



# MSHSL BASEBALL UMPIRING (2026)

## “MECHANICS NOT FOUND IN A BOOK”

### GAME MANAGEMENT

- **BREAKING UP MOUND VISITS**
  - Move **Briskly and Directly** to mound; Never let catcher beat you back to the plate
- **KEEP THE GAME MOVING**
  - Use your Voice to encourage hustling; back-up catchers for each team
- **PROACTIVE PLAYER MANAGEMENT / BUILDING RAPPOR**
  - Introduce yourself; ask catcher “best pitch” or 1B regarding “pickoffs”
- **BASE UMPIRE IN BETWEEN INNINGS**
  - Remain in infield until team crossover ends; Manage # of Bats On Deck (both dugouts)

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- **HOUSEKEEPING**
  - Remove bat from baseline; Never place own mask on ground; Team run baseballs to you
- **CALLING TIME**
  - **Partners Mirror Each Other**; Two Arms Up; Use voice, “Time”
- **LINE UP CHANGES**
  - Offensive change, position in Opposite batter’s box; Report to Scorer/Public Addr Ann
- **SCORING A RUN ON A TIME PLAY**
  - “Run scores, run scores, Score the Run!” (Plate point, index finger to Public Addr Ann)
- **BASE PARTNER VISIT PLATE PARTNER**
  - Visit 1x per game, even if all is going well, no more; Except: injury, weather, game mgmt
- **ALL NEW PITCHERS ENTERING THE GAME**
  - Plate takes 3+ pitches from behind catcher with Mask on; U1 assists with # of pitches

### POSITIONING / CALL MAKING

- **IN BETWEEN INNINGS POSITIONING**
  - Plate: **On the Line**, 10 to 15 feet from HP; Base: watch crossover, then short-RF
- **LEFT FOOT FORWARD**
  - All set positions must have Left Foot Forward (Right Foot Forward is improper)
- **DO NOT FALL FORWARD AFTER MAKING A CALL**
  - Remain Balanced, even on whackers with extra emphasis placed on call
- **STEAL PLAYS**
  - Begin movement toward base as soon as it is known the runner is on the way

### PROFESSIONALISM (“Keeping Yourself Out of Trouble”)

- **NEVER PHYSICALLY DEMONSTRATE A PLAY OR PITCH**
  - Use **WORDS ONLY**; there are **NO EXCEPTIONS**, ever
- **HANDLING PLAYERS/COACHES WITH RESPECT**
  - Deescalate and Defuse; “Hold on now, choose different words”
- **USE RULE BOOK TERMINOLOGY**
  - Describe play and ruling; “Here is what I had: I had .....”
- **WARNINGS & EJECTIONS**
  - Stay calm; notify individual and partners of warning/penalty; Ejections require Report
- **BODY LANGUAGE**
  - Eye contact; Voice volume and tone; always hustle (jog/run), walking never permitted