

## **Importance of Good Mechanics**

Mechanics can be defined as how precise we go about doing our job. Every aspect of the game has some type of mechanics. Umpires must not only know them but must also execute them precisely. They should always be professional and exhibit that of a college umpire. Remember if 5,000 people are at a game and you have a call, 10,000 eyes are on you.

One of the biggest factors of an umpire's professionalism is their mechanics. It says a lot about how they handle a baseball game. Good mechanics are always sharp, crisp, and never lazy. These mannerisms determine how umpires communicate with all of the stadium personnel, players, coaches, announcers, media and fans. If umpires cannot be heard - their motions should speak for them. Umpires must not forget that these movements are also indicators for their partners during the game. For example, If you are going out on a fly ball, make certain you communicate verbally and physically leaving no doubts to your partners, of your intentions.

For all close calls: the gestures should be very emphatic. If the play is not close - the signals should still be sharp and crisp. Don't show players up; and an umpire's movements should never cause one to lose sight of other responsibilities.

Here are a few mechanics that I believe should never be compromised.

- **Always Hustle**
- **Give voice with all mechanics on the bases**
- **Limit conversation during the game with your partners**
- **Look the part (physically and verbally)**
- **Always be set for your calls (unless the play forces you to move)**
- **Saying less is better (it is hard to quote silence)**

An NCAA umpire's mechanics indicate many things about one's game. Umpires must always look the part within the procedures of handling themselves on the field. Umpires may not get them all right, but should definitely look good trying.

Have a Great 2018 Season,

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