dependent upon a complete knowledge and understanding of the rules. To know the rules thoroughly requires constant studying.
4. Proper umpire mechanics are essential in attaining the best coverage. Mechanics or **play coverage** (ask what this is if you do not know) must be mastered if the umpire is to be successful.
5. **An umpire must totally ignore remarks from the crowd and spectators.** Fans only lose respect for an umpire who in any way reacts to criticism. Umpires must be deaf and thick skinned and ignore any and all spectator comments.
6. An umpire must be loyal to his co-workers. He must endorse and support the decisions of his fellow crew members through action and word. Each umpire's work is a credit to his own performance. You **never** publicly criticize another umpire.
7. The efficient umpire will not showboat; they will execute their duties without flair. Quiet dignity is an effective tool.
8. Umpires must be courteous to players and coaches but avoid visiting with them immediately before, during, or after the game.
9. **The successful umpire must hustle and must be alert.**
10. The judgment necessary in making a decision is acquired through experience. **Umpiring errors will be made.** After an umpiring error you must **never** attempt to even up calls (generally called a "make-up" call). Each call is made on its own merits.

## **General reminders.....**

**Your appearance is a reflection on you....**If you dress up like a hoodlum you are going to be perceived as one. Try to wear clothes that fit, underwear that isn't showing, no earrings, etc. Dress as much like an umpire should appear as possible.

**Promptness....**being a professional includes showing up in a timely manner. **15** minutes before your scheduled game is the **minimum**. Use this time to talk: to your fellow umpire to determine who has the plate, review signals, etc. Then get to the field to make sure things get off to a timely start.

**Keep your head into the game...not into the stands....**The last thing you need is to miss a call because you're trying to impress your friends. Coaches, fans, and players can and will notice, ultimately causing you to lose respect as an umpire.