

## MALBUA UMPIRE PRE-GAME CONFERENCE CHECKLIST

*It is strongly recommended that the crew discuss each of these topics before each game. The plate umpire is responsible for conducting the pre-game conference.*

**Fair / Foul:** Discuss PU responsibilities and BU responsibilities with bases empty and runners on base.

**Line Drive and Fly Ball Coverage (including HALO Play):** Discuss PU responsibilities and BU responsibilities with bases empty and runners on base.

**Rotation on Batted Balls Through the Infield:** The PU should advise the base umpire(s) when he will rotate to third and whether a verbal signal will be given.

**Signals and Verbal Commands:** Discuss your methods of communication. Discuss the signals you will use for rotation situation, infield fly situation, repeat count and outs, request for meeting between innings, ball in the dirt, etc.

**Balks:** Discuss responsibilities for calling balks.

**Checked Swings:** The PU should advise the BU(s) how the PU will request an appeal of a checked swing and what the PU expects from the BU in ruling on such an appeal. It is recommended that the PU allow the BU complete discretion on such appeals.

**Balls in the Dirt, Swinging Third Strike:** Discuss whether the BU(s) will be assisting the PU in determining whether a swinging third strike was caught cleanly by the catcher. Discuss signals to be used.

**Foul Balls Off the Batter:** Discuss whether the BU(s) will be assisting the PU in determining whether a foul ball struck the batter while in the batter's box.

**Foul Tip Third Strikes, Catch or No Catch:** Discuss whether the BU(s) will be assisting the PU in determining whether a foul tip third strike was caught cleanly by the catcher.

**Double Tag-Ups:** Discuss PU and BU responsibilities when more than one runner is tagging up on a fly ball.

**Infield Fly:** Discuss when the infield fly situation is in effect and the proper procedure for calling an infield fly.

**Swipe Tags and Pulled Foot Plays:** Discuss whether the PU will assist in determining whether there was a swipe tag or pulled first on a play at first base. Discuss how the request for assistance will be made.

**Interference at First, 45-Foot Running Lane:** Discuss who will make the call of interference at first before and beyond the 45-foot running lane.

**Interference at Second and Force Play Slide Rule:** Discuss who will have primary coverage of the slide at second on a force play.

**Collision at Home, Interference and Obstruction:** Discuss who will have primary coverage of interference and obstruction on plays at the plate.

**Overthrows, Dead Balls, and Base Awards:** Discuss who will have primary coverage of the ball on overthrows at first base and third base.

**Appeals:** Discuss how you will communicate to each other that you are taking responsibility for ruling on a defensive appeal.

**Arguments and Ejections:** Discuss how you each expect the other(s) to act if you are involved in an argument or if there is an ejection.

**Rules/POEs:** Discuss Points of Emphasis & specific rules for the game level.

**Warnings: Balls and Strikes; Bench Jockeying; Bean Ball; Arguments:** Remind each other that arguments over balls and strikes and bench jockeying will not be tolerated. Discuss the proper procedure for issuing warnings, particularly for bean ball incidents.

**Miscellaneous Situations: Runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> Only; Double Run-Down; Obstructions; Live Ball Under Fence:** Discuss how these and other unusual Situations should be covered. Discuss situations in which you might desire to conference or change a call.