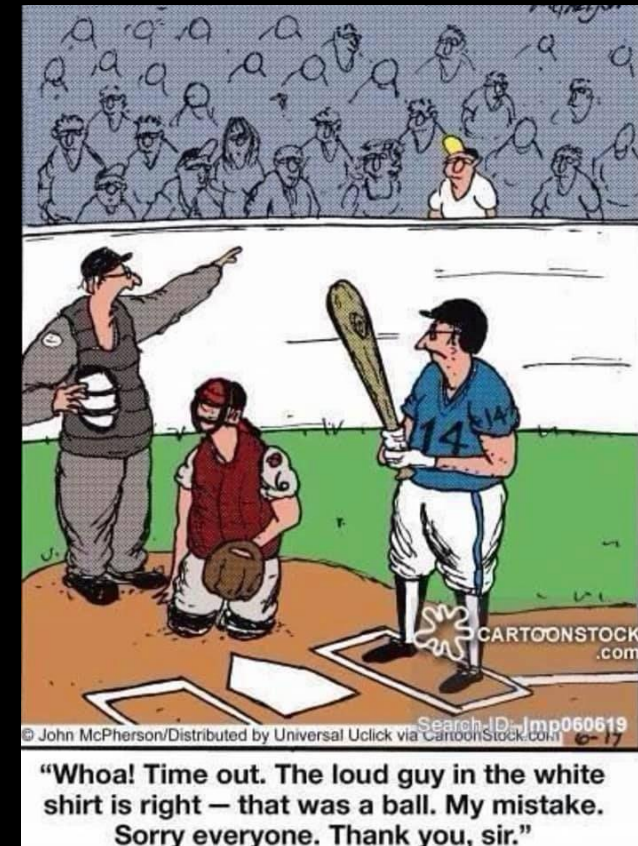


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 2023 Rules Test and Study Guide now available on Arbiter. (Check your email for instructions)
- Batting Cage Session this coming Saturday, February 25th 2:45-5:00 at Athletic Edge Batting Facility. Gear available for those who do not have their basic kit yet. Sign up sheet on the Secretary's Table (Only if you hadn't signed up already.)
- Please read and sign IEBU/SBU Harassment Policy
- Mentoring: Efrain (EZ) Rosadovelasquez
- New umpires, please seat yourself near veterans.

GAME MANAGEMENT



PRE-PITCH SIGNALS (12.52)



PRE-PITCH SIGNALS PRACTICE

With a partner, name the situation and practice the pre-pitch signals for the following:

1. R1 & R2, one out
2. R1 & R3, no outs
3. R2, two outs
4. R2 & R3, one out
5. R1, one out
6. R1, R2 & R3, no outs

PRE-PITCH SIGNALS PRACTICE

(ANSWERS)

With a partner, name the situation and practice the pre-pitch signals for the following:

1. R1 & R2, one out (Infield Fly, single finger to cap, double tap)
2. R1 & R3, no outs (Rotation, fist to where you will be covering)
3. R2, two outs (Timing Play, two fingers on wrist)
4. R2 & R3, one out (Staying Home, fingers pointing down)
5. R1, one out (Rotation, one finger to where you will be covering)
6. R1, R2 & R3, no outs (Infield Fly, flat hand to bill, double tap)

PROPER USE OF EYES-TIMING

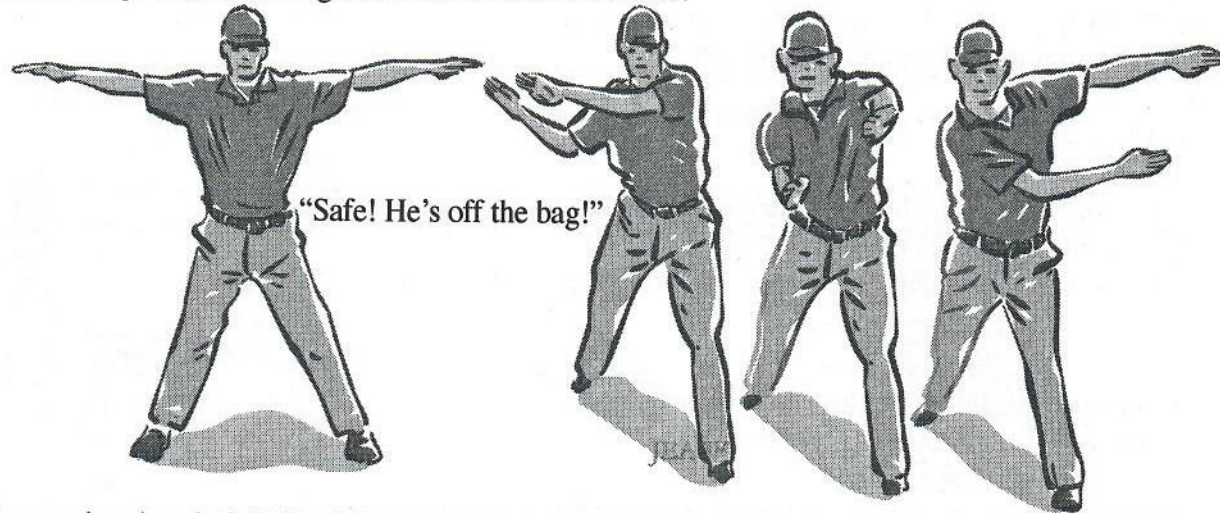


- Be set
- Be sure the play is over
- Be sure of what you saw
- Step towards the bag
- Make the call
- Add supplemental signal if needed

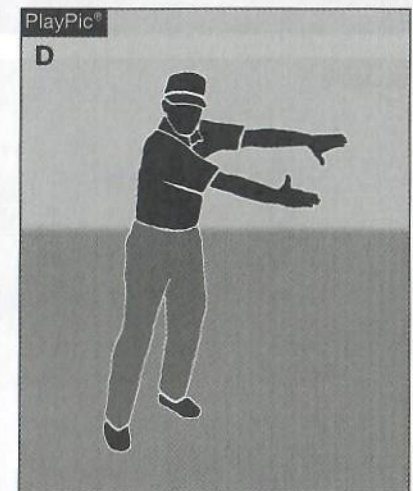
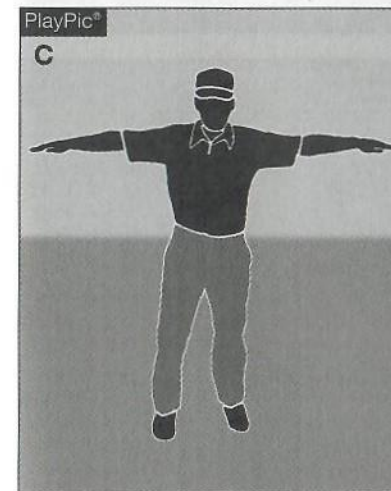
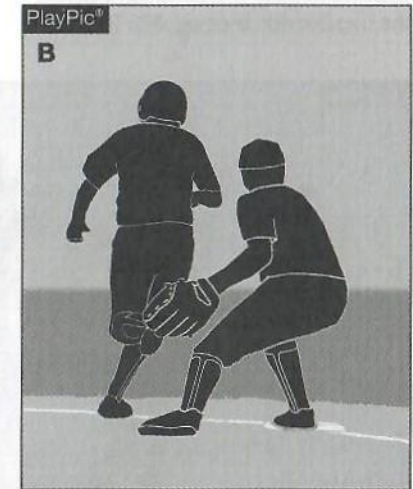
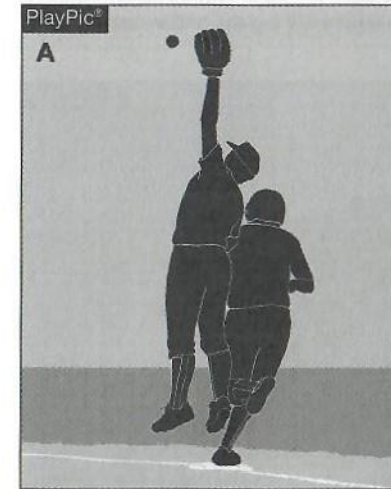
OFF THE BAG

Off the Bag

Sometimes the throw will pull the first baseman off the bag before he secures the ball and there is no time for a tag attempt. To many on the field, in the dugouts, and in the stands it may appear that the ball beat the batter-runner to first. And, it may have but the first baseman did not legally tag the base before the batter-runner touched it. In this case, it is important to call the batter-runner safe and indicate why. The following mechanic is recommended:



The umpire signals SAFE while verbalizing, “Safe! He’s off the bag!”. As he declares, “He’s off the bag!”, he physically waves his arms in unison in the direction the fielder came off the bag.



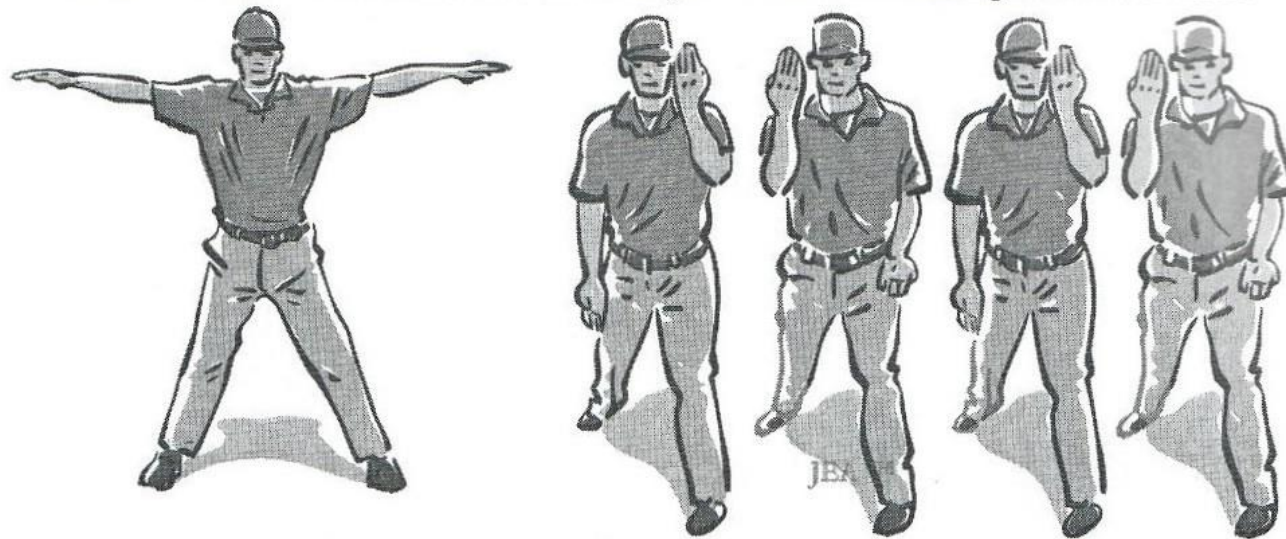
When the first baseman had to leap for the throw (PlayPic A), the runner was able to reach the bag before the first baseman touched the bag (PlayPic B). The umpire calls the runner safe (PlayPic C) and then signal with a sweep of the arms (PlayPic D) to confirm the fielder was off the base.

Note: This is also where you might need help from the plate umpire.

JUGGLED THE BALL

Juggled the Ball

Occasionally, the ball will beat the batter-runner to first base but the first baseman will “juggle” or “bobble” the ball before securely controlling it. Before the fielder can gain “firm and secure possession” of the ball, however, the batter-runner touches the base. In this case, the batter-runner is SAFE but it is not always obvious to players, coaches, and fans the reason for the unexpected safe call. For that reason, it is recommended that the umpire use an additional signal to sell the call.



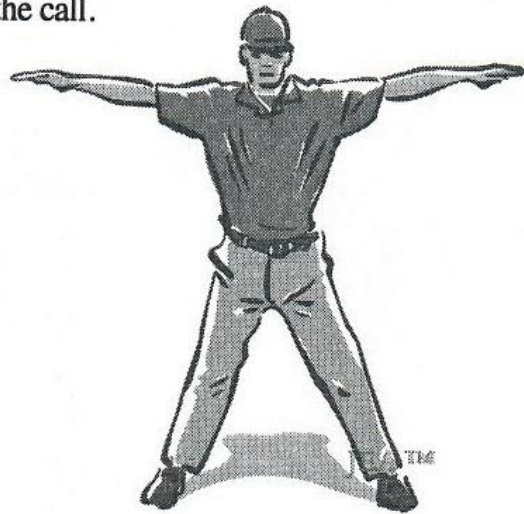
“Safe! He juggled the ball!” or “Safe! He bobbled the ball!”

The umpire signals SAFE in the conventional manner and then simulates the juggling action indicating that the fielder did not have secure possession of the ball before the batter-runner reached the base.

DROPPED THE BALL

Dropped the Ball

Occasionally, the ball will beat the batter-runner to first base but the first baseman will drop the ball then quickly recover it. Before the fielder can regain control of the ball, however, the batter-runner touches the base. In this case, the batter-runner is SAFE but it is not always obvious to players, coaches, and fans the reason for the unexpected safe call. For that reason, it is recommended that the umpire use an additional signal to sell the call.



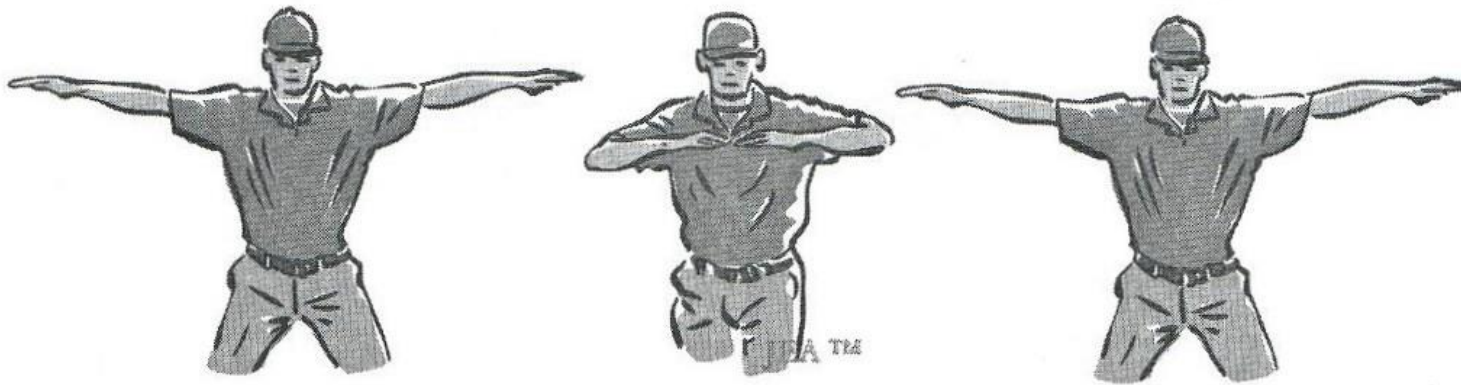
“Safe! Dropped the ball!”

The umpire signals SAFE in the conventional manner and then points to the ground where the ball was originally dropped. This additional signal is not necessary if the ball rolls several feet from the fielder. Never point to the ball when it has rolled away from him. You could be accused of locating the ball for the defensive team. If a point is necessary, point to the ground where the ball was dropped and not to the ball itself.

MISSED THE TAG

Missed the Tag

If the throw pulls the first baseman off the base to his left and the fielder fails to tag the batter-runner before he reaches the base, the umpire should call him SAFE using the following signal:



“Safe! Missed the tag! Safe!” or “Safe! No tag! Safe!”

Since this was not a true throw, the base umpire makes an adjustment to his left from a standing set position to enhance his view of the attempted tag. Once the umpire determines that the tag was missed and the batter-runner has touched the base, the umpire should verbalize and signal, “**Safe! Missed the tag! Safe!**” or “**Safe! No tag! Safe!**” He physically signals SAFE twice.

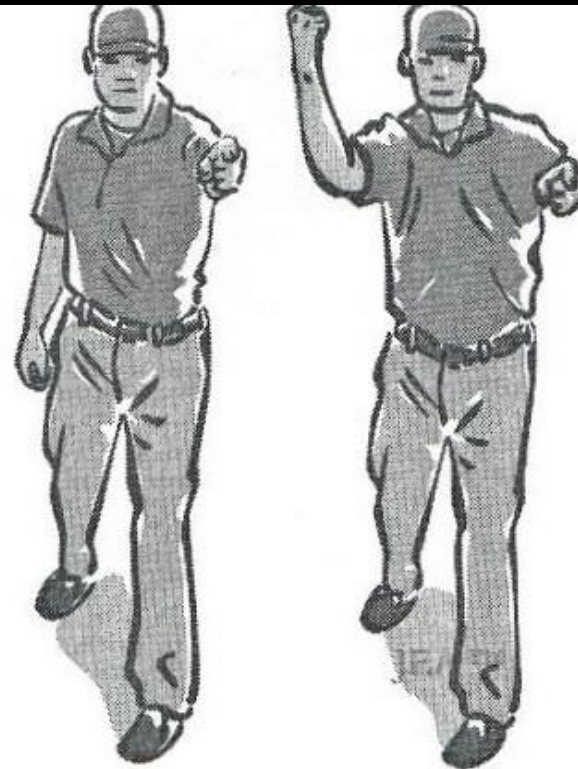
Note: This is also where you might need help from your partner.

OUT ON THE TAG

Out On the Tag

If the throw pulls the first baseman off the base to his left but the fielder is able to successfully tag the batter-runner before he reaches the base, the umpire should call him OUT using the following signal:

Since this was not a true throw, the base umpire makes an adjustment to his left from a standing set position to enhance his view of the attempted tag. Once the umpire determines a legal tag, he shall point to the location of the tag with the index finger of the left hand while verbalizing, **“On the tag...”** then raise the right fist signaling out as he verbalizes, **“He’s out!”**.



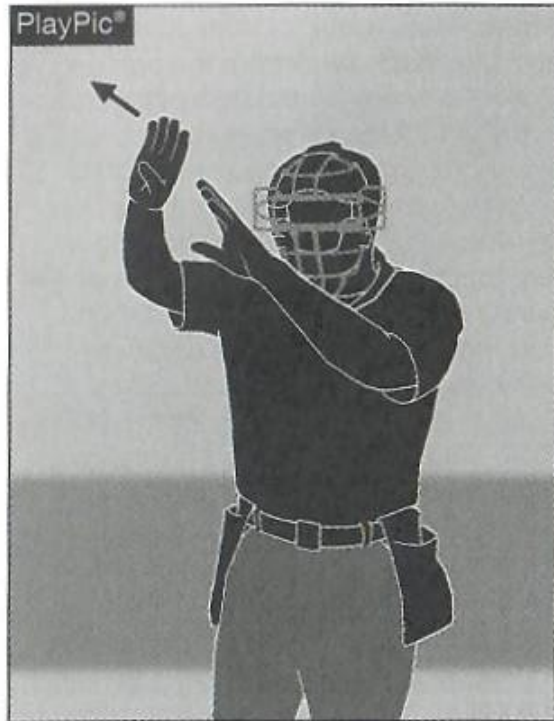
“On the tag...He’s out!”

THE READ STEP FOR ERRANT THROW



- <https://www.closecallsports.com/2023/02/carlsons-read-step-on-awkward-throw-at.html> (3.24)

FOUL TIP

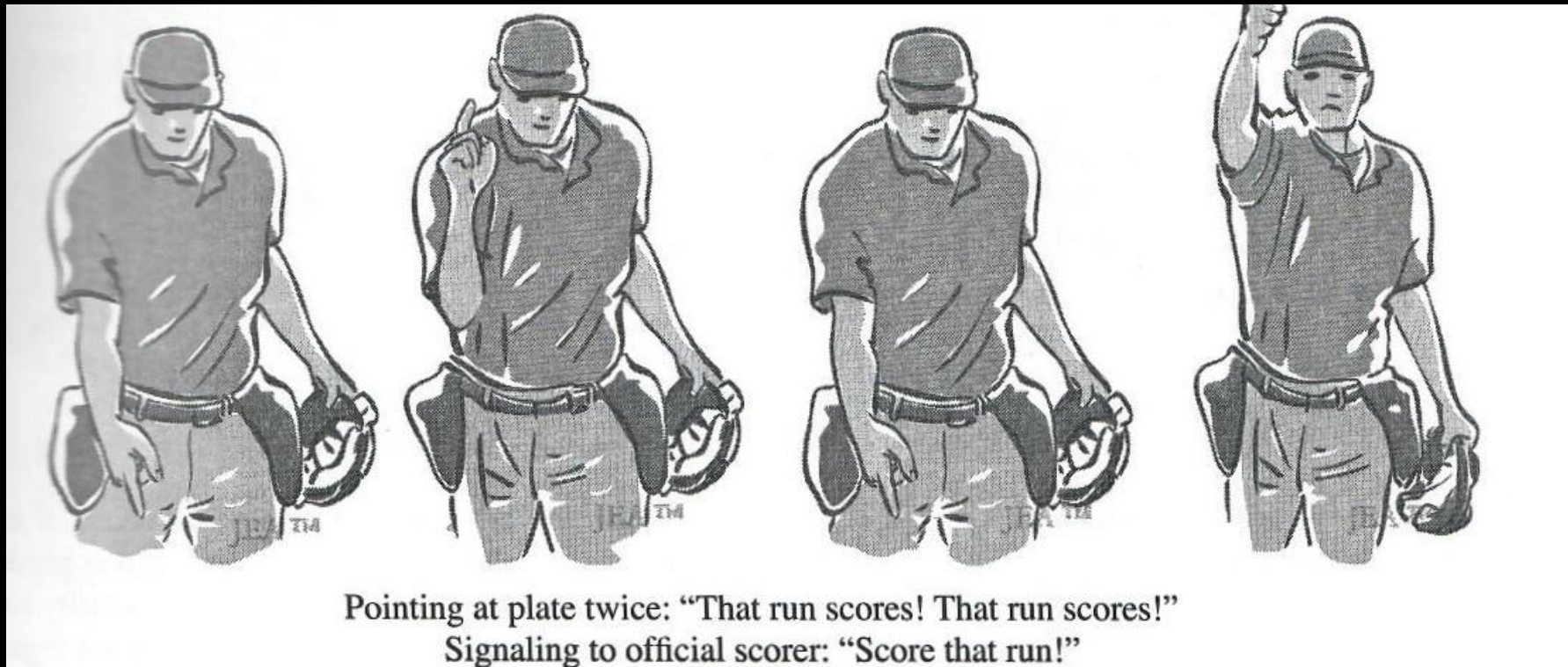


Foul tip. Scrape the fingers of one hand across the other hand to indicate a batted went directly to the catcher's hands and was legally caught by a fielder then signal a swinging strike.

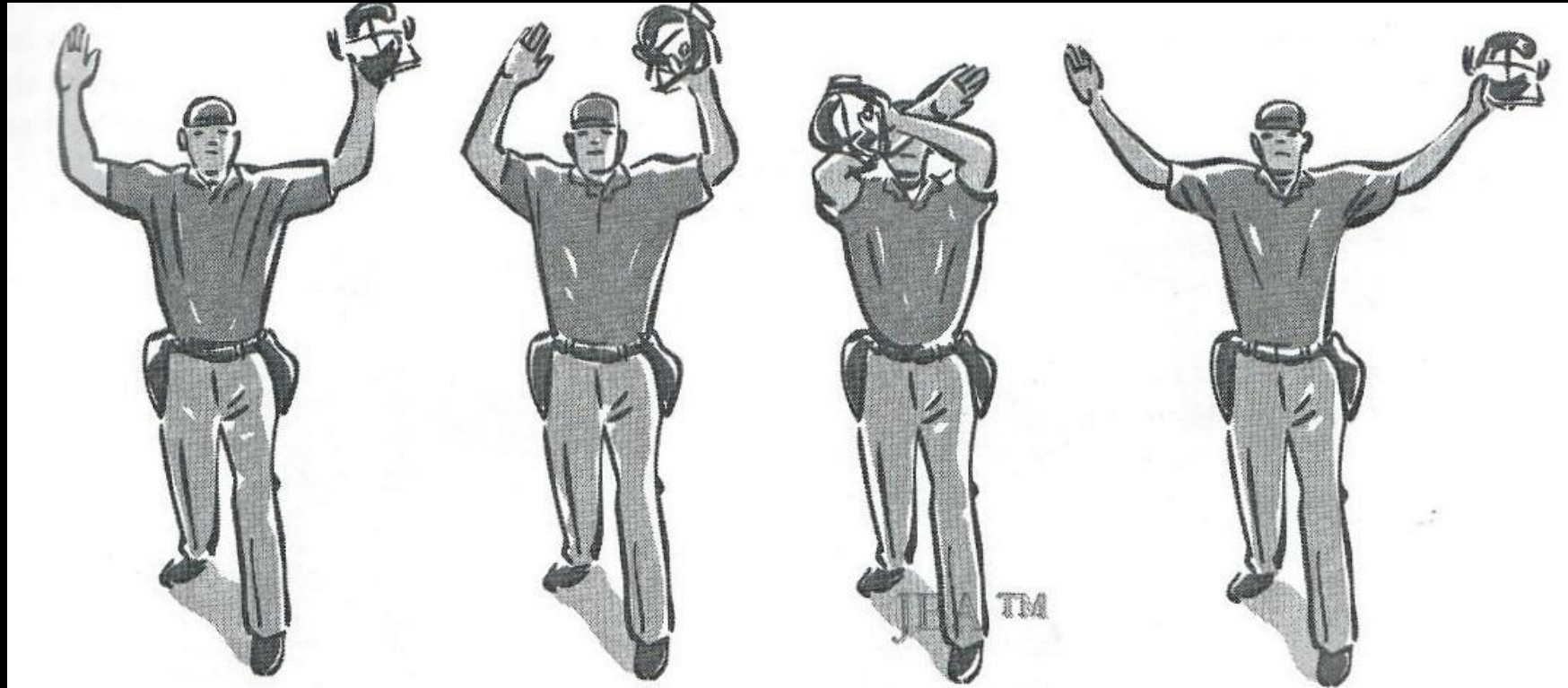
A foul tip is a live ball and a strike, if caught. If the ball is **not legally caught**, then it is simply a foul ball.



TIMING PLAY - SCORE THE RUN

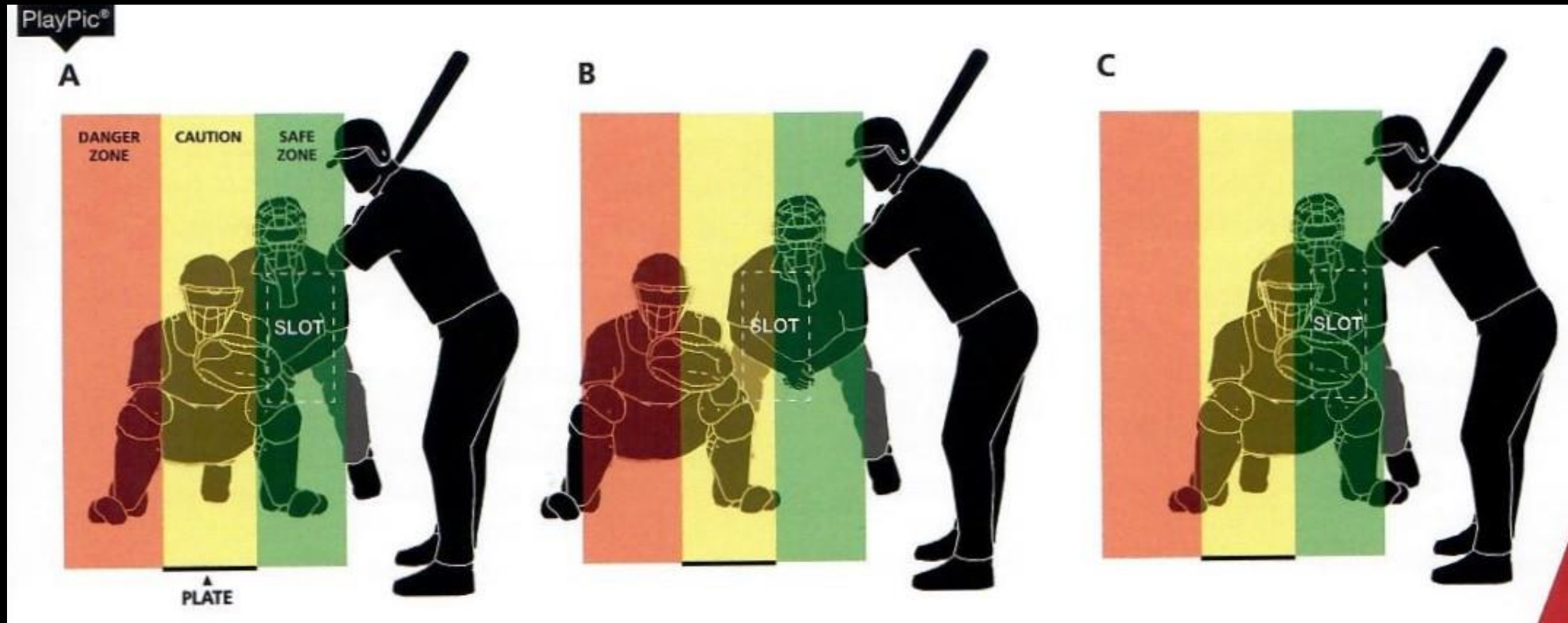


TIMING PLAY – NO RUN SCORES



Signaling to official scorer twice: "No run scores! No run scores!"
The signal must be given above his head so that it cannot be misinterpreted as a safe signal.

BATTING CAGE CORRECTIVES: STAY IN THE SLOT



BATTING CAGE CORRECTIVES: CALLING STRIKES



The Point:

Verbal (loud “Strike”) when called with no swing, non-verbal when the batter has swung.



The Hammer:

Can be used to call strikes, or also to indicate strike three on a swinging strike. (Also used on uncaught 3rd strike, or infield fly out.)



The Punch Out:

Only on a called, non-swinging, 3rd strike.

Managing Arguments Effectively

- Bad Call and Manager Ejection (1:34)



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEp7JBcDwQE>

Managing Arguments Effectively



Identify at least three things the plate umpire and/or base umpire could have done to make a more accurate call, correct the call, or improve interaction with the coach.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Talk this situation over with a partner.

Managing Arguments Effectively

- Bad Call and Manager Ejection (1:34)



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEp7JBcDwQE>

Managing Arguments Effectively



1. Positioning (He got straight-lined)
2. Timing, proper use of eyes (Ball was on the ground)
3. Listen, don't argue (Immediately started arguing)
4. Check with partner (Didn't check with partner)
5. Base Umpire didn't indicate he had information.
5. Continued arguing after the ejection. Should have walked away.

Managing Arguments Effectively



“Anger is a secondary emotion which often occurs after either stress, frustration or fear. How we deal with anger makes our actions either appropriate or inappropriate. The best way to handle anger is to know yourself.”

Knowing yourself:

- What sets you off? Who or what causes you to get angry? What are your own triggers?
- Are there ways for you to reframe or rethink a confrontational situation before reacting? (Why is this person upset? Is their frustration legitimate? Am I over-reacting to their stress or frustration?)
- Monitor your own feelings during a game. (Am I getting tired, stressed?) Recognize impending moments and remain calm. (Take a breath.)

Managing Arguments Effectively

What is the source? Who is upset?

There are 4 groups of people with opinions at the game. Each group is unique, and must have its own set of boundaries. Determine the source, then decide how to respond.

Head Coaches....Listen to their legitimate complaints, try to ignore negative or personal comments until they “cross the line” into:

- Profane*
- Personal*
- Prolonged*
- Persistent*
- Public*



Managing Arguments Effectively

What is the source? Who is upset?

There are 4 groups of people with opinions at the game. Each group is unique, and must have its own set of boundaries. Determine the source, then decide how to respond.



Players... The key is what they say and how they say it. If respectful, listen and acknowledge their comment. If not, take appropriate action.



Managing Arguments Effectively

What is the source? Who is upset?

There are 4 groups of people with opinions at the game. Each group is unique, and must have its own set of boundaries. Determine the source, then decide how to respond.



Other team personnel... Give less tolerance to assistant coaches; make it clear to the head coach that he/she needs to handle the situation before you have to.

Managing Arguments Effectively

What is the source? Who is upset?

There are 4 groups of people with opinions at the game. Each group is unique, and must have its own set of boundaries. Determine the source, then decide how to respond.



Spectators... Ignore them, or ask the coach/game administrator to deal with a spectator that is significantly disrupting the game.

UMPIRE VS COACH(10:08)



Discuss with a partner what you saw and how the situation could have been better handled.

Managing Arguments Effectively

Manage the Interaction – Do Not Argue

Your goal as an umpire is to diffuse and resolve conflict, not to win an argument. Eliminate your instinct to argue; take a breath and keep your composure.



- Let the other person talk without interruption.
- Limit the discussion to the immediate issue.
- Avoid the other person's vulnerability or emotional sensitivities e.g., do not say "Calm down" or "It's just a game."
- Answer emotion with empathy. (Paraphrase what they said in a positive manner.)
- Take the edge off the emotion – show concern for their frustration; use a soft voice to their higher level of anger.

Managing Arguments Effectively

Recognize the Type of Arguer

There are generally four types of arguers at any game, with a different approach needed to defuse each:



Chirpers

- They do not confront you directly, but make constant little sniping remarks through out the game. Do not allow this to build to the point of getting upset.
- Early on, firmly inform the chirper that you have heard the comments – and they must stop. *“I have heard you coach, but we are not arguing balls and strikes today. That’s enough.”*
- If they continue, give a formal warning – or more.

Managing Arguments Effectively

Recognize the Type of Arguer



Intimidators

- They think they can win any argument by being louder or more “in your face.” When they come at you, yelling and animated, assume the opposite demeanor – focus on being calm, place your arms behind your back, speak in softer tones, repeat their words back to them in a normal voice.
- If they continue, (prolonged, personal) give a formal warning – or more.

Managing Arguments Effectively

Recognize the Type of Arguer



Clashers

- Sometimes you run into a coach that simply doesn't like you. (For whatever reason; Maybe because of a past interaction, or they just don't like your looks.)
- Prepare yourself mentally and make sure that you appear professional when walking onto the field.
- They will sometimes go to your partner, rather than you to argue a call.
- Your best tools are professionalism, courtesy, and knowing the rules and mechanics.

Managing Arguments Effectively

Recognize the Type of Arguer



**Legitimate Arguers/Head
Coaches Only**

- These coaches will typically be professional and respectful in voicing their concern.
- However, they will argue a point if they legitimately believe there is a case to be made.
- Use the same approach – listen respectfully, make sure that you understand their concern or point of view.
- Decide the best way to respond to their concern; i.e., Check with your partner, State the rule, Say what you saw, etc.

Managing Arguments Effectively

Using Appropriate Language(Verbal and Non-Verbal)

Whatever the circumstances, stay away from cute comebacks, wisecracks, sarcasm, or inappropriate statements. Be aware of your own “body language” as well.



This could get ugly.

- Do not deliver ultimatums such as “One more word and you’re gone.”
- Be careful **how** you say something; tone of voice and body language are critical elements of communication.
- Think through the situation and make sure your response makes sense in the context of that particular argument. Prepared answers don’t always work.
- The worst you can do is argue and escalate the confrontation.

Managing Arguments Effectively

When to check with your partner:

In some cases it is appropriate to check with your partner at the coach's or player's request after making a call or ruling. Those by-rule "appealable" situations include:

- Check Swing
- Pulled Foot (only at 1st base)
- Swipe Tag (only at 1st Base, or between 3rd and Home)
- Dropped Ball
- Ground Rule Double vs Home Run
- In general, do **not** check with your partner if the coach/player is questioning a judgement call. However, if you are unsure about a ruling (base award, penalty, etc.) then it is OK to check with your partner to talk over the situation.



Managing Arguments Effectively

Resolving the issue:

The goal is to get the game going again.



Link: <https://ebuaumpires.com/f/the-art-of-dealing-with-coaches>

- If the issue is a **judgement call**, you may say “Coach, if it happened the way you saw it, you would be right, but that’s not the way I saw it. Let’s play ball.”
- If the issue involves a **rule interpretation**, explain the rule without telling the coach he/she is wrong. Then “Let’s play ball.”
- If the coach persists, “We are done here coach. Let’s play ball.”
- Further arguing (persistent); warning or ejection.

GAME MANAGEMENT

LEAVING THE FIELD AFTER A TENSE GAME



- Leave the field together with your partner, ideally through the winning team's dugout.
- Do not change in the parking lot. Leave immediately if you feel any type of threat.
- Try to park some distance away from where the spectators usually park.