



2011 Points of Emphasis

Generally, the committee believes the rules as written are sound and directs coaches and umpires to adhere to these rules without exception. The entire baseball community (student-athletes, coaches, administrators, game managers) has a responsibility to participate in the game in a respectful manner. The following two points are items the committee believes require additional attention and consideration:

Coach/Umpire Philosophy.

The committee reviewed several proposals that dealt with communication between coaches and umpires. While this relationship has generally improved in recent seasons, the committee continues to be concerned with some negative incidents that could hurt the image of the game. The committee believes responsibility for improving this relationship lies with coaches, umpires and administrators equally.

For the sport to continue to thrive as it has, coaches and umpires need to continue to engage in healthy discussion and explanation of the rules without creating unneeded delays in the game and unsporting conduct. Extended arguments, vulgar language and disrespectful conduct by coaches or umpires must not be tolerated. Coaches are particularly reminded that the Code of Ethics includes a statement that forbids arguing judgment calls by the umpire.

The committee will continue to monitor these situations closely and will consider rules changes in the future if warranted.

Managing At-Bats

The committee believes improvement is needed with the pace of the game, particularly the batter stepping out of the box in conflict with current rules. Umpires in some cases are diligent in adhering to these rules, which are intended to maintain a consistent pace of play and eliminate unneeded delays. Consistency in this area is needed, however, and the committee instructs umpires to strictly enforce these rules and asks coaches and student-athletes to adhere without exception.