



Umpires,

In the past there has been a trend that I would like to address again this fall. It seems that there are some teams that are making every effort to demonstrate their “sportsmanship” and “respect” toward umpires. Certainly, I understand their intent, and I applaud the coaches for encouraging this, but I believe it would be in our best interests to refrain from participating in some of the activities. As umpires, we have responsibilities and expectations that we should follow.

The ASA Rule Book/Manual Indicates: When a situation arises that could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, umpires should wait until all infielders have crossed the foul line on their way to the dugout before leaving the infield. If teams line up for “high-fives” there is little chance for an appeal even if the infielders have not crossed the foul line. **Umpires should leave the field at this time.** No appeal can be made once the umpires leave the field.

This is the practice we should adhere to. It is inappropriate for umpires to wait around and “congratulate” teams. Either Team! “High Fives” or “Knuckles” with teams is NOT what umpires should be doing! I appreciate players showing their competition respect and sportsmanship— that IS appropriate. Teams should demonstrate their “respect” toward umpires during the game – through their actions and behavior. There should NOT be a production afterwards involving umpires. Your responsibilities are over, and you have other things you should be doing.

Therefore, I am asking that ALL umpires refrain from “**waiting**” around after the game is over to “High Five” or “Knuckle” the players/coaches. When the game is over - **get OFF the field**. If you need to get a score book, or card, do so outside the diamond. If a coach, or team, says “Thanks Blue” or whatever, it is fine to respond with a kind word, but do so as you are leaving the diamond. If you have concerns or would like to speak to me about this, please look me up at the tournaments this fall.

Thank you,

Greg Pohl

Greg Pohl
Metro. St. Louis
Umpire-In-Chief



Greg Pohl: Metro St. Louis Umpire-In-Chief
9464 Page Ave, St. Louis, MO 63132
O) 314-687-5203 E) StLASAUIC@gmail.com

