

## GUIDELINES FOR WORKING ONE MAN MECHANICS

1. **REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY COVER EVERYTHING. BUT, WHEN IT COMES TO WATCHING SOMEONE TOUCH A BASE AND KNOWING WHERE THE BALL IS, ALWAYS KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BALL.**
2. Tell coaches at the pregame meeting you will work the game as hard as you can.
3. Also tell the coaches that whenever you brush off home plate, time is automatically out. Take a quick look around to be sure nothing is happening before you brush off home plate.
4. Anytime the ball is hit in fair territory, **you MUST move out toward the center of the infield, UNLESS** a ball hit down the line requires your attention. Even then, you should still move out toward the center of the infield if you call the ball fair.
5. On long distance calls, the general guideline is, if the ball beats the runner and the tag is down, call the runner out.
6. Always know where the ball is and who has it.
7. When a ball appears to be going out of play, **wait a little longer** to be sure it is in an out of play area. Once you declare the ball out of play, there is no going back.
8. If you have a rules interpretation problem, **don't necessarily be influenced by a coach** who tells you how some other umpire handled the same play. If a coach wants to protest, explain the situation to the other coach and see what he thinks about whatever the ruling is. If he knows the rule, it is to his advantage to have you get it right rather than have the game replayed as the result of an upheld protest. **DO THIS ONLY AFTER HE OTHER COACH ANNOUNCES HE IS PLAYING THE GAME UNDER PROTEST.** In any event, if you are stumped, a good way to solve the problem is start with the team that created the problem and untangle it from there. The bottom line here is do what you think is fair and get the game moving. Nobody knows all the rules. Your job is to go out with the attitude that regardless of what happens, you will be able to fix it. **DO NOT** allow games to get bogged down with long discussions.
9. Don't allow very much complaining from coaches and players about your positioning, etc., **AS LONG AS YOU ARE HUSTLING.** The best response is usually, "Coach I am working as hard as I can for you." Then walk away.
10. **HUSTLE! HUSTLE! HUSTLE!**
11. **GOOD LUCK!**