

CUA Umpire Evaluation Standards

PLATE

Stability of Head and Body Position during the pitch

Establishes "Locked In" position, does not drift side to side or up and down with pitch. Does not flinch on swings or foul tips; Feet remain stable throughout, providing solid base; Maintains proper spacing from catcher so as not to become entangled if catcher moves quickly and unexpectedly; Eyes remain at horizontal with ground and do not dip as game wears on; Head at proper height to allow unobstructed view of entire plate. Works in the "slot", not over the top of the catcher or to the outside.

Timing

Does not anticipate pitch; Allows everything that can happen, to happen, before making DECISION, then makes a call. Does not make a call as the ball is approaching the plate or crossing but, after the catcher has caught the ball.

Style / Mechanics of call

Gives clear authoritative signals; Possesses smooth, relaxed styles that projects confidence; Coordinates voice and signals to give a professional appearance. Does not showboat or change the mechanics of his call during a game. Voice is loud enough to be heard but does not draw undue attention. Does not make unnecessary calls in obvious situations.

Consistency of Strike Zone throughout the game

Maintains the same zone throughout the game. Is the same for both teams from inning 1 to inning 7. Has a grasp of how the zone can be adjusted in lopsided game. Note: Umpires "miss" pitches occasionally, just because an umpire calls a pitch that bounces a strike once does not mean that he should continue to call that pitch a strike in the name of consistency.

Judgment and Interpretation of Strike Zone

Interprets and calls the zone to its written limits. Does not call "unhittable" pitch strikes nor does he have a zone that is too small.

Crew Mechanics

Has a good knowledge of proper mechanics and rotates in the proper situations and is alert enough to adjust if one of his partners misses coverage.

Crew Communications

Proper use of verbal and non-verbal communications. Good eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays.

BASES

Proper Angle / Stable Position as Play Occurs

Is either 90 degrees to angle of throw on force plays or two to three steps off the foul line for plays at first base, and 90 degrees to angle of runner on tag plays; not too close or too far away (6 to 12 feet is ideal); set and steady for play, not just the call. Not moving when the play happens.

Movement

Moves with purpose and intention. Has proper foot work on double plays, rundowns, and steals. Gains distance from "C" to "B" and bounces back. Gets to the grass/dirt line on trouble balls in OF.

Timing

Does not anticipate the play; allows everything that can happen, to happen, before making DECISION, not call.

Judgment of calls

Is correct on most calls. Just plain gets the call right.

Crew Mechanics

Has a good knowledge of proper mechanics and rotates in the proper situations and is alert enough to adjust if his partner misses a coverage/rotation. Reads partner and fly balls well on outfield coverage and goes out as needed.

Crew Communications

Uses proper verbal and non-verbal communications. Establishes eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays.

GENERAL

Appearance / Presence

Looks good in the uniform. Is athletic looking and in good physical shape. Has a uniform that fits, is clean and pressed. Shoes are clean and polished. Has good posture and professional mannerisms and body language. Looks confident, not arrogant.

Hustle

Gets into position to make all his calls. Have good agility, coordination, and

fluidity of movement. Does not over hustle to draw attention to him. Moves back to proper position quickly after plays.

Game Control / Demeanor

Is in control of the game while being calm, firm, and assertive. Not overly aggressive in arguments but knows when to be aggressive to keep control of a situation. Is not eager to eject players or coaches but will do so when necessary.

Relations with Game Personnel

Maintains a courteous and authoritative manner in dealing with all people involved with the contest. Does not try to impress others with his position or power. Does not take advantage of this position either in asking for favors.

Focus / Alertness / Intensity

Concentrates on the action and can anticipate where plays or problems may arise. Does not daydream or look into the stands during play.

Off-Field Conduct

Always maintains proper decorum and professional manners while in any public situation. Always represents CUA favorably.

Receptiveness to Criticism

Possesses a willingness to learn and improve no matter how many years he has worked. Always striving to improve his umpiring.