

Don't be the Umpire.....

Yes, to succeed and move up the ladder (or stay up there) in the game we love, you must have desire, passion and, obviously, be a pretty good umpire. There are many other positive characteristics required to help you get to the next level. Just as important, though, are avoiding negative traits that can hold you back:

DON'T BE THE UMPIRE THAT _____

Coordinators/ Supervisors have to baby sit. If they ask you to respond to emails, turn in forms or register for meetings, do so in a timely manner. Keep your closed dates up to date. It wastes your supervisors' time to give you games that they have to reschedule because you didn't notify them that you were closed. Take care of your (on and off field) business!

Badmouths other umpires. This kind of talk gets back to everyone. It only shows weakness and other crew members don't like it. Being positive in a crew setting brings out the best in everyone. As Mom or Grandma has told all of us, "If you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all."

Is not a good crew guy. Are you always negative? Do you show up to leave to the yard late? Are you jealous of others that may have a better series? Be a good crew guy. Be positive. Be on time. Have all your gear neat and ready for the series. Make all your travel arrangements and communicate with the crew and/or crew chief. If you are the Crew Chief, give good, positive feedback to the crew that will be useful in the future. Providing constructive feedback without talking down to anyone is a great skill to develop for any setting

Knows it all or is a "One Upper". Do you always have the "better" game? Do you always get the call right? Do you always know a better way to get in position for a play? Think about it. Do you know someone that is always better than he really is? Is it you? Don't be this umpire. Speak when the time is right and your voice needs to be heard. Don't brag about yourself, or the big games that you have had. Let your work on the field speak for itself.

Never gives back to the game. What does this mean? Give back when you "get there" by helping others achieve their goals. Are you too selfish to do this? Use your experience and knowledge to teach and mentor the younger umpires that will be there someday. Also, put some money back in the game. Update your uniforms, shoes and gear, and donate the older stuff to new umpires that need equipment. Looking good on the field is one aspect of our game that we absolutely control.

Looks sloppy and out of shape. Take pride in what you look like on the field and be prepared BEFORE the season begins. We should all be working out well before February. Gone are the days when we can look any way we want to as long as we get the pitches and plays right.

Good luck this 2018 season!

Doug Williams