

Memorandum # 7

Date: April 11, 2010
To: Foothill-Citrus Umpires
Copy: Joe Gonsalves
Dennis McIntire
From: Ken Allan
Re: Memo #7 2010 Season

Monday's meeting will be held in the theatre. There will be no classroom session.

- **UMPIRE COURTESY**—It is an accepted practice for the base umpire not to drive off and leave the game site before his partner (the plate umpire) has removed his equipment and is ready to leave. This is just one of those items that separates top rated umpires from everyone else. It is a professional courtesy.
- **GIVING THE COUNT**—When giving the count, the hands should be slightly above the head so people can see them. Don't "flash" the count. Hold it for a moment and verbalize it as you show it. "Three balls, two strikes" not "Three and two," or "Thirty-two."
- **BASEBALLS**—I am still seeing umpires running out before asking for more. When you are down to one baseball, request more and make sure the home team knows you need more baseballs right away. Don't let the game drag because you are out of baseballs.
- **BASE UMPIRE**—Be ready to help the plate umpire in counting pitches while he is writing down lineup changes or informing the other coach of such. When the pitcher has two pitches left, move toward the infield from the edge of the outfield grass (you are there, right?) raise your right hand slightly above your head and verbally announce "Two more pitches." Be sure the plate umpire is aware of this announcement. Then, if necessary, make sure base runners are heading back to their bases so the game can resume the moment the pitcher has completed his warm-ups.
- **KNOW THE BASIC RULES**—There was a situation in a lower level game where, with a runner on first base only, the batter hit a popup to the infield which the umpire erroneously called an infield fly. Unfortunately, the ball was dropped and even more unfortunately, the umpire still called the batter out. The same umpire reportedly told the catcher he did not have to throw to first base or tag the batter on a swinging third strike that was dropped with first base occupied and two out. Obviously, we need to do a much better job. Knowledge of the rules is a given in umpiring. It is especially important for newer umpires as well as veterans to review the rules now and again. The casebook is an excellent source. If it has happened before, it will probably be in the casebook.
- **ANIMATED COACHES**—Whenever a coach becomes animated and invades your personal space, (eg in your face) be very careful not to cause physical contact. This is a very serious situation regardless of whether the umpire or the coach causes the contact, This is why it is so important for a partner to get involved if a conversation between a coach and umpire becomes heated. A good response in either a one man or two man game is "Coach, back off or you are done right now." If he doesn't obey, step back, turn away and eject him. If a coach is in your face, he is more concerned with intimidating you than getting an explanation of a call.