

Game Problems

In the best of systems, problems and conflicts are bound to arise. How you handle them is important to the league, and also to you. No one wants a frustrating job with a lot of problems. The league wants you run the game well, but also have fun doing it. Most conflicts escalate because the umpire is not sure what to do. Follow these guidelines to resolve problems efficiently, but remember, you are there to call a game, not to make each team happy! It all comes down to using your best judgment, based on your training and experience.

All conflicts and problems, big or small, should get reported immediately to the Umpire-In-Chief or your Umpire Coordinator. Report forms are available in the umpire room, or on the web site.

Umpires run the game, not the managers, but they may be called upon for rule clarification. Managers should have a copies of the rules with them at games.

- **Judgment Calls** – not subject to discussion. You make the call.
- **Umpire Conference** – if needed, call time, talk it over with the other umpire AWAY from the managers and teams. Agree on a call, announce it, and stick with it.
- **Rule Interpretations** – can be discussed with managers. If you determine that no one has accurate information to decide an issue, use your best judgment and continue the game. These decisions are best made without an extended delay.
- **Unresolved Conflicts** – If a conflict arises you can not resolve with the steps above (irate managers, parents, etc that ‘just won’t quit’), use these steps:
 1. **Parent problem** - tell the manager to deal with the parent. They should be made to be quiet or leave.
 2. **Manager problem** – CALL IN A LOUD VOICE for a Lou Gehrig Board Member near the game to resolve the conflict.
 3. **Eject** the person causing the conflict from the diamond area. Any person ejected from a game must either leave the complex, or wait at the concession stand for a player.
 4. **Walk Away!** When all else fails, both umpires take their equipment without another word, and go home. Get in contact immediately with an Umpire Coordinator or Umpire-In-Chief.

*****Report any and all game conflicts immediately via website, phone, or email. Details may be written down while at the complex while still fresh in your mind. Report forms are available in the umpire room and on the website.**