



Tips for Parents and Coaches to Deal with Umpires

1. **Respect the role.** Show respect for the role of umpire and the value they bring to the game. It is tough to have a fair game and feel good about the outcome unless you have an objective third party watch the action and make a ruling. Having a dad of the opposing team call your fastest kid out at the plate doesn't sit well when it was obvious he beat the throw and tag.
2. **Respect the person.** The person wearing the uniform is a human being just like the rest of us. Accept in advance that this human is going to make mistakes.
3. **Respect the game.** Umpires love the game too. Respect it and they'll respect you.
4. **Focus on the kids.** You're in trouble if the umpire sees that your ego is larger and more important than the success and happiness of the players. Umpires see your motives clearly. Take the approach that all of the adults on the field (coaches and umpires) are there to promote the enjoyment and development of all the kids . . . no matter the color of the uniform you're rooting for, you're all on the same team, you're just doing different jobs.
5. **Be reasonable.** Don't argue every call. Don't anticipate perfection. Don't expect to always get your way.
6. **Be polite.** Coaches: don't come running out onto the field with guns blazing, no matter how right you think you are. Parents: stop yelling as you try to climb the chain link fence. An umpire wants - and needs - law and order, not the Wild, Wild West. You should want that too.
7. **Laugh.** Be willing to laugh at the crazy things that happen on the field. Umpires are there to do a job, but they want to enjoy it, too. Having fun is what the game is about. Having a sense of humor shows the umpire that your priorities are straight.
8. **Downsize your ego.** You'll never win points by showing or telling the umpire you know more than he does (even when you do).
9. **Focus on instructing the kids.** No matter how badly the umpire blows a call, there's a learning opportunity for your team. Run all the way through the bag . . . charge the ground ball . . . don't watch so many good pitches go by . . . throw more strikes. Role model a focus on the things you can change (effort and technique) not the things you can't (the call).