

ROLE OF THE UMPIRE

A successful umpire is 50% Management & Rules,
50% Theatrics

By Ed "Honest" Searle
Umpire, Akron Black Stockings Base Ball Club

PREPARATION

- * Field Layout
 - o Ample area for the behind
 - o Chair for umpire, if desired
- * Players
 - o Review rules - final decision is the umpire's
 - o Remind them of purpose of activity
 - o Answer questions
 - o Remind them to enjoy themselves

PRE-GAME

- * Set the Stage
 - o Explanation of vintage base ball and history of base ball
 - o Explanation of historical time period (era, politics, social issues, etc.)
- * Brief Explanation of the Rules
- * Introduction of Team Captains and Clubs

GAME

- * Explain the Calls as They Are Made
- * Only Indicate Foul Balls
- * Review the Rules (forget all you know about the present day game)
- * Announce the Score
- * No Hand Gestures
- * Interact with the Fans
- * Levy Fines
- * Be Sure You Can Be Heard
- * If Programs/Handouts, Remind Fans

POST GAME

- * Remarks From Each Club
- * Appreciation to the Tallykeepers
- * Appreciation to the Fans
- * Reminder of Upcoming Matches
- * Opportunity For Children to Try Striking