



Section 8

The Umpire



Presented by
Mark Brown



The Umpire

- In control, not in charge
- Keeps the game moving
- Respects the game, knows the rules
- Is well prepared; pregames with partners
- Regular training
- Professional appearance
- Has fun





Rule 9.02(a)

- Any umpire's decision which involves **judgment** such as but not limited to whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out is **FINAL**
- No player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any such **judgment** decisions.





Rule 9.02(b)

- If there is a reasonable doubt that any umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made.
- Such an appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision.
- **EXCEPTION:** If the umpire who made the call is a junior umpire (under 18 years of age) the appeal should be made to the adult umpire, or if no adult umpire is present, to the Game Coordinator.





Rule 9.02(b)

- Proper way to appeal an umpire's decision:
 - Manager should request time out
 - Manager should wait until granted time out
 - Manager should go to the umpire who made the call
 - Manager should politely discuss the call with said umpire
 - Body language, tone, and volume should be respectful
 - Don't just ask the umpire to "get some help" - be very specific about what you think you saw
 - "I believe the fielder pulled his foot"
 - "I believe the runner slid under the tag"
 - "I believe a rule was incorrectly applied"





Rule 9.02(b)

- Improper ways to appeal an umpire's decision:
 - Charging out of the dugout without being granted time
 - Yelling “get some help” from the dugout or sideline
 - Demanding the umpire come to you (ideally you should go to the umpire)
 - Arguing loudly (ideally only you and the umpire should be hearing the conversation)
 - Going to the plate umpire when the base umpire made the call, and asking for the call to be overturned
 - Being rude or demanding





Rule 9.02(c)

- If a decision is appealed, the umpire making the decision may ask another umpire for information before making a final decision.
- No umpire shall criticize, seek to reverse or interfere with another umpire's decision **UNLESS** asked to do so by the umpire making it.





Rule 9.03

Adults and Minors in Positions of Authority

(d) If no adult umpire is available for the game, and non-adult umpires (youth) are used for that game, the local league MUST assign an adult as the 'game coordinator' or the game can NOT be played.





Rule 4.19 (a)(b)

PROTESTING A GAME

- Protests can only be made based on a violation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible pitcher or player (NOT judgment calls)
- Only the manager of a team can protest after receiving permission from the umpire to leave the dugout.





Rule 4.19(c)(1)

PROTESTING A GAME

Protests shall be made as follows-

- Protesting manager must inform the umpire that he/she is protesting the game BEFORE any succeeding pitch or play.
- Playing rules can be protested ...

NEVER JUDGMENT CALLS!!!!





Rule 4.19(c)(2)

PROTESTING A GAME

Following proper notice the umpires shall consult with each other (maybe one of them saw something relevant). If they are convinced the ruling is in conflict with the rules, the umpire who made the original ruling shall reverse the decision. If not, they shall announce the game is being played under protest.





4.19 (d, e & f)

- Any protest must be submitted in writing to the league president within 24 hours, including the umpire's report
- Protest committee has several options:
 1. Uphold the protest (play the game from the point of protest)
 2. Forfeit the game (usually due to an ineligible player/pitcher)
 3. Deny the protest (protest had no bearing on the outcome of the game)
- Protests of an ineligible player or pitcher may be considered only if made before the umpires leave the field at the end of the game. However, don't wait until the end, if you note it during the game - ineligible players or pitcher should be removed as soon as discovered.





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End of Section 8