

COACHES

I have held an umpire clinic for One Man/Pinto and for Two Man Systems, but there is no way I can have the same amount of time with them as you do your team. I have handed out training material and instructed them to read and know the rules and information provided for them on our web site (oakhillumpires.com). I will be watching the umpires during the season, especially the young ones, and addressing anything that needs adjustment. I have stressed knowing the rules, hustling and being in the right position, waiting to be sure about the call, and maintaining appropriate conduct. They have been instructed to be accommodating and respectful of the coaches, grant conferences and listen to your issue and try to resolve fairly, within the rules and based on "what they saw". I have told them to not be afraid to conference with each other, to get the call right. You, as the coaches need to understand that and conduct yourselves appropriately.

Do not argue judgement calls (strikes, balls, safe, out, fair, foul). If you wish to discuss a rule, stay under control, be respectful, call time, approach the umpire and talk in an appropriate manner (the umpires may/may not conference with each other). Once the umpire says the decision is final, do not continue the discussion about the play or call. If any form of disagreement continues, a warning may be issuedIf you get a warning, you will probably not get two; a bench restriction or ejection will likely follow.

The Head Coach's behavior is of most importance. It governs the behavior of the assistant coaches, the players, and the fans. We understand that you may not like the call and may voice your displeasure, but it must be done in an appropriate manner and tone, and not be disrespectful of the umpire, question his integrity, or be demeaning in any way. You must not show up the umpire(s). Umpire(s) may make mistakes, but so do you, your coaches, and players; we are not yelling at you/them. A controversial call may come at a real bad time, but it does not lose a game. Everything your team does or does not do combined, wins or loses them game. Let's all work together to make this fun for all.

Keep your coaches, players and fans under control, you are responsible for them. We are all here to teach the kids the right way to play the game; conduct is part of that. Treat the umpires right and you will get their best effort. I will be available to discuss any problem you may have involving an

umpire, his call or ruling. I will address the real issues, in a effort to "teach" the umpires, but I will not participate in prolonged debates and constant complaining. Don't tell me that so and so is a horrible umpire, you don't want him for your games; we have the umpires we have, you can make it better by the way you handle your coaching job on the field and the way you work with the umpires and the UIC. If you want better umpires, try becoming one. It is not as easy as you think it looks.

Remember, the young umpires are the same kids that you are coaching or have just finished coaching. They are "our" youths, they are our middle school kids and our high school players, do not mistreat them. You taught them to play baseball and now we are teaching them to work, and this may be their first job. This is a very hard and responsible job and we are asking a lot of them. Their parents may be parents on your team. One of them may be your own son. Please treat them as if they were one of the kids on your team.

Please read the Oak Hill Bluebook, all of it. There have been many changes, especially in the Rules Supplement. You volunteered to coach and signed the coaching agreement. That means that you have agreed to read and know the Oak Hill policies and baseball rules. You also have agreed to conduct yourselves appropriately.

The Major changes this season are:

Please note the modified Policy statements concerning responsibilities and conduct at the beginning and the end of each league rule supplement.

Each league has new unsportsmanlike behavior rules w/penalties spelled out. Umpires will be closely watching the collisions and possible interference/obstruction incidents, especially at second base (breaking up double play) and home (contact with the catcher).

Each coach must wear an official Oak Hill coaching shirt.

Several of the Pony rules have been added for emphasis.

Coaches may use a courtesy runner for the catcher with two outs to speed up the game.

The Head Coaches must know the pitching rules and be able to prove their pitcher to be eligible upon protest and the umpires shall know the enforcement - penalty spelled out.

Clarification on 40 hour rest rule - Game time to game time.

Clarifications on several Length of Games and Complete Game issues.

New Run Rules for Bronco and Pony - 20 after 3, and 15 after 4.

Only one coach at a time may appropriately talk to an umpire - does not have to be the Head Coach (make sure your assistant coaches know the proper way to talk to an umpire).

FYI - the umpires will be required to fill out an Umpire Incident Report on all unruly situations. I will review the Report, investigate the situation, and submit my findings to the League Commissioner. He will likely investigate further, may issue a warning and/or turn the Report/findings over to the Infractions Committee for penalty decision. All Reports/findings will be kept on file and used for future penalty and coaching decisions.

Umpire-in-Chief Ray Risner.

Try home phone first 892-5806, cell 413-2864