



2023



**UIC
CLINIC**

USA SOFTBALL UMPIRES:
LEADING BY EXAMPLE



YouTube



All Eyes Are On You!



How Many of Us have seen the



cameras on the back of fences??!!





Parents are going to use their cameras and they are going to object to any type of censorship - they will continue to post umpire “goofs” on YouTube, etc. We have to understand that this is not going to change.

Umpires must understand they are being watched every time they step on the field. They need good training on the topic of “Game Management”.





(“The First Amendment protects the right to gather information about what public officials do on public property, and specifically, a right to record matters of public interest.”)

Members of the public and the media do not need a permit to film or photograph in public places and police have no power to stop them filming or photographing incidents or police personnel.

Several Supreme Court cases recognize that the First Amendment protects film as a form of expression.

It’s illegal for someone to film what you say or do when you have a reasonable expectation of privacy, whether in a public space or at home. Placing hidden cameras in public places where people expect privacy also breaks video recording laws.



How can we use spectator's videos to our advantage?

Do you ignore the video? How do you handle it?

Be PREPARED to have conversations with spectators!

Show spectators you have an interest in helping your umpires get better.

Use it as a learning tool!





Use Technology To Teach!

Softball Fields Are Our Environment:

- **Are you able to playfully turn it around on the fans and spark softball conversation?**
(Solicit them becoming an umpire)
- **Let spectators know when they are wrong (hand out books to fans, get them interested in wanting to know the rules)**

● **Technology Can Help Your Umpires!**

Use Technology To Help Umpires!

Worst thing to do is “I don’t want to see it” or ignore the customer. Could have a potential umpire watching your reactions.

Be sure to use appropriate language while on the field and standing near the fence.

Try to NOT be the umpire that ends up on **YouTube.**



YouTube





We've Got It On Tape!!



Use Technology To Teach!



Is this a ball or a strike?



Use Technology To Help Umpires!



What about a 10U game?

What IF the score is a blowout? 16-0

What IF it's League Play vs Tournament

What IF this is a still picture of a pitch that someone sends in to you to show the inaccuracy of **YOUR UMPIRE throughout their game?**



Communication / electronic devices, including audio / video equipment, are not allowed on the playing field.

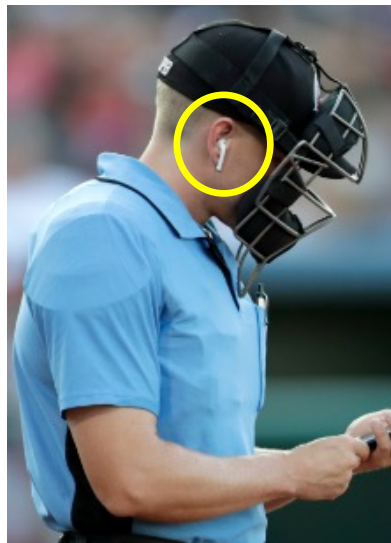
We have rules for that!!



What electronic device IS a coach allowed to have on the field?



But... there IS a time and a place for umpires to use technology to help them get better!



Whether it's audio or video, technology is now available to help your umpires improve their game!



Use Technology To Help Umpires!



Would you be opposed to using a camera to help you work on the zone?

They're HERE!



Use Technology To Help Umpires!



**How Many Of You
Already Use Some
Of These Things To
Help Train Your
Umpires?**





Use Technology To Help Umpires!

Evaluating our umpires is a great way to give, and receive constructive criticism. Newer Electronic Devices Allow US to show the umpires exactly what they are doing, as well as how it should be done.

Create an ASSOCIATION **YouTube Channel where you can upload/store VIDEO of UMPIRES IN YOUR ASSOCIATION and then SHARE the URL/Link with them so they can watch themselves umpire.**



YouTube





Remember...
All Eyes Are On You!






National Softball
Hall of Fame
OKLAHOMA CITY

Congrats Jim Craig





YouTube



TikTok



twitter



Snapchat



Instagram



How familiar are you, personally, with the USA Softball Umpire Social Media Guidelines?

Do you ever cover the Guidelines in your preseason umpire meetings/trainings?

Do you know where these guidelines are located?

UMPIRE MANUAL

USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES



Purpose of *Social Media Guidelines* for USA Softball Umpires.

To give helpful, practical advice when operating on the internet as a representative of USA Softball.

The *Guidelines* apply to all USA Softball members who create or contribute to: blogs, forums, social networks, or any other form of Social Media.

***These guidelines are intended solely for general information purposes (Disclaimer & Limitations)**



YouTube





Things to Remember When You're On Social Media

- **Consider Social Media communications as public at all times.**
- **On Social Media you may be publicly associated with USA Softball and your umpiring partners, so act/share accordingly.**
- **Communication among umpires for learning purposes should be done PRIVATELY, not through Social Media.**



Some “DONT’s” of Social Media

- **Avoid posting specifics about your schedule.**
- **Refrain from posting disparaging remarks (criticism) about others.**
- **Don’t show favoritism for teams, players, etc.**
- **Refrain from posting specifics about games, whether good or bad.**



Some “DONT’s” of Social Media (Cont.)

- **Don’t post detail about other umpire assignments until that information has been released.**
- **Don’t use Social Media to criticize state/local association policies and practices.**
- **Do NOT post pictures of yourself while at a Championship, either during or between games.**





Some “DO’s” of Social Media

- **Be VERY CAREFUL in the sharing of your personal information, including photos.**
- **Use Social Media to share information with members of your association.**
- **Use Social Media as a recruitment tool!**
- **Keep things positive when posting on Social Media.**
- **Remember, post on Social Media are VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC!**





Situation:

Joe is umpiring in a USA Softball Championship and he finds out Saturday night which umpires in the crew will be umpiring on the final four games on Sunday.

Joe decides to post the schedule of the selected umpires and their assignments for “Championship Sunday” on his local association’s *FACEBOOK* page.



RAISE YOUR HAND!

**Is Joe Following the USA Softball Umpire Social Media Guidelines?
Why or Why Not?**





Situation:

Daryl is the Local UIC for a USA Softball Association in a metropolitan area. He decides to post publicly on Social Media a flyer as an umpire recruitment tool.

The information on the flyer instructs anyone who might be interested in becoming an umpire to contact Daryl at his personal email address (which is posted on the flyer)



RAISE YOUR HAND!

**Is Daryl following the USA Softball Umpire Social Media Guidelines?
Why or Why Not?**





Situation:

Matt is umpiring in a USA Softball Championship. During a game, John (PU on his crew) makes an obstruction call on F2 with R1 attempting to score. Although the defensive coach does not question the call, Matt feels John might be wrong on his call but since he isn't sure, play continues with out incident.

After the game, Matt sends a description of the play to his local association's FACEBOOK page back home and asks for other umpire's opinions – was John right or wrong on the call?



RAISE YOUR HAND!

**Is Matt following the USA Softball Umpire Social Media Guidelines?
Why or Why Not?**





Situation:

Elmer is in OKC at the HOF Stadium to umpire the 16U GOLD Championship. He's been trying to get an At-Large Assignment for several years and he's finally made the "big time".

Elmer wants all of his "FOLLOWERS" on Social Media to know, when he arrives in OKC, that he will be umpiring in the HOF Stadium, so he post where he's at, what Championship he'll be umpiring, and his umpiring schedule so his friend can watch his LIVE STREAMED Game.



RAISE YOUR HAND!

**Is Elmer following the USA Softball Umpire Social Media Guidelines?
Why or why not?**



Social Media – Wrap Up

- **USA Softball Umpires should set appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior.**
- **What an umpire feels is “personal” on Social Media often becomes “public” **without their consent.****
- **Review the private settings on any Social Media site and use good judgement when posting comments and information.**



Social Media – Final Thought...

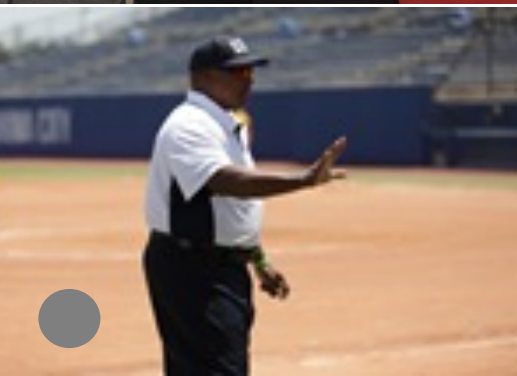
- The **USA Softball Umpire** Social Media Guidelines can be found in the online USA Softball UMPIRE MANUAL, Table of Contents section, page 28-30 (2022 edition)
- As a UIC, Staff Member, or Leader in YOUR Association, consider taking time to review this information with your umpires at a preseason meeting/training.





Remember...
All Eyes Are On You!





USA SOFTBALL

USA SOFTBALL

USA SOFTBALL



YouTube

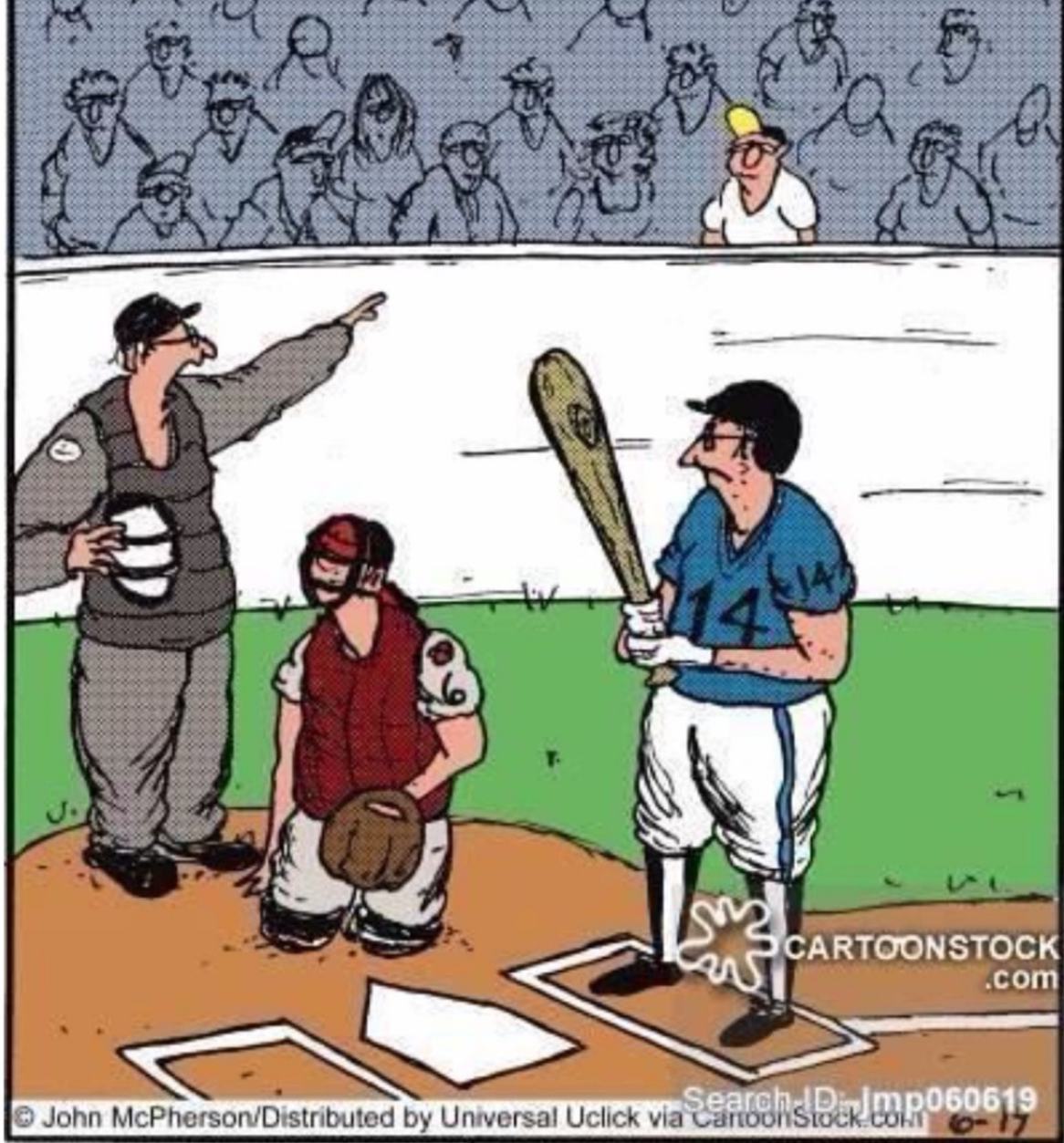




What is the role of the umpire(s)?

- **In the eyes of fans and players alike, many believe the Softball Umpire is there to call balls and strikes or rule a baserunner safe or out.**
- **Although those may be duties of umpires, there are three elements of umpiring:**
 - 1. Managing the game**
 - 2. Controlling the game**
 - 3. Keeping the integrity of the game.**





“Whoa! Time out. The loud guy in the white shirt is right — that was a ball. My mistake. Sorry everyone. Thank you, sir.”



TikTok



Instagram



Keeping the integrity of the game

- **Where do we start?**
- **Integrity is our *most important* commodity!**
- **Avoid writing, posting, or acting in a way that would embarrass The Times or compromise your ability to do your job**



Assume that your professional life and your personal life will merge online or in-person regardless of your care to separate them.

Family

Friends

Players

Spectators

Assignors

Blue Team

Someone is going to recognize you when you are off the field



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USA SOFTBALL UMPIRES:
LEADING BY EXAMPLE

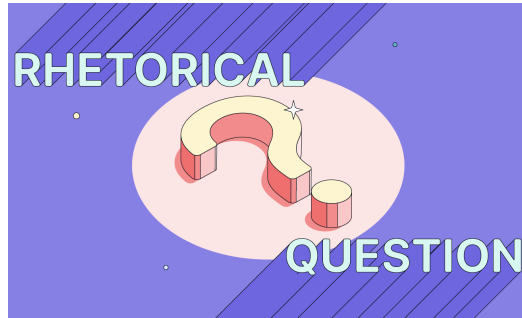


Code of Ethics - Let's Set The Example!

How many of you are Veteran Umpires, 5 years or more of umpiring?



RAISE YOUR HAND!



How many of you are setting the right example for those who are in your association?

In other words, Do you follow the Code of Ethics for Umpires, and share that code with fellow umpires?



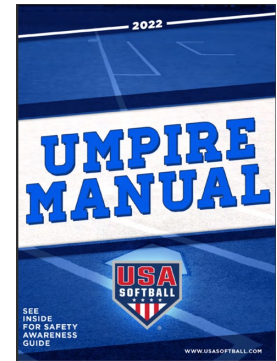


Did you know we have a Code of Ethics?

Can you tell me where it is?



RAISE YOUR HAND!



The USA Softball Umpire Manual!



What Page? Page 31



What Does It Say?



UMPIRE MANUAL

CODE OF ETHICS FOR UMPIRES

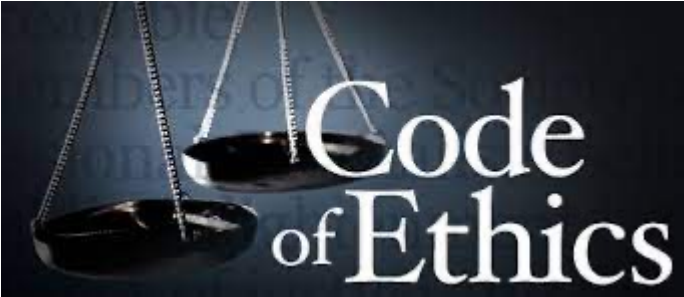
1. Honor all contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial basis in a punctual and professional manner.
2. Study the rules and mechanics of the game diligently, observe the work of other good umpires, and attempt to improve at all times.
3. Remember that while your work as an umpire is important, you must conduct yourself in such a way that spectator attention is directed to the players during the game and not at you.
4. Dress and maintain your appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the umpire.
5. Be fair and unbiased in your decisions, rendering them without regard to the score or the quality of the play on the field.
6. Cooperate and be professional in your associations with your fellow umpires and do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
7. Be firm but not overbearing; positive but never rude; dignified but never 'cocky.' Remember the good umpire doesn't have to have the last word.



What Does It Say?

UMPIRE MANUAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR UMPIRES

8. Be prepared both physically and mentally to administer the game.
9. Do not smoke on or in the vicinity of the playing field, nor drink any alcoholic beverages before the game you are to work.
10. Do not give information which might be used by a team's future opponent.
11. Keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or coach or the ambitions of any individual umpire.
12. **You represent USA Softball at all times.**
13. Administer the game with clear, concise, and proper communication skills both verbal and nonverbal.
14. Accept responsibility for all your actions.



What Veteran Umpires do in the “Off-Season” impacts what other umpires MAY do. Are you setting the right example?

Do you study rules in the off-season?

Do you attend clinics or NUS?

Do you participate or teach in these clinics?

Do you update your uniforms?

Do you physically prepare for the next season?



Instagram





When do we start?

How about right now?

UICs

Staff Members in your association

Leaders in your association

NCU = National Championship Umpire



YouTube





Take home the energy and excitement from a national championship and share your experiences – it will inspire others!

This is a new starting place for you as well. More will be expected!!!





Remember...
All Eyes Are On You!





USA
SOFTBALL



USA
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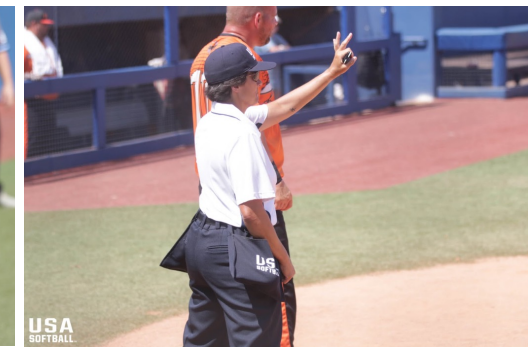
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Our Reality In The World Today...



**We NEED To Use
Technology To Teach!**

**We NEED To Use Technology
To Help OUR Umpires!**



Use Video To Teach!



Is This Legal or Illegal?



ZT5
SPORTS
ZT5.net

	R	H	E		BOT
OIntangy	1	2	1		4
Highland	1	3	1		2-1 1 out

● How Can This Video Be Used For Educational Purposes?

A person in a dark uniform is seated in a wheelchair on a set. In the foreground, a camera is mounted on a boom, partially obscuring the person. The background is a bright, overexposed area, possibly a studio or outdoor set.

**Let's See Some
Examples of
Umpires Who
Were "Caught
On Video During
Their Games.**

WARNING

Some Videos May Contain Graphic Language and Behavior That May Be Disturbing To Some Viewers.





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Play (k)

July 3, 2021

Indy Sports Park



0:00 / 2:17



SOFTBALL UMPIRE FREAKS OUT! Appropriate? 7-3-2021 Midwest Firecracker



Thoughts on the umpire's interaction with the fans?



**Thoughts on
the umpire's
interaction
with the fans?**





Be Mindful of Your Discussions with Catchers.



**CAUGHT
ON CAMERA**



If This Was An
Umpire From
Your Local
Association...



How Do You
Help Them To
Deal With This
Situation?



Exit precise seeking

#seatgeekcodeJOMBOY

Dumbest umpiring you will ever see, a breakdown



Pause (k)



0:00 / 2:40





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USA
SOFTBALL



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