

St. Louis Fast Pitch Umpires – Things To Consider Working On – As Seen From Evaluations

Uniform:

- ❖ **Clean/Pressed/Presentable – Take Pride In What You Are Wearing!**
 - Pants: Heather Gray – Un-faded! Ball Bags, Caps, & Shirts: Purchased from ASA

Approachability:

- ❖ **Be A Good Listener / Communicate Using Verbiage From Rule Book / Confidence vs. Arrogance**

Hustle:

- ❖ **Appropriate – Be Where You Are Supposed To Be – ON TIME!**
 - Brisk Walk – *Just A Few Steps*
 - Jog – *Across The Diamond*
 - Run – *To Get To Your Next Play*

Plate:

- ❖ **Stance/Set Position/The Pitch: Page 34-36 Umpire’s Manual**
 - Establish A “Footwork” Routine – Practice It At Home – Should Be Able To Do It Without Thinking!
 - Make Sure You Have A Strong Wide Stance – More Comfortable & Easier To Move From
 - Work on making yourself the exact same on both sides of the plate (mirror image).
 - Tracking The Pitch – Use Your Nose!
 - Use correct verbiage: “Ball” vs. “No or Not Saying Anything” - **Or** - “Strike” vs. “One, Two, Yes, Etc.”
- ❖ **Movement From The Plate: Page 36-38 Umpire’s Manual**
 - Practice Clearing the Catcher – Watch Catcher’s Shoulders – NOT the ball! The Defense Will Take You To The Ball.
 - Obvious Foul Balls – Directly Back To Fence, or Way Over The Fence Down The Line – No Call/Signal Is Needed
 - Trailing A Runner – Left Of Catcher – How Far?
 - Fair/Foul Responsibilities
 - Fly Balls – Near the line / Away from line / Near Home Run Fence
 - Movement to 3rd Base

Bases:

- ❖ **Starting Positions: Page 44, 54-59, 63-72 Umpire’s Manual**
 - Know where you start – What’s your distance? Force Play? Plays at First? Tag Play?
 - Walking The Line vs. Ready Position
- ❖ **Pre Pitch Preparation: Page 44-50 Umpire’s Manual**
 - Think About All These Things BEFORE EVERY Pitch!
 - “Students Of The Game” – Read The Situations/Runners/Defense – Listen To What Is Happening Around - Where are the players going to make their play?
 - Where are the outfielders? Do They Move Once The Batter Has Two Strikes?
 - Where are your chase responsibilities? YES – You CAN GO OUT WITH RUNNERS ON BASE – Know WHEN! (Pg 248 UM)
 - Who Has The Runner Leaving Early?
 - Are The Pitcher’s Feet Legal When They Deliver The Pitch?
 - Where Are You Going On A Steal/Passed Ball/Base Hit/Fly Ball?
- ❖ **Your Play – Four Elements: Ball, Base, Offense, & Defense**
 - Appropriate Hustle To Get Yourself in the BEST position possible to make the call. Angles are the key!
 - Watch The Ball – A play cannot happen without the ball.
 - Let the throw turn your head/body to the play. Change focus to the other elements.
- ❖ **Inside/Outside Theory:**
 - If YOUR play comes from Inside the diamond, make the call from Outside the diamond.
 - Force Plays vs. Tag Plays – Angles!
 - If YOUR play comes from Outside the diamond, make the call from Inside the diamond.
 - Buttonhook – allows for efficient movement to the inside of the diamond to keep the four elements in view.
- ❖ **Fly Ball Coverage: To Chase or Not To Chase ~ (Pre Pitch) ~ You Can Go Out In The 2U or 3U System**
 - Near The Line – Priority is Fair/Foul, then Catch/No Catch – ASA – Point To Indicate On First Touch.
 - Away From Line – Chase Parallel To The Flight Of The Ball
- ❖ **Signals: ASA’s signals are distinct, meaningful, and different than other codes!**
 - When working ASA – Use ASA Signals!
 - Read The Umpire Manual – Page 22-28 (Read The Verbiage & Practice at Home)