

Memorandum # 4

Date: March 21, 2010
To: Foothill-Citrus Umpires
Copy: Joe Gonsalves
Dennis McIntire
From: Ken Allan
Re: Memo #4 2010 Season

- **MONDAY MEETING**—Be sure to download and copy test three for tomorrow’s meeting. We will also be nominating officers for 2011.
- **KEEPING THE GAME MOVING**—Don’t wait until you are out before requesting more baseballs. When you have one left, request more baseballs. That way, they will be available and you won’t have to stop the game waiting for replacements.
- **DO YOUR JOB**—One of the responsibilities of umpires is to arrive on time. That is a minimum of 30 minutes before game time. It is also a responsibility of the first arriving umpire, or the single umpire for lower level games, to inform the head coach that the umpire(s) is/are at the game site. With that thought in mind, I am sure you will share my disappointment in the following email I received from Scott Lewis. We CAN do a much better job and we MUST do a much better job. We getting paid quite well for doing high school baseball. Let’s give them their money’s worth!!

I wanted to tell you what a JV coach told me last week. I usually show up early. I want to get my head ready for the game. I step on the field usually at 2:50 so I can check the bats and helmets. I would like to start the plate meeting at around 3 or 3:05. In between innings a JV coach thanked me for showing up early. He said that most of the time umpires show up 5 minutes before game time and they really don't check equipment. He said they just look at it. He also said that most of the time games start late because the umps show up at game time. Just thought I let you know some feedback that I heard.

- **LINEUP CARDS**—DO NOT let the coaches separate the lineups and distribute them. The correct procedure is for the plate umpire to accept ALL copies of the lineups from the home coach then accept ALL copies of the lineups from the visiting coach. Check the home lineup card for player numbers, first initials for duplicate names and verify that all positions have been listed. If a DH is used, bracket the DH and the player for whom he is hitting. The plate umpire then keeps the original for himself, hands a copy to the visiting coach and returns any extra copies to the home coach. Follow the same procedure for the visiting coach.
- **GIVING THE COUNT**—When giving the count, hold it out, head high, for a few moments so people can see it. When you “flash” the count, most people won’t see it. It is an umpire’s choice as to whether to give the count when there is a scoreboard. The correct verbal indication is: “Two balls, one strike,” etc. rather than “Two and one,” or “Twenty-one.”
- **AMATEURISH BEHAVIOR**—We are continuing to improve. Good job!! Umpires should make it a point to review this to familiarize themselves with proper procedure. I am attaching the “Amateurish Behavior” memo. Please take some time to review it.
- **PREGAME MEETING**—Please do not “wing it.” There is a very good pregame on the FCBUA website. It covers all the basic elements. The item you forget could be the one that will get you in trouble.