

## PRE GAME

- Arrive on the field 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the game
- Inspect the field, make sure it is safe to play on
- Check foul lines, if none available determine what you're going to use as a marker to line up on for both foul lines (keep bases in mind when selecting); explain at Pre-game with coaches
- Check bases – tied down or loose; double base at first
- Determine safe On-deck area if not already indicated
- Check equipment for both teams (bats; helmets; look for casts, check for padding; check for jewelry)
- Check pitchers mechanics while they are warming up
- Catcher **MUST** wear mask during warm-ups (before game and between innings)

## Meeting at Home Plate

- **Introductions**
  - Yourself
  - Coaches and Captains
  - Jewelry – can be done before meeting at home plate, notify coach
  - Medical (religious) items can be left on but taped so medical info can be seen
- **Ground Rules**
  - Dead ball areas
  - Ground rule double; other base awards
  - Bench areas; screened vs. not screened – stress safety
  - Foul lines if not painted or if painted wrong
- **League Rules**
  - Review, do not assume that both coaches are on the same page
  - Acceptable to have copy with you – review for yourself before the game
  - Focus on rules that govern playing the game (run limits, stealing, dropped third, infield fly)

➤ **Preventative Umpiring**

Players hustle on and off field

Ask if players understand proper use of double base

If bases not anchored, explain how players should react to a dislodged base

Keep catcher in gear; coach anticipate catcher switches

Confirm home team, time limit if applicable and whose watch will be "official", "last inning notice"

Offensive equipment in dead ball territory

No stray bats in on-deck area if in area is in play

A small reminder card is acceptable until you are more comfortable. If you forget an item you feel is important / critical; advise coaches between innings.