

Memorandum # 5

Date: March 28, 2010
To: Foothill-Citrus Umpires
Copy: Joe Gonsalves
Dennis McIntire
From: Ken Allan
Re: Memo #5 2010 Season

- **DUGOUT EXTENSION**— There have been some issues with dugout extensions where coaches have chalked off standing areas. The rule is that dugouts may NOT be extended toward home plate and they may NOT be extended toward the foul lines for any reason. Dugouts MAY be extended from the end farthest from home plate, and, if a coach wants to stand there, that is legal. Buckets must be INSIDE the dugout, not outside next to a fence. (1-2-4)
- **CHECKED SWING**—Don't be stubborn. If you are the plate umpire and you are asked to go for help on a checked swing, do it. Many a smooth running game has been marred because a plate umpire won't go for help. If you think a team is trying to take advantage, go to the coach between innings and remind him that in high school baseball, umpires by rule, are not required to go for help. Ask him to be more selective or you will follow the rule and call the pitches on your own.
- **BATTERS HIT BY PITCHES**—It's been reported that it appears some teams are being coached to allow hitters to be hit by pitches. Then, when the umpire does his job by holding the batter at the plate, he is criticized for an unrelated issue. Part of your job as an umpire is to prohibit a team from getting an advantage not intended by rule. This is one of those situations. Be firm on this.
- **LINEUP CHANGES**—Another reminder to inform the other head coach of line up or pitching changes. If a PA announcer is being used, inform the PA announcer after you have notified the other team.
- **YOUTH LEAGUE RULES**—There have been reports that some umpires have confused youth league rules with high school rules. Be careful of what you do. If you are not sure, don't do it!!
- **WATCHING RUNNERS**—I have noticed on more than one occasion base umpires not watching runners touch bases, especially the b/r touching first on extra base hits. If the base umpire goes out, the plate umpire has the responsibility.
- **RATINGS**—The board has decided that we will use the F-C website www.fcbua.org to rate umpires. The criteria will be posted soon.
- **PREGAME BAT/HELMET CHECK**—It is much easier to check the visitor dugout first, then the home dugout. After checking the home dugout, umpires can confer with the home coach as to when he wants the pregame meeting. If there is a delay, do not wait on the field. Tell the coach where you will be then wait outside the gate.
- **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE MECHANIC**—Give a "safe" sign rather than pointing down. A safe sign can be seen by everyone.
- **ORCHESTRATED DEMONSTRATIONS FROM DUGOUT**—If a dugout is vocalizing in a manner you believe is designed to distract the opposing pitcher, you have the rule backing to stop it. (3-3-1-g4) This is definitely a game control issue. Stop this behavior right away.
- **LOWER LEVEL TIME LIMIT**—If your game goes to extra innings prior to the two-hour 30 minute time limit, continue to play.