



New York State
SOFTBALL OFFICIALS, Inc.

Hudson Valley Chapter

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TO: All HVBO Umpires

DATE: March 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Pre-Game Conference Guidelines

Please utilize the following **guidelines** at the **pre-game conference at home plate**:

1. Have teams captains and/or coaches introduce themselves to each other.
2. Plate umpire should introduce him or herself, and his or her partner to both teams in attendance.
3. Plate umpire reviews ground rules. Begin by outlining dead ball areas. Cover all openings and obstacles.
4. Remind both teams of jewelry removal.
5. Point out that all sportsmanship rules will be enforced. Emphasize that negative statements or actions; especially trash-talking, taunting or baiting will not be tolerated.
6. Review line-up cards. Instruct both teams that all substitutes, courtesy runners and re-entries are to be reported to the plate umpire and to the opposing team's scorekeeper.
7. If applicable, establish the 15-run rule. (Mandatory at the Modified Level and optional at the JV Level) There is no run rule at the varsity level.
8. If there is a time limit in effect, discuss with both teams the ending time.
9. Ask both teams if there are any questions about the ground or playing rules. Ask you partner if there were anything that he or she would like to add.
10. Wish both teams "Good Luck" and "Play Ball!"

Remember, the plate umpire stands behind home plate in the catcher's box, the base umpire stands in front of home plate facing the plate umpire. The teams' captains, other players or coaches stand in their respective batter's boxes facing each other.