

The Appropriate Process for a Coach to Discuss an Issue with an Umpire

Only one coach at a time may discuss an issue with an umpire. It must be after the end of that play, before the beginning of the next play or pitch, and the coach must call "Time Out", and get Time Out from an Umpire before going out onto the field and/or discussing the issue with that Umpire .

- DO NOT go out onto the field without having been granted Time Out
- DO NOT run at/toward an Umpire
- DO NOT jump up and down, flail your arms, or otherwise act up on the field
- DO NOT yell at, or otherwise raise your voice at an Umpire
- DO NOT try to address the issue from a Long distance
- DO NOT show up, demean or otherwise belittle the Umpire
- DO NOT make the issue personal – stay away from the "You" word (You are terrible, horrible....., etc.). You may more easily get away with "That call was horrible", or "that was a missed call", but don't continue this or any other discussion or argument..... Once the Umpire says it is over, It Is Over!
- DO NOT cuss/swear

The issue can not be a call that involves the umpire's judgment (strike, ball, safe, out, fair, foul). The issue must only be based on an interpretation of the rules (eg., a coach may not argue balls and strikes, but he may appropriately question whether or not the first baseman's foot was on the bag, or whether or not a tag was made, or ball trapped, etc.). It must be conducted in a proper manner and tone. The Umpire may or may not seek counsel with his partner.

It is entirely possible that the Umpire was right on the play, had the proper angle, one that a coach 100 feet away would not have, and the Umpire elects not to consult because he knows what he saw. However, based on the mechanics of the play, he may find himself somewhat out of position and may ask his partner what he saw. It will all be based on what was "seen" by the Umpire(s). You may think you saw something different (remember you usually do not have the angle and are quite often a long way away from the play). But if you ask appropriately, you will likely get the best team work out of the Umpires.

When a decision rendered on the field is identified as final, it shall be Final. Any continued discussion or comments about the call(s) is subject to a warning, restriction to the bench, or an ejection. In addition, the Team Manager shall be held responsible for their assistant coaches, players and fans.

Finally, It is now a requirement for all Umpires to fill out an Umpire's Incident Report on all incidents or situations and submit it to the UIC, who will investigate it and submit all information to the League Commissioner, who may also investigate, but will submit all information to the Infractions Committee for possible penalty decision. All information will be permanently filed with the Board, for future infraction and coaching decisions .